



THE
Punjab Legislative Council
Debates.

January 2nd to March 24th, 1924.

—→
Vol. VI. Part-I
—

OFFICIAL REPORT.



Lahore :

Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab.
1924.

Price : Rs. 0 2-0 or 2d.

**PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL.**

President.

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

Deputy President.

Khan Bahadur Shaikh ABDUL QADIR, Bar.-at-Law.

Secretary to the Council—Sardar ABNASHA SINGH.

Assistant Secretary to the Council—HAKIM AHMED SHUJAA.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.
ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

A.

- Abdul Aziz, Mian [Lahore City (Muhammadan), Urban].
Abdul Qadir, Khan Bahadur Shaikh [West Punjab Towns (Muhammadan), Urban].
Afzal Haq, Chaudhri [Hoshiarpur-cum-Ludhiana, Rural].
Ajab Khan, Honorary Captain (Nominated Non-Official).
Ali Akbar, Chaudhri [Kangra-cum-Gurdaspur (Muhammadan), Rural].
Anderson, Sir George (Nominated Official).

B.

- Bakhtawar Singh, Sardar [Hoshiarpur and Kangra (Sikh), Rural],
Banke Rai, Lala [Southern East Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban].
Bhagat Ram, Raizada [Jullundur-cum-Ludhiana (Non-Muhammadan), Rural].
Bodh Raj, Lala [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban].
Boyd, Mr. D. J. (Nominated Official).
Bata Singh, Sardar [Multan Division and Sheikhupura (Sikh), Rural].

C.

- Chhotu Ram, Rai Sahib Chaudhri [South-East Rohtak (Non-Muhammadan), Rural].
Coldstream, Mr. J. (Nominated Official).
Craik, Mr. H. D. (Nominated Official).

D.

- Dan Singh, Sardar [Amritsar (Sikh), Rural].
Davidson, Lt.-Col. D. M. (Nominated Non-Official).
Dhanpat Rai, Rai Bahadur Lala (Panjab Industries).
Dhan Raj Bhasin, Captain [East and West Central Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban].
Diwan Chand, Lala [Amritsar City (Non-Muhammadan)].
Duli Chand, Chaudhri [Karnal (Non-Muhammadan), Rural].

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

F.

- Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh [Dera Ghazi Khan (Muhammadan), Rural].
 Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major [Rawalpindi (Muhammadan), Rural].
 Fazl Ali, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri [Gujrat East (Muhammadan), Urban].
 Fazl-i-Husain, Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian [Minister for Education (Muhammadan Landholders)].
 Firoz Khan, Noon, Malik [Shahpur East (Muhammadan), Rural].
 Firoz-ud-Din Khan, Rana [South-East Towns (Muhammadan), Urban].
 Forster, Lt. Col. W. C. H. (Nominated Official).

G.

- Ganga Ram, Rai Sahib Lala [Ambala-~~can~~-Simla (Non-Muhammadan), Rural].
 Ghulam Muhammad, Chaudhri [Gujrat West (Muhammadan), Rural].
 Gibson, Mr. A. J. (Nominated Official).
 Gokal Chand Narang, Dr. [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban].
 Gopal Des Bhandari, Rai Bahadur Sir (Nominated Non-official).
 Gray, Mr. V. F. (Punjab Chamber of Commerce and Trades Association).
 Gurbakhsh Singh, Sardar [Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural].

H.

- Haibat Khan, Daba, Khan [Multan East (Muhammadan), Rural].
 Har Chand Singh, Sardar [Lyallpur (Sikh), Rural].
 Heard, Col. R. (Nominated Official).
 Husain Shah, Sayad [Jhang (Muhammadan), Rural].

I.

- Irving, Mr. Miles (Nominated Official).

J.

- Jowahir Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar (Nominated Non-Official).
 Jodh Singh, Sardar (Sikh Urban).

K.

- Karam Ilahi, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri [Gujranwala (Muhammadan), Rural].
 Kesar Singh, Chaudhri [Amritsar-~~can~~-Gurdaspur, Rural].
 Khan Muhammad Khan, Wagha, Malik [Sheikhupura (Muhammadan) Rural].
 King, Mr. C. M. (Nominated Official).

L.

Lal Chand, Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chaudhri [Minister for Agriculture — North-West, Rohtak (Non-Muhammadan), Rural].

Latiff, Mr. A. (Nominated Official).

M.

Mangal Singh, Sardar (Sikh Landholders).

Magbool Mahmood, Mir [Amritsar (Muhammadan), Rural].

Maya Das, Mr. E. (Nominated Non-official).

Maynard, Hon'ble Sir John (Finance Member).

Mazhar Ali Azhar, Maulvi [East and West Central Towns (Muhammadan), Urban].

Mehdi Shah, Khan Bahadur Sayad (Nominated Non-Official).

Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar, Lala [Lahore and Ferozepore-cum-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan), Urban].

Mohan Lal, Lala [North-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban].

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

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

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

Muhammad Jamal Khan, Khan Bahadur, Sardar [Baloch Turmandar, Landholders].

Muhammad Mehr Shah, Nawab, Sayad [Jhelum (Muhammadan), Rural].

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

Muhammad Saif Ullah Khan, Khan [Mianwali (Muhammadan), Rural].

Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Chaudhri [Ambala Division, North-East (Muhammadan), Rural].

Muhammad Shah Nawaz, Mian [Lahore (Muhammadan), Rural].

Muhammad Sharif, Mian [Amritsar City (Muhammadan), Urban].

Mumtaz Muhammad Khan, Tiwana, Captain Malik [Shahpur West (Muhammadan), Rural].

N.

Najib-ud-Din Khan, Chaudhri [Ferozepore (Muhammadan), Rural].

Nanak Chand, Pandit [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan), Rural].

Narain Singh, Sardar [Rawalpindi Division and Gujranwala (Sikh), Rural].

Narendra Nath, Diwan Bahadur, Raja [Panjab Landholders, General].

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

Narain Das, Diwan [Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Division. North
(Non-Muhammadan), Rural],

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

Nur Din, Chaudhri [Lyallpur South (Muhammadan), Rural].

O.

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

P.

Partap Singh, Jamadar [Jullundur (Sikh), Rural].

Polap Singh, Rao [Gurgaon (Non-Muhammadan), Rural].

R.

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

Randhir Singh, Sardar, Kalaswala [Sialkot-*cum*-Gurdaspur (Sikh), Rural].

Ruchi Ram, Sabni, Lala [Punjab University].

S.

Saadullah Khan, Chaudhri [Jullundur (Muhammadan), Rural].

Sahib Dad Khan, Chaudhri [Gurgaon-*cum*-Hissar (Muhammadan), Rural].

Sangat Singh, Sardar [Lahore (Sikh), Rural].

Sangeter, Mr. W. P. (Nominated Official).

Scott, Mr. E. A. (Nominated Official).

Sewak Ram, Bai Bahadur Lala [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan), Rural].

Shahab-ud-Din, Khan Bahadur, Chaudhri [Sialkot (Muhammadan), Rural].

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

Sham Lal, Lala [Hissar (Non-Muhammadan), Rural].

Sikandar Hayat Khan, Lieut. Sardar [Attock (Muhammadan), Rural].

Sunder Singh, Majithia, Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur, Sardar (Revenue Member).

T.

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

Tollinton, Mr. H. P. (Nominated Official).

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

SECOND SESSION OF THE SECOND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, the 2nd January 1924.

	Pages.
Oath of office	1-3
His Excellency the Governor's speech	3-5
Oath of office	5
Announcements from the Chair	5-6
Certification of grants rejected by the Council	6
Government's demands for supplementary grants	6-30
Announcement from the Chair	30

Saturday, the 5th January 1924.

Oath of office	37
Elections to the Public Accounts Committee and the Standing Committees	37
Oath of office	38
Sitting of the Council	38
Election of Deputy President	38
Offer of thanks to Mr. Manohar Lal, Deputy President of the old Council	38
Government's demands for supplementary grants (<i>concluded</i>)	38-65
Resolution <i>re</i> retention of Tahsil at Narowal	65-66
Surrender of grants	61

Monday, the 25th February 1924.

Oath of office	66
Announcements from the Chair	66-68
Questions and Answers	66-77
Panel of Chairmen	77
Election of members to the Railway Advisory Committee	78
Election of members to the Forest Board	79-82
Government's demands for supplementary grants	82-108
Resolution <i>re</i> amendment of the Punjab Courts Act	108-110

Tuesday, the 26th February 1924.

Questions and Answers	...	...	...	117—120
Motion for adjournment	...	...	...	120—131

Resolutions—

<i>Re</i> residential accommodation for members of the Punjab Legislative Council (not moved)	...	...	...	131
<i>Re</i> the circular of the Director of Public Instruction relating to the Vernacular Final Examination (moved and lost)	...	...	...	132—164
<i>Re</i> residential accommodation for members of the Punjab Legislative Council (not moved)	...	...	...	164

Thursday, the 28th February 1924.

Questions and Answers	165—168
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	---------

Resolutions—

<i>Re</i> education as a professional and theoretical subject in the B.A. course (carried)	...	...	...	168—183
<i>Re</i> selection grade for Tahsildars (not moved)	...	...	...	183
<i>Re</i> residential quarters for members of the Punjab Legislative Council (not moved)	...	...	...	183
<i>Re</i> additional irrigation facilities to the Hissar and Pothohar districts (carried with amendment)	...	...	...	183—190
<i>Re</i> stoppage of recruitment of Imperial Forest Service officers to the Punjab (moved and lost)	...	...	...	190—196

Friday, the 29th February 1924.

Questions and Answers	197—210
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	---------

Resolutions—

<i>Re</i> encouragement of articles manufactured in India (moved—by leave withdrawn)	...	...	...	210—228
<i>Re</i> residential quarters for members of the Punjab Legislative Council (not moved)	...	...	...	228
<i>Re</i> the Appointment of a Committee to examine the claims of money-lenders against cultivators (moved—debate continued)	...	...	...	228—238

Saturday, the 1st March 1924.

Questions and Answers	...	...	...	235—249
Presentation of the Budget	...	...	...	250—259
Election of members to serve on the Railway Advisory Committee	...	...	...	259
Election of members to serve on the Forest Board	...	...	...	260
Results of the voting for the Railway Advisory Committee	...	...	...	260
Appendix	...	...	...	261

PAGES.

Monday, the 3rd March 1924.

Oath of office	...	...	263
Questions and Answers	...	...	263—276
Result of election of representatives to serve on the Forest Board	...	...	276
Government Legislation—			
The Court-Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill	...	...	276—302

Wednesday, the 5th March 1924.

Questions and Answers	...	...	308—332
Resolutions—			
<i>Re</i> the appointment of a Committee to examine the claims of money-lenders against cultivators (carried)	...	...	333—342
<i>Re</i> exemption of swords from the operations of the Arms Act (carried)	...	...	342—348
<i>Re</i> removal of the Lawrence Statue from its present site on the Mall at Lahore (not moved)	...	...	348
<i>Re</i> improvement of the economic and social conditions of the agriculturists in the province (moved—by leave withdrawn)	...	...	348—349
<i>Re</i> the rate of grant to aided schools (moved—by leave withdrawn)	...	...	350—355
<i>Re</i> substantial increase of grants-in-aid to aided schools (not moved)	...	...	355
<i>Re</i> residential quarters for members of the Punjab Legislative Council (not moved)	...	...	356
<i>Re</i> removal of liquor shops beyond municipal boundaries (lost)	...	...	356—365

Thursday, the 6th March 1924.

Government Legislation—			
The Punjab Stamps (Amendment) Bill	...	...	367—372
The Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill	...	...	372—379
Resolution <i>re</i> raising a loan for irrigation works	...	...	379—384
Government's demands for supplementary grants	...	...	384—390

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

NINTH SESSION.

Wednesday, the 2nd January 1924.

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

OATH OF OFFICE.

The following members were sworn in :—

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian, Fazl-i-Husain, — Muhammadan, Landholders.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand, —North-West Rohtak (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Craik, Mr. H. D., C.S.I., —Official, nominated.

Boyd, Mr. D. J., —Official, nominated.

Irving, Mr. Miles, —Official, nominated.

Goldstream, Mr. J., —Official, nominated.

Gibson, Mr. A. J., F.C.H., F.L.S., I.F.S., —Official, nominated.

Latifi, Mr. A., —Official, nominated.

King, Mr. C. M., C.S.I., C.I.E., —Official, nominated.

Tollinton, Mr. H. P., C.I.E., —Official, nominated.

Heard, Colonel R., I.M.S., —Official, nominated.

Sangster, Mr. W. P., C.I.E., M.I.C.E., —Official, nominated.

Forster, Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C., I.M.S., —Official, nominated.

George Anderson, Sir, Kt., C.I.E., —Official, nominated.

Abdul Aziz, Mian, —Lahore City (Muhammadan), Urban.

Abdul Qadir, Khan Bahadur Sheikh, —West Punjab Towns (Muhammadan), Urban.

Afzal Haq, Chaudhri, —Hoshiarpur-cum-Ludhiana, Rural.

Ajab Khan, Honorary Captain, O.B.E., I.O.M., —Representative of Indian Army, —Non-Official, nominated.

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

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

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

Davidson, Lieutenant-Colonel D. M., C.I.E., I.M.S., —Representative of European and Anglo-Indian Communities—Non-Official, nominated.

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

Faiz Muhammad, Sheikh, —Dera Ghazi Khan (Muhammadan), Rural.

Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major, —Rawalpindi (Muhammadan), Rural.

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

Firoz Khan, Noon, Malik, —Shahpur East (Muhammadan), Rural.

Firoz-ud-Din Khan, Rana, —South-East Towns (Muhammadan), Urban.

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

Ghulam Muhammad, Chaudhri, —Gujrat West (Muhammadan), Rural.

Gopal Das, Bhandari, Rai Bahadur, Sir, Kt., C.I.E., M.B.E., —Non-Official, nominated.

- Gray, Mr. V. F.,—Punjab Chamber of Commerce and Trades Association.
 Gurbakhsh Singh, Sardar,—Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural.
 Haibat Khan, Daba, M.,—Multan East (Muhammadan), Rural.
 Har Chand Singh, Sardar,—Lyallpur (Sikh), Rural.
 Hussain Shah, Sayad,—Jhang (Muhammadan), Rural.
 Jodh Singh, Sardar,—(Sikh), Urban.
 Jowahir Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar,—Non-Official, nominated.
 Karam Ilahi, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri, M.B.E.,—Gujranwala (Muhammadan), Rural.
 Kesar Singh, Chaudhri,—Amritsar-cum-Gurdaspur, Rural.
 Khan Muhammad Khan, Wagha, Malik,—Sheikhupura (Muhammadan), Rural.
 Mangal Singh, Sardar,—Sikh Landholders.
 Maqbool Mahmood, Mir,—Amritsar (Muhammadan), Rural.
 Maya Das, Mr. E.,—Representative of Indian Christians,—Non-Official, nominated.
 Mazhar Ali, Azhar, Mian,—East and West Central Towns (Muhammadan), Urban.
 Mehdi Shah, Khan Bahadur Sayad, C.I.E., O.B.E.,—Non-Official, nominated.
 Mohan Lal, Lala,—North-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban.
 Mohinder Singh, Sardar,—Ludhiana (Sikh), Rural.
 Muhammad Abdullah Khan, Khan,—Muzaftargarh (Muhammadan), Rural.
 Muhammad Husain, Sayad,—Montgomery (Muhammadan), Rural.
 Muhammad Jamal Khan, Khan Bahadur Sardar,—Baloch Tumandars (Landholders).
 Muhammad Mehr Shah, Nawab Sayad,—Jhelum (Muhammadan), Rural.
 Muhammad Raza Shah, Sayad,—Multan West (Muhammadan), Rural.
 Muhammad Saif Ullah Khan, Khan,—Mianwali (Muhammadan), Rural.
 Muhammadan Shafi Ali Khan, Chaudhri,—Ambala Division, North-East (Muhammadan), Rural.
 Muhammad Shah Nawaz, Mian,—Lahore (Muhammadan), Rural.
 ✓ Muhammad Sharif, Mian,—Amritsar City (Muhammadan), Urban.
 ✓ Muntaz Muhammad Khan, Tiwana, Captain, Malik,—Shahpur West (Muhammadan), Rural.
 Naib-ud-Din Khan, Chaudhri,—Ferozepore (Muhammadan), Rural.
 Narain Singh, Sardar,—Rawalpindi Division and Gujranwala (Sikh), Rural.
 Narinjan Das, Diwan,—Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Division, North (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.
 Nur Din, Chaudhri,—Lyallpur South (Muhammadan), Rural.
 Owen, Dr. C. A.,—Representative of Anglo-Indian Community,—Non-Official, nominated.
 Partap Singh, Sardar,—Jullundur (Sikh), Rural.
 Nanak Chand, Pandit,—Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.
 Gokul Chand, Narang, Dr.,—North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban.
 Ruchi Ram, Sahni, Lala,—Punjab University.
 Narendra Nath, Diwan Bahadur Raja,—Punjab Landholders (General).
 Dhan Raj Bhasin, Captain,—East and West Central Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban.
 Bodh Raj, Lala,—West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban.

- Sewak Ram, Rai Bahadur Lala,—Multan Division, (Non-Muhammadan),
Rural.
- Banke Rai, Lala,—South East Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban.
- Nihal Chand, Sikri, Lala,—Lahore City (Non-Muhammadan).
- Diwan Chand, Lala,—Amritsar City (Non-Muhammadan).
- Mohan Lal, Bhagtnagar, Lala,—Lahore and Ferozepore-cum-Shaikhupura (Non-Muhammadan).
- Dhanpat Rai, Rai Bahadur Lala,—Punjab Industries.
- Fohap Singh, Rao,—Gurgaon (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.
- Ram Singh, Chaudhri,—Kangra (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.
- Randhir Singh, Sardar, Kalaswala,—Sialkot-cum-Gurdaspur (Sikh), Rural.
- Saadullah Khan, Chaudhri,—Jullundur (Muhammadan), Rural.
- Sahib Dad Khan, Chaudhri,—Gurgaon-cum-Hissar (Muhammadan),
Rural.
- Sangat Singh, Sardar, Kulla,—Lahore (Sikh), Rural.
- Shahab-ud-Din, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri,—Sialkot (Muhammadan),
Rural.
- Shahadat Khan, Rai,—Lyallpur North (Muhammadan), Rural.
- Sikandar Hayat Khan, Lieutenant Sardar, M.B.E.,—Attock (Muhammadan), Rural.
- Tara Singh, Sardar,—Ferozepore (Sikh), Rural.

On conclusion of the swearing in of members, the President announced that he had it in command from His Excellency the Governor to inform the Council that His Excellency desired to address the Council and for that purpose required the attendance of the members at 12 Noon.

His Excellency the Governor arrived in procession with the officers of the Council and his personal staff and 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 desire to avail myself of the privilege of seeing you here before you begin your labours, and of offering you a few words of greeting as you meet together at the beginning of a new Council and the beginning of a new year.

We have had more satisfactory elections than we had three years ago. The practice of intentional abstention, which was then considered proper by so many electors, is no longer approved, and we have had some 250,000 votes polled as against 130,000 on the last occasion. There has been little or nothing to complain of in the way of violent interruptions, and the organization of the polling has worked with extraordinary smoothness. For this we owe a great debt to our Election Commissioner, Nawab Malik Muzafer Khan, who has shown himself as able, as untiring, as prompt and as conciliatory in dealing with the most up-to-date problems of suffrage and election, as he did beforetime in coping with political and ceremonial exigencies in the post of Mir Munshi and on the staff of the British Mission in Kabul. I feel sure that I am expressing your feelings, and not only yours, but also those even of defeated candidates, when I speak of your and our indebtedness to Nawab Muzafer Khan for all he has done to carry out smoothly a very difficult and complicated task.

[His Excellency the Governor.]

I find that of the elected members, 20 out of 71 were in the old Council. This is, I think, a somewhat smaller proportion than is usual after fresh elections in most legislatures, but there are reasons which can be given for this result, and I expect that the change in the general character of the Council is less marked than these figures would at first appear to indicate. When I spoke to the Council three years ago, I mentioned that there were some sheep who were not of this fold, men who had abstained from attempting to enter the Council. I felt that in their absence a phase of political thought which ought to be represented here was absent by default, and I expressed a hope that, as time went on, these missing units would find their way into this Chamber. This they have now done, and we now have, what we just fell short of having three years ago, a Chamber as representative as can well be secured in present circumstances of all the more important lines of political feeling in the Province. How far this and other changes may affect the grouping of the views of members of this Council is not yet quite clear. I have, as Governor, to make such estimate as I can of these groupings. In doing so, I have to take a dispassionate view, and I am concerned, not with what I or any other person or body of persons might wish to be, but with what, so far as one can judge, is the actual condition of affairs. My duty as Governor has been to secure a Ministry which will work together, and which will, so far as one can estimate, obtain in most matters a majority of the votes of the Council. As regards the possible evolution of parties, it is too early to prophesy. If, however, anything should be evolved approaching to the established lines of a Ministerial party and a Parliamentary opposition, I trust that the relations of parties and the functions of opposition, as understood in older legislatures, will be properly appreciated by those of you who have the handling of these matters. You have some of you read the valuable article recently published by Mr. Ramsay Macdonald on the duties of an opposition, and, though there is much in his remarks which needs modification in its application to conditions such as ours, the spirit and temper of his article are such as cannot fail to claim your sympathy and support. I can only hope that opposition between parties in the Council may be as little as possible on grounds of religious differences. I understand that the Ministers are prepared and, indeed, are most anxious to avoid any action which would accentuate the existing unhappy religious cleavage in the Province, and I trust that their attitude may find a suitable response among the members of the Council.

I naturally miss a number of faces in looking round this room. Some of our members have given way to better men: for the absence of others we shall be the poorer. I should like, with your permission, to refer to one member who did us good service in our former Council, and who is no longer with us. We had in Mr. Manohar Lal a member of singular ability, culture and fairmindedness, whom his colleagues had selected for the post of Deputy President, and, though I hope that you may secure a Deputy President of similar capacity, I cannot but recognize that both you and your President will often feel the want of his assistance.

I do not wish to detain you further, gentlemen. You have a heavy and responsible task before you. I need not detail to you the difficulties with which you have to cope. You have to develop prosperity: to maintain peace: to restore financial equilibrium. You have different ways of going about it, but you have, I believe, in the main the same objects. Some of us recently listened to a remarkable academic discourse at the Convocation of

our University, where we were bid as private individuals to think less on the lines of 'who is to blame?' and more on the lines of 'How can I help?' The same principle should I venture to think prevail in political bodies. You can help this Province gentlemen in many ways and I know that it is your wish to help. You are now putting on your armour and when you put it off some years hence I trust that you will be able to look with satisfaction on a Punjab which has become the better, the richer and the stronger for the work you have done for her.

His Excellency the Governor's speech was translated in Urdu. His Excellency then left the Council Chamber and the Council adjourned till two of the clock.

The Council reassembled at the Council Chamber at two of the clock. Mr. President in the Chair.

OATH OF OFFICE.

The following member was sworn in:—

Sardar Buta Singh,—Multan Division and Sheikhpura (Sikh), Rural.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

Mr. President: I have to announce to the Council that I have appointed—

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir,

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz, and

Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.

to serve as chairmen for the present session. These nominations in no way prevent these gentlemen from standing for election as Deputy President.

ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

Mr. President: Under Standing Order 5 (1) the election of the Deputy President has to take place as soon as convenient after the commencement of the first session of each Council; and under Standing Order 5 (2) every member who wishes to propose a member for election, must—

(a) ascertain previously that the member is willing to serve if elected, and

(b) hand to the President a notice in writing containing the name of the member he desires to propose signed by himself and some other member as seconder.

Proposals will be received in the Council Office up to 8 p. m. on the 4th January 1924. Should an election be found necessary it will be held on Saturday, the 5th January 1924, after the election of Standing Committees and Public Accounts Committee is over. The choice of Deputy President by the Council is subject to the approval of the Governor.

SEATING OF MEMBERS.

Mr. President: Under Article 52 of the Council Business and Procedure the members are to sit in such order as the President may appoint. In this connection I gave a direction that seats for non-official members should in the first instance be allotted in alphabetical order, with two exceptions for which special reasons existed, but I reserved the right to change the seats

[Mr. President:] The seats are allotted to individual members, either in response to mutual desire of two or more members to interchange seats, or in response to a desire expressed by any group formed for the allotment to its members of contiguous seats. A plan of seats was prepared according to this direction and was circulated to members. Meanwhile a request was received from a group of twelve for allotment of block No. 5 to its members. This request was granted and the seats of the remaining members were rearranged in alphabetical order. The seats now allotted can be altered either in response to mutual desire of two or more members to interchange seats, or in response to a desire expressed by any group which may form for the allotment to its members of consecutive seats. I ask members not to exchange seats until the transaction has been registered as for the purpose of giving out lists of business and other papers it is necessary that the office should know where each member sits.

CERTIFICATION OF GRANTS REJECTED BY COUNCIL.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): With your permission, Sir, I place on the table a copy of an order passed by His Excellency the Governor under section 72-D (2) of the Government of India Act—

Whereas, in accordance with the provisions of section 72-D (2) of the Government of India Act, demands for grants for the following items of expenditure, namely,—

	Rs.
For the Attock Settlement	40,000
For the Gujranwala and Sheikhupura Settlements	40,000
Sum of	80,000

(Involving an expenditure by reappropriation of Rs. 80,000) totalling for all three Settlements the sum of Rs. 1,10,000) were duly submitted on the 24th and 25th October 1923 to the vote of the Punjab Legislative Council and were rejected by it;

I, in virtue of the authority vested in me by section 72-D (2) (a) of the Government of India Act aforesaid, do hereby certify that the said expenditure amounting in all to Rs. 1,10,000 provided for by the said demands, is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the Reserved Subject of Land Revenue.

E. D. MACLAGAN,

3rd November, 1923.

Governor of the Punjab.

GOVERNMENT'S DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

Mr. President: Before the first demand for a supplementary grant is moved, I would suggest that the Honourable the Finance Member should intimate to the Council that all these demands are made on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, that is to say, that no demand is being put before the Council except on the recommendation of the Governor.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): All the applications for supplementary grants are made upon the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor. I should like to point out, if I may, in addition that no request is made in the case of any of these demands for any additional sum. They are all applications for reappropriation of funds already granted.

EXCISE GRANT.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (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.

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 Excise.”

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Punjab University) : Sir, I want to raise a preliminary question, if I may, and that is this : Possibly the Minister or the officials in charge have forgotten that this is a new Council and that it should be necessary for them to have all the facts placed before the Council. The agenda which have been sent to us refer only to some supplementary grants.....

Mr. President : Is this a point of order or a speech ?

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I want to ask whether fuller information giving the budget allotment for the present year as well as the supplementary grants which were put forward in October last should not have been sent to us. Sufficient information does not exist in the memorandum of supplementary estimates which has been sent to us for us to form an opinion. We most of us, I believe, are new to this Council. It has been taken for granted by the gentlemen who sent the papers to us that we were familiar with the history of the present supplementary grants. Some of us have consulted the original budget, but I believe it is only fair that fuller information should have been sent to all of us than has actually been done.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, may I explain that all the papers which the honourable member would like to see are in the Library of the Council. The rest of the facts are given in the Supplementary Memoranda which are attached to the papers which have been circulated to all members.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : That was not my point, Sir. My point was that very short notice was given. Most of the members were away, and fuller information should have been sent to them.....

Mr. President : This is not a point of order. The honourable member is bringing forward, as far as I understand him, reasons which he thinks sufficient for representing presumably to the Council that these grants should not be discussed to-day. If so, his proper course is to move the adjournment of the debate on this matter.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] : Sir, may I with your permission ask the Honourable Member one question ? If he will look at page 5 of the Memorandum which is placed before us.....

Mr. President : It is really not time for asking questions. If the honourable member wishes to make any point he can do so in his speech.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Well then, I shall put it in the form of remarks. Remarks on page 5 of the Explanatory Memoranda under Demand No. 2-Major Head “6—Excise” are to the effect : “An additional demand of Rs. 16,000 is presented. This is to provide for the travelling allowance of Excise Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors for journeys which they have to perform by rail.” We cannot understand whether before this statement was prepared and before the necessity of asking for this additional Rs. 34,000 was realised, all the journeys that these Excise officers performed were expected to be performed on horseback, and whether no necessity had ever arisen of performing any journey by rail and if the necessity of performing journeys by rail has arisen now what are the circumstances which

[Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.]

have led to this deviation from the ordinary journeys which these Excise officers perform. If, I may add, these officers, could perform all the journeys on horseback before and for which a provision was made, why has this additional sum of Rs. 84,000 been now asked for performing journeys by rail?

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath [Punjab Landholders, (General)]: Sir, another point which I should like to be cleared up is this: whether this expenditure of Rs. 54,000 was foreseen at the time of the preparation of the budget, whether it was asked for and refused by the last Council. If it was refused then, the Government should give reasons for asking for the amount now.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Punjab University): May I, Sir, with your permission, make a few remarks? Sir, the information which I wanted to elicit and which was not given was about the last budget. In the last budget there was a huge deficit, and because there was a huge deficit, the Council at that time proposed a big cut. Ultimately, a compromise was arrived at and that compromise was that 20 or 25 per cent. of certain items at least should be cut out. This compromise was agreed to by the official benches, but now we find that part of that cut was demanded again in the form of supplementary grant in October last while the remaining part is being asked for now. That was the point at which I was driving when I said that the information which I wanted should have been placed before this House. That was the reason, Sir, why I was asking for the information. I wanted the Council to know exactly where they stood. Many of the members, as I said, are new to this Council, they do not know the history of supplementary grants to which we are asked to-day to give our assent. Therefore the whole position is this: nine months ago the old Council asked for certain grants to be cut down and the official benches after a good deal of higgling and haggling agreed to cut down a certain percentage. Now we are asked to restore the whole or practically the whole grant. I have taken some pains to study the budget and also other papers and if I am not mistaken in my judgment, because I had to go through the papers hurriedly, I have come to the conclusion that a very large proportion of what was disallowed by the old Council and agreed to by the Government is now demanded of this Council in one form or another. That is where we stand.

Now, Sir, I want to point out that the Government has got big holes in all its pockets. I put it to the gentlemen who are responsible for spending the people's money,—I don't expect to convert them, I am sure we have no such delusions,—I ask them whether this is the time for these supplementary demands. I know that the official members are not fired with any missionary zeal and we do not expect the gentlemen who are responsible for the huge and conscienceless expenditure.....

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Sir, I rise to a point of order. I object to the honourable member's use of that expression.

Mr. President: I must ask the honourable member to withdraw that expression—I imagine he did not realize what he was saying.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: I am sorry if I have tripped. I gladly withdraw the objectionable expression. Sir, I would just say this, that during the last three years four crores of deficit have accrued and the Government should be careful in spending money.....

Mr. President : The honourable member must confine himself to the grant before the House and must not go into the whole question of the amount of money spent by Government except by referring briefly to it to illustrate his point. He may briefly refer to the necessity for economy as an argument in regard to this item and then should confine himself to the particular item before the House.

Lala Ruehi Ram, Sahni : Thank you, Sir. I will only draw the attention of the House to the fact which I have already mentioned, namely, that a compromise was arrived at and certain cuts were made and now we are asked to restore what was disallowed by the old Council in the face of the last budget being a bankrupt budget.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the demand under Head ‘Excise’ be reduced by Rs. 2 in respect of the item of Rs. 16,000—Travelling Allowance.”

(Urdu) : Sir, regarding the sum in question I beg to say that the item for Railway expenses is being placed before the House a second time. Last year during the budget session a sufficiently large sum was sanctioned. Am I to take it that Railway expenses were not included in the original demand? What special reasons have arisen to justify such a demand? It is my personal knowledge that the Excise Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors travel to earn their travelling allowances and when they are questioned as to the necessity for such journeys they say that they are doing so for the purposes of investigation. They may fail to find a clue but they do get their travelling allowances all the same. The Honourable the Finance Member agreed to forego 25 per cent. of his demands at the budget session but now the Government has again come forward with a demand for a supplementary grant. The whole debate of the last year has been so much labour lost. We want to enforce economy in order to make up the deficit. I have no objection if other items are passed but I am strictly against sanctioning any grant for the Excise Department. I am speaking on my personal experience that such allowances are generally wasted. When a Sub-Inspector can inspect a place why should Inspectors visit the same place again? I therefore beg to move that the sum for travelling allowance be not sanctioned for the Excise Department.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the demand under the head ‘Excise’ be reduced by Rs. 2 in respect of the item of Rs. 16,000—Travelling Allowance.”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Sardar Jodh Singh : May I talk in Punjabi?

Mr. President : I fear some of the members may not understand Punjabi. Can you not speak in Urdu?

Sardar Jodh Singh : I fear I will be a laughing stock if I talk in Urdu.

Mr. President : Can you not talk in English?

Sardar Jodh Singh : Yes, I can, but I want to speak in Punjabi.

Mr. President : You may speak in English.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Is it not permissible to speak in Punjabi.

Mr. President : It is permissible for any member to speak in any vernacular of the Province with the permission of the President, but as the

[Mr. President.]

honourable member is able to speak in English and that is the language of the Council, I do not think there is any necessity for him to speak in Punjabi.

Sarda Jodh Singh : Some members may not understand English.

Mr. President : Your remarks will be translated, if necessary.

Sardar Jodhi Singh : (Sikh, Urban) : Sir, I want to understand one or two things as regards this travelling allowance. I understand from the proceedings of the Council that only a short time back all these travelling allowances were raised taking into consideration the dearness of the supplies. Now that these supplies have gone down in price, is the Government thinking of having a sliding scale for these travelling allowances as it does in the case of grain compensation allowance ? I raise this question because already we have given them too much money in view of the fact that at the time of the passing of the budget things were very dear. I will quote to you the average prices for the last three years of a few commodities. In 1908 rice was selling at 6·8, wheat 4·2 and gram 3·7. In 1912 rice was 5 and some thing, wheat 3·4 and gram 2·6. In December 1919 rice was 8·6, wheat 6·1 and gram 5·8. In 1923 the prices had again fallen : rice to the level of 1912, 6·9, wheat which is the staple food to something like 3·7 and gram to 2·6.

Now not only the salaries of the services were raised but also on account of dearness which was prevailing at that time in 1919 these allowances were raised. May I ask now whether the Government is prepared to consider whether as regards travelling allowances they will provide a sliding scale which will have automatic effect according as the provisions are dear or cheap ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I will deal very briefly with the suggestion of the adoption of the sliding scale for travelling allowances. A sliding scale may, of course, be an excellent thing, but it requires considerable thought before being adopted and therefore it cannot possibly affect the present item.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, I think the honourable members are entitled to an explanation as to why we have come forward to-day to ask for an addition to the travelling allowance when we agreed to cut 25 per cent. when the budget was put forward before this House. The explanation is this, that travelling allowance for Excise establishment for the whole Province consists of two parts. There is a fixed travelling allowance per mensem for all Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors and that fixed travelling allowance is in the nature of pay. They have to keep up a horse and they have to travel about, but the travelling allowance does not vary from month to month according to the amount of journeys they do. Under the rules they have to perform a certain amount of travelling, but the fixed travelling allowance is independent of the actual number of journeys done. Besides that very often, Excise Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors and other Excise establishment have to do emergent journeys either on transfer from one district to another or in the same district they get information of illicit distillation or some other Excise offence in some corner of the district which they can more easily get at by train than by going on horseback. In such cases it would be very foolish for them to go on horseback, delay matters, have it known that they are coming and so miss the whole object of their journey. Therefore in cases where the rail is available, they are permitted to travel by rail and for that rail journey they are

allowed travelling allowance according to the ordinary rule. I have had to make that explanation but I wish to show the House how we agreed first to the reduction of 25 per cent. and why now we are coming forward to get the 25 per cent. back. These two forms of travelling allowances are merged in one item. When the compromise was effected in this House at the time of the last budget, the Excise Department agreed to cut 25 per cent., forgetting unfortunately at the time that there were these two parts, the fixed travelling allowance and that for incidental journeys by rail, and therefore 25 per cent. was cut out from the whole of our travelling allowance item. That 25 per cent. which was cut out happens to represent exactly the amount that we wanted for journeys by rail. The whole amount was, I think, Rs. 79,000, Rs. 54,000 for fixed and about Rs. 16,000 for these incidental journeys. 25 per cent. was cut out and we were left with Rs. 54,000 only which represents the actual fixed monthly travelling allowance. We were left with no moneys at all for the performance of incidental journeys. Now, the performance of these journeys is most important. We must transfer our Sub-Inspectors from one place to another; we must allow for a rapid journey when there is a rail available, and these incidental charges are not covered at all by the item of Rs. 54,000 which was left to us after this cut of 25 per cent. was made. This unfortunately was not realized at the time when the Excise Department consented to the reduction, and because it was not realized at that time, we have to come up now and ask for this addition. It has been explained already, and I need not go into that point, that there is no intention to add to the amount which we have already got. It is simply a transfer of money from one head to another, but the reason of the transfer is what I have just given.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadian), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I would like to know if the 25 per cent. reduction was made by a mistake. If it is so, we have no objection in sanctioning the supplementary grant. But if no such reduction was made, we do object to a further grant.

I would like to impress upon the House that if the supplementary grant is not sanctioned our income will suffer and illicit distillation will increase.

I again ask if the 25 per cent. reduction has been made or will be made from the fixed travelling allowances.

Mr. C. M. King: The answer to that question is, no. It has not been cut from the fixed travelling allowance. No reduction has been made in the fixed travelling allowance.

Sayad Muhammad Husain: Nowhere?

Mr. C. M. King: No.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): Sir, I believe the question has been misunderstood. I think what Sayad Muhammad Husein asked was whether the cut of 25 per cent. had been made in the item of fixed travelling allowance or not. The answer to that is that the cut was by mistake made also in this item of fixed travelling allowance, and Government has now realized the mistake and so has come forward with its demand.

Mr. C. M. King: That is perfectly correct.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari (Nominated Non-Official): May I ask one point, Sir? I want to know whether this Rs. 16,000 has been arrived at after calculating at the rate of 75 per cent. That is to say, the last Council disallowed 25 per cent. and allowed only 75 per cent. under travelling allowance. Is it on this basis that the sum of Rs. 16,000 has been arrived at?

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner): Sir, the original demand was for Rs. 73,000, of which Rs. 19,000 was for miscellaneous items and Rs. 54,000 covered the fixed horse allowance. Of this Rs. 19,000 we are asking only for Rs. 16,000.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muham-
madan), Urban]: With your permission, Sir, I wish to say a few words in regard to the amendment which has been proposed. I am afraid, Sir, some members do not follow me if I speak in English. May I talk in Urdu?

Mr. President: Certainly.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang (Urdu): Sir, we have before the House an amendment moved by Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram. The language of the amendment is such that it requires a little explanation. The Rai Bahadur wants a reduction of Rs. 2 in the token grant of Rs. 10. What I understand by this amendment is that if the amendment moved by Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram is accepted the supplementary demand of Rs. 16,000 will not be sanctioned, and there will be a saving of Rs. 16,000 out of Rs. 34,000. The Honourable Minister for Agriculture will have to find other means to meet his demand. Therefore, members who want to go against the original proposal for a supplementary grant of Rs. 34,000 should vote in favour of the amendment.

When the budget was discussed there was effected a sort of an agreement between the Government and the members that Rs. 19,000 will be remitted out of Rs. 73,000. But now the Honourable Mr. King demands back a sum of Rs. 16,000; though apparently it still leaves Rs. 3,000 behind, yet it is not fair. The Honourable Minister for Agriculture in order to avoid unpleasantness and conciliate the members at that time declared a reduction of 25 per cent. in his total demand. But if the members had known that after a few months another request would be made, I am afraid the member would have refused to enter into such an agreement. The agreement is binding upon both the parties.

If it was agreed upon to work with Rs. 54,000 the honourable member in charge should have tried to carry out the work within the sum allotted. In my opinion it is better if a Jat or some one else succeeds in avoiding punishment for illicit distillation than that an agreement be broken.

If the Honourable Minister for Agriculture succeeds in getting the grant what guarantee have we that another demand will not be made later on. We are weak financially and should spend according to our resources.

Mr. President: The honourable member is verging very nearly on imputing improper motives to Government.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: I shall not go over it, Sir. I know the limitation, Sir, and I promise you I won't go beyond the limit.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I rise to a point of order, Sir. The honourable member is not addressing the Chair.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: I address the members through the Chair.

Mr. President: The honourable member should address the Chair.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: Very well, Sir (continued in Urdu). What I am saying about the item in hand is applicable to all that will follow. Hence it is that I am dealing with the question rather at a length.

I beg to support the amendment of the Rai Bahadur which, if carried, will save us Rs. 16,000.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the demand under the head ‘Excise’ be reduced by Rs. 2 in respect of the item of Rs. 16,000—Travelling Allowance.”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh), Rural]: Am I allowed to speak in Urdu, Sir?

Mr. President : Oh yes. Any member is allowed to speak in Urdu. If he wishes to speak in any other vernacular of the Province he must obtain the permission of the Chair.

Sardar Tara Singh : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the demand under the head ‘Excise’ be reduced by Rs. 2 in respect of the item of Rs. 17,000—Rewards.”

(Urdu): Sir, when I speak against the grant of the money demanded for rewards, I should not be understood to mean that I countenance the illicit distillation or sale of wine. On the other hand I am as ready to launch a campaign against such practices as anybody else would be. But I do like that greatest results be achieved with a minimum expenditure.

I am a villager and as such have numerous chances to see the officials whose duty it is to check and report such evil practices. But no good appears to have resulted from these rewards.

For lack of time and leisure I could not go into the facts and figures more carefully. But I find that a sum equal to what was spent during the last part of the year is being asked for to be spent during the remaining part. This expenditure means that the executive officers who are responsible for the expenditure have gone against the considered judgment of the whole House. If the number of arrests, searches and challans be compared with the actual convictions of the accused the House will know that a mountain has been made out of a mole hill. This evidently means a lot of unnecessary expenditure.

Excise officials have special men who bring reports of illicit transactions, whether these reports are right or wrong. The officials act on the basis of such reports and the so-called informants succeed in getting the reward. I would be excused if I make bold to say that the money ultimately goes to the Inspectors or the Sub-Inspectors.

Why should such rewards be granted to only the informants in the Excise Department? Why are not other similar departments encouraged? Moreover, there are societies which discourage this evil, but nobody encourages them. On the contrary every obstacle is thrown in their way. I think it would be better to discourage the drink evil through missionary boards and societies. I, therefore, submit that the grant be withheld.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the demand under the head ‘Excise’ be reduced by Rs. 2 in respect of the item of Rs. 17,000—Rewards.”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I would look at the question on hand before the House from another point of view. It is not necessary to sanction the grant of this particular item. It could be advanced about the travelling allowance that they have already been paid and cannot be recovered, but the rewards have not already been granted. Therefore, it is not difficult to withhold them.

[Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.]

Owing to this system of giving rewards, a special class of men have come into existence which hangs about the Excise officials. These men very often make false reports on account of petty jealousies and local party feelings. They are in fact touts. Most of the Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors have a few of this class. They get money on the conviction of the accused. In most of the cases we find the defence arguing that the prohibited thing has been placed in accused's house by some mischief-monger. To stop this evil it is necessary that the item for rewards be cut down.

It may be advanced from the official side that this is no new item but is only an old one. I would like to submit that we have a deficit budget and every saving is highly useful. We should, therefore, try to save every penny.

Moreover, there are in existence organizations like the Temperance Society and the Congress which are trying their best to stop the evil of drink. But instead of helping them in their efforts they are discouraged and put to trouble. I think it would be better to help them rather than to create such a class of men—I mean the touts.

I, therefore, submit that the amendment moved by Sardar Tara Singh be carried.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath [Punjab Landholders (General)] (Urdu): Sir, I support the honourable mover and the supporter of this amendment. The grant of rewards is not essential. If the Government wishes to abide by the agreement made during the last budget session of saving 25 per cent. under Excise, the sum demanded for travelling expenses should be met from the provision for rewards. No doubt these rewards, sometimes, produce desirable results, but very often evil consequences also ensue, for the hope of getting rewards sometimes causes fabrication of false cases. Therefore, by stopping these rewards not only such a mischief will be avoided, but the department will gain as well both in efficiency and money.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar [Kangra-cum-Gurdaspur (Muhammadian), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I agree with the first part of Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh's remarks. The Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors on getting information reach the place and receive bribes through touts.

It is not advantageous to spend the money in granting rewards but it should be spent to stop the drink evil which is the desire of the country.

In every case practically the same man gets the rewards. This shows that the informants are not sincere and reliable. But I do not advise cutting down the sum of Rs. 17,000. So long as rewards are not given for the arrest of thieves and robbers, how can one succeed? I, therefore, oppose the amendment.

Chaudhri Dull Chand [Karnal (Non-Muhammadian), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, in our Province there are more than 80 per cent. country men and less than 20 per cent. urban people. There is very little education amongst the rural classes. If education were spread more widely, people would realize their duties better. But as education is very backward, no purpose can be served without these rewards. People will help to stop illicit distillation only if they are encouraged. A villager knows that illicit distillation is going on in his neighbourhood but why should he go out of his way to inform the officials at his own expense? It is of course bad that they

should do it for mercenary motive but it cannot be helped, for lack of education they cannot be expected to pay so much heed to to their moral duties. Undoubtedly false reports are also made occasionally but then such informants are punished. I, therefore, request that the sum be granted, for otherwise the evil of drink will increase.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari (Non-Official Nominated): Sir, the subject on hand is not being handled properly. The question is whether the sum for rewards be sanctioned or not. But the honourable members are discussing something else. The rewards should go to those who deserve them, and we should take care that they do not, that we should stop the rewards. We should have faith in those whose duty it is to award such rewards and they will surely distribute them justly.

The Excise Department came into existence long ago and I should like to know what sum was spent during the last two or three years under this item. Am I to understand that this increased rate of rewards is suggested in order to secure better results?

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din [Sialkot (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I would like to know whether the rewards under discussion are given to Excise officers or private informers, who give information of illicit distillation, or help the Excise Department in detection of offences against the law of excise. If to the latter, I think the money is well spent and the demand for this grant should be passed. But, if the rewards are given to the Excise officers, I would hesitate to vote in favour of the grant, inasmuch as in detecting illicit distillation such officers perform only their legitimate duties, and are not entitled to be rewarded for doing that duty. It is not, so far as I know, one of the terms of their employment that they shall get rewards over and above their graded salaries. If some of them do extraordinary good work, their work might be rewarded by promotion to higher grades. If Police officers, like the Excise officers, were to be given rewards for all cases successfully detected and investigated by them, a mint of money would be required for that purpose. The rewards, therefore, should ordinarily be given only to private persons and not to departmental officers.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns [(Non-Muhammadan), Urban] (Urdu): Sir, I am positively against this assertion that in the absence of rewards the number of crimes would increase. In reply to this I submit that rewards are not indispensable for detection. For this Province a sum of Rs. 18,000 has been distributed and Rs. 18,300 more is asked for. I think the number of recipients will be large. Hence the value of the rewards would not probably exceed Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 per head. This means that the value of the rewards is not such as may tempt a man to help the officers. There can be only two motives that can induce a man to report the cases of smuggling. First, the love of the country but very few cherish this sentiment. Secondly, enmity which is abundant among the masses. The people report false cases in order to wreak vengeance upon others. Nobody will be prepared to travel a long distance for Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 excepting a chaukidar of a village or a menial. This system of rewards is really the source of false reports. I can say without any fear of contradiction that 50 per cent. of prosecutions are not proved. I am totally against the system of rewards. One would either report as a moral duty or through enmity. These two motives will exist for ever. Despite this the people simply try to receive Government's approbation for their work and never care for the monetary side of the reward. If high authority writes two or three

[Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.]

words favourable to a man it is preferred. I think the majority would like certificates even if they are given on behalf of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors and they will keep it very carefully for generations. Titles are conferred upon high personalities but if they be offered a sum, say of Rs. 500, they will certainly take it as a disgrace. In our present financial condition we are not in a position to sanction the supplementary grants. After all it is reward money and not a debt due to the people. I think for the good name of the Government there is no such rule as well that a man must be given rewards. I beg to submit one point more, that is, from a certain portion of the House there was no voice of yes or no on the last amendment being put. I would request these gentlemen to say yes or no loudly so that we may be able to form some opinion.

Mr. President : The honourable member must confine himself to the matter in hand. However, if he wanted to raise a point of order on this matter, he should have done so immediately at the time of the voting.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I was going to make a request to the members that when they say aye, or no, they should say it loudly enough, so that if any one wants to ask for a division he may be able to judge.

Mr. President : That is for me to deal with. I think this matter has been sufficiently debated. I will call on the Financial Commissioner to reply.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, I think it would be convenient if I replied to Dr. Gokul Chand Narang's arguments first. Very largely I am in agreement with what Dr. Gokul Chand has said about the uselessness of petty rewards. It is because rewards have been given in very small sums in previous years that they have been so useless, and it is because we are asking this Council to give us enough money in order to enable us to give rewards in substantial sums that we have had to come forward now for this extra demand. The petty rewards of Rs. 2, or 3, as Dr. Gokal Chand himself said, no one wants. The only people who get them are people who are undesirable and who ought not to get them. They are the hangers-on of petty officials and they are just the people that we try to avoid. The bigger rewards have been granted since I have had charge of this department. It was originally as Deputy Commissioner that I found the great advantage that accrued from giving a man a substantial reward for all the obloquy and very often expense and trouble to which he was put in giving information as to illicit distillation or smuggling or some other excise offence. For the last two or three years therefore the policy has been to grant substantial sums to informers. These sums amount as a rule to not less than Rs. 50. This is the object we have in view. The number of rewards is being gradually diminished but the amount given in rewards is increased. That statement of fact to some extent answers the argument of Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh who pointed out the danger there was of raising a class of informers who lived on the rewards they obtained and who attached themselves to particular subordinate officers and did nothing else but to implicate possibly their enemies and possibly innocent persons. The greater the number of rewards you grant the greater is there the danger of forming this class of informers. If, however, instead of having a large number of persons to whom you give rewards, you carefully select persons who do good work and give them substantial rewards, I think the danger which Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh anticipates is not likely to occur, at any rate, with vigilant supervision it will be very greatly reduced.

Then Chaudhri Ali Akbar has objected to the method of giving rewards. Three or four years ago it was a custom to have a class of paid informer persons who got monthly or quarterly wages in order to give information about excise offences but that system has long since been abandoned and now we have no specially paid informers but we pay rewards to people who really give good information which whether it does or does not lead to a conviction at any rate leads to the detection of an important excise crime. We are not concerned with petty excise crimes such as the possession of illicit liquor but our campaign is against the important excise crime of illicit distillation and smuggling.

My friend Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din had raised a question as to whether rewards are granted to officials or not. I can tell him that by far the greater part of the rewards are granted to non-officials and of these rewards by far the greater number are given to persons who have actually good information which they give to Government and for which they are adequately rewarded. We do not entirely prevent officials from obtaining rewards. In particular cases where an official has done extraordinary good work even if he is an excise officer or a police official a reward is sanctioned for him. But such rewards can only be given with the sanction of the Financial Commissioner. Every such case has to come up to me and I assure Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din that I make it my duty to examine these cases very carefully and I think I can count the number of rewards granted to officials on the fingers of one hand. I can assure Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din that I entirely agree with him in thinking that officials should not ordinarily share in these rewards. The only occasion in which they do share in them is for some extraordinary good work always done in excess of the duty of the particular person rewarded.

It has been said that the rewards in the shape of certificates and things like that are quite sufficient. My own experience is that certificates were at one time very useful but people would rather have something in cash as well as a certificate and in many cases all the poor recipients of rewards, I think, prefer cash a great deal to a certificate. In return for these rewards Government gets information as to the various excise crimes, but just to illustrate how necessary it is that Government should give good rewards I may point out that there have been two cases in the last few years in which informers have been murdered. It is obvious that the person who runs the risk of murder for giving information should have the hope of a very large reward. These are the general reasons for the increase that has been made in the amount of rewards in the last two or three years. It is because we are now giving very much larger rewards such as Dr. Gokul Chand has suggested are preferable to petty rewards that we have come up for this supplementary grant.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammādan); Urban]: Sir, I would like the honourable member to explain whether this grant is going to persons who have already received rewards or whether it is going to different persons. The amount will still be petty if it is going to different persons. If this additional Rs. 17,000 is not going to the same persons who have already received rewards but is going to new persons, then I would submit that the new recipients will also be getting petty rewards and those rewards will be useless, but if they go to the same persons then. . . .

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is making an additional speech which he is not entitled to make.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath : Sir, what we want to get at is whether this sum is necessary.

Mr. C. M. King : I think it is absolutely necessary. As to the question whether it is to be given to the same persons I have no information about that. But I should say that if it is given to the same persons it will be in large sums. Instead of giving Rs. 3 or 4 we now give Rs. 75 or Rs. 100 to a man who gives really good information.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the demand under the head ‘Excise’ be reduced by Rs. 2 in respect of the item of Rs. 17,000—Rewards.”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided : Ayes 40 ; Noes 40.

AYES 40.

Mian Abdul Aziz.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Sheikh Faiz Muhammad.
Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
M. Haibat Khan.
Sardar Har Chand Singh.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Karam
Ilahi.
Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
Sardar Mangal Singh.
Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Lala Mohan Lal.
Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan.
Sayad Muhammad Husain.
Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.
Mian Muhammad Sharif.
Chaudhri Najib-ud-Din Khan.
Sardar Narain Singh.

Diwan Narinjan Das.
Chaudhri Nur Din.
Sardar Partap Singh.
Pandit Nanak Chand.
Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.
Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra
Nath.
Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Lala Banke Rai.
Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
Lala Diwan Chand.
Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.
Rao Pohap Singh.
Sardar Randhir Singh.
Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan.
Sardar Sangat Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.

NOES 40.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard.
The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sar-
dar Sunder Singh, Majithia.
The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian
Fazl-i-Husain.
The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chau-
dhri Lal Chand.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.
Mr. Miles Irving.

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Lieut.-Colonel D. M. Davidson.
Chaudhri Duli Cahndi.
Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhan-
dari.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Sayad Husain Shah.

Mr. J. Coldstream.
Mr. A. J. Gibson.
Mr. A. Latifi.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. H. P. Tollinton.
Colonel R. Heard.
Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
Sir George Anderson.
Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir.
Hony. Captain Ajab Khan.
Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
Sardar Bakhtawar Singh.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Jowahir Singh.
Mir Maqbool Mahmood.
Mr. E. Maya Das.
Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan.
Dr. C. A. Owen.
Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.
Rai Shahadat Khan.
Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.

Mr. President : An occasion has come for me to give a casting vote. I give it in favour of the amendment so that the Council may have a further opportunity of discussing the subject. (*Cheers.*)

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8 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 Council then divided : Ayes 34 ; Noes 38.

AYES 34.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard.
The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.
The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
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. W. P. Sangster.
Lieut.-Colonel W. C. H. Forster.
Sir George Anderson.
Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir.
Honorary Captain Ajab Khan.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Lieut.-Colonel D. M. Davidson.
Chaudhri Duli Chand.
Subedar - Major Farman Ali Khan.
Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
Rai Bhadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Sardar Bahadur Sardar Jowahir Singh.
Mir Maqbool Mahmood.
Mr. E. Maya Das.
Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan.
Dr. C. A. Owen.
Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.

NOES 88.

Mian Abdul Aziz.
 Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
 Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
 Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
 Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
 Mian Haibat Khan.
 Sardar Har Chand Singh.
 Sardar Jodh Singh.
 Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Karam
 Hahi.
 Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
 Sardar Mangal Singh.
 Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
 Lala Mohan Lal.
 Sardar Mohindra Singh.
 Sayad Muhammad Husain.
 Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.
 Mian Muhammad Sharif.
 Chaudhri Najib-ud-Din Khan.
 Sardar Narain Singh.

Diwan Narinjan Das.
 Chaudhri Nur Din.
 Sardar Partab Singh.
 Pandit Nanak Chand.
 Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.
 Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
 Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra
 Nath.
 Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
 Lala Bodh Raj.
 Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
 Lala Banke Rai.
 Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
 Lala Diwan Chand.
 Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
 Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.
 Chaudhri Ram Singh.
 Sardar Sangat Singh.
 Rai Shahadat Khan.
 Sardar Tara Singh.

The motion was lost.

STAMPS 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 Stamps."

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 Stamps."

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Sir, before putting the motion to the vote, I wish to ask that the nature of demand be explained in Urdu.

Mr. President: I will first explain it in English and then it will be translated into Urdu. This demand means that if the motion is carried Government will be authorized to make the reappropriations which are indicated in the Explanatory Memo. The Council is not being asked to vote any more money but merely to authorize the Government to transfer money from different heads or sub-heads in order to provide for its needs under this head of Stamps, and if the motion is lost the wish of the Council will be understood to be that Government is not authorized to make those reappropriations.

The Council then divided : Ayes 52, Noes 24.

AYES 52.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard.
The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sunder Singh, Majithia.
The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.
The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
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. W. P. Sangster.
Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
Sir George Anderson.
Mian Abdul Aziz.
Khan Bahadur Sheikh Abdul Qadir.
Hony. Captain Ajab Khan.
Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Lieut.-Colonel D. M. Davidson.
Chaudhri Duli Chand.
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
Subedar Major Farman Ali Khan.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
Malik Feroz Khan, Noon.

Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Sayad Husain Shah.
Sardar Bahadur Sardar Jowahir Singh.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Karam Ilahi.
Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
Sardar Mangal Singh.
Mir Maqbool Mahmood.
Mr. E. Maya Das.
Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
Sayad Muhammad Husain.
Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mohr Shah.
Khan Muhammad Saifollah Khan.
Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan.
Chaudhri Nur Din.
Dr. C. A. Owen.
Rao Pohap Singh.
Sardar Bandhir Singh.
Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan.
Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.
Rai Shahadat Khan.
Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.

NOES 24.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
Sardar Har Chand Singh.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Sardar Mohindra Singh.
Sardar Narain Singh.
Diwan Narinjan Das.
Sardar Partab Singh.
Pandit Nanak Chand.
Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.
Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath.
Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Lala Banke Rai.
Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
Lala Diwan Chand.
Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.
Sardar Sangat Singh,

Sardar Tara Singh.

The motion was carried.

FORESTS GRANTS.

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 Forests."

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 Forests."

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Punjab University) : Sir, I beg to oppose this motion. The Forest Department, ordinarily speaking, Sir, ought to be a paying department. But it is far from being a business proposition. It is a sort of a sinking pit. During the last few years especially we have been having deficit after deficit in the Forest Department. When such is the case, I believe it is time to cut down our expenses. As I said at the very outset of the proceedings of the Council this afternoon in my general remarks, this is another case of the budget of a "prodigal son", of a man spending very much beyond his means. I am not referring, Sir, when I speak of the continued deficit of the Forest Department, I am not referring to the special serious losses in respect of the Talwara Saw Mills which have occurred but in the general working of the department there have been a series of deficits. I do not want to go into details. In these circumstances I would submit, Sir, that the supplementary grant which has been asked for should be rejected.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia
(Revenue Member) : Sir, I am sorry I was not present when my honourable friend Professor Ruchi Ram spoke on the subject, but perhaps it will be advisable if I give a small explanation as to the necessity for this demand. It will be within the knowledge of this House that a sum of Rs. 59,675 was deducted from the demand which was made on account of travelling expenses. With all the endeavours that have been made by the Head of the Department it has not been possible for him to carry on the administration, and he has come to this Council with a supplementary demand of Rs. 7,000 without which several of the officers will have to be demobilised. He has, if I am not wrong, met the Council by cutting out nearly three lakhs of the estimates that were presented to this House in consideration of the desire of this Council to cut down expenditure in the Forest Department.

We are trying as far as possible to send officers from the Forest Department to Foreign Service for the purpose of cutting down the expenditure, and a considerable reduction in expenditure has been made. I therefore hope that this small demand of Rs. 7,000 which is being made for the purpose of travelling allowance of the officers who have to tour about and see to the proper working of the Department will not be cut out. If this is cut out, the result will be that the officers will not be able to go about and properly supervise the forest works going on at the present moment.

I may also inform the House that in the Forest Department there has been no deficit as has been alleged by the honourable member for the University (Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni).

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] : May I, with your permission, Sir, ask the Honourable Member

in-charge whether this demand for travelling allowance includes the travelling expenses of those who visited America in connection with some machinery for the Forest Department?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Not at all, Sir.

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 Forests.”

I may again explain that if this motion is carried it would mean that the Council authorizes the transfer of these Rs. 7,000 which the Government requires for travelling allowances from some other head to the Head Forest.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : On a point of order, Sir, is it from within this head or from some other head that the transfer is proposed?

Mr. President : I am sorry I am mistaken. It is from within the head, but from some other sub-head.

The motion was carried.

REGISTRATION 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 Registration.”

Mr. President : The question is—

“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 Registration.”

The motion was carried.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION GRANT.

Mr. H. D. Craik (Chief Secretary) : 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 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.”

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. 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 Administration of Justice.”

[The Honourable Sir John Maynard.]

In doing so, Sir, I beg to draw the attention of the House to a correction which I wish to make in the figures in the schedule of the supplementary token demands. On the first page of the schedule of supplementary token demands, a few lines from the bottom, the House will find the following words:—
 "Fees to Counsel specially engaged in criminal cases, Rs. 1,00,000." For the figures Rs. '1,00,000,' I desire to substitute the figures Rs. '50,000.'

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 Administration of Justice."

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh, Urban): Sir, with your permission I beg to move the amendment standing against my name, namely—

"That the demand under the head 'Administration of Justice' be reduced by Rs. 2 in respect of the item of Rs. 50,000—Law Officers—Other Allowances and Honoraria."

There are certain items of expenditure, Sir, which I may be permitted to say are caused by the policy of the Government.....

Mr. President: I may at once explain to the honourable member that he cannot use the *policy* and allege that this demand has become necessary because of a policy which is the cause of it. I take his use of the word as an indication that he may think of going into the whole question of the policy of the Government in dealing with the Sikh situation as it presented itself from time to time. The honourable member is not entitled to do that. What he is entitled to do is to argue on this grant which is before the House, that is, the demand for Rs. 50,000 to defray certain expenses to meet a prosecution which has been launched.

Sardar Jodh Singh: Sir, the demand is for a particular case. I may at once say that I am not going to discuss the merits of the case. But my submission is that if an action has led to this situation and has brought about the present case and is likely to bring about a crop of cases then I am entitled to review the policy which has resulted in this expenditure.

Mr. President: The honourable member must obey my ruling.

Sardar Jodh Singh: As for the economic point of view I will just remind the Council of the debate which took place in this very Hall on the 21st of October last, in which the honourable member for Montgomery, Sayad Muhammad Husain, called the attention of the Council to the extravagant expenditure of the law department. He pointed out therein that in the last Council, early in 1921, Government asked the House to help it by sanctioning the employment of permanent officers and by sanctioning an increase of Rs. 50,000 in the total expenditure, so that it may run the department efficiently. The Council sanctioned it, but what do we find now? An ordinary case has cropped up. There is the Legal Remembrancer, there are two Assistants, as I am told, there is the Government Advocate, there is an Assistant to him, who is the High Court Public Prosecutor, and there is an army of 23 or 24 highly paid Public Prosecutors in the Province also. But in spite of the promise of efficiency the Government now finds that it must engage a counsel at a prohibitive cost and cannot run the case by its own officers. Sir, this is a point which I wish to bring to the notice of the House specially. If in spite of the promise of boasted efficiency the Government cannot put its best officers in charge of this case and by making officiating arrangement run the case cheaply, say, at a cost at the most of Rs. 100 a day, then of course all those promises of the Government are gone,

and the House should not be asked to sanction any extra expenditure. This is not the only point to which I want to draw the attention of the House. I want to say, Sir, that if the Government had accepted the view of the Sikh members, no occasion for such expenditure would have arisen. I am moving for the total rejection of the grant, simply because the Government up to this time has proved obdurate to the wishes of the Sikh members, which in the case of a question of this nature ought to have prevailed. Even now, if the Government decided that it is going to abide by the wishes of the Sikh community in the matter of Gurdwara Reform, all these cases will disappear. Now, it is not only this case that will come up before you. It is not only for this case that we are asked to sanction a grant, but a crop of other cases is likely to come up on account of the one fact, which is that the Government has declared the S. G. P. C. an unlawful assembly.....

(A voice)—Better use a more parliamentary expression.

Mr. President : I do not think the honourable member can make any reference to the declaration relating to the Parbandhak Committee. This demand for money is for conducting a certain prosecution. It is not a fact that the accused in the case are being prosecuted because the Committee has been declared to be an unlawful association, and therefore I do not see how his reference to the Committee is relevant.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural] : Sir, I rise to a point of order. I submit with your permission that this demand counts as a demand on the supplementary estimates. Because this demand is included in the supplementary budget, I submit, Sir, that all the causes and all the reasons which have led to this demand should be discussed here, and that the members are entitled to discuss all those factors which have brought about this case. If we are not entitled to discuss the merits then nothing is left for us but to say whether the special law officer who has been engaged for this purpose is to be engaged for this purpose or not. I again submit, Sir, that because this demand is included in the supplementary estimates, we are entitled to bring up all the points which have led to this case and the engagement of special law officers.

Mr. President : It is true that this demand is made as a budget grant or rather as a supplementary grant. That does not entitle the House to go beyond the particular item which is before it, and as long as the debate is within the four corners of that item the honourable member is in order, but if a matter outside that particular point is brought in, then he is not relevant or in order. In each case when a member makes his speech, I hope he will try to keep within this ruling, and if I find him transgressing, I must pull him up.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, I want to make another submission before I proceed. In all Councils and in this Council too, budget is the only occasion when the policy of the Government can be discussed and.....

Mr. President : Order, order. I have given my ruling, and I do not wish to discuss it.

Sardar Jodh Singh (continued) : Well, Sir, then I want to draw the attention of the House first to this point that this demand for Rs. 50,000 is not going to suffice for this case even, because if you enter into a little calculation, you will find that the case was filed on the 13th of October. Up to now only 43 prosecution witnesses have been examined. In the case of 19, total cross-examination has been reserved and partial cross-examination in the

[Sardar Jodh Singh.]

case of many more. The prosecution counsel has stated in open court that he is going to produce 400 prosecution witnesses. There are 50 accused in this case, and I may say taking into account that every accused will produce a certain number of defence witnesses, you must make an allowance for an equal number of defence witnesses. This will show that the case is not going to be finished within the current financial year. The Government therefore is not asking only for this sum of Rs. 50,000, it is also binding the Council to grant further sums next year when again it will come with the plea that the case is not finished, that it is sorry that it cannot be finished, and that it must be finished. There is a Punjabi proverb which says that once the head of the sugarcane is put into the crushing mill it is drawn into the mill by itself, and if once the Council sanctions this lavish expenditure it will have no option at the next budget but to sanction the demands of the Government. I would therefore say that if the Government does not agree to the wishes of the Council it should shift for itself. They have got enough number of law officers. They have got the sanction of the Council for extra expenditure. They have promised to run the department efficiently, and now they have found out that in spite of the extra expenditure they cannot manage an ordinary case. I am comparing it with another case which is a far more serious one, I mean the Babbar Akali case, where dacoities have taken place, where arson has taken place and where murders have been committed. The Government is running it by its own machinery. In the present case no serious offence has been committed. There has been no murder and there has been no arson and yet the Government comes up and says, this is a very important case, and we want money to conduct it. I submit, Sir, that an exaggerated importance has been attached to it and I request the House to reject the demand and let the Government shift for itself.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the demand under the head 'Administration of Justice' be reduced by Rs. 2 in respect of the item of Rs. 50,000—Law Officers—Other Allowances and Honoraria."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath [Punjab Landholders (General)] (Urdu) : Sir, I would like to speak in Urdu in order to save time. I support all that has been said by Sardar Jodh Singh. The economic reason is very strong. Really the fee of the Public Prosecutor has been very much increased during the past two years. I am not one of those who hold that expensive and costly lawyers are necessary for the proper administration of justice. An able and experienced judge does not depend on counsel. If Government can secure the service of able and experienced Magistrates and Judges, expensive lawyers would be unnecessary. I have been a judicial officer myself, and I don't think that everything depends on the counsel. Advocates and Vakils cannot make a strong case weak nor a weak case strong. I don't think that able and experienced judicial officers can always be hoodwinked.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood [Amritsar (Muhammadian), Rural] : Sir, the statement of the Honourable the Finance Member that he has already reduced the amount from one lakh to 50,000 makes it unnecessary for me to say anything about my amendment for the reduction of Rs. 50,000. I now rise to oppose the amendment that has been moved. But I feel that such a sympathetic reception by Government of a suggestion of a non-official

member creates an atmosphere, which seems to me full of promise, and the credit of initiating it belongs to the Honourable the Finance Member. I congratulate him on it. I do not see, Sir, by why the honourable mover of the amendment and those who agree with him cannot support the reduced grant of Rs. 50,000. I have listened carefully, Sir, to the speeches on the point. I am one of those who admire the many examples of sacrifice displayed by the Akali leaders. I know

Sardar Jodh Singh : I rise to a point of order, Sir.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood (continued) : I know how respectable some Akali leaders are who are undergoing their trial. It is painful to see such people in the dock. But, Sir, law is no respecter of persons

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, he is not to discuss why those persons are there

Mr. President : He has not done so at all.

Sardar Jodh Singh : And what sort of people they are.

Mr. President : He only expressed sympathy with them. I do not think that he said anything objectionable.

Sardar Jodh Singh : There is no expression of sympathy when he is opposing the amendment.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood (continued) : Sir, I am very sorry that the honourable member should interpret my opposing the amendment as meaning my want of sympathy for those who have been prosecuted. I think there may be two different calls of duty of which one may be higher than the other and yet both consistent. I appeal to the honourable mover of the amendment that in criticising administration of justice he must consider the outlook of an alternative Government. Supposing we had Home Rule to-day and my honourable friend were its Home Member and that his legal advisers had reported to him that a certain body of men, no matter how great, with the best of motives, had taken the law into their hands, what would have been his course. I feel it would be very unpleasant for the Government to see such men in the dock, but look at the question from this point of view and realize the limitations of the Punjab Government. I think the honourable member will agree with me that the Government have had no option, but to put the leaders on their trial to prove their innocence. And since my honourable friend has already said that he does not want that the case should not be proceeded with, he only wants that a particular agency should not be employed to prosecute it. I ask him, is it possible to conduct the case without incurring special expenses. I would refer him to the cases against Maulana Muhammad Ali and others and the Delhi conspiracy case in which special agencies were employed. Nobody, Sir, will be better pleased

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Sir, I rise to a point of order. I want to know if the honourable member is not discussing the merits of the case when he says that such and such leaders who are now on their trial took law into their hands.

Mr. President : I think he meant whether they were guilty or not. He was dealing only with a supposed case and advice given by law advisers to Government. In any case you should have called my attention to the point at the moment, not a long while after.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : I am sorry, Sir, I have not made myself clear to the honourable member. I did not say that the leaders had taken law into their hands. What I said then, and what I say now—is this : that the legal advisers had reported to the Home Member that certain people

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

had taken law into their hands, not that they had done so. I repeat that nobody would be better pleased than myself if the Akali leaders were acquitted. My position now, Sir, is that the Government should incur the minimum possible expenses, and whatever saving can be effected should go to the improvement of the agriculturists whom I have the honour to represent in this Council.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari [Nominated Non-Official] (Urdu): Sir, I cannot hesitate in saying that such a difficult case should be conducted by really able men. We are not entitled to discuss the merit of the case. The Honourable President has given the ruling. The question is, how should this case be conducted and by whom? It is difficult to conduct the case without money. I was not present in the Council when it was decided to conduct the case with Rs. 25,000. I am sorry I cannot agree with Raja Narendra Nath when he says that the case depends upon the discretion of a Judge.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath: I said an able Judge.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari (Urdu): Yes, I have not forgotten that. Even the ablest and most experienced Judge is influenced by an efficient lawyer. I have been a lawyer for a long time and it is from my personal experience that I speak. It is indispensable and necessary that the case should be handed over to a lawyer of ability. Now we have to see whether the amount of fee fixed for the lawyer conducting the case is consistent with his ability or not. I hope all will agree that so far as the capability of Mr. Petman is concerned the fee is not too much. He was a Judge of the High Court for a long time, moreover, we have to take into consideration the efficiency of the Pleaders appearing on the side of the defence. I am not talking with any hostile motives. If the Pleaders for the defence are capable of smashing the prosecution by means of cross-examination, I think the lawyer conducting the prosecution should be efficient enough to repair it.

Again, Sardar Jodh Singh said that in view of the existence of the Legal Remembrancer and the Public Prosecutors there should be no necessity for another lawyer to conduct this case. It is of course true, but the question is if they were to be engaged in this case who would do the Government work? Have they sufficient time to do extra work? If a man be deputed to some outside work necessarily another man will have to do his ordinary work. It is the duty of the Council to see that the case should not be prolonged unnecessarily. If there is any such possibility we should look to it. We sympathize with those gentlemen who are in jail at present. The House

5 P.M.

has once for all accorded its sanction to conduct this case. The money sanctioned for the purpose is spent and now the supplementary grant is needed for the same. Everybody knows that an accused is entitled to produce defence evidence. Likewise it is the duty of the Government to investigate the case thoroughly. The House may kindly consider the case from all aspects. If after a thorough consideration we arrive at the conclusion that the sum of Rs. 50,000 is necessary to conduct the case we must sanction the amount. In the end I would request the House to consider the case in the light of my arguments and decide if the case can be conducted without money.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural]: With your permission, Sir, I will draw the attention of the House to the point which was raised by the honourable member from Amritsar (Mir Maqbool Mah-

mood). The honourable member has of course been very kind to congratulate the Finance Member for reducing the amount by Rs. 50,000. I might draw your attention to one fact that he has forgotten to congratulate the Finance Member on another point and which I think I will do. He has forgotten, Sir, to bring this point to your notice and to the notice of the House that it is the Government, which is represented in this House by the Honourable the Finance Member, that had the initiative in throwing this extra burden on the coffers of the State. We congratulate him for initiating the case and thus bringing in this extra expenditure especially when our other long-felt wants—Education and other subjects—still remain uncared for. I would draw the attention of the honourable member to the fact that if the Government—which is represented by the Honourable the Finance Member—had agreed to legislation on the moderate lines suggested by the Chief Khalsa Diwan, and agreed to by all the then Sikh Councillors the present case would never have arisen.....

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, I rise to a point of order. Is not the honourable member entering into discussion of the policy which led to this case?

Mr. President : Yes, I must hold him out of order unless he can show me in what way he is strictly relevant. The position is that certain people have been prosecuted and whether they are guilty or not the Council has to decide whether it will provide money for their prosecution. But he can only bring in that argument—not a very strong argument—which he seems to be bringing in if he means to ask for stopping the prosecution altogether. If he tries to do that for the purpose of refusing the grant, to that extent he is relevant.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh (continued) : I am only trying to meet the arguments of the honourable member from Amritsar (Mir Maqbool Mahmood). I am only saying that this expenditure which has been incurred and is being asked to be sanctioned by this Council could have been saved and can even now be saved if the legitimate demands of the Sikh community are agreed to. I am only meeting the arguments of the honourable member from Amritsar (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) and nothing else. I am not trying to go against the ruling of the President. I am leaving the Government policy outside.

Another point on which the honourable member from Amritsar (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) has laid stress is on the question as to what Sardar Jodh Singh would do if he had been the Home Member and his legal advisers had come to him and said, here are certain persons who have taken law and order into their hands, you should go and prosecute them. I will put myself in that position. I would have told the legal advisers that I would try to pacify that community which is alleged to have taken law and order into its hands. I would have told them to keep aside and to let me mind my own business. But I submit that the honourable member from Amritsar (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) has quite ignored that course. We have already spent Rs. 25,000. We are now being asked to sanction another Rs. 50,000. As Sardar Jodh Singh has already said, this case is not going to be finished very soon. Who knows, Sir, that at the next budget we may not be confronted with a demand for another Rs. 50,000? If the Government had just considered the situation and the doings of the community for the past three years, if the Government had only gauged the position and examined the causes which led to this unfortunate situation and then tried.....

Mr. President : I must warn the honourable member must not go into matters of the merits of the case which would be appropriate for the Counsel for the prosecution or the defence to bring forward in his arguments. He must not bring forward a matter which will be more appropriate for the court to consider. What he says, I understand, is this. That Government could avoid this case at once by adopting a certain course of action and therefore it is desirable that the money should not be voted for continuing the prosecution. I wish to impress upon him that he must not say anything to the prejudice of the case which is being tried.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh (continued) : I submit, Sir, I am not going into the merits of the case.

The next point, Sir, which was taken by the honourable member for Amritsar was that extra expenditure was incurred in certain cases, in the case of Maulana Muhammad Ali and in the Delhi conspiracy case. I submit, Sir, that they were not cases of similar nature and they were not instituted under circumstances similar to that which is now under discussion. The honourable member for Amritsar should remember that the present case is quite different from those cases. This is a case in which religious demands of a community are to be met with. In those cases no such element was present. As regards the argument of Sir Gopal Das that because the defence is in the hands of very able men therefore the prosecution also must be in the hands of able lawyers, I must say that it argues that the Public Prosecutors and other law officers of the Government are not able men. I say that the Public Prosecutors who are appointed after seeing the best material are the persons that can very easily conduct such cases. After all this is a case under ordinary law. If the argument that a special lawyer should be appointed in this case holds good, then every case under the same section will require a lawyer of the standing of Mr. Petman and if such lawyers are to be employed for every such case it would mean a good deal of extra expenditure of public money.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon (Shahpur East (Muhammadan), Rural) : Sir, one outstanding feature of the whole of this case that is being discussed now is this, that the cost of administration of justice is exceedingly high in the hands of the British officials in charge of the affairs in this country. The fact that the Government is spending such large sums of money for conducting this prosecution proves to the hilt that the Government is desirous of seeing nothing but pure justice being done to the people who are being tried. It will be interesting to speculate on the results of such tension of feeling in other countries like China, Japan, Afghanistan, Persia, Central Asia, Russia, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Greece, Spain and even Germany as there is in this Province. It would be interesting to speculate how justice would be administered in those countries if there were such a tension of feeling between the Government and a certain portion of the people. It would even be interesting to imagine what would be the result of an action like this even within the boundaries of India, in parts which are not British India.

This is a case which is not only highly complicated but one which it is very difficult to prove. Ordinary cases like arson and murder are not very difficult to prosecute. Any ordinary lawyer can do that. But the case that is now being tried is one of a very serious and complicated nature and requires a special and efficient agency. There was one suggestion from an honourable member that the Government ought to employ a specially able

magistrate and that this would obviate the necessity for a special lawyer and that the magistrate must be one who can supply the deficiency or absence of a public prosecutor. I would like, Sir, to ask the persons who are being tried as to their wishes in the matter, whether they would like the magistrate to act as public prosecutor also. (Hear, hear.)

Again, Sir, even, if you were to employ the ordinary public prosecutor to conduct this case it would be unfair not to pay him special fees. In a case like this where only 48 witnesses have been examined up-to-date and where possibly 400 more witnesses have to be examined it is necessary, Sir, to have a lawyer of standing, efficiency, experience and legal knowledge who can marshal facts and place them before the magistrate in such a way that the prosecution does not suffer from lack of efficiency. If this case fails merely because of the lack of an efficient prosecutor I do not like to imagine the results. I think the Council will take into consideration the stake at issue and agree to this grant.

Lala Mohan Lal [North-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban] : Sir, I stand to oppose the grant that is being asked by the Government for the conduct of the case. My opposition is not based on the merits or demerits of the case, but I oppose it from the economic point of view. The question is whether this grant is absolutely essential from the Government point of view and whether if this grant is not sanctioned the case will fail in prosecution. I am one of those who believe that even if the grant is refused the case of the Government will not suffer—as the case can be safely handed over to its law officers. There is the law machinery and if the Government cannot make use of that machinery for conducting this case then there is no use having this machinery. The Government is spending a lot of money on the law department and it has got so many public prosecutors, Government Advocate and other subordinates under them. The question arises whether they are able to conduct this case or not. If they are, the case should be handed over to them. If they are not then change the personnel. Personally I do not see sufficient grounds for agreeing to this extra expenditure.

My second point is this. Whenever there is a special case to be tried the Government does not bring in an outsider to try the case. It chooses a magistrate from among its own cadre of judicial officers to try the case. Similarly why should not the Government choose a lawyer from among its public prosecutors to conduct this case? In my opinion there is no necessity why Government should go out of the way and choose an outsider as a special counsel to conduct this case and not make use of its own machinery. Some members who have already spoken have gone beyond the point in referring to the merits of Mr. Petman. We are not concerned with the special merits of individual lawyers. What I can say as a lawyer is that it is the duty of the prosecutor to put facts before the judge and it is for the judge to pass orders. It is not a question that a particular lawyer can give a better colouring to a case than another and therefore he should be engaged to conduct the prosecution. The primary duty of a lawyer is to put facts as he is instructed and leave them in the hands of the judge. My submission is that Government has not made out any case nor even the members who have spoken in support of the Government to warrant the sanction of this grant.

In this Province many of you must have heard of the treatment that a rustic meets with at the hands of petition-writers. The petition-writer writes the petition and asks the rustic how much *gurb* (or sweetness) he would like

to put in the petition and also asks extra payment for it. The rustic pays the extra amount and the petition-writer informs him that he has put in the *gurb* and satisfies the rustic. A similar thing is being done in the present case.

In conclusion, I submit, Sir, that the Government has got a very good machinery at its disposal and that it ought to make use of that machinery and that no grant should be made for employing an outside agency for conducting this case.

Diwan Narinjan Das [Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Divisions—North (Non-Muhammadan), Rural]: I do not understand how the announcement by the Honourable the Finance Member that a reduction of Rs. 50,000 be made in this item of Rs. 1,00,000, can possibly clear the atmosphere, as my friend from Amritsar (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) would like us to believe. If that announcement means that the Government will be able to do with Rs. 50,000 and will not come forward a month or two hence with another supplementary demand, then I would congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member. But if the announcement that a demand of Rs. 50,000 be reduced from a demand of one lakh is only a diplomatic move of the Government to win the sympathy of the House, if I may be allowed to say so, then I would submit that this move will rather further make the Sikh members discontented with the policy of Government. My submission is that in this particular case there is absolutely no need at the present time for the services of the special law officer. When the complaint was framed—then possibly it could be said that very eminent lawyer was needed to frame the complaint and to see that all the technicalities of the law had been observed. Even in that case, Sir, we found that all the technicalities were not observed and a new sanction had to be obtained afterwards. My submission is now that the case is proceeding at the stage of evidence and from what we gather from the reports in the papers every day, the work really is done by Mr. Jwala Parshad, a very eminent lawyer, and I would submit that the work can very well and very satisfactorily go on till the argument stage is reached. When that stage is reached then it will be for the Government to see whether the services of the special law officer are essential. I do not mean any reflection on the special law officer engaged in this case. He is a very eminent lawyer and that is a fact admitted by all. But what I mean to say, Sir, is this that the stage at which the case now is, is one when most of the work has to be done by juniors, and there is a particular reason for that because Mr. Jwala Parshad would apparently know better the vernacular in which he is putting questions to the witnesses. Therefore the services of a special law officer can be very easily dispensed with at the present stage and when the case comes to the stage of argument then the whole case could be put in the hands of the special law officer and in this way both the case and the money safeguarded. My submission is, Sir, that it is not necessary, that we should go on with the case and go on employing the special law officer and go on granting a supplementary demand in every session of the House. If we could do with only Rs. 50,000 that has been asked for now, then it will be a matter for congratulation for us all. But as the honourable member (Sardar Jodh Singh) put it if we take into consideration the amount of work which has been done and which remains to be done in connection with this case, probably it will take six months or a year, and during that time we may be asked very many times to vote another special grant for this purpose. My submission is that the case can be easily compromised from the financial point of view by leaving it at this stage in the hands of Mr. Jwala Parshad and when the case reaches the stage

of argument it can be placed in the hands of the special law officer. I too conceive this much, Sir, that an eminent lawyer makes a lot of difference in the conduct of a case, but my submission is that an eminent lawyer of the position of Mr. Bevan-Petman is not needed now in the case. If we do not entrust the case with the junior officers, say, in the hands of the Public Prosecutors or the Government Advocate at any stage, it will probably be a reflection on the whole department. My submission is that by engaging Mr. Jwala Parshad throughout the proceedings and engaging a special prosecutor at the argument stage Government can show to the public that it has got confidence in its own officers and that it engages a special law officer only at the argument stage because the case is important. I would submit, Sir, that it is a matter that could be easily resented by the law officers of Government, if at no stage of the case they could be exclusively trusted with the management of the case. My submission is that if we want to save money the best way is to compromise on these lines. We have a very large deficit, Sir, and I would submit that the accused in this particular case should not be allowed to indulge in the luxury of being prosecuted by special law officers. It is said, Sir, that law is no respecter of persons, then why respect so much the accused in this particular case that they should be given such an eminent prosecutor. If we can easily do the work with equal efficiency at the present stage of the case with the services of Mr. Jwala Prashad or by any other law officer, then we must consider whether it is necessary for us to spend so much upon a special law officer.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, I beg to move "that the question be now put."

Mr. President : In the case of amendments the Government member has no right of reply after the closure motion is carried. Therefore if I put your motion immediately before giving the Honourable Member for Finance a right to speak on the amendment it will be unfair to him. But if you like you may ask me to put the closure motion after he has spoken.

Sardar Jodh Singh : I have no objection, Sir, I am only anxious that this question should be decided to-day. If the time of sitting of the Council is prolonged a little that will satisfy me.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I should like in the first place to express my great sympathy with those who have laid particular stress on the importance of economy in dealing with legal expenses. That is a matter which we in the Finance Department have very closely at heart, so much so that a committee has recently been appointed with the object of revising legal charges and reducing legal expenses to the minimum consistent with efficiency. My honourable friend Raja Narendra Nath said at one stage of his speech that he believed that we had recently increased the payment made to public prosecutors. I should like to point out that in that matter he is in error. We have actually reduced the expenditure on public prosecutors in the present year by a sum of Rs. 50,000.

Now, Sir, as regards this particular case it is not open to me to enter in any way into the facts or into the policy which has led to the institution of this case. But every one knows what the nature of the case is. It is unnecessary for me to describe it even if I were in order in doing so, because the facts are absolutely notorious. The facts are known to all the members of the House and the importance of the case from the point of view of law and order is perfectly well known to every one present here.....

Mr. President : I suppose when the Honourable Member says that the facts are well known he means.....

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The general character of the case.

Mr. President : He does not mean that the House knows that the charges brought against the persons who are accused in this case are justified or anything of that kind. He merely means to say what has been done by Government in bringing this case.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The Government holds no opinion as to the guilt or innocence of particular individuals. I only mean that everybody knows the general character of the allegations and how important from the point of view of law and order this particular case is. It has been suggested, and I confess I was somewhat surprised to hear it, that it was quite unnecessary in such a case as this to entertain a counsel of very high qualifications. If it were true that the qualifications of the counsel did not matter, then what can be the reason for which the accused themselves have engaged at very great expense the services of very eminent lawyers. The accused have employed eminent lawyers and it has therefore been necessary on the part of Government to entertain those who are capable of dealing with them in the conduct of this case. One member, himself a lawyer, said that it might perhaps be possible for a lawyer of very moderate qualifications to conduct the case and when the stage of argument is reached another eminent lawyer may be employed who would argue the case for the prosecution. I was very much surprised to hear a lawyer suggest such a solution of our difficulties. It is not a possible arrangement that a counsel who has not been able to hear the rest of the proceedings should be called upon to argue either for or against the accused persons. It is absolutely essential that he should be present at every stage of the case in order that he might be in a position to conduct the argument.

Other members have suggested that it should be possible for the Government Advocate or some other legal official of the Government to conduct a case of this character. But it has been entirely ignored that this case has been going on continuously for several months. Does anybody suppose that it would be possible for the Government Advocate or any Public Prosecutor to give up his ordinary business and sit down for months on end to conduct a particular case. It is as though some famous wrestler, Ghulam or Kikkar Singh, had been engaged on one side and to meet this redoubtable champion it were proposed that a mere village wrestler should be engaged on the other side. Those who desire that the village wrestler should be defeated would be delighted at the arrangement. But that is not the method of arranging for an equal contest.

Now, Sir, legal wrestlers, are particularly expensive. There must be many in this Council who are themselves lawyers and who know very well the sort of scale of charges which lawyers ask from their clients. There must be many more who are not lawyers themselves but who may have been in the unfortunate position of having to engage lawyers and who may have suffered as the Government does now by having to pay extraordinary sums to lawyers. In this particular case it is not only the actual number of days that the lawyer has been in the court. We have also to take into account a very large amount of special preparation of facts which the lawyers have to do before they are able to make their appearance in courts. In this particular case no less than five weeks have been spent in the study of materials

prior to the beginning of the case and for this our lawyer has not made any extra charge whatever.

In conclusion, Sir, I have one thing to say, that is, to express my gratitude to my friend, Sardar Jodh Singh. He supplied me with a most valuable metaphor and a most appropriate argument. He said when the head of the sugarcane has been introduced into the mill the rest of the cane must follow. Now, Sir, this is precisely our position in dealing with this case. We have already put the head of the sugarcane into the mill and we have already begun the case and engaged this particular lawyer. Now the rest of the cane must follow.

Mr. President : It is our rule to adjourn at 6 o'clock. But the present motion has to be disposed of and we have only a small amount of time fixed for our disposal of other work. I do not therefore wish that this matter should be kept over for the next day's sitting if it can be avoided. So I propose to sit late this afternoon until we have disposed of the actual matter now before the House.

Mr. D. J. Boyd : 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. President : The main 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 Administration of Justice."

To that an amendment has been moved—

"That the demand under the head 'Administration of Justice' be reduced by Rs. 2 in respect of the item of Rs. 50,000—Law Officers—Other Allowances and Honoraria."

The question is that that reduction be made. I may explain for the benefit of the House that the original lakh of rupees that was entered in the explanatory memorandum has been corrected to Rs. 50,000.

The Council then divided : Ayes 34, Noes 41.

AYES, 34.

Mian Abdul Aziz.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Sardar Bakhtawar Singh.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
Sardar Har Chand Singh.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Mangal Singh.
M. Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Lala Mohan Lal.
Sardar Mohindra Singh.
Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.
Mian Muhammad Sharif.
Chaudhri Najib-ud-Din Khan.
Sardar Narain Singh.
Diwan Narinjan Das.
Sardar Partab Singh.

Pandit Nanak Chand.
Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.
Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath.
Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Lala Benke Rai.
Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
Lala Diwan Chand.
Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.
Sardar Randhir Singh.
Sardar Sangat Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.

NOES, 41.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard.	Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
The Honourable Sardar Bahadur	Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.	Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian	Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das,
Fazl-i-Husain.	Bhandari.
The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chau-	Mr. V. F. Gray.
dhri Lal Chand.	M. Haibat Khan.
Mr. H. D. Craik.	Sardar Bahadur Sardar Jowahir
Mr. D. J. Boyd.	Singh.
Mr. Miles Irving.	Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
Mr. J. Coldstream.	Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
Mr. A. J. Gibson.	Mir Maqbul Mahmood.
Mr. A. Latifi.	Mr. E. Maya Das.
Mr. C. M. King.	Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
Mr. H. P. Tollinton.	Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Colonel R. Heard.	Dr. C. A. Owen.
Mr. W. P. Sangster.	Rao Pohap Singh.
Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.	Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
Sir George Anderson.	Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan.
Hony. Captain Ajab Khan.	Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.
Chaudhri Ali Akbar.	Rai Shahadat Khan.
Lieut.-Colonel D. M. Davidson.	Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat
Chaudhri Duli Chand.	Khan.
Subedar Major Farman Ali Khan.	

The motion was lost.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CHAIR.

ELECTIONS TO PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. President : I wish to draw the attention of members to a printed notice placed in their seats about the constitution of the Public Accounts Committee and Standing Committees. Nominations for election to these committees should reach the Secretary not later than 3 p.m. to-morrow, the 3rd January. The elections are to be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, the 5th January. Only the non-official members are to partake in the elections and therefore the official members need not be present at that hour. Voting papers for all the committees will be distributed at 2 p.m. as soon as the Council meets. When voting papers are handed in, the division bells will be rung which will be an indication to the official members that it is time for ordinary business to commence. This will probably be about 2-30.

Mr. C. M. King : Sir, the original motion has not been put. Only the amendment has been put.

Mr. President : The original motion will be dealt with on Saturday. I only undertook to dispose to-day of the point then before the House.

The Council then adjourned till two o'clock on Saturday, the 5th January 1924.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

NINTH SESSION.

Saturday, the 5th January 1924.

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

OATH OF OFFICE.

The following member was sworn in—

Raizada Bhagat Ram,—Jullundur-cum-Ludhiana (Non-Muhammadan),
Rural.

ELECTIONS TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE AND
TO THE STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. President: The number of nominations received for the Public Accounts Committee as well as for the twelve Standing Committees exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, and election will therefore be held in every case.

There will be now distributed to members thirteen ballots papers, one of each Committee. The name of the Committee is written at the top of each paper which also contains the names of candidates for that committee. Members should take each paper in turn and then put opposite to the name in the empty column the numbers of their choice, the first choice first, the second, second, the third, third, the fourth, fourth, and so on, until the names are exhausted. It is not, however, necessary to write anything against every name if a member does not so wish. Each paper should be treated separately. If any member wishes to ask any questions, I shall be glad to answer them or the Secretary will do so.

After filling in the ballot papers, members should fold them and drop them in the ballot box provided for that purpose.

The results naturally cannot be announced to-day. As soon as they are known printed intimations will be sent to honourable members embodying the results, which will also be published in the *Gazette*.

Sardar Jodh Singh: Sir, may I ask the total number of members present to-day.

Mr. President: I think the honourable member can count as well as I can.

I should explain that when the honourable member is counting, if he wishes to do so for any purposes of calculation connected with these elections, he should exclude the two official members who are sitting here. They are not concerned in the election; they are merely spectators.

The voting for the various committees concluded at 2-45

P.M.

OATH OF OFFICE.

The following members were then sworn in :—

Mr. E. A. Scott—Director of Industries.

Mr. A. D. Blascheck—Chief Conservator of Forests.

SITTING OF THE COUNCIL.

Mr. President : In case the business before the House is not disposed of by this evening the Council will sit again on Monday.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

Mr. President : There has been only one name proposed for the office of the Deputy President, namely, that of Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir, proposed by Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali and seconded by Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad. I declare that gentleman duly elected. I have in anticipation obtained the approval of his Excellency the Governor under section 72-C of the Government of India Act to the election of the Khan Bahadur. I would ask him to take the seat reserved for the Deputy President.

(Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir took the seat amidst cheers.)

OFFER OF THANKS TO MR. MANOHAR LAL, DEPUTY
PRESIDENT OF THE OLD COUNCIL.

Mr. President : Before taking up the ordinary business of the day, I venture to refer to the services of Mr. Manohar Lal, the Deputy President of the old Council. This gentleman by temperament and otherwise was eminently well-fitted for the post, and in order that nothing should be wanting on his part he made a thorough study of constitutional law and of the practice of the House of Commons. Hence on all occasions of difficulty I was able to rely with the greatest confidence on his advice of which I made full use. I wish personally to thank him for the assistance which I received and I feel sure this Council will wish that I should convey to him their thanks for the services which he rendered to the former Council. (Hear, hear and cheers.)

GOVERNMENT DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—
(CONCLUDED).

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE GRANT (continued).

Mr. President : The amendment* of Sardar Jodh Singh has been decided. The amendments* of Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram and Sardar Tara Singh are in the same sense and naturally lapse. The amendment of Mir Magbul Mahmood was received too late and apart from that, it is not necessary owing to the change in the demand made by the Honourable the Finance Member. The matter now before the House is the main question :

"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 Administration of Justice."

*That the demand under the head 'Administration of Justice' be reduced by Rs. 2 in respect of the item of Rs. 50,000—Law Officers—Other Allowances and Honoraria.

The Council divided : Ayes 45 ; Noes 33.

AYES, 45.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard.
The Honourable Sardar Bahadur
Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian
Fazl-i-Husain.
The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chau-
dhri Lal Chand.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.
Mr. J. Coldstream.
Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
Mr. A. Latifi.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. H. P. Tollinton.
Colonel R. Heard.
Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forester.
Sir George Anderson.
Mr. E. A. Scott.
Hony. Captain Ajah Khan.
Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
Lieut.-Colonel D. M. Davidson.
Chaudhri Duli Chand.
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
Subedar Major Farman Ali Khan.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das,
Bhandari.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
M. Haibat Khan.
Sayad Husain Shah.
Sardar Bahadur Sardar Jowahir
Singh.
Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
Mir Maqbul Mahmood.
Mr. E. Maya Das.
Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
Khan Bahadur Sardar Muhammad
Jamal Khan.
Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah.
Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Mian Muhammad Sharif.
Chaudhri Nur Din.
Dr. C. A. Owen.
Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan.
Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.
Rai Shahadat Khan.
Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.

NOES, 33.

Mian Abdul Aziz.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Sardar Bakhtawar Singh.
Raizada Bhagat Ram.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chohtu Ram.
Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
Sardar Har Chand Singh.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Mangal Singh.
M. Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Lala Mohan Lal.
Sardar Mohindra Singh.
Chaudhri Najib-ud-Din Khan.
Sardar Narain Singh.
Diwan Narinjan Das.
Sardar Partab Singh.

Pandit Nanak Chand.
Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.
Lala Ruchi Ram, Sehni.
Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra
Nath.
Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Lala Banke Rai.
Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
Lala Diwan Chand.
Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.
Sardar Ranbhir Singh.
Sardar Sangat Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.

The motion was carried.

JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS 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 Jails and Convict Settlements."

I ask permission to give to the House an explanation on the general question of these grants. Of course it refers equally to this particular case. I have felt a doubt whether all the new members of the House completely understand what is the meaning of these grants which are put before them, and I wish to take this opportunity of explaining the matter. In the first place I repeat what I have said before and that is that not one of these grants involves any additional expenditure. They are all applications for reappropriation of moneys that have already been granted in the budget for other purposes. The question which is put before the House is simply this: Shall Government be permitted to transfer a sum from another head to a head under which it desires to make an additional expenditure? There is no proposal in any one of these cases for increasing the aggregate expenditure which was contemplated at the time of the budget.

I should like to point out in addition, what the consequence will be if one of these grants is disallowed as the grant for excise purposes was disallowed on January 2nd. It follows from the disallowance that Government is not entitled to spend during what remains of the financial year any portion of that sum for which a demand was made to the House. There may be in consequence a very serious dislocation of business and great embarrassment of the Government. There may also be in some cases a very great embarrassment and inconvenience to particular individuals. For instance, in the case of the excise grant, if I may be permitted to refer to it, the result of the vote of the House disallowing the item was this, that not one of the excise officials who are entitled to a certain monthly payment for the maintenance of their horses will be able to draw that allowance during what remains of the financial year. They will not be able to draw it at the earliest until after the provision has been made for the next financial year. That was, of course, probably not what was foreseen by a good many members who voted against that grant. They did not realize that a good many persons who are required to keep a horse will not be able to draw the money which is provided for the maintenance of their horses, at all events, until three or four months hence. They did not realize this and of course they did not realize the possibility that these subordinate officials who are being deprived of the usual provision for the cost of their horses may be tempted into other methods of covering their expenditure.

Of course it is true that at all events under the head "Reserved Subjects" there is a special power reserved to His Excellency the Governor. It is possible when dealing with the reserved subjects for His Excellency the Governor to restore a grant which has been disallowed by the House, but that is not the case with the transferred subjects. It is, moreover, in the highest degree undesirable that the House should place His Excellency the Governor in the position of having to take a step which is only intended to be taken in very unusual circumstances. It is said, though I hope it is untrue, that there are persons who desire to wreck the Reforms

and to wreck the Councils by forcing Government into a position in which His Excellency will be compelled to take this exceptional measure on very numerous occasions. It is said that there are certain such persons, though I continue to hold that there are no such persons (hear, hear). But if there be any such, then, Sir, it is the duty of those who desire to maintain and uphold the Reforms, to uphold and maintain the Government in the exercise of its constitutional rights and to decline to allow the House to be driven into a position in which exceptional powers would be constantly exercised. One misleading argument has been put forward in the course of the discussion relating to these grants. It has been said that the Government agreed at the time of the last budget to a particular sum and that it is a breach of faith to ask for anything more. That, Sir, is an argument which the gentleman who put it forward if he had been more conversant with the work of the budget would probably not have put forward. I hope it was his newness to the House which caused him to put it forward. The actual position, of course, is this that the Government and the House with it made at the time the budget was framed this best forecast that was possible of the expenditure during the coming year. That forecast is not necessarily absolutely accurate. In some cases, more is given than has been required and in other cases less is given than the actual requirements. There is no reason at all when a discovery has been made that more is required under some heads and less under other heads, why Government should not come before the House and ask the House to put the matter right by sanctioning reappropriations. I should like in this connection to illustrate my point by referring to the possible case of a private individual. Let us take the case of a private individual who spends something like Rs. 90 a month. He expects perhaps to spend about Rs. 23 on food for his family and Rs. 7 on clothes and other miscellaneous things. After twenty-five days he finds owing that to rise in the price of food he has spent rather more on food than he had budgeted for. On the other hand, he finds that clothes have cost him less. So he decides that he will spend on the feeding of his family a sum slightly larger than he contemplated. Let me point out what the alternative may be. It may be this that because he has spent in the first twenty-five days a little more than he had expected, therefore he would be called upon to allow his family to starve during the remaining five days. That, Sir, would be a ridiculous thing. Sir, I appeal to this House to stand by Government in upholding the Reformed Councils and upholding the Reforms by dealing reasonably with demands which are before it and not rush into a position in which certain persons might desire to place them by forcing the Government to use exceptional powers.

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 Jails and Convict Settlements."

Dr. Gokul Chand, Naraing [North-West Towns (Non-Muhamamadani), Urban]: Sir, I hardly expected that I would be called upon to make a speech this afternoon, but I regret that a speech has been forced on me by the Honourable the Finance Member. The Honourable Member has not only made remarks about the subject matter before the House, he has not only made some remarks about a certain party which he thinks or has been informed exists in this House, but he had also been

[Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.]

kind enough to address his remarks to me personally although he has not mentioned me by name, as I was the member who made remarks the other day that Government had come to an agreement with the members of the House and according to that agreement had reduced the budget under Excise from Rs. 88,000 to Rs. 54,000. It is therefore my duty, which I cannot avoid, to reply to the Honourable the Finance Member on all the points he has raised in his speech. In the first place, the Honourable Member has been pleased to remark for the enlightenment of the members who are new that the grants which are now being asked for are not new, that is, that they do not impose any fresh burden on the tax-payer, but that they are only by way of transfer from one head to another. He remarked that savings have been effected in certain departments and that in certain others owing to inaccurate judgment at the time of the framing of the budget the estimates have been exceeded and that therefore the savings from certain departments should be transferred to others, where the attempt at economy has not been successful. That, I may submit, Sir, is really not a forceful argument. The mere fact that a certain amount of money has been saved in a certain department does not entitle, so far as the question of right or justification for a demand is concerned, to the transfer of that saving to another department. This House would very gratefully appreciate any economy effected by any officer in his department and it would also expect every department to make efforts to effect similar economy. Suppose a father distributes Rs. 10,000 to his five sons for carrying on their business and one of them by the economical use of his money is able to save a thousand while the others spend all their money. How would it be reasonable if the four sons go to their father and appeal to him, "Father, you have already distributed Rs. 10,000 among us. Therefore we do not ask you for anything more from your pocket. But will you not let us share the saving of one thousand which your fifth son has effected, because we have been rather unfortunate in our business?" This is exactly the position in which the Government approaches this House for supplementary grants. The savings effected by one department belong to the people and there is no justification for those departments which *ex-hypothesi* have either not been accurate in forecasting their budget requirements or have not been economical in the employment of the funds which were placed at their disposal to ask for fresh supplies. Therefore, Sir, my submission is that this is no argument for justifying the present demands for supplementary grants, and these remarks will equally apply in the case of other demands for supplementary grants.

With respect to the other argument of the Honourable the Finance Member that many people have been placed in a position of embarrassment on account of the refusal of the grant under the head Excise which was rejected last Wednesday, I do not see any force in that either. You will remember, Sir, that the very first time I opened my lips in this House, I made certain remarks with respect to the horse allowance of excise officers and their travelling by railway. You will remember that I drew the attention of this House to paragraph 1 on page 5 of the explanatory memoranda which have been placed in our hands. The Honourable Member seems to have overlooked this when he directed his attack against me on this point. You will be pleased to see what this paragraph says. It says: "An additional demand

of Rs. 16,000 is presented. This is to provide for the travelling allowance of Excise Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors for journeys which they have to perform by rail. The existing provision of Rs. 54,000 merely covers the fixed horse allowance of these officials." This simply means, Sir, either that the person who drafted this demand was not careful in the choice of his words, or if it represents the true state of affairs, it obviously means that ample provision had been made for horse allowance.....

Mr. H. D. Craik : Sir, I rise to a point of order. How are the remarks of the honourable member relevant to the demand before the House?

Mr. President : I am aware of the point. But Sir John Maynard brought these points before the House to illustrate his case, and I think it is only fair that I should allow the honourable member to deal with the same points. Of course he must remember that this is not the point under consideration now and therefore he should not go into details in his discussion.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang (continued) : Sir, I know my duty and I also know the law of relevancy. I am only replying to the argument of the Honourable the Finance Member who said that the refusal of the supplementary grant under Excise already created embarrassment among certain officials, and who made use of this fact as an argument for appealing to the House not to reject his present demand.

Then, Sir, the honourable member wanted to impress the honourable members of this House by making reference to His Excellency the Governor's powers. He informed the House that Excise was a transferred subject. I believe everybody who was present in the House knew that when he voted against the demand, because the motion was made by the Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand, Minister for Agriculture. We know that His Excellency the Governor cannot by certification sanction this re-appropriation. The Honourable the Finance Member regretted that it was a great misfortune for persons employed in the Excise Department.

Again the Honourable the Finance Member remarked that there was an attempt on the part of some people to force the Government to take a position which should be taken only in exceptional cases. My submission, Sir, is.....

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, I rise to a word of personal explanation. I did not say like that. I said, "if there are such persons—I am not sure that there are such persons. I trust there may not be."

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Then, Sir, I shall proceed with my argument.....

Mr. President : I take the honourable member accepts the statement of the Finance Member.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Yes, Sir, and I am very glad that he made it conditional and hypothetical. But my submission is that the remarks of the Honourable Member for Finance on this point are really not in point so far as the justification or otherwise for the asking of these supplementary grants, or the reasons which the honourable members of this House have to consider when sanctioning or refusing these grants are concerned. I would point out that even if sometimes the Government is driven into this difficult position when His Excellency the Governor has to sanction the grant by using his privilege of extraordinary powers that have been conferred upon him under the law or that another position is created when even His Excellency the Governor cannot sanction the grant by his

[Dr. Gokul Chand Narang.]

unusual power of certification, I submit that the members of this House would not deviate an inch from their duty even if that forces the Government into this difficult position, because unless the Government is made to feel the difficulty, unless the Government feels the pinch, it will not learn to respect the opinion of this House. That contingency must be brought about some time or other so that the executive part of the administration might feel that they are ultimately subject to.....

Mr. President : Order, order. The honourable member is going beyond the scope of the subject in hand. The Honourable Member for Finance went a little far, but I think he is going still further.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : (contd.) I bow to your ruling, Sir. I was submitting, Sir, that the members will not be committing a sin by forcing the Government, even the Honourable Member for Finance, into the this awkward position that he has to shift for himself for having exceeded the limits placed upon himself in connection with a certain department placed under his charge. Government should feel the pinch, and unless that is done, it cannot learn to respect the wishes of the people. Sir, the spirit of Reforms, in whose name the Honourable the Finance Member has made the appeal, is that the voice of the people be supreme and not the voice of the executive, and in the administration of a country that is the only way in which the people's voice can be made supreme and Government can be forced to listen to that voice and to act upon it. That is the only way, and if the honourable members rejected that proposal, or reject this proposal, or even reject all the supplementary grants, I would submit, Sir, that they would be only doing their duty and they would be opening the eyes of the executive of this province to the fact that the people's wishes ought to be respected. Sir, whether there are any persons here or whether there are not who want to wreck the Councils, apart from that I would submit that.....

Mr. President : I have given the honourable member, and I may say the Honourable the Finance Member, too great latitude, but I think really we ought to get to the immediate point instead of harping on things so remote.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : (contd.) : Sir, may I with your permission say a few words about the point raised by the Honourable the Finance Member about the wrecking of the Reforms. If His Excellency the Governor is forced into the position of . . .

Mr. President : I thought you had said it already.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Then you do not want me to say anything further ?

Mr. President : No.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang (contd.): Sir, I will only make this remark of a line or two, that if His Excellency is actually forced to resort to these powers, it will be the fault not of the representatives of the people but the fault of the executive who exceed the limit placed on them and who would go to His Excellency and say : " We have not been sufficiently economical or we have not succeeded in effecting economy and therefore we want you to exercise the extraordinary power and sanction these supplementary grants."

One word with respect to my own personality. At a certain point of my speech on the excise grant, I had said that the Minister in charge of Agriculture had come to an agreement with this House and had reduced

the Budget by 25 per cent., and it was implied that I had charged either the Honourable Minister for Agriculture or the Government with a breach of faith. I did not.

Mr. President : I do not think that was said at all, nor was your name used.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : But it was obvious that it was I who was meant unless the Honourable Finance Member denies his having referred to me.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : I certainly said that somebody had charged the Government with a breach of faith, but to the best of my recollection it was not he, but it was someone else.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang (contd.) : Sir, it is not a question of wearing a cap if it fits you, because it was I also who said in addition to somebody else that when the compromise was arrived at it was thoroughly binding and that it should be adhered to, if possible. If the Honourable Member does not mean me, I am much obliged to him. Then, Sir, the Honourable Finance Member gave an illustration, a very political illustration of the case of a father with a large family who succeeds in effecting some economy in clothing and who finds that either his children's appetite has increased or something else has happened and therefore the item set apart for feeding has proved insufficient. Now should he allow his children to starve or should he transfer the saving from the clothing department on to his feeding department? The illustration is certainly very good, but unfortunately it does not apply, because in this case it is not a question of one department being starved and saving being effected in another department and therefore needing an adjustment of funds. Even though I am new to the Council and I have no experience of this House (of course I have not been new either to these debates nor new to finance I venture to say that I know something of finance), even in these few days from the Statement of Supplementary Grants we have seen that many of the departments of the Government are run at a loss. Now if a person with a small holding of ten bighas can be self-supporting, is there any earthly justification for the Forest Department of this Province, controlling hundreds and hundreds or rather thousands and thousands of square miles of forest, not to make that department a paying concern, and yet to come to this House and ask for an additional grant? Leave Forest; take the Jails which are just before the House. I assure, you, Sir, that when I myself had the experience of being in the Central Jail at Lahore, I saw something of Jail economy, and at that time a very experienced gentlemen with perhaps a vaster experience of finance than, I say so with due deference, even the Finance Member could command, said he was surprised why the Jails Departments should not be run at a profit. He also happened to be there and he said.

Mr. President : I think the honourable member is going beyond the scope of this particular item, and I must ask him to confine himself to it. Though he is talking about Jails, he is repeating what a prisoner within the portals of a Jail said about running Jails at a profit. In doing that I think he is going entirely beyond the matter before the House.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I thank you, Sir, for drawing my attention to this and perhaps warning me off forbidden ground, but what I was submitting was this that here we are asked to make an additional grant for jails.

[Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.]

to the tune of Rs. 18,600 and what I wanted to point out was this that this demand for an additional grant was unjustified because the Jails themselves could be made a source of profit instead of being run at a loss, and therefore this House should insist that the Member of Government who is in charge of Jails should run the jails in such manner that they should prove a source of income to the State and not a source of loss, and the only way that the Honourable Member in charge of Jails can be made to do this is to refuse the additional grant that he is asking for at this stage. That is why I was referring to this. It is not a case of one member of the family starving or of one department starving. Rather looking at the administration of the various departments of this Province as disclosed by the figures, we find that it is not a case of starvation of one department or another but really it is case to which *Sa'adi's* verse about the burning of camphor candles in the daylight would apply. If people burn camphor candles in the daylight they must shift without any lights at night and the time will come when they will not be able to have a *chiragh* in the house. This is more applicable to the financial administration of this Province than the analogy of a father's family starving.

In the end, Sir, the Finance Member made an appeal to this House to make the Reforms a success. Sir, we also want that the Government may be reformed. We may not be enamoured of one set of reforms or another, we may not be in favour, or may not be quite satisfied with, the *Reforms*, but certainly there is not a living person in India who would not like that the Government of the country should be as reformed as possible, and though the Honourable Member appeals to the House to make the *Reforms* a success, I appeal to the House in the name of *reform* if not in the name of the *Reforms* and ask every member to do this duty not to carry out the *Reforms* but to carry out *reform* and to do everything which lies in his power to carry out successfully the necessary reforms in this Government, especially in the Finance Department, because I find that the finances of this province are in a very bad way, and I appeal to the members of this House not to be carried away by anything that has been said by the Finance Member or in order to uphold the prestige of Government, but to do their duty by themselves and by their constituencies and by their Province without any fear of man but only the fear of God.

Mr. H. D. Craik (Chief Secretary): Sir, the honourable member who has just spoken has probably created a record by the number of times he has spoken during his membership of one and-a-half days. His last speech contained so many expressions that are misleading and directly calculated to do harm and was so full of gross misapprehensions as to the methods of the administration that I cannot allow it to pass unanswered.

The honourable member began by saying that the whole point of these re-appropriations was that while economy has been practised in one department it had not been practised in others. That, Sir, is quite untrue and misleading. The most rigid economy has been practised in every department of the administration—(Hear, hear)—and there is no member here who was a member of the last Council who is not aware of it. Because we want to re-appropriate a small sum from one department to another, that does not imply that the department which has exceeded its grant has been extravagant.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: Sir, I rise to a point of order. I did not say that there has been extravagance. The honourable member has entirely misunderstood me. I said no attempt has been made at economy.

Mr. H. D. Craik : What the honourable member said is within my recollection, and that of the House, and I withdraw nothing that I have said. I would like the House to consider the case of the department which is now under discussion, the Jail Department. The honourable member has said that it is possible to run the Jail Department at a profit. That, Sir, the House may take it from me, is the purest moonshine. It is quite impracticable. It is the experience of every country that jails cannot be worked at a profit except by methods so inhuman and so brutal that no civilised Government would think of adopting them. The honourable member attacks Government for not having foreseen certain expenditure. I should like anybody here, whatever his financial experience may be, to inform me in what way a department spending a great many lakhs of rupees can budget more accurately than it does. We have to feed fifteen or twenty thousand prisoners with certain kinds of food prescribed by rules. The market price of one kind of grain goes up. Obviously that must throw our calculation out. Take another instance. Sometimes the jail population increases suddenly and abnormally in a district, beyond all possible anticipations. The only effect of the suggestion of the honourable member to reject all these supplementary demands would be that the big spending departments would be encouraged to budget extravagantly in order that all possible contingencies should be covered.

Sir, I do not want to deal at length with the more general part of the the honourable member's speech, but I would like, if you will permit me, Sir, to point out that he utterly misinterpreted the Honourable the Finance Member's argument when the latter asked the House not to force His Excellency the Governor into using his extraordinary powers in order to carry on the administration. The Honourable Sir John Maynard never hinted that it was not within the power of this House to refuse a grant; and no one who knows him would imagine that he could make such a statement. Of course it is within the power of this House to refuse. What he meant was that the extraordinary powers in the hands both of the Council and of the Governor should not be used except in a just cause. The honourable member who just sat down asked the House to reject the whole of these grants. I suppose when the budget for the next year comes up for discussion next year he will suggest that the Council should reject the whole budget in order to carry out his policy of working the reforms. I believe the majority of members of this Council are anxious to make the reforms a success, and, if so, I ask them emphatically to reject the honourable member's advice. Possibly the honourable member considers that if the Council takes his view the Government will come to a stand-still altogether. That will not be the case. The Government will still go on, as His Excellency the Viceroy pointed out in a speech at Simla last summer. But such a course would mean that this Council would lose all power, and be reduced to a nonentity. I ask the House if that is what they want should happen. If not, it is surely their duty not to use their extraordinary powers of refusing the grants except in exceptional circumstances when they are satisfied that real reasons exist.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan) Rural] : In supporting the demand, Sir, I should like, with your permission, to make one observation. I as a rural member representing the zamindars consider it my duty to work up the reforms. (Hear, hear.) These reforms are in the interests of the province.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : May I rise to a point of order, Sir? What have these remarks of the honourable member got to do with the present demand under discussion?

Mr. President : I quite agree. The Honourable the Finance Member when moving his demand, justifiably I think, raised a general argument which was applicable to all the demands. So, I allowed other members the same indulgence which I allowed to the Honourable the Finance Member. I would, however, ask honourable members to recollect that these points are only arguments which they can touch on briefly if at all. They should not let the debates degenerate into a general discussion of the reforms.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : I will be very brief, Sir. I only wanted to tell the House that the attitude of the zamindars was to work up the reforms with a view to obtain further instalments of reforms. We will not cut the demands in order to wreck the reforms. How can we cut down the provision for co-operation which is so beneficial to the poor; how can we cut down the provision for education or irrigation demands.

Mr. President : I must ask the member to confine himself to the Jail Department, which is the subject of discussion before the House.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : Sir, as regards the Jail Department, this demand is made not because of want of economy, but because, as explained in the memorandum, Government wants to give retrospective effect to the revised scale of pay to the Civil Surgeons and the Superintendents of Jails and to line the water-courses at Gujranwala with pacca brick-work to avoid water-logging. I believe that there is great scope for economy in the Jail Department, but if any member were to put forth any substantial scheme for economy I am sure the Government will consider it very sympathetically and adopt it. It is our duty to accord sanction to the demands of Government whether it is for a transferred subject or for a reserved subject. Otherwise we will be wrecking the reforms, and I am quite against that. I, however, hope that in the preparation of the new budget full consideration will be given by Government to the fact that the country is not prepared for fresh taxation.

Mr. President : Order, order. The honourable member must keep to the point.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : Very well, Sir. So I hope that every item that is put forth will be.....

Mr. President : I think the honourable member is not complying with my ruling.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : Coming to the item under discussion I appeal to the House not to reject the demand but to accord its sanction.

Mr. President : I think we have discussed the main question sufficiently. I therefore call on Sardar Tara Singh to move his amendment.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh), Rural] : Sir, I propose a reduction of Rs. 2 in this item, and I think the honourable members of this House will be justified in asking me the reason for the reduction. The Honourable the Finance Member while appealing to the House for this grant.....

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : The honourable member has not moved his amendment.

Mr. President : I may explain to the House that the mover of an amendment need not move it till just before he sits down at the end of his speech, because there is already before the House a matter, viz., the main motion on which he can speak till he moves the amendment. But in the case of a resolution the reason why the member must begin his speech by moving it, is that otherwise there will be no subject before the House for discussion, and the only way he can put himself in order is by commencing by moving his resolution.

Sardar Tara Singh : Sir, the members are perfectly justified in asking me for the reasons for moving this reduction. It was the duty of the Honourable the Finance Member to have stated the grounds on which he asked for this grant. Instead of doing that he simply made references to the extraordinary powers of His Excellency the Governor.

Sir, this grant is asked for moving charges of certain Babbar Akalis in the Jullundur District. I think the whole country and the Press generally is redounding with the atrocities of the Police in that district....

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (Finance Member): Sir, I rise to a point of order. Is that a proper expression to use?

Mr. President : I think the honourable member is in order.

Sardar Tara Singh : Sir, I think I am perfectly in order in bringing this point before the House so as to show that this grant is not justified. It has been asked that if these grants are rejected how will the administration be carried on, but I say that this grant is to be sanctioned for the convenience of the public and not for the convenience of Government. We do not pay thousands for the good of the executive. Whatever we do we do for the good of the public. This morning a gentleman of that district came to me and enumerated the troubles that are given to the public in that district. Gentleman, I assure you that the man brought tears in his eyes and said it was very difficult for the inhabitants to pass a single day without trouble.....

Mr. President : I should like to know in what way this is relevant to the matter before the House. Will the honourable member please explain?

Sardar Tara Singh : Sir, my point is that the Police are arresting persons who should not have been arrested and who are really innocent. I can quote instances of persons who have been arrested. They have been kept in the Police lock-ups and after sometime they have been discharged. I will give you the instance of the investigating committee appointed by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee to enquire into the charges brought against the Police in the Jullundur District. The Deputy Commissioner of the place promised that the committee would not be molested, but the members were later on arrested.....

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (Finance Member): Sir, the honourable member seems to be discussing the treatment meted out to a particular committee. It has nothing to do with the jails.

Mr. President : I will stop the honourable member if he is not relevant.

Sardar Tara Singh (continued): Now, Sir, in quoting all these instances, I have to submit that my point is proved that there have been cases in which people have been arrested by the Police and discharged after two or

[Sardar Tara Singh.]

three months. The public is not responsible if it can prove that innocent persons are arrested.....

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): Sir, the honourable member is referring to a judicial case which is still under enquiry.

Mr. President: The honourable member will observe that he is moving for the rejection of the amount of Rs. 4,000 for moving charges of under-trial prisoners in Jullundur District. He must be careful not to prejudice the trial of these prisoners. It is obvious that if a prisoner is under trial, the matter is *sub-judice*. It has got to come before court. He cannot refer to any matter of fact on which a judicial decision is pending, and obviously if a man is under trial his case must be a matter of fact on which a decision is pending. The honourable member is trying to show that all these prisoners are innocent, and that the public did not want to prosecute them. Their innocence or guilt is for the court to decide and not for this Council to decide.

Sardar Tara Singh: Sir, I beg to submit that I am not talking of any individual case; I am talking generally. I can quote a number of persons who have been arrested and put in the lock-up, and after an expiry of a month or so they have been discharged without any enquiry at all, and for this reason I think that this grant should not be sanctioned.

Mr. President: I do not think you can do that. The question is that these are under-trial prisoners, and you must restrict your remarks so that you will not prejudice their trial in any way. It is irrelevant here whether a prisoner is guilty or not guilty. We do not go into the question as to whether a prisoner is guilty or not guilty in this Council.

Sardar Tara Singh: Now, Sir, it will be clear from the reports published by the Press of the way in which the police administration is being carried on. The police surround a village, arrest men and release them. Then they surround other villages and arrest more men and release them. For the sake of a few persons, whole villages are besieged at night. Such a state of affairs exists.....

Mr. President: In what way is it relevant to the question of moving of under-trial prisoners? I must ask the honourable member to keep relevant.

Sardar Tara Singh: Sir, the reports received from the released Akali prisoners go to show that they are asked to do so much work that an ordinary man would not do, that is, they are asked to do four times the amount of work given to an ordinary prisoner. When so much work is taken out of these prisoners, I submit, Sir, that the jails should be a paying concern. At the same time I submit, Sir, that when these under-trial prisoners are carried to the court they are sometimes subjected to a treatment that one cannot tolerate. Then, Sir, I know of persons who were arrested in October and whose case has not been heard up till now. That means that for three months they have been in lock-up without their case having been taken up. The tax-payer is asked to pay for the carelessness of the Magistrates. Either the number of Magistrates is not sufficient or else they are not fit for work, and for that reason too, I submit, that, Sir, the House is not going to grant this additional sum.

Mr. President: Does the honourable member move his amendment or not?

Sardar Tara Singh : I will, therefore, Sir, move—

"That the demand under the head 'Jails and Convict Settlements' be reduced by Rs. 2, in respect of the item of Rs. 4,000 'Lock-ups—Supplies and Services—(c) Moving charges of under-trial prisoners in Jullundur District'."

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved :

"That the demand under the head 'Jails and Convict Settlements' be reduced by Rs. 2 in respect of the item of Rs. 4,000 'Lock-ups—Supplies and Services—(c) Moving charges of under-trial prisoners in Jullundur District'."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz : [Lahore (Muhammadan), Rural] :
(Urdu) : Sir, I have listened to all the speeches made

From 3-30 to 4-30 P. M.

on this amendment, and it appears to me that the Council is labouring under a misunderstanding. The Sikh community in general has my sympathies, but no such sentiment exists in my heart for the Babbar Akalis. The Government is bound in duty to prosecute the Babbar Akalis for the purpose of suppressing the violent crimes of murder and arson of which they have been accused. It is possible, however, that there may be a few innocent persons involved, but proper investigation is proceeding to ascertain their guilt. I may remind the House that in a previous session of the Council I spoke in favour of Sikh sentiment in connection with the Guru-ka-Bagh prisoners, but that was a different case from that of the Babbar Akalis. I would, therefore, request the Sikh community to show no sympathy for the latter, and in fact I know of a *communiqué* issued by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee to that effect. The Babbar Akalis were in possession of arms and committed serious offences in the districts of Jullundur and Hoshiarpur. In the face of these facts, I am convinced that there is no option left to the Government but to punish the offenders, and to gain this end the accused must be carried from one place to another. This will surely involve heavy expenditure. The Government has to provide for the daily necessities of the accused which causes a further demand on the Government purse. I think, therefore, the demand for the supplementary grant is reasonable and necessary. I would conclude, however, by requesting the House to lay aside controversies based more or less on religious sentiment and to emphasise unanimously the point that no innocent person should be allowed to suffer in this trial.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh (Urban)) : Sir, if any member in this House has understood by this amendment that the Sikh members have got a feeling of sympathy for those who are about committing murders and all sorts of crimes, then I may assure you that we have not the least sympathy for them (Hear, hear). Of course I am not responsible for the statement of Sardar Tara Singh, but all I can gather from his speech is that he was making an attempt simply to draw the attention of the responsible Government members to this fact that during the investigation of these crimes certain innocent people were also taken in custody, kept in jail for sometime and then let off, and that this should not be repeated. Perhaps he might have chosen a better opportunity for expressing his sentiment. I may once more assure you that the Sikh members have not got the least sympathy for those who commit crimes. (Hear, hear and cheers.)

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. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the demand under the head 'Jails and Convict Settlements' be reduced by Rs. 2 in respect of the item of Rs. 4,000 'Lock-ups—Supplies and Services—
(c) Moving charges of under-trial prisoners in Jallundur District.'"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : The question now 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 Jails and Convict Settlements."

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."

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 Police."

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the demand under the Head 'Police' be reduced by Rs. 2 in respect of the item of Rs. 11,000—Railway Police—Travelling Allowance."

(Urdu) Sir, the question of expenditure on the Railway Police has been, from time to time, raised and discussed in this House, but no satisfactory solution has yet been found. As regards travelling allowances to Railway Police, I would like to suggest that the railway authorities may be requested to allow free railway journey to the Police officers. This concession, if granted, would relieve the Government of some of the heavy burden it is now bearing.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the demand under the Head 'Police' be reduced by Rs. 2 in respect of the item of Rs. 11,000—Railway Police—Travelling Allowance."

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : I may explain even at this stage that the suggestion made by Lala Sewak Ram has already been carried out and a pass system introduced. But the Railway Police are entitled to certain daily allowances for personal expenses and the present demand is for that purpose.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : 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. 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 Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : (Minister for Agriculture) : 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."

Mr. President : The question is—

"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 in respect of Medical."

The motion was carried.

AGRICULTURE GRANTS.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : (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 Agriculture."

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 Agriculture."

The motion was carried.

INDUSTRIES GRANT.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : (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."

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 Industries."

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS.

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 Miscellaneous Departments."

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 Miscellaneous Departments."

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS—RESERVED GRANTS.

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."

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 Civil Works—Reserved."

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS—TRANSFERRED GRANT.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : (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."

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.

SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS GRANT.

The following motion of which notice had been given was not moved :—

"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 Superannuation Allowances and Pensions."

HYDRO-ELECTRIC CAPITAL EXPENDITURE GRANT.

Mr. Miles Irving (Finance Secretary) : 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 Hydro-Electric Capital Expenditure."

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 Hydro-Electric Capital Expenditure.”

The question was carried.

IRRIGATION GRANTS.

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—Working Expenses.”

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—Working Expenses.”

The motion was carried.

RESOLUTION RE RETENTION OF TAHSIL AT NAROWAL.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, I beg to move—

“That this Council recommends to the Government that the Tahsil at Narowal be retained in that town until the end of the financial year, 1924-25.”

This resolution, Sir, does not mean that the Government is returning to the charge. This question was discussed during the last Council, and this resolution is simply carrying out of the pledge which was made on the 25th of October last to Mr. Ganpat Rai who was promised that the new Council would have an opportunity of giving its opinion on this proposal to transfer the tahsil of Zaffarwal to Narowal. It is in order that this Council may now have the opportunity of expressing an opinion that I have been directed to bring this motion which has been tabled. It will be within the recollection of the members of this Council who were in the former Council that the sum of Rs. 2,250 was voted for the rent of a *serai* at Narowal which is used for the purpose of a tahsil. That sum of Rs. 2,250 takes us to the end of the current financial year, from the 1st of December 1922 to the 31st of March 1924. I explained before to the Council that we were under a moral obligation to lease that *serai* for a period of two years from the 1st of December 1922, and therefore we shall have to incur certain expenditure in the coming financial year up to, at least, the 1st of December 1924. The reason why this resolution is brought now and not later on during the time of the budget is because if we brought the resolution later on and if this House negatived the proposals it would be quite impossible in the short time (a fortnight or so) left to us to make any arrangement for moving the tahsil from Narowal back to Zaffarwal. It is because we desire to have ample time to do so, if necessary, that this resolution is being brought up now. So much by way of explanation for the bringing of this resolution.

I now turn to the main question which is that the tahsil should remain on at Narowal and should not be transferred back to Zaffarwal. I am afraid I must ask the members of this Council to hear me with patience. I

[Mr. C. M. King.]

have to explain the story from the beginning. I shall be as brief as possible, but I may take a little time. Members will remember that originally the Sialkot district consisted of five tahsils. A portion of one tahsil (Raya tahsil) was taken away to be part of the new Shaikhupura district. That left the Raya tahsil a very small tahsil, and it was necessary to make further arrangements for the tahsils in the Sialkot district. Accordingly it was decided that the rest of the Raya tahsil and the remaining four tahsils of the Sialkot district should be divided up into four tahsils. We need not now consider the question of the Sialkot tahsil. The Sialkot tahsil is the same as before, so also is the Daska tahsil of the Sialkot District. That also is the same as before. The whole argument turns on the remaining two tahsils and the half Raya tahsil. There is the Zaffarwal tahsil, there is the Pasrur tahsil and there is the half of the Raya tahsil, and the whole question is how are we divide up those two-and-a-half tahsils in a way which will be most convenient for the inhabitants of those tahsils, both in regard to the payment of land revenue, which is the main object of a tahsil, and also in regard to litigation, police and all other matters which are connected with Government? The first proposal was that we should take the remainder of the Raya tahsil, amalgamate part of it, with the Pasrur tahsil and another with Zaffarwal and thus have two tahsils, Zaffarwal lying to the north and Pasrur lying more or less to the south. That arrangement was proposed originally by Mr. Abbott and it had certain advantages, but the very grave disadvantage was that the whole of these two tahsils were bisected by the Degh river. The Degh river is at times a very dangerous torrent. It is unbridged throughout, and it is liable to very violent floods, and it is consequently a barrier in the two tahsils. If you have a northern tahsil and a southern tahsil, then you have two tahsils each of which is divided into two parts which at certain times will be totally separated from each other. That was the main objection to having the tahsils divided in that way. The objection was present in the minds of Mr. Abbott when he said that the proposal made was not satisfactory but the best he could devise at the time. He also did not want at that time to move the headquarters to the Zaffarwal tahsil. But later on the question was further examined when Mr. Fyson was Deputy Commissioner, and Mr. Fyson suggested certain alternatives which were more extensive than the alternatives contemplated by Mr. Abbott and as a result of which we have the tahsils divided not latitudinally but longitudinally, so that you have on one side of the Degh one tahsil and on the other side of the Degh another tahsil. That arrangement involved the transfer of the headquarters from Zaffarwal to Narowal, because otherwise the headquarters would have been right in one corner of the tahsil and the most distant villages to the south would have been 40 or 50 miles from the tahsil headquarters. That was obviously undesirable and in order to obviate that difficulty the question of transferring the headquarters from Zaffarwal to Narowal was raised. There is another reason for this proposal of the transfer from Zaffarwal, and that is that Narowal is a Railway Station and there is an intention, I believe, which will mature, to continue the railway from Narowal to Shahdara. In that case Narowal will become a most important point, and if that happens I cannot conceive its being possible to have a tahsil at Zaffarwal and not at Narowal.

Then there are other minor considerations. Zaffarwal is a small place. It has no educational facilities and Narowal has two High Schools. It has

already a Munsifi, and a police station there and altogether the actual transfer from Zaffarwal to Narowal is not likely to cause any great inconvenience. These are the reasons why I would ask the Council to agree to the transfer of the tahsil headquarters from Zaffarwal or rather the retention of the tahsil at Narowal where it has been transferred from Zaffarwal.

But my present motion is of a smaller scope. Those are the reasons given for the transfer but at present added to them is this further reason that we have been in occupation of the serai at Narowal since the 1st of December 1922. When we occupied the serai we entered into an agreement with the owner of the serai that we would pay Rs. 150 a month provided we occupy the serai for two years. Therefore the owners granted a lease. He signed the lease which is complete except for the signature of the Secretary to Government. It is not legally complete, but we are in honour bound to complete that lease for at least the term of two years. Therefore up to the 1st of December next at least we are bound, I think the members of this Council will agree with me, to pay Rs. 150 which we ought to pay for the rent of this serai whether we occupy it or not. I have added a further three months to the period so as to complete the financial year. If this Council agrees that the tahsil ought to stay on at Narowal, that is, only up to the end of March, 1925, well and good. It rounds off the financial year, but if they wish to evacuate the building on the 1st of December 1924, they can do so without any breach of obligation. I earnestly hope that they will not do so for the reasons already mentioned. If they wish to do so there is no obstacle to their doing so. If, on the other hand, they want us to leave this tahsil building at the end of this current financial year, that is, March 1924, instead of December 1924, we do can that also, but we shall have to pay Rs. 150 a month which is due to the owner of the serai up till the 1st of December 1924. We are in honour bound to do that because of the agreement which has been signed.

That, Sir, is the exact position. It is not the desire of the Government to say 'We are here at Narowal, we are not going to move from it.' The matter is largely for this Council to decide, and I hope the Council in coming to a decision will take a broad view of the question, look at it in a judicial frame of mind and come to a conclusion which will be in the interest of the whole province. And whatever their decision may be I hope they will allow us to stay at Narowal at least as long as this lease continues, that is, till December next when, if necessary, we will return to Zaffarwal.

Mr. President : The resolution moved runs thus :—

"That this Council recommends to the Government that the tahsil at Narowal be retained in that town until the end of the financial year 1924-25."

The question is that that resolution is adopted.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath : (Punjab Landholders, General) : Sir, I am one of those members who had the honour of being a member of the last Council and I expressed an opinion then, and I express the same opinion now, namely, that I am opposed to the change.

Mr. President : What change ?

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath : Change from Zaffarwal to Narowal. Only three months ago it was pointed out that owing to a certain legal obligation created by a certain agreement and owing to the fact that money had been sent, we should agree to the continuance of the tahsil at Narowal. Now the legal obligation has ceased, an argument based on

[D. B. Raja Narendra Nath.]

moral obligation is put forward before us. I am much obliged to the Financial Commissioner (Mr. C. M. King) for the detailed history of the case. I find from what he has said that there was a difference of opinion between two experienced Deputy Commissioners. Mr. Abbott was for retaining the tahsil at Zaffarwal and Mr. Fyson for the transfer from Zaffarwal to Narowal. I have heard carefully the arguments advanced in favour of the change to Narowal, and I must confess that I am not convinced that there are really any great reasons for the change. There may be moral obligations for continuing the lease with the owner of the *serai*, but the moral obligations to the people of Zaffarwal ought not to be ignored or undervalued. The inhabitants of Zaffarwal and of its neighbourhood have vested interests. If the tahsil is allowed to continue at Narowal another vested interest will be created, then the neighbourhood of Narowal will have a right to request the continuance of the tahsil at Narowal and a reversal of the arrangement will become very difficult if not impossible. Whenever a tahsil has been located for a long time in one place and circumstances arise which make it necessary to shift the tahsil to another place, regard is paid to the inhabitants of the old locality by conceding to them a sub-tahsil. That concession will have to be given to the people of Zaffarwal. Then a new tahsil building will have to be erected at Narowal. So far as financial considerations go I think there are advantages in allowing the tahsil to remain at Zaffarwal. I have heard the reasons advanced for the transfer to Narowal and the only point which in the opinion of the Deputy Commissioner who reported in favour of the transfer weighed most was that Narowal was a Railway Station. But we need not despair of having a Railway Station at Zaffarwal. I continue to hold the same opinion as I expressed before, namely, that if we continue the tahsil at Narowal for any length of time it will eventually become difficult to transfer it to Zaffarwal and it will become necessary to build a huge and such an expensive building for the tahsil at Narowal. On these grounds, Sir, I oppose the resolution.

Sardar Randhir Singh, Kalaswala : [Sialkot-cum-Gurdaspur (Sikh) Rural] (Urdu): Before I proceed, Sir, to give any

5 P. M.

reasons in favour of the retention of the tahsil at

Narowal I would like to point out to the House that I have been in touch with the people of that locality and have ascertained their feelings in regard to the question under discussion, and on the strength of that knowledge I can assert that since the transfer of the tahsil to Narowal the major portion of its population has been saved the hardships and troubles it was suffering when the tahsil headquarters were at Zaffarwal.

It goes without saying that the headquarters of a tahsil should be located at a place which is both convenient to the public and to those who are in charge of its management, and Narowal, in my opinion, is the place best suited for the purpose for the following few reasons :—

There is a Degh Nala flowing between Narowal and Zaffarwal. This Nala grows particularly dangerous in the rainy season. In case the tahsil is retained at Narowal, this danger will be obviated, as there will be no more necessity to go to Zaffarwal in and out of the season. In reply to the contention that similar danger faces those who will be required to come from Zaffarwal and its vicinity, I may say, that since the abolition of Raya tahsil and the readjustment of the *ilaga*, 4 out of the 5 police stations have come to lie in the Narowal side of the Degh Nala, and the interest of the majority should prevail in the selection of the headquarters. The next point

that I would like to bring home to the minds of the members is that the climate of Narowal is decidedly healthier and better fitted for the location of the headquarters than Zaffarwal.

To press the point a little further it may be said that Narowal is a Railway Station and in cases of emergencies the officials responsible for the maintenance of peace and order can reach the spot more expeditiously than will be the case if the tahsil is shifted again to Zaffarwal, as it is not a Railway Station. Regarding educational facilities, Narowal claims to have two High Schools while in Zaffarwal there is only one, and that too only up to the middle standard.

My last, though not the least, point is that the land at Narowal is more productive and the people owning a land there contribute more to the public treasury in the shape of revenue, and therefore they have got better claim to have the tahsil near them.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din [Sialkot (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I have the honour to belong to the same district as Sardar Randhir Singh belongs to, and for that reason I too possess an equally intimate, if not more intimate, knowledge of the place as he does. Zaffarwal has been the headquarters of the tahsil ever since the advent of the British Raj in the Punjab, though later on since the opening of a railway line the headquarters have been shifted to Narowal.

There is no doubt that there are two High Schools at Narowal and the Tahsildar and the Inspector naturally reside in that town, and there is no denying the fact that Zaffarwal has no historical importance. I admit that Zaffarwal is not best suited for being the headquarters of the tahsil if its geographical position alone is to be considered.

One of the main arguments which have been advanced for the retention of tahsil headquarters at Narowal is its being on a railway line. But, Sir, I beg to submit that this is not a sufficient reason for the transfer. There is no justification for making people of Zaffarwal and other places travel for thirty miles and more in order to get justice. The Degh which the honourable member mentions is still there, and I admit that it is rather an uncertain stream, but I have been brought up from my birth on the very banks of the Degh, and I know no case in which this stream ever took any life or stopped our mails.

Zaffarwal is an old town, in fact very old, and situated as it is on the boundaries of Jammu and Kashmir State, it is a good and an eminent centre of trade, which trade I may assure you, Sir, has already suffered much owing to the transfer of the headquarters to Narowal.

Sir, there are also other reasons against the transfer to Narowal. Does not the honourable member know that a sahuakar's house was broken into when he was away at Narowal to conduct a law suit. Isn't it a fact that many a man has been looted and way-laid while on their way to Narowal from Zaffarwal. I do believe that the people of Narowal will benefit by the headquarters remaining in that town, but, Sir, it shall be at the expense of the inhabitants of Zaffarwal. Narowal, situated as it is, is as bad for the purposes of being a headquarter as Zaffarwal is from the point of view of their geographical positions. The fact is that the geographical adjustment of the tahsil needs revision, and I believe that this readjustment of the tahsil can be beneficial to both the places. Narowal is situated only 10 miles from one boundary line to of the tahsil and Zaffarwal is about 22 or 25 miles. Thus

[K. B. Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.]

if a central place is the only criterion both the places are unsuitable. Dham-dhan would be the best in that respect. But regard should be paid to old institutions and old families. I, therefore, would like to see a little change in the constitution of the tahsil. To keep the headquarters permanently at Narowal would be a grave injustice to the people of Zaffarwal. I would, therefore, request the Government to deal with the matter in a way acceptable and beneficial to both the claimants.....

Mr. President : The honourable member has nearly come to the end of his time.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : I would make a suggestion that Tahsildar's headquarters should be fixed at Zaffarwal while a Sub-Judge and a Naib-Tahsildar be appointed at Narowal. Sardar Randhir Singh has said that there are five thanas in Narowal. I ask what sort of thanas these are. How many zails are there in Nadoke thana? I am afraid only two; and how many are there in Thana Qilla Sobha Singh. I think only three; while there are eight zails in Thana Zaffarwal alone.

I, therefore, beg to suggest that the tahsil at Narowal should remain there only up to the 1st December and not up till the 1st of March, and that the Government should bring forward the matter again for the consideration of this Council.

Mr. President : You suggest that the tahsil at Narowal should remain only till the 1st of December. If so, it cannot be put before the House unless you move a formal amendment. Mr. King, have you any objection to his moving an amendment to this effect?

Mr. C. M. King : We are not asking for any grant. It is only a resolution, and there is no necessity for the amendment.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : If the Government is not asking for any grant, then I would suggest that the resolution be deferred for some time so that the Government may have time to readjust, if possible, the geographical shape of the tahsil and then place the matter before the Council.

Mr. D. J. Boyd : 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. C. M. King : Sir, there is only one point which I have omitted to state to the Council, and that is that although Mr. Abbott's proposal differed from Mr. Fyson's yet subsequently Mr. Fyson's proposal was submitted to a committee consisting of Mr. Abbott, Mr. Fyson and Mr. Langley, the Commissioner of the Division. The Committee was unanimously in favour of Mr. Fyson's proposal and Mr. Abbott withdrew his original proposal. That is the only point I wish to bring to the notice of the House.

Mr. President : Resolution moved—

“That this Council recommends to the Government that the tahsil at Narowal be retained in that town until the end of the financial year 1924-25.”

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried.

SURRENDER OF GRANTS.

Mr. Miles Irving (Financial Secretary): When the budget for 1923-24 was presented to the Council, the amount of refunds under head VII—Stamps, Rs. 76,400, for judicial, and under XVII—Administration of Justice, Rs. 95,000, were shown as voted in the Demand for Refunds Reserved (Demand No. 86). A supplementary grant of Rs. 87,000 was subsequently voted by the Council in its session of October last for refunds under head VII—Stamps—Non-Judicial.

The Government of India have decided that the appropriations on account of refunds of revenue under the head Stamps and Administration of Justice are not subject to the vote of the Council. The sums of Rs. 1,43,400, under VII—Stamps and Rs. 95,000 under Administration of Justice voted by the Council are accordingly surrendered.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: With your permission, Sir, I would like to give notice that a meeting of the Standing Finance Committee for the consideration of new expenditure which has been entered in the budget will be held at 10-30 A. M on January 14th, 15th and 16th.

Mr. President: That announcement concerns only certain members who who will be elected to the Standing Finance Committee. It cannot be said at present who those members are.

The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

[NOTE.—By an order of His Excellency the Governor, dated the 5th January 1924, the Council was prorogued unto a date to be hereafter fixed.]

PRINTED BY
SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRINTING, PUNJAB.

267 PLC-100-11-5-23-SGPP Lahore.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.
SECOND SESSION OF THE SECOND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 25th February 1924.

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 :—

Abbott, Mr. E. R.—Official, nominated.

Sham Lal, Lala—Hissar (Non-Muhammadian), Rural.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR.

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 which were passed by the Legislative Council in October 1923.

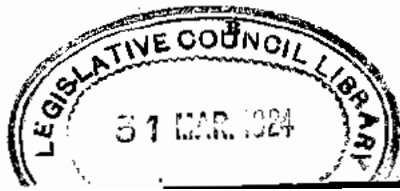
1. The Punjab Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 1923,
2. The Punjab Local Option Act, 1923, and
3. The Punjab Opium Smoking Act, 1923.

PROCEDURE ON VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

Mr. President : The attention of honourable members is invited to the printed paper * relating to Procedure on voting of Demands for Grants, which has been placed in their places. I hope this will be found helpful, and fairly comprehensive; but if any member after perusal of the paper is in doubt on any point, he can consult me in my room or raise a point of order at an appropriate time.

***PROCEDURE ON VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.**

The attention of members is invited to Article 125. The order requiring two days' notice of a motion to omit or reduce any item of a grant or to reduce any grant is absolute, and cannot be relaxed by the President. It will be observed that this Standing Order as it now stands in its amended form does not refer at all to motions to omit a grant *in toto*, which, however, are mentioned in Article 124. Article 62 (2) however, unless it is held to be *stricto jure* as applied to such motions, would operate to prevent such motions being put as amendments. Again, such motions, if allowed, as amendments might result in conflicting decisions being passed by the Council within a few minutes of each other on the same question, e.g., a decision to reject an amendment to omit a grant might be followed immediately after by a decision to refuse the grant when the latter comes to be put as a substantive motion. The House has full liberty to reject a demand *in toto* when it is put to the vote even though no motion for its omission has been moved (article 118) so that, there is no object in a formal motion to omit a grant, or at any rate, treating such a motion as an amendment. Article 124 (2) appears to be directed merely to indicate the stage at which motions of a certain class can be moved, and to restrict their scope, and cannot be taken to imply either that a formal motion to omit is necessary before the Council can refuse assent to a demand, or that such a motion



if moved, must be treated as an amendment. Accordingly such motions to omit a grant *in toto* will not be treated as amendments, nor is any notice required. But if any member chooses to send in notice of such motions there is of course no objection and he will perhaps thereby obtain a better chance of catching the eye of the President when he wishes to rise and oppose the grant when put as a substantive motion.

In disposing of other amendments the principle of Article 124 (4) will be applied also to the main sub-heads under a grant, that is to say, proposals to reduce items under a sub-head will be dealt with first and then any proposal to reduce the lump amount under that sub-head. Secondly, when varying reductions are proposed to one item of a sub-head or grant, I shall ordinarily put the largest reduction first. If that is carried it will rule out all smaller reductions proposed except in an exceptional case mentioned below. If it is negatived, then I shall take the next smaller reduction. If that is carried, the still smaller ones will be ruled out and so on down to the last. Members desiring smaller reductions should vote against amendments embodying reductions larger than they wish for. This procedure is thought to be clearer than putting the smaller amendments as sub-amendments to larger ones. If, however, such a course seems suitable in any particular case, I may have all the amendments moved before taking votes on any of them in anticipation of some compromise emerging and Government and the House accepting some one of the amendments. Supposing such a compromise is effected in any case between those desiring reduction and the Government to the effect that Government will accept a reduction by so much, then if that compromise can be given effect to by the adoption of one out of the pending amendments, others should be withdrawn, and that one adopted. Otherwise the procedure would be that any amendment under discussion should be withdrawn, when others would not be moved, Government would then withdraw its demand and substitute a demand giving effect to the compromise.

Ordinarily when any matter has come under discussion during the disposal of any amendment no further discussion of that matter is permitted on future amendments to the same item, as it is the duty of the President to prevent repetition of discussion so as to guard the claim of other members to an opportunity to bring forward anything they have to say under other votes. Hence members who have anything to say regarding an item should rise to speak during the discussion on the amendment first proposed to the House. If, however, any member wishes on a later amendment to raise a different subject altogether which might have but did not come under discussion under the first amendment, he would be in order. Where the object of amendment is totally different, the one being directed to secure economy and the other to obtain an opportunity of criticising the administration of a grant or the sub-head of a grant, the smaller reduction would be in order, even if the larger reduction moved for purposes of economy had been passed, and this is the exceptional case to which I have referred above. A difficulty might, however, arise, supposing a motion to reduce a sub-head by Rs. 50,000 were carried and then a motion to reduce that sub-head by Rs. 1 were subsequently carried, as to how to effect this nominal reduction of Rs. 1. Members therefore who wish to bring grants or sub-heads of grants under discussion for the purposes of criticism and not from motives of economy should word their amendment as follows: "To reduce the grant or sub-grant by Rs. 1 or by a further sum of Rs. 1 as the case may be."

Discussion on motions for reducing an item must be confined strictly to the item and on motions for reducing sub-heads, to the matter covered by the sub-head while discussion on motions for reducing the whole grant can range over the whole administration covered by that grant.

As regards the application of the guillotine under Article 123 I wish to warn members that under Article 123 (2) of the Manual it is incumbent on the President as soon as the maximum limit of time for discussion of any group of demands is reached forthwith to put every question necessary to dispose of the demand under discussion and any others in the group. The only questions necessary are the demand itself then under discussion or the demand as already amended, as the case may be, together with any amendment thereto which at the moment is under discussion, and the remaining demands of the group. It will be unnecessary for the demands to be formally moved. Members are also reminded that if the whole of the demands have not previously been disposed of, then on the last day of the allotted days at 5 P.M. any amendments which have not been reached will lapse and any amendment then under discussion and the main question in connection with each demand still undisposed of will alone be put from the Chair. The allotment of time by groups are in the form of "not more than two days," "not more than three days" and "not more than three days." This is to enable the Council, if a group of demands is disposed of before the expiration of the full period allotted to that group, to proceed at once to the consideration of the next group. The days allotted for that next group will count as having commenced on the day and at the hour at which they are actually taken up, and the hour at which the "maximum limit of time" expires will be determined with reference to that hour.

* *Vide* the annexure.

disposed of before the expiration of the full period allotted to that group, to proceed at once to the consideration of the next group. The days allotted for that next group will count as having commenced on the day and at the hour at which they are actually taken up, and the hour at which the "maximum limit of time" expires will be determined with reference to that hour.

H. A. CASSON,

President, Legislative Council, Punjab.

The 25th February 1924.

* ANNEXURE.

In accordance with the provisions of the Punjab Legislative Council Rules, His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to allot eight days for the discussion of the Government's demands for grants under the various heads of the budget as follows :—

Demand No.	Major Heads.	Time allotted.
1	5—Land Revenue	Not more than two days.
2	6—Excise	
3	7—Stamps	
4	8—Forests	
	52-A—Forest (Capital Expenditure)	
5	9—Registration	
6	XIII Irrigation—Working Expenses	
	14—Interest on Irrigation Works	Not more than three days.
	15—Miscellaneous—Irrigation Expenditure...	
	55—Construction of Irrigation (Capital Expenditure).	
7	19—Interest on Debt	
8	22—General Administration (Reserved)	
9	22—General Administration (Transferred)	
10	24—Administration of Justice	
11	25—Jails and Convict Settlements	
12	26—Police	Not more than three days.
13	30—Scientific Departments	
14	31—Education (Reserved)	
15	31—Education (Transferred)	
16	32—Medical	
	33—Public Health	
17	34—Agriculture	
18	35—Industries	Not more than three days.
	56-C.—Industrial Development (Capital Expenditure).	
19	37—Miscellaneous Departments	
20	41—Civil Works (Reserved)	
21	41—Civil Works (Transferred)	
	58-D.—Hydro-Electric Schemes (Capital Expenditure).	
	60—Civil Works (Capital Expenditure)	
22	45—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	
23	46—Stationery and Printing	
24	47—Miscellaneous (Reserved)	
25	47—Miscellaneous (Transferred)	
26	52—Miscellaneous Adjustments	
27	Civil Contingencies Fund	
28	Loans by Provincial Government (Reserved)	
29	Loans by Provincial Government (Transferred)	
30	Refunds (Reserved)	
31	Refunds (Transferred)	

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

VACATION OF HOUSES BY CERTAIN VILLAGERS OF TAHSIL KHARAR ON
ACCOUNT OF ARTILLERY PRACTICE.

1. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** Is it a fact that the residents of several villages, e.g., Kansal, Khuda, Ali Sher, Suketaryan, etc., etc., near Mani Mazra, Tahsil Kharar, District Ambala, were on several occasions in the months of October and November last made to vacate their homes on account of artillery practice and that the same treatment has been meted out to them

for the past several years? If so, under what authority was this done and what compensation, if any, was paid to the residents of these villages for the inconvenience and loss caused to them?

Will the Government please take necessary steps in the matter and stop the practice in future?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Artillery practice is held annually at Chandigarh from November and the inhabitants of villages in the line of fire or danger zone are warned by the police to leave the village when the actual firing is taking place.

Compensation assessed for damage to crops and property is paid by the Military authorities.

This year artillery practice was carried out on certain days between the 19th November and 8th December 1923.

Compensation is being assessed by Naib-Tahsildar, Siwaliks, and will be paid to the villagers in due course.

In the interests of the efficiency of the Military forces of the country it is not possible to stop the practice.

2. (Cancelled).

ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS SYSTEM OF MEDICINES IN THE PROVINCE.

3. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh: (a) Will the Government please state what steps have been taken during the last three years to encourage the indigenous system of medicines in the Province?

(b) Is it a fact that suggestions were made in the last District Boards Conference to the effect that local bodies be asked to employ *hakims* and *vaides*? If so, will the Government please issue necessary instructions to the local bodies to employ a larger number of *hakims* and *vaides* and encourage the system by giving a special grant for the subject?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (a) In view of the general interest felt in the Unani and Ayurvedic systems of medicine the Local Government asked the advice of the Public Health Standing Committee of the Legislative Council early in 1922 as to the means to be adopted for encouraging them. Although the Committee generally advised that steps should be taken to improve the Unani and Ayurvedic systems of medicine, it definitely decided that there was no need for opening a new school for either system in view of the existence of the Tibbi and Vaidic College at Delhi. The Committee advised that best results would be obtained (i) by providing facilities to Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons to study the indigenous systems of medicine, (ii) by organising research in the herbs and drugs used by Vaides and Hakims for the curing of diseases and (iii) by the grant by local bodies of scholarships to matriculates to go to the Tibbi College, Delhi, for the study of the Unani or Vaidic systems. As to the last they added a rider to it that if proposals came from local bodies and Government entertained any doubt on any point it would be open to them to refer the matter again to the Public Health Committee. In compliance with these recommendations the matter was referred to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals who definitely declared the first part of the Committee's

resolution to be impracticable. As to the second he recommended that the Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacology, King Edward Medical College, Lahore, should carry out research work on indigenous drugs with the help of an Assistant Surgeon with special qualifications for such work, and also that Vaidas and Hakims be invited in supplying herbs and drugs used by them for investigation of their therapeutic qualities. This part of the proposal is for the present at a stand-still in view of the financial stringency.

By Punjab Government Notification No. 21173 of 28th August 1923, a copy of which is laid on the table,* Government have materially raised the limits of the emoluments that can be given to Hakims and Vaidas by local bodies. Proposals for enhanced emoluments for a Hakim or Vaid came up to Government in one case only and after due consideration they were accepted.

(b) It is a fact that at least 2 members of Punjab District Boards Conference advocated the employment of Hakims and Vaidas by local bodies. Government do not consider it necessary to issue instructions to local bodies in a matter in which the initiative ought to come from the local bodies themselves.

**The 28th August 1923.*

No. 21173.—With reference to Punjab Government notification No. 18536, dated 29th June 1922, and in exercise of the powers vested in the Local Government under sections 39, 42 and 240 (1) (xx) of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, as amended by the Punjab Municipal (Amendments) Act, 1923, and sections 27 and 55 (1) (a) of the Punjab District Boards Act, 1883, as amended by the Punjab District Boards (Amendment) Act, 1922, the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) are pleased to make the following rules regarding the employment of Hakims and Vaidas by District Board, and Municipal Committees:—

RULES.

1. No person calling himself Hakim or Vaid shall be employed by a Board or Committee unless he—

- (a) has passed the Hakim-i-Haziq or Zubdutul Hukama examination of the Islamia College, Lahore, or the Kaviraj or Vaidya Vachaspati examination of the D. A.-V. College, Lahore; or
- (b) is a registered medical practitioner, not being in or having been dismissed from the service of Government, or
- (c) has a diploma showing that he has been the pupil of a practising Hakim or Vaid and has himself continuously and satisfactorily practised the profession for not less than 7 years.

2. Except with the previous sanction of Government no Hakim or Vaid shall be paid a remuneration exceeding Rs. 50 per mensem if he is employed under rule 1 (a) or (b) or more than Rs. 25 per mensem if he is employed under rule 1 (c).

3. A Board or Committee may supplement the remuneration given to a Hakim or Vaid under rule 2 by the supply of medicines either free or on commission sale.

4. Every Hakim or Vaid employed by a Board or Committee shall keep a register of patients and the Commissioner of the Division or the Deputy Commissioner or Civil Surgeon of the District, or the President or Secretary or any other person authorized to this effect by the Board or Committee concerned may call for and inspect such register.

**COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE
CANDIDATES TRAINED AT PHILLAUR.**

4. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** Will the Government please state how many Sub-Inspector of Police candidates were sent up for training at Phillaur from the Eastern Range in 1920, 1921, 1922 and 1923, respectively, and how many of them were Sikhs and how many of these Sikhs were residents of Ambala Division ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Since 1919, 30 Probationary Sub-Inspectors have been appointed in the Eastern Range and sent for training to the Police Training School, Phillaur, as follows :—

1920	...	...	...	...	6
1921	...	...	...	...	7
1922	...	...	...	...	7
1923	...	...	...	...	10
					30

Of this number, 4 were Sikhs, none of whom was a resident of the Ambala Division.

**NUMBER OF SIKHS FROM THE AMBALA DIVISION APPOINTED TO VARIOUS
OFFICES.**

5. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** Will the Government please state how many Sikhs from the Ambala Division have been taken during the last three years for the following appointments :—

Extra Assistant Commissioners,
Sub-Judges,
Police Inspectors,
Punjab Educational Service,
Subordinate Educational Service,
Co-operative Societies, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors,
Agricultural Inspectors,
Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars ?

Mr. H. D. Craik : During the last three years no Sikhs from the Ambala Division have been appointed to the posts of Extra Assistant Commissioner, Sub-Judge, Police Inspector, Punjab Educational Service, Subordinate Educational Service, Inspector and Sub-Inspector, Co-operative Societies and Tahsildars. There are no posts of Agricultural Inspectors in the Punjab and it is understood that the honourable member wishes to obtain information about the posts of Agricultural Assistants. Two Sikhs from the Ambala Division have been appointed to these posts. As regards Naib-Tahsildar the only vacancy occurring during the last three years in the Ambala Division was filled by a Sikh.

SIKHS IN THE EXECUTIVE MINISTERIAL STAFF IN THE AMBALA DISTRICT.

6. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Is it a fact that there are very few Sikhs in the Executive Ministerial staff in the Ambala District? If so, will the Government please take necessary steps to give the Sikhs their due share in those services?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia : The term "executive Ministerial staff" is not exactly understood.

BENCH OF HONORARY MAGISTRATES FOR RUPAR AND KHARAR IN THE AMBALA DISTRICT.

7. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Is it a fact that a Bench of Honorary Magistrates is going to be constituted for Rupar and Kharar in the Ambala District? If so, is it also a fact that no Jat Sikh has been recommended for appointment on that Bench? Is it a fact that both the tahsils are overwhelmingly populated by Sikh Jats? If so, will the Government please consider this point at the time of making appointments and give the Jats of the *ilaga* their due share of representation on the Bench of Honorary Magistrates?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : Government has received no proposal for the constitution of a new Bench of Honorary Magistrates for Kharar and Rupar.

DEATH DUE TO BURNING OF CERTAIN PERSONS IN THE HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

8. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Is it a fact that some persons recently met their death by burning in the Hoshiarpur District, owing to the police setting fire to a closed house in which those persons were and that this happened as a sequence to an attempt to arrest certain alleged offenders? If so, will the Government please state what action it has taken or proposes to take against the perpetrators of this act?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The facts are that on the 12th December 1923, proclaimed offenders Banta Singh, Jowala Singh and Waryam Singh, prominent members of the Babbar Akali murder-gang, were reported to be in a house in Munder, a village on the Jullundur-Hoshiarpur road, some 17 miles from Jullundur. A force of police was despatched to the spot and a detachment of cavalry followed. Before the arrival of the cavalry, the police party surrounded the village, and the outlaws attempted to break through the cordon, firing on the police. Failing to get through they ensconced themselves in a room (*Chobara*) on the roof of a house belonging to a carpenter of the village and from there kept up a steady fire on the police and military. They were protected by the walls and doors of the room so the woodwork was set on fire and, effective fire being then possible, two of the absconders were shot dead by the police in their attempt to escape from the burning house. The third managed to make his escape in the darkness. The two men killed were identified as Banta Singh and Jowala Singh, absconders in the Babbar Akali Conspiracy case. One D.-B.B.L. shot gun and a seven-chambered revolver were found on their dead bodies. The affair took place in the presence and under the orders of the District Magistrate of Jullundur and no injury was done to any innocent person of the village.

**BRIDGES OVER THE SIRHIND CANAL AND THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED STONE
BALLAST RAILWAY.**

9. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Is the Government aware that the residents of villages near Rupar on the Sirhind Canal, generally, and villages Relon Kalan, Bande Mahul and Kamalpur, in particular, are put to very great hardship and inconvenience owing to the absence of bridges enabling wheeled traffic to cross the canal and newly constructed stone ballast railway? If so, will the Government please take necessary steps to have the inconvenience removed at an early date?

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.

**RECRUITMENT OF REVENUE STAFF AND OFFICIALS IN THE AMBALA
DIVISION.**

10. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please state what procedure it proposes to adopt in recruiting Revenue staff and officials in the Ambala Division where the Revenue and Irrigation Departments have recently been amalgamated into one?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The question of recruitment will not arise until the existing staff has been provided for. By that time experience will have been had of the new scheme and the question of future recruitment will be considered in the light of that experience.

**COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG STUDENTS SENT TO THE DEHRA DUN
MILITARY COLLEGE.**

11. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please state how many students have up till now been sent to the Dehra Dun Military College from this Province, giving the number of Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs separately? Will the Government please also state how many of these are sons of Military officers from each community?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Up to the present date, the following number of boys from this Province have been sent to the Prince of Wales' Royal Indian Military College, Dehra Dun :—

Sikhs	...	...	...	26
Muhammadans	...	...	...	7
Hindus	...	...	...	3

Out of these 11 Sikhs,

4 Muhammadans, and

2 Hindus,

are sons of Indian Military officers.

One Sikh boy (son of a Military officer) had subsequently to be withdrawn from the College on account of defective eyesight.

DUTIES OF ZAILDARS, SUFEDPOSHES AND LAMBARDARS.

12. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** Will the Government please state the duties of Zaildars, Sufedposhes and Lambardars in this Province and also state further as to what work is actually taken from them ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

- (i) The duties of zaildars are enumerated in Land Revenue rule 9 ;
- (ii) Those of inamdars, or sufedposhes, in rule 10 ; and
- (iii) Those of lambardars in rule 20.

Government has no reason to believe that the work taken from them is other than the work therein prescribed.

STOPPAGE OF THE DAK INTENDED FOR THE "AKALI" AND THE "AKALI-TE-PARDESI" OF AMRITSAR.

13. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** (a) Will the Government please state whether it is a fact that the daks of the "Akali" and the "Akali-te-Pardesi" of Amritsar have been stopped? If so, since when has it been stopped and why?

(b) Will the Government please also state why and under what authority it has stopped the delivery of money-orders and insured parcels intended for the "Akali-te-Pardesi" and the "Akali," giving the total value of the money-orders and the insured parcels that have been so detained?

(c) Will the Government please remove the ban immediately?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Yes, since August 6th, 1923, and July 12th, 1923, respectively. The action is taken under section 26 of the Indian Post Office Act. It is not in the public interest to give any further information on the subject.

STOPPAGE OF DAK AND MONEY-ORDERS INTENDED FOR THE S.G.P.C.

14. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that the dak, including money-orders and insured parcels, intended for the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee is not being delivered? If so, since when and why quoting the authority under which the money-orders are being detained and the total value of the money-orders and the parcels that have up till now been so detained?

(b) Is the Government aware that by stopping the money-orders it is interfering with the religious worship of the Sikhs? If so, how does it justify its action and what compensation does it propose to make for this serious injury to the entire Sikh community?

(c) Will the Government please withdraw the orders immediately?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The answer is in the affirmative, the orders being in force from the 12th October, 1923. It is not in the public interest to give any further information on the subject.

(d) The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee has been declared an unlawful association.

ARREST AND RELEASE OF SARDAR HARNAM SINGH OF SARGODHA.

15. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that one Sardar Harnam Singh of Sargodha was arrested by mistake in the Akali Leaders' case and then released and then again re-arrested? If so, will the Government please state the circumstances that led to this action?

(b) Is it also a fact that a notice demanding payment of compensation was served on the Government on behalf of the said Sardar Harnam Singh? If so, will the Government please state what action has been taken on the matter, and if no action has yet been taken, will the Government please state its reasons for the same?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) He was arrested at Sargodha in the case *Crown versus Mehtab Singh and others* in the belief that he was B. Harnam Singh, accused, in that case. He was released on the 1st day of the trial, November 5th, 1923, when the mistake was discovered.

Government has no information of his re-arrest.

(b) It is believed that a notice demanding compensation was put in by Sant Singh, Pleader, but the document has not reached Government.

NOTE.—(From the first it must have been clear to Harnam Singh that the man we wanted was the clerk of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee office and, had he desired, he could have obtained release at once. A conspiracy of silence was decided on apparently in order to make the police look ridiculous).

REMOVAL BY THE POLICE OF CASH FROM THE HOUSES OF SARDAR GURDIT SINGH AND SARDAR MIT SINGH.

16. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** Will the Government please state whether it is a fact that cash amounting to several thousand rupees was taken away by the police in the search of the houses of Sardar Gurdit Singh and Sardar Mit Singh of the Akali Leaders' case? If so, will the Government please state on what authority and why that was done?

Will the Government please state further whether the amounts have been returned to the owners or their representatives? If so, after how long and with what compensation?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) Gurdit Singh's house in Ludhiana was searched on a warrant issued by the District Magistrate on the 14th October, 1923. Rs. 280 cash and Rs. 2,246 notes were recovered and seized as Gurdit Singh was believed to be treasurer of the District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee.

Mit Singh's house was searched on the 14th and 15th October, 1923. No cash was seized but a draft for Rs. 500 was taken into possession and a considerable sum of money was recovered from Mit Singh's person.

(b) The sums have been returned to Gurdit Singh on 6th December 1923, by order of the Magistrate and to Mit Singh's counsel on 5th January, 1924, by order of the Magistrate. The question of compensation does not arise.

DETENTION OF MONEY-ORDER INTENDED FOR SARDAR TEJA SINGH, SAMUNDRI.

17. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** Is it a fact that a money-order for Rs. 100 meant for Sardar Teja Singh, Samundri, and sent by his son, has been detained by the Government? If so, why and under what authority?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Yes : under Section 26 of the Post Office Act, but the money-order was returned to the Post Office for delivery to Teja Singh on December 22nd, 1923.

ILL-HEALTH OF LALA KISHORI LAL.

18. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Is it a fact that Lala Kishori Lal, convicted under section 17 (2) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, by Mr. C King, I.C.S., Magistrate, 1st Class, Ambala, on 21st March 1922, and sentenced for a term of three years and undergoing sentence in Mianwali Jail, is suffering from bleeding piles and chronic indigestion and has phthisical tendency and has lost considerably in weight? If so, will the Government please consider the advisability of releasing him from jail?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The prisoner mentioned is suffering from chronic indigestion but not from bleeding piles. There is no phthisical tendency. The prisoner has lost in weight. There is not sufficient reason to order his release.

FIROZPUR-JHIRKA AND REWARI MUNICIPALITIES.

19. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : (i) Will Government be pleased to state the proportion of Hindu and Muhammadan population in (a) Firozpur-Jhirka Municipality and (ii) Rewari Municipality?

(b) What is the number of members of each community prescribed according to the recently sanctioned scheme in each of these municipalities?

(c) Is there a proposal to increase the number of Muhammadan members in these municipalities? If so, on what grounds?

(d) Will Government be pleased to increase the number of Hindus on similar grounds?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) and (b) The honourable member's attention is invited to entries Nos. 11 and 15 in Statement Nos. I and IV in the Note on the reconstitution of Municipal Committees and District Boards of the Punjab, a copy of which has already been supplied to him.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANT SURGEONS WITH WAR SERVICE.

20. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Arising out of the answer given to my question No. 2812* on the 26th October 1923—

(a) Will Government be pleased to state the names of temporary Assistant Surgeons with War services whose services under Government have been terminated and who have not since been re-employed?

(b) Will Government be pleased to show preference to these officers when making fresh appointments in the Medical Service?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) The following are the names of the Temporary Assistant Surgeons referred to :—

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. L. Chiman Lal Dhingra. | 6. L. Murli Manohar. |
| 2. L. Shambu Nath Aggarwal. | 7. L. Bhagwan Das Sud. |
| 3. L. Ram Chandra Ganda. | 8. L. Des Raj Kehar. |
| 4. Pandit Harbhagwan Vaid. | 9. L. Piary Lal Whig. |
| 5. L. Jiwan Lal Napur. | 10. L. Gokal Chand. |

[Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain].

(b) Should these gentlemen apply for re-employment Government will, of course, be prepared to consider their claims when occasion arises.

GRANTS OF SQUARES TO RAJPUTS IN COLONIES.

21. Chaudhri Ali Akbar : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the answer to question No. 2744* put by me on 25th October 1923 ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The following reply to question No. 2744 is laid on the table—

- (a) The reply is in the negative.
- (b) does not arise in view of the reply to (a).
- (c) The number of Rajputs in possession of colony land in the Lower Bari Doab Canal Colony is very considerable and no records of allotments to each separate tribe are kept. As regards other colonies the following information of the distribution of squares of land to Rajputs as *abadkars* has been collected so far :—

Colony.	No. of squares or rectangles.
Chunian Colony	61
Lower Jhelum Canal Colony (in the Shahpur District) ...	691
Upper Jhelum Canal Colony (in the Gujrat District) ...	113
Upper Chenab Canal Colony (in the Sheikhpura District) ...	197
Lower Chenab Canal Colony (in the Sheikhpura District) ...	90
Abadkars and Snfedposhes Lower Chenab Canal Colony (in the Lyallpur District).	4,314 approxi- mately.

The collection of the further information required will involve an amount of labour incommensurate with the value of any purpose it may serve.

GRANT OF LAND TO RAJPUTS OF THE GURDASPUR DISTRICT.

22. Chaudhri Ali Akbar : Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that no land has yet been granted to Rajput inhabitants of the Gurdaspur District in any of the colonies for the purpose of *abadkari* ?
- (b) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons why the above community has been deprived of this privilege ?
- (c) If the answer to (a) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the names of the people who have been granted land for the purposes of *abadkari* together with the names of the *chaks* in which such land has been given ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

The honourable member is referred to the reply to his question No. 21.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar : Sir, the answer which has been given to my question No. 21 is quite all right because my question No. 21 relates to the whole province. My question No. 22 relates to Gurdaspur District only. I may be given an answer to my question No. 22.

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

**RESERVATION OF STATIONS FOR INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE OFFICERS AND
MILITARY ASSISTANT SURGEONS.**

23. Lala Mohan Lal : (a) Is it a fact that in the Punjab all the important stations have been reserved for I.M.S. Officers and Military Assistant Surgeons? If the reply be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state its reasons?

(b) Is it a fact that no member of the Provincial Medical Services can be placed in charge of Civil Stations reserved for I.M.S. Officers for more than six months without a report in writing being made to the Secretary of State for India?

(c) If the reply be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to take steps to have this restriction removed?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) A number of posts, including 13 specified Civil Surgeoncies, have been reserved for officers of the Indian Medical Service, under orders issued by the Secretary of State under Devolution Rule 12.

(b) Yes.

(c) The matter is already under consideration.

VACANCIES IN THE CADRE OF CIVIL SURGEONCIES.

24. Lala Mohan Lal : Is it a fact that two vacancies in the cadre of Civil Surgeoncies allotted to the Provincial Medical Services have remained unfilled for the past several months? If the reply be in the affirmative will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for not filling in the vacancies?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The vacancies have been filled temporarily, but confirmations will be made as soon as it has been decided from what date the vacancy *vide* Doctor Ghosh will have effect, and this cannot be settled until the question of his leave under Fundamental Rule 86 is settled.

**CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY OF DOORS AND WINDOWS FOR THE SUTLEJ
VALLEY PROJECT BUILDINGS.**

25. Lala Mohan Lal : Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the contract for the supply of all the doors and windows for the Sutlej Valley Project Buildings has been given to one firm?

(a) If so, what is the name of the firm?

(b) Were any tenders called for before this contract was given?

(c) If not, why not?

(d) What are the rates and the other conditions at which the contract has been given to this firm?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to lay a copy of the agreement on the table for the information of the members?

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.

IRRIGATION OF THE SATHIALI VILLAGE, GURDASPUR DISTRICT.

26. Chaudhri Ali Akbar : (a) Is it a fact that the Upper Bari Doab Canal throws off two different branches, namely, the Sabraon Branch and the Kasur Branch, near the village Sathiali, in the Gurdaspur District, and that the main canal (The Upper Bari Doab) with these two branches leading out of it runs through the lands belonging to the said village?

(b) Is it a fact that owing to these three canals dividing up the village lands, access to the lands for purposes of cultivation, etc., is rendered more difficult than if the canals did not exist?

(c) Is it also a fact that no *moga* has been provided for the irrigation of the lands belonging to the said village?

(d) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to provide a *moga* for the irrigation of the lands of the said village at some suitable place, say near the *moga* which carries water for the irrigation of Government gardens just above the *thokar*?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia : Reply to (a) and (c) is in the affirmative.

(b) Government is not aware of any difficulty experienced by the villagers in getting access to their lands as a reasonable number of bridges are provided for the purpose.

(d) It is not possible to provide irrigation to this village for the following reasons:—

(i) The village lies in a large tract of country to which irrigation has not been allowed hitherto owing to rainfall being comparatively heavy, the high spring level, and to the absence of surplus water in the canal.

(ii) The area of the village is uncommanded from the two canal branches that pass through it.

REFORMATION OF THE CRIMINAL TRIBES.

27. Chaudhri Ali Akbar : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing (a) the amount of money that is being spent by the Punjab Government on the reformation of the criminal tribes; (b) the number of children belonging to the criminal tribes, who have been educated and who are following some profession involving literacy; and (c) an estimate of the work done by this department since its establishment towards the reformation of the criminal tribes?

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia : As regards (a) reference is invited to paragraph 13 of the last annual report which gives all the required information.

As regards (b) some information will be found in paragraph 12 of the said report. The Department is only of six and a half years standing and some of the settlements are hardly three years old. A fairly large number of the children of criminal tribes have passed the primary examination during this comparatively short period and many are nearing the primary standard, but there has not been sufficient time to fit them to follow professions involving literacy.

As regards (c) kindly see paragraph 3 of the last annual report and paragraph 8 of the Government review thereon.

DOUBLING OF MUTATION FEE.

28. Chaudhri Ali Akbar : Will the Government kindly state (a) the reasons for doubling the mutation fee ; (b) whether the mutation fee was doubled with the consent of this Council ; and (c) if the answer to (b) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the date on which this matter was brought before the Council for its consideration ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

- (a) To reduce the existing deficit in the Budget.
- (b) No, but the matter was laid before the Standing Finance Committee and recommended by that Committee on March 28th, 1923.
- (c) Does not arise.

REPAIR OF A WALL OF A BUILDING NEAR THE SIALKOT FORT RECENTLY VACATED BY THE NORMAL SCHOOL.

29. Diwan Narinjan Das : (a) Is it a fact that a part of the wall of one of the rooms of a building recently vacated by Normal School at the entrance to the Fort Sialkot came down in 1922 and has not since been repaired ?

(b) If so, when is it proposed to restore 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.

KITCHERY BUILDING AT SIALKOT.

30. Diwan Narinjan Das : (a) Is it a fact that the roofs of two of the rooms in the Kutchery buildings at Sialkot were burnt some years ago ?

(b) Is it a fact that they have not yet been restored and the building is being further damaged by rain ?

(c) Will the Government please state why this construction is so long delayed and when the work is proposed to be taken in hand ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) They have not yet been restored but Government are not aware that the building is being further damaged by rain.
- (c) Delay has been due to want of funds. It is hoped that money will be provided during 1924-25 ?

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CHAIR.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

Mr. President : Under Rule 3 of the Punjab Legislative Council Rules, I appoint the following four members of the Council to be Chairmen on the Panel :—

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das Bhandari.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE RAILWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That this Council do proceed to the election, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of three representatives who may or may not be members of the Council to serve on the Railway Advisory Committee, representing Agriculture, Trade and Industrial interests, respectively."

Sir, as this is the first time that this question has come before this Council, I take this opportunity to explain how this Committee was formed and what its constitution and functions are. This Committee was formed on the recommendation of the Ackworth Committee on Railways. Its functions, as its name indicates, are purely advisory. It was formed simply with a view to get pressure of public opinion on Railway administration and to afford means to the Railway administration to obtain information as to the requirements of the public. As for its constitution, it consists of twelve members, including the Agent of the North-Western Railway, who is also the President of this Committee. The other members are, two nominees of the local Government, three representatives of the Punjab Legislative Council, one nominee of the Lahore Municipal Committee, five representatives of Industry, Commerce and Trade consisting of one nominee of the Northern India Chamber of Commerce, one representative of Agricultural interests, one representative of Karachi Trade resident in the Punjab nominated by the Karachi Chamber and two representatives of the Desi Beopar Mandal to represent the Amritsar Trade and the Timber Trade, respectively.

The Committee ordinarily meets once a month at Lahore. The members are entitled to a honorarium of Rs. 32 for each meeting and those who have to come from outside get free railway pass for their journeys from home to Lahore and back. On the last occasion when 3 representatives of this Council were appointed, the Council was not in session and the Honourable the President on his own responsibility nominated Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah, Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal and Mr. E. E. Clark. When this Council has elected three gentlemen to represent this Council on this Committee, their names will be communicated to the Agent, North-Western Railway who will communicate with the members direct.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That this Council do proceed to the election, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President of three representatives who may or may not be members of the Council to serve on the Railway Advisory Committee, representing Agriculture, Trade and Industrial interests, respectively."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: I may inform the Council that, for the purpose of election of three representatives to serve on the Railway Advisory Committee, the Council office will be open to receive nominations up to 3 o'clock in the afternoon of Thursday, the 28th February 1924. The election will take place in this Chamber on Saturday, the 1st of March 1924, after the presentation of the budget. The election will be conducted by card vote. Cards bearing the names of candidates in three groups will be distributed to all members present, and the members will put a cross mark against one name in each of the three groups. Members will then hand in their cards to the Secretary who will count the votes and inform the President of the result. Candidates securing the largest number of votes will be declared elected.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE FOREST BOARD.

Mr. E. R. Abbott (Financial Commissioner, Development) : Mr. President, with your permission, I have the honour to move under power delegated to me by the Honourable the Revenue Member—

“That this Council do proceed to the election, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of four non-official members of the Council to serve on the Forest Board.”

Sir, we have had under consideration for some years the question of constituting a Forest Board for the province with a view to its dealing with forest policy affecting the public and with all projects of new expenditure. Enquiry has been made from the Government of the United Provinces and the constitution of the Forest Board adopted by that Government has been followed. The Board was notified last month in an executive notification of Government and will consist of the following members. The Financial Commissioner and Development Secretary to Government who will be Chairman, a representative of the Finance Department, the Chief Conservator of Forests, the Director of Industries, one non-official nominated by Government to represent the timber trade and four non-official members of this Council to be elected by the Punjab Legislative Council. I think honourable members will agree that the constitution of such a Board will be of advantage to the province and will be in the interests both of the timber trade of the province and of Government itself. It is not intended that the Revenue Committee should cease to function in respect of forest questions. The Forest Board will be a separate Board and will advise Government in forest matters. I think honourable members will agree that the constitution of the Board is suitable.

Mr. President : The question is—

“That this Council do proceed to the election, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of four non-official members of the Council to serve on the Forest Board.”

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhamadan) Rural] : Sir, I want to know where has the necessity arisen

(At this stage an honourable member entered the Council Chamber and took his seat passing between the member speaking and the Chair and there were cries of order, order.)

Mr. President : The honourable member is new. I would ask honourable members to remember that they should not pass between the member speaking and the Chair.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Sir, I want to know where has the necessity arisen for the creation of this Forest Board.

Mr. E. R. Abbott : On a point of order, Sir. There is no question of constitution of this Committee because it has already been appointed. If the Council is not willing to elect four representatives, the Board will continue with its present members.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I am entitled to speak on the motion before the House.

Mr. President : The only question before the House is whether the House should proceed to elect four non-official members to serve on the Forest Board. The question is not whether the Board is advisable or not. I understand that the Board has already been constituted by a notification

If the House wants to oppose the election of four non-official members, they are perfectly entitled to do so.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I personally think, Sir, that there is no necessity for this Council to elect any member to serve on a Board of that character appointed by the Government. There is the Land Revenue Committee which has been duly elected by this Council, and that Committee has since the last four years been dealing with questions connected with Forest Department. Every question that has to be dealt with from the financial point of view or from any other point of view is dealt with by the Land Revenue Committee. I am entirely opposed to the constitution of innumerable Boards and Committees. As I am not entitled to speak on the formation of the Board, I can only say that the Government are quite welcome to appoint any kind of Board they like and to nominate any kind of members they wish. I request that this Council should not take any part in increasing the number of Boards and Committees which are after all merely doing paper work and very little practical work. The most important Committee is the Land Revenue Committee and the members thereof have been duly elected by this Council, and that Committee is now doing the work which the proposed Committee will do. So far as this Council is concerned, I think it will not be in the fitness of things that four members of this House should be sitting in the Forest Board deliberating upon some forest matters and the other members of the Land Revenue Committee elected by this Council sitting in another chamber deliberating upon other forest matters. I cannot see how this can be allowed to take place. I do not know how this contradiction in terms can be reconciled

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia : Perhaps that contingency may not arise at all.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram (continued) : If the Land Revenue Committee is not going to do any work as regards forest matters, then this Board is quite welcome and we will gladly elect four members. If the Land Revenue Committee has also got to transact forest business, then I think it is absolutely unnecessary that four members of this Council should be elected to do the same business as the members on the Land Revenue Committee are doing now. For the reason that two Committees of the same nature will be sitting side by side in two different chambers and doing the same kind of work, I strongly oppose the idea that this Council should take any part in electing the four members.

Lala Mohan Lal [North-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban] : Sir, I rise to support the motion brought forward by my honourable friend Mr. Abbott. My honourable friend, Mr. Sewak Ram, is not aware of the circumstances under which the Board is constituted. I thank the honourable the Revenue Member and Mr. Abbott for having created this Board. I may inform the House that it was at my request to Mr. Tollinton that the initiative was taken by the Punjab Government for the constitution of the Board. The duty of the Forest Board will be

Mr. E. R. Abbott : The honourable member is dealing with the duties of the Board.

Mr. President : The duty of the Board is not the particular point before the House.

Lala Mohan Lal (continued) : The duty of the Forest Board would be to shape the policy of the Forest Department in the matter of the various

subjects that concern that department, such as the development of the commercial side. If the Board has elected members, as well as Government officers, and nominated members, they will be able to put the matters properly before the House. At present there is a good deal of misunderstanding in connection with the working of the Forest Department and in order to clear that misunderstanding I think it is essential that we should send our representatives to sit on the Board. I therefore strongly support the motion.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] : If I mistake not, I do not see this motion in the papers circulated to us. I was searching for this among the papers, but I could not find this out.

Mr. President : Order, order. I am aware of this. This motion was brought to my notice suddenly and it was too late to be put in the printed programme. As I did not anticipate any opposition, I thought the sooner the proceedings were got through, the better. There will be some difficulty in finding a later day when this can be brought up. It will have to come on a Government day and most of the Government days are devoted purely to budget matters. I therefore allowed it to be brought forward without its being on the agenda. Any member who really feels that the matter is so important that it cannot be settled immediately is perfectly at liberty to move an adjournment of the debate if he is so minded.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I beg to move that this motion be adjourned to some other date when we will have more time to think of it. It may be adjourned to a date which suits the Government, four or five days later.

Mr. President : The question is :

"That the debate do stand adjourned to some convenient later date."

The motion was lost.

Diwan Narinjan Das [Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Division North (non-Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, I fail to understand the speech of my honourable friend Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram. I take it that the Board is already constituted and that all that we have to do is to elect four members of this Council. The only question that is before the House is whether we should elect the members of the Council. I think my honourable friend on the left was not right in saying whether a Board was necessary or whether it was not. That was a foregone conclusion and I therefore support the motion that four members of the House be elected on this Board. I think it will be absolutely superfluous for me to say anything with regard to the constitution of the Board or the necessity for it because I think that that will be out of order, but if it were in order, I would certainly support the idea that four members of the Council should be appointed on the Forest Board to help the Forest administration.

Lala Buchi Ram Sahni (Punjab University) : Sir, I wish to oppose the proposal not because I know much about it (laughter) but simply because I should not like to have two committees transacting the same business.....

Mr. President : Order, order. Perhaps a little explanation would conduce to the speedy disposal of this matter. I presume that there will not be two committees.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member): Not exactly. There will be two committees but if there are certain questions overlapping, perhaps the Land Revenue Committee will be asked to advise for itself.

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni (continued): It was explained, Sir, by Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram in opposing the proposal how the same work will be done by the Revenue Committee as is proposed to be done by the proposed Forest Board. If that is so, and that contention has been supported by the honourable gentleman opposite (the Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia), then, I think, it is clear that there will be overlapping. It is for that reason that I would oppose this proposal.

Mr. President: The question is—

“That this Council do proceed to the election, in such manner as may be approved by the Hon'ble the President, of four non-official members of the Council to serve on the Forest Board.”

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: For the purpose of election of four representatives to serve on the Forest Board, the Council Office will be open to receive nominations up to 3 o'clock in the afternoon of Thursday the 28th February 1924. The election will be by the single transferable vote system. Nominations should be made in writing to the Secretary and be signed by not less than two members and the member nominated must signify his willingness to serve. The election will be held in this Chamber on Saturday, the 1st of March, after the presentation of the Budget.

GOVERNMENT'S DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): Sir, before these demands are taken up, may I just say that they are all made on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor.

LAND REVENUE 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 Land Revenue.”

The motion was carried.

EXCISE GRANT.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (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.”

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 Excise.”

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni (Punjab University) : Sir, I want to say a few words as regards this demand. At the very outset, I should like to remind the House that in this year's budget it was agreed after a good deal of higgling-hagging that a cut all round amounting to as much as 25 per cent. should be sanctioned. This was agreed to but subsequently we find the various departments of Government coming up to the Council for supplementary grants under the head which was cut down. We find the departments coming up in October, in January and once again now. Now, Sir, it was only in January last that this very item was objected to and disallowed, and here we are, hardly two months have passed, and we find the same demand being made again. Is that fair, is that reasonable? Sir, the question is simply this. Is the Government to be allowed to override in a way the decision of the House? Are these departments to go on spending, and because they cannot have their own way to come up once again and ask for sanction simply because they have spent the money already. I understand, Sir, that the only justification for repeating this demand at the present moment is that they have already spent the amount. Why did they spend it? That would be the question that would occur to anyone. We have to remember, Sir, that this year's budget is a bankruptcy budget. We have to remember that we have had to borrow something like a crore of rupees in order to meet our deficit. . . .

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : That is erroneous, Sir.

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni (continued) : I beg your pardon, I did not follow the gentleman.

Mr. President : The honourable member made a statement that Government borrowed a crore of rupees to meet the deficit and the Honourable Finance Member says that the statement is wrong. When an honourable member makes a statement of that kind it is usual to accept it.

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni (continued) : My statement was that there was a deficit of one crore of rupees in this year's budget. . . .

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Yes, sir, it is incorrect.

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni (continued) : I must have been very much mistaken, Sir. It was a deficit budget to the amount of 92 lakhs of rupees.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No, Sir.

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni : May I ask the Honourable Finance Member what the deficit was?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : It was 61 lakhs ; not 92 lakhs.

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni (continued) : A deficit of 61 lakhs. Now that being the case is it reasonable that we should be spending beyond our means? I would submit, Sir, that it is not. The departments went to the spending authorities, the Deputy Commissioners and the Commissioners and asked them to surrender part of the money which had been allowed to them, but instead of surrendering, what did they do? They simply said no, and they put forward further demands for money. Is that the way in which we should treat the departments, simply because they say no, simply because they go on spending? It is not quite correct to say we are simply reappropriating money from one head to another.

Mr. President: The position is that the Council at the time of the budget discussed the question of this excise expenditure and in the case of travelling allowance laid down certain principles and allotted a certain sum for Government to spend. The Government is now coming before the Council merely to say that that sum has been found insufficient and asking the Council to grant more. I would ask the members not to go into the question as to what happened to the budget. The question now merely is that that amount is insufficient and whether the Council sanctions more money.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni (continued): We are told that the money was spent before it was sanctioned. Is that the justification for the Government coming up again and asking for this grant? (A voice: reference). That is the position, sir, which I want to put before the House. The position is that the money was spent and they say that because it was spent therefore more money should be sanctioned. I think, if that state of things were allowed to go on. . . .

Mr. President: The honourable member is repeating himself very often.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: And he is not citing any authority.

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni (continued): In the explanatory memo. it is stated that the money has been spent. Is it denied, Sir, that the money was spent?

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das Bhandari (Non-official nominated): Mr. President, what took place the other day is fresh in the minds of the members of this House. The fact that Government has come up with this demand for the second time in itself shows the importance and the significance of the matter. I do not think that we can attribute this demand to the obstinacy of the Government. It is certain that the item is absolutely necessary and we should pass the demand, especially when the amount can be transferred from one head to another. We need not waste our time in discussing this matter, while there are many very important matters to be discussed.

Sir, what I beg to say is that those who have got experience of administration will always come to the side of the Government and say that such matters ought to be sanctioned without taking up the time of the Council.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood [Amritsar (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu): There can be three justifications for a demand under the head Excise. First that the amount demanded is to be spent for the good of the country, secondly the purpose for which the money is going to be spent is to be useful; and lastly the money that is being demanded is not to exceed the actual requirements. Unfortunately the Excise Department is a victim of grave misunderstanding. Immediately after the adjournment of the last session of the Council, I heard a group of members saying that they had voted against the demand for a supplementary grant under the head of Excise because they believed that the department was actually helping in the increase of the liquor traffic and consumption; while another batch contended that the department was advocating the cause of prohibition. Now, Sir, to hear two groups of wise heads expressing two conflicting opinions about the department set me a thinking as to the real worth of the department. . . .

Mr. President : I am afraid I must stop the honourable member. The Council has already in its discussion on the main budget settled that travelling allowance is necessary for the Excise Department. The question now is simply and solely whether this extra sum is necessary or not. The honourable member is not entitled to go into the merits of the discussion that went on at the time of the budget. Any reference to that which may be felt necessary must be as short as possible. You must not enlarge on the policy underlying the Excise Travelling Allowance Grant.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood (continued in Urdu) : In the original budget of 1923-24 the Excise Department demanded Rs. 73,000 for Travelling Allowance which consisted of two parts—fixed allowance of Rs. 54,000 and railway allowance of Rs. 19,000. The fixed allowance is given per mensem in the nature of pay to every member of the excise staff to keep up a horse and to do a certain amount of travelling. It is fixed and cannot be reduced. The railway allowance is paid for emergent journeys on transfer from one district to another or in the same district when sudden information of the commission of an excise crime in some corner of the district has reached the staff where it is speedier and expedient to travel by rail. But the House proposing a general cut of 25 per cent. in all the major heads the department too had to agree. But at that time the department forgot unfortunately as it has admitted that the allowance could not be reduced and that the proposed reduction of Rs. 19,000 out of the original demand of Rs. 73,000 under this compromise will have to be met out of the emergency Travelling Allowance, and would leave that head without any funds. Last time therefore a supplementary demand for Rs. 19,000 was advanced which was rejected and this time a still reduced amount is being demanded. This sum of Rs. 14,000 is being substituted for the original demand of Rs. 19,000 which gives a reduction of more than 25 per cent. contemplated in the compromise. This amount is to be spent in two ways. They pay out of it the officers' travelling allowances at the time of their transfers and they pay for the railway journeys performed for the investigation of reports of illicit distillation. Hence any reduction in this demand will seriously affect the efficiency of the department. I therefore strongly support the motion.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, my honourable friend has recapitulated the history of the grant. The reason why this should be rejected is that in the last session this Council refused to sanction the expenditure of this sum. Why, then, should it at all be allowed to go through this time. . . .

Mr. President : The honourable member is repeating an argument which was used before. He should not use arguments used by other members.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram (continued in Urdu) : The renewed demand for a sum that had been rejected only a month ago is a mere waste of time. No item should be allowed to be proposed a second time within a year. This affects the prestige of this Council. No judge ever changes his opinion once expressed and this is below the dignity of the Council to change its opinion every month. I, therefore, oppose the sanction of this item.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] : Sir, honourable members of this House have been asked to revise their decision of the last session. This item was discussed and rejected by this House. . . .

Mr. President : Order, order. There is a standing order that honourable members should not repeat arguments used by other members. I must ask the honourable member to bear that in mind.

Lala Bodh Raj (continued) : Sir, honourable members of this House rejected this grant in the last session and now we have to see whether any new facts have been placed before us to warrant the sanction of this demand which was rejected last time. If we grant this item it will give an impression that the Government can get sanctioned an item which was once rejected.

An argument has been advanced by a certain member of this House that the mere fact that this demand has been placed before the House a second time shows the urgency of the demand. I think it is not a fair argument. It is rather an argument why it should be disallowed a second time also. It must be disallowed so that members of the Government should see that the amount sanctioned at the time of the budget alone should be spent and nothing beyond that. This is a deficit year and the Government is being carried on with a deficit balance. I therefore do not see any reason why the members of the Government should be allowed to spend more than has been provided for in the budget.

Chaudhri Duli Chand [Karnal (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, It has been contended that the grant should not be sanctioned because it was rejected in the last session. Sir, the very fact of its having been demanded a second time speaks for the necessity for the sum demanded.

After the last session when the villagers heard that the grant having been disallowed Excise officers will not be touring, the illicit distillation increased by leaps and bounds.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Any authority for this information, Sir?

Chaudhri Duli Chand (continued in Urdu) : The people, I mean those who smuggle and traffic in liquor, were happy with the news, for there was nobody now to take them to task for the crime. But I assured them that if there was any sense in the Government the tours will never be stopped and my belief was not falsified, for soon after, express orders were issued that tours must not be discontinued. This is a very important item, and if in spite of the disallowance by the Council, the sum has been spent, I think, there is every justification for the same, and we should approve of it.

I admit that the expenditure ought to be in accordance with the allowed Budget. But you cannot definitely foretell the money that is going to be spent in the future, for that always depends upon the frequency and magnitude of illicit distillation. Therefore, tours must be done, even if the Budget has made no provision for that. Any action to the contrary, I am sure will lead to graver consequences.

There was a time when the non-co-operators made so much fuss about their prohibition programme, by picketting liquor shops in the country: but now that the Government is taking steps to discourage the liquor trade, means are adopted to create obstacles in their way. We should not oppose the Government members simply because they are members of the Government, but if they have any useful item on the card, I submit, Sir, we should give them our hearty cooperation. With these words, I support the demand.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, one of the reasons advanced by one of the honourable members is that our *izzat* will suffer if we rectify within so short a period the mistake that we made.....

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram Multan Division (Non-Muhamadan) Rural] : Is the honourable member entitled to call the vote of this Council a mistake? (Laughter).

Mr. President : The honourable member must not reflect on a decision of the Council.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (continued) : By refusing this grant to the officers of the Excise Department, we are merely pinning them to their head-quarters and I think it is hardly wise, if I may be pardoned for using that expression.....

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I object to the use of the words 'hardly wise.'

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : It was hardly advisable.....

Mr. President : Say "unfortunate result."

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : It was very unfortunate that they should be allowed to draw their pay without doing any work. The Government is not so sentimental. At the time when this motion was brought before the Council in March last, they could not point out that this item of Rs. 73,000 that they asked for consisted of horse allowance that was fixed. Twenty-five per cent. of this sum which they agreed to cut down at that time consisted of fixed horse allowance. They admit this over sight. Since the last session of this Council, I have caused enquiries to be made and I find that the fixed horse allowance now sanctioned is hardly sufficient to maintain one horse for a month. It is Rs. 40 a month. Honourable members of this Council who keep horses will agree with me that Rs. 40 is hardly sufficient for a horse for one month. So it was not possible to reduce that amount. It would mean that when these Inspectors go into the villages, they would have to ask the *lambardars* and others to supply them with grass and other things free. So far as the other portion of the Rs. 73,000 that is Rs. 19,000 is concerned, the Government have reduced it by more than 25 per cent. The Government are only asking for Rs. 14,000 out of the Rs. 19,000 which was the original demand. Under these circumstances, I think honourable members will agree that it will be advisable to make full use of these Excise Inspectors who are meant for out-door duty especially in these winter months when those who go in for illicit distillation are very active. I therefore request that honourable members should not be led away by mere sentiments like *izzat* or rectifying or altering their decisions within such a short period. I hope better counsels will prevail and honourable members will give the money that is asked for.

Mr. President : The question is —

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Panjab 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 excise."

The Council then divided.

Ayes : 45, Noes : 16.

AYES 45.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Colonel R. Heard.
Mr. E. R. Abbott.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
Mr. E. A. Scott.
Sir George Anderson.
Lieut-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand.
The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.
The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
Mr. A. Latifi.
Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
Dr. C. A. Owen.
Lieut.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
Mr. J. Coldstream.
Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr Shah.
Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
Mir Maqbool Mahmood.

Sardar Jowahir Singh.
Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Mian Mubammad Sharif.
Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
Rai Shahadat Khan.
Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
Chaudhri Najib-ud-Din Khan.
M. Haibat Khan.
Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
Chaudhri Nur Din.
Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan.
Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari.
Mian Abdul Aziz.
Sardar Randhir Singh.
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
Sardar Har Chand Singh.
Captain Mumtaz Muhammad Khan, Tiwana.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Chaudhri Duli Chand.
Rao Pohap Singh.

NOES 16.

Sardar Narain Singh.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Lala Sham Lal.
Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
Lala Diwan Chand.
Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.
Diwan Narinjan Das.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.
Chaudhri Kesar Singh.

The motion was carried.

STAMPS 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 Stamps."

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.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, the numbers given in the explanatory memorandum and the agenda vary.

Mr. President: I think the numbers given in the explanatory memoranda refer to the Budget numbers.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: I think the honourable member when moving the grant may also state the number as noted in the explanatory memoranda.

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 General Administration."

This item will be found in pages 3 and 4 of the explanatory memoranda.

The motion was carried.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE GRANT.

The Hon'ble 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 Administration of Justice."

This item will be found in pages 2 and 4 of the explanatory memoranda under the heading Demand No. 9.

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 Administration of Justice."

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni (Punjab University): Sir, I want to know about the first item here *re* the Public Prosecutors. Which Public Prosecutors is it about? Is it the Public Prosecutors who are conducting some cases at Ferozepore and a number of cases at Lahore, or is it any other, and does it include the special counsel who is conducting the Sikh Leaders' case?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, there is no separation in the accounts between one Public Prosecutor and another. The aggregate amount which we require for the purpose of Public Prosecutors we find is deficient by the amount of this sum, and therefore we ask the Council to grant us this amount. We are unable to say whether it is for any one particular Prosecutor or for another.

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni : But does it include the Sikh case? We all know that the Hon'ble Finance Member cut down the demand in the last session from one lakh to Rs. 50,000. I want to know whether it is desired to get a fresh grant under this head. Is any portion of this Rs. 24,000 to be spent in conducting that particular case?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I can only repeat the remarks that I have already made. We have no separate accounts for separate Public Prosecutors, and this one item covers the whole of the expenditure on that account.

Sardar Jodh Singh [(Sikh) Urban] : Before proceeding with the demand I would put one question to the Honourable the Finance Member. Has he accepted the advice of the Standing Finance Committee as regards this particular item?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No, Sir

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, there were two items as to which the Standing Finance Committee advised. One of the two items was

Mr. President : Order, order. If Sardar Jodh Singh will sit down, Sir John Maynard will give his explanation, but we cannot have two members standing at the same time.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : On one of the two items the Government accepted the advice of the Standing Finance Committee. On the other item the Government did not accept the advice of the Standing Finance Committee.

Sardar Jodh Singh : The two items that were advised against were that no money should be spent on the Pir of Makhad's case which is being tried at Rawalpindi and for the purpose of bringing the Public Prosecutor of Campbellpur to Rawalpindi. The second was that of the special counsel engaged in the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee case at Amritsar. May I know on which of the two cases has the Government accepted the advice of the Finance Committee.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : There is a misunderstanding on the part of my honourable friend. The advice of the Standing Committee is given in respect of items for expenditure during the coming year. This is not expenditure during the coming year. It is expenditure for the current year.

Sardar Jodh Singh : I am not making any mistake. The advice was not for next year's expenditure but for this year's expenditure. I have got the proceedings of the Finance Committee. . . .

Mr. President : We cannot have more questions and answers. Sardar Jodh Singh had better proceed with his speech and Sir John Maynard will answer it.

Sardar Jodh Singh : I know as a matter of fact that advice was given as regards this item also, because that is down in the proceedings, a copy of which all of us have received now. Sir, the point before the House, as I said in the last meeting of the Council, is whether they are going to sanction such an exorbitant expenditure on a case which is being tried at Amritsar. The question that I put to the honourable member is whether the staff that they employ is efficient or not. Presumably of course it is efficient. Then, why are they paying such exorbitant sums to outsiders and are not deputing one of their own men? They may choose the ablest man on the staff and provide to replace him as a temporary measure by a man in the lower grade. As I reminded the Council last time, when this scheme of permanently appointing Public Prosecutors was put before the House it was promised that by it they will have the service of very efficient people, but what do we find? A case crops up and instead of appointing one of these efficient men whom they have been paying, they seek the aid of outsiders. Therefore the question is of simple economy. My proposal was and now is that because the Government is not heeding us, I therefore propose that this amount should not be granted. Otherwise the Council will find that if after another month or so another Rs. 24,000 will be asked for. In this case, as far as my information goes, they are spending between one and two thousands a day. Therefore I ask this Council to reject this demand. Last time they particularly passed it when the item was reduced by Rs. 50,000. But what do we find now? Another demand of Rs. 24,000 has come up....

Mr. President : Order, order. Is not the honourable member referring to the Rs. 50,000 granted for the Public Prosecutors in the Amritsar case and saying that this sum is required for that case? This, Sir John Maynard has told us, is not the case, and it is the rule that a statement made by a member should be accepted without question.

Sardar Jodh Singh : The Finance Member has just explained that the funds are not kept separately. All the money that is voted under this head is kept together, but what I am trying to say is that that case has devoured all the money that was sanctioned for all the other cases. It is just possible that the Honourable the Finance Member may be asking for this money for all the cases that are now going on but my contention is that this particular case has taken away the money which should have been spent for all the cases. It is therefore that I say that this exorbitant expenditure on that case is taking away all the money. The Finance Member has just explained to us that money is not kept under two heads. It was sanctioned for all the cases. Therefore I say that the exorbitant expenditure must be stopped and the only way of stopping that is to refuse this grant. I have just said that the Finance Committee did advise economy in expenditure in that case but Government would not listen. I request the Council to refuse this total demand in order that Government may listen to our advice and reduce the expenditure within reasonable limits.

Lala Bodh Raj : [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, the sum for which the demand is being made includes a sum of Rs. 24,000 which is meant for special counsel's fees for certain cases. I think there is no necessity for engaging special lawyers for special cases when the work can be smoothly and effectively done by the permanent Public Prosecutors who are in the regular pay of the Government. In case these Public Prosecutors are appointed for the special cases their place can be filled up by officiating Public Prosecutors who will be paid

[Lala Bodh Raj]

Rs. 500 a month. By this means the work in hand will be carried out and great saving will also be effected. We have to reduce expenses and at this juncture we should avoid spending more money in employing special counsels.

For these reasons I would ask the House that no grant should be made for this purpose.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali [Gujrat East (Muhammadan) Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, the question before the House is whether the services of the special pleaders should be dispensed with and new junior men employed in their places or the work might be entrusted to the permanent Public Prosecutors. One who knows a bit of litigation can easily understand how it is difficult and awkward for a pleader to leave A's case in the middle and take up B's case which was previously handled by another. In this way both A and B's cases will be spoiled because both the lawyers will have to prepare their cases afresh. A case can only be conducted successfully when in the end it is argued by the same pleader who was engaged in the very beginning. It is quite impossible to employ a man for a case which has already been conducted by another for some time. It is not a possible arrangement that a counsel who has not been able to hear the rest of the proceedings should be asked to argue the case. It is absolutely essential that he should be present at every stage of the case in order that he might be in a position to conduct the argument. Another question, which arises is whether we should engage new pleaders for fresh cases or they should be given to old Public Prosecutors and their current duties be performed by new ones.

(At this stage an honourable member entered the Chamber and passed between the member speaking and the Chair and there were cries of order, order).

Mr. President: The honourable member must try to remember that he should not pass between the member speaking and the Chair.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali (continued in Urdu) : It will upset the whole system because the old cases would be quite new to the newly appointed men. Moreover, it is essential for Government to engage eminent lawyers for all its cases, no matter whether they be ordinary or extraordinary ones. It is not also advisable that a more able pleader be appointed for new cases and less able men be given old cases. I think the old procedure should be adhered to. The old cases should be conducted by the old Public Prosecutors and fresh work should be entrusted to new men in cases of emergency. To avoid the necessity of changing a counsel in the middle of a case it would be proper that efficient pleaders may be employed at the very beginning. If the reasons, which I have given are admitted then there is no ground left for opposition. We cannot leave the special cases in the middle of their proceedings. I cannot agree with the opposers. The Council will be obliged to grant the sum asked for. With these words I strongly support the demand.

Sardar Narain Singh : [Rawalpindi Division and Gujranwala (Sikh) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I am a bit surprised to find that on the one hand new taxes are being imposed in teeth of opposition but on the other hand money is being mercilessly spent on fresh cases. I can safely say on my personal experience of 23 years that the present staff of Public Prosecutors can very well conduct even the most complicated cases. Where is therefore

the need of employing special counsels. Besides this Government has recently employed some B.A., LL.B., pleaders as Court Sub-Inspectors. Some of them can satisfactorily conduct even murder cases. In my opinion when Court Inspectors and their assistants can do ordinary cases, important work can be entrusted to Public Prosecutors. We should pay due regard for the scope of our income also. In view of the exorbitant expenditure that will be incurred by appointing special Public Prosecutors the present demand should not be accepted. We should abide by the advice of the Standing Finance Committee and should enforce a rigid economy, and if again a necessity arises a supplementary demand can be made in the Council. At present it is not in the fitness of things to grant money for it. I therefore strongly oppose it.

Diwan Narinjan Das : {Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Division, North (Non-Muhammadan), Rural} : Sir, I rise both to support and to oppose the motion (Hear, hear) but as I cannot do both I am afraid I shall have to oppose it. My object in rising now is merely to protest against the procedure that is being followed in this Council of merely moving a resolution and saying nothing about it. My submission is that the Council should not be kept in the dark. These papers about Supplementary Demands are sent to us and all that is said there is "we want Rs. 24,000 for special Public Prosecutors' fees." We are given absolutely no further information. If we had been told that this money is wanted for the fees of special Public Prosecutors in such and such a district it would have been possible for us to send in amendments saying that a certain item should be cut down or certain others should be omitted. I know several instances in the Punjab where these fees are necessary and certain others where they are absolutely unnecessary. What are we to do, Sir, now when we have no information as to how these Rs. 24,000 are to be spent? When we come to the Council all that we are told is that Rs. 24,000 are wanted. My submission is that Government members should in all these cases supply fullest possible information so that

Mr. President : Order, order. The honourable member must speak to the present motion. He must not make general requests of this kind covering all similar motions.

Diwan Narinjan Das : All I desire to say is this, that with regard to this particular motion full information should be given to the Council as to how this particular sum of Rs. 24,000 is made up. If that information is not available even to the Honourable Member of the Government, then with your permission, Sir, I will move that the consideration of this item be postponed till that information is received and the House is able to give its opinion as to whether certain items are necessary or not.

Mr. President : This is a sort of conditional motion. The honourable member said "if certain information is not given then he would like to move for the adjournment of the debate." I cannot admit a motion in that form.

Diwan Naranjan Das : I will explain my point, Sir. My condition only referred to your permission to allow me to move this motion. I move that the consideration of this item be adjourned till the information is received.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That the consideration of this item be adjourned for a few days to allow of further information."

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, may I give a brief explanation? I do not think the adjournment of this particular question for a few days will make any difference. The plain fact is this, that in connection with the expenditure on special public prosecutors we find we are likely to exceed the provision already made. It is not because such and such a public prosecutor has been appointed specially in a particular district or anything of the sort. On a purely arithmetical deduction from the actual expenditure we arrive at the inference that in the course of what remains of the current year we shall probably be expending so much more than has been granted to us and we wish to avoid the irregularity of doing so and therefore it is that we come to the Council for a supplementary grant.

Diwan Narinjan Das : Sir, all that I want to know is how many cases are being conducted which require special public prosecutors and where these grants are going to be spent.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I think there are ten or twelve such cases, some of great magnitude.

Diwan Narinjan Das : I would like to press my amendment, Sir. I should like to know where these ten or twelve cases are being conducted so that the House may be able to know whether in each case special public prosecutor was required or not.

Mr. President : The question is—

“That the debate on this item be adjourned for a few days to enable Government to supply the information.”

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.”

Particulars regarding this item will be found on pages 2 and 3 of the memoranda. The particulars given there are, I think, as much as can be given by me and they are quite sufficient to explain precisely to the Council what is required in the case.

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 March 1924 in respect of Police.”

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh Urban) : Sir, no explanation is given about the expenditure in England.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, the expenditure in England is under two heads. One is the expenditure incurred by the High Commissioner on account of officers on leave. There is also the expenditure by the Secretary of State and that is for the outfit allowances and advances of pay of officers on their first appointment.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Punjab University) : Sir, I strongly oppose the motion.

Mr. President: Before the honourable member proceeds further, I want him to understand that if this demand is refused, every item in it will be refused; as he has sent in no amendment he cannot cut out any particular item. He can only reject the whole demand.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: I understand it, Sir. (Urdu): I am, Sir, particularly opposed to the sum of money, that is to be spent on the maintenance of the punitive police posts imposed on several villages in the Province. One and, in my opinion, a strong reason against the imposition of punitive police posts is what is shown in the Explanatory Memorandum itself. There it will appear that the income expected to accrue from the levy of taxes on the villagers is about 6 lakhs of rupees, while the expenditure for the upkeep of the punitive police posts is not expected to exceed half of the income. I would like to know whether this system of punitive police was introduced with a view to bringing in more revenue to the Government. If so, I may assure this House, Sir, that the procedure will fail to earn a good name for the Government.

In the second place I am at a loss to understand as to what are the objects and reasons for which the punitive police posts have been imposed, for wherever I happened to go, in the course of my enquiries into the matter, I found that the police were making themselves responsible for unthinkable atrocities and cruelties towards the poor villagers. I have been to several villages in Lahore and the Doab and if some one were to come to me and tell me that the Babbar Akali movement was the result partly of the atrocities committed on the people I should not be much surprised. Is it that the police may be given opportunities to create troubles in the villages that the punitive police posts have been imposed? I think that could not have been the real object of the Government in imposing these posts. I fail to understand what justification exists for imposing this extra burden on the poor people. The results of my enquiries were published in the papers and their correctness has never been challenged. I would also say that, on one or two occasions I was accompanied in the course of my enquiries by two honourable members of this Council, namely, Raja Narendra Nath and Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang. The report of these two gentlemen has been published and it reveals a tale of woe about which the less said the better. Both of them will, if referred to, bear testimony to what I have said. All of us were greatly distressed to witness the miseries created by the punitive police. If I am allowed I would like to relate to the House an incident that happened in one of the villages.

Mr. President: I do not see that the honourable member is quite relevant. The matter before the House seems to be merely an alteration in the system of accounts. The honourable member as I understand him tries to show to the House that it would be very much better if the punitive police that is now imposed is withdrawn because they are violent in their methods towards the people. I do not think that question is before the House. The matter is one of accounts pure and simple. Under a certain Act, the Government puts on punitive police posts and recovers the expenditure from the persons on whom the post is proposed. Whether this Council sanctions this grant or not, I take it—I speak subject to correction—that the effect of their not sanctioning it will not be that the punitive police posts will all be taken away or that further ones cannot be put on. So that the honourable member's argument hardly seems to be relevant.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Urdu) : If I am not allowed to state the facts, how is it possible for the Council to judge whether the punitive police posts are a necessity or not?

Mr. President : That is a different matter. The honourable member has been charging the police with having committed atrocities. As I understand him now, the honourable member is now saying that it is not necessary to put on the police at all. I am again very doubtful whether this is relevant. Anyway it is entirely different from what he was saying before.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Urdu) : I was going to submit, Sir, that there is no reason why the punitive police posts should not be directly dispensed with. Why should the police be allowed any length of time to add to the innumerable cruelties already committed by them towards the poor villagers? If any one doubts what I have said I would request him to accompany me to some of the villages and see things for himself.

Mr. President : Before I allow the honourable member to proceed further I think it would be well if an explanation is offered from the Government benches as to what the position exactly is, whether the refusal of this grant will stop the imposition of the punitive police posts.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : No, Sir. The position is this. Under the new system of accounts, we have in the first place to ask the Council for money which is expended on the punitive police posts and we have to recover the amount from the villagers. If the present grant is refused by the Council the effect would be that the Government would not be able to expend this particular sum. It might possibly be entitled to expend out of the recoveries in other villages but that might entail a change in the system of accounts. I think it must be stated that the effect of the refusal of this Council to vote this grant would probably be to embarrass the Government and I think that is the object which the honourable member has in opposing this grant.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Urdu) : I may point out, Sir, that the Honourable Member for Finance has given no justification why the Government should levy taxes to the amount of Rs. 6 lakhs while the expenditure is not expected to exceed half of that amount. And if I am not wrong, this undue taxation would further add to the miseries of the poor villagers.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : May I make a personal explanation, Sir? I did not answer that point because I was not asked by you, Sir, to do so. Of course I can give an explanation. As I was answering at that moment a question put by the Chair, I postponed my answer to the proper occasion.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni (continued in Urdu) : As stated before, there is no valid argument which can justify the imposition of punitive police posts, and if, in spite of all this, these have been imposed, they should not be allowed a free hand to trouble the people. The controlling officers should keep their subordinates under control, for it is these subordinates that are more troublesome and it is these alone that help the spread of discontent and dissatisfaction against the Government. Another point worth noting is that these taxes have been mostly directed against the *Akalis* and Congress people

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No, Sir.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : And also against infants....

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No, Sir.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Urdu): Sir, I would not say more than this, that I may be allowed to move an amendment for adjournment and that in the meantime a committee of enquiry be appointed to find out and report whether the imposition of the punitive police posts is in any way justifiable.

Mr. President: When the honourable member is told once that his statement is incorrect, I hope he will accept it.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: I accept that with the reservation that I will make a statement about it later on, if you will permit me. I have made enquiries into the matter and I think

Mr. President: When the honourable member's point is disputed, I think it is the ordinary courtesy of debate that he should accept it.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: I accept it for the moment with reservation.

Mr. President: What reservation?

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: The reservation that I will be permitted to make a statement later on. I myself went into these facts which probably the Honourable the Finance Member has not done. I took down statements from the people.

Mr. President: For the purpose of the debate which is now going on, I must ask the honourable member to accept that assurance.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: I accept it for the purpose of this debate. Then, Sir, is there any objection to my moving for an adjournment of this item till such time as the enquiry committee proposed by me reports on the necessity of the imposition of various punitive police posts

Mr. President: Then the adjournment in this case will obviously, I should think extend beyond the period of this session. In that case the motion will drop altogether.

A case for the postponement for a short time could be made, but to appoint a committee to make enquiry into all the punitive police posts which are in existence, and wait for their report which would, I should think take the whole hot weather to prepare means putting the matter off beyond the end of this session. That I cannot agree to.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni (contd.): Will it do, if I simply oppose this motion for the present and at the same time you allow me to put forward this amendment which I am suggesting and a committee of enquiry is appointed. My proposition will resolve itself into two separate propositions, my opposition to this particular proposal and then immediately after, the proposal for the appointment of a committee of enquiry. Will that serve the purpose?

Mr. President: I am afraid the honourable member cannot bring an amendment of that kind. A motion of adjournment would be in order. The other matter of enquiry committee is purely a matter for a resolution. The honourable member is perfectly at liberty to table a resolution and try to get a place in the ballot. It is a matter of chance. (A voice: The best course is to put in a resolution and get your chance.)

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni (contd.): I will take my chance. I will put in a resolution. For the present I merely oppose this demand.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadian Urban): Sir, I have just to ask something for my guidance. You have just

[Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang]

given a ruling that Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni has to concede what the Honourable the Finance Member has said. Supposing a case arises where the information that a member of this House possesses is different from the information that is given by a Member of the Government, what will be the ruling and what is the line that a member is to take in that case?

Mr. President: My ruling is that when a gentleman makes a statement in a debate and another member rises and says that he is not correct, for the purpose of an orderly debate that ought to be accepted. Otherwise we should have recriminations, and words like "liar" flying about in the Council.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: That is not a state of affairs which any member of this House would desire. It is only where a question of fact of public importance is concerned and the information that one member possesses is different from the information that he has received from the official benches, it is only in such cases that your guidance was solicited. Supposing an honourable member says with respect to a statement made by a member of the House that it is incorrect and a member who happens to be on his legs feels that his statement was not incorrect.

Mr. President: The particular matter in this instance was a matter eminently within the cognizance of the Government Member. It was whether punitive posts have been put on *Akalis* and on members of the Congress, and secondly whether they have been imposed on infants. When the Honourable Member who had to do with the imposing of those posts said that both statements were incorrect (and I think all will agree that he is the person who has the best sources of information) then in this particular case Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni should accept the statement.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: I have to ask that when two gentlemen make two different statements who is to accept the other statement? I will explain, that in the present case, Professor Ruchi Ram said that he went on the spot and enquired and made a personal enquiry.

Mr. President: I have given my ruling.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: The present ruling, I think, applies to the present case and is not of general application.

Mr. President: Yes, that is so.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): I wish to make a statement on this subject. In the first place I should like to make the figures clear. It has been suggested that Government propose to recover a larger sum on account of punitive posts than it actually expends. That is an error. The amount recovered is identical with the amount expended. But it does not follow that in any particular year the figure should exactly tally. Recoveries are made in arrears and therefore at any particular moment you may find that recoveries are more than expenditure or you may find that expenditure is more than recoveries. I trust that on that point I have made myself perfectly intelligible. The amount recovered is identical with the amount expended except in so far as in any instance Government may fail to recover certain portions of charges in any one year but it cannot in any circumstances be greater. That is the first point.

Now as regards certain matters on which my honourable friend opposite has spoken to the House. He has apparently only just woken up to the enormity of these proceedings. There has been a considerable interval in

which I presume it would have been quite possible for my honourable friend to put in a resolution which would have taken a chance with the other resolutions and this matter could have been brought before the House in a regular form but it is only at this moment when—carried away by the exuberance of a wonderful verbosity—it is only now that he has realized the effect of this enormity of which he has spoken to the House. Now, Sir, it has been ruled by the Chair that it is necessary for a member to accept a statement of fact made by another member. That being so, I should not question the statement of facts which was made by the honourable member on the subject of particular villages which he visited and the troubles which he saw there. I should make certain observations for the consideration of the House. This particular item for which we are asking is naturally an item to be expended at the present time on certain punitive posts which are now in existence. My honourable friend did, undoubtedly, I believe, pay a visit to certain portions of the Province some two or three years ago in order to make certain investigations and whatever observations he may have made in the villages which he visited, they were observations applicable to a period of some two or three years ago and were at all events with regard to certain portions of the Province and therefore although for the purposes of courtesy and for the purposes of this debate the accuracy of the statements of my honourable friend is not to be questioned, I submit that they are not relevant to the question before the House.

Now he has given us a sad picture of the methods by which it is possible for a police force to treat the people of the village to which they are sent for the purpose of re-establishing order and to stop crime. He has given a sad picture of possible mal-treatment. Sir, it is a strange thing that when gentlemen in his position look into a question of this kind, all their sympathies are always with those who have outraged the law. There are no sympathies whatever with those who are seeking to vindicate it. It is not possible for me to give an account of all the punitive police posts of the Punjab in the course of my speech which must be a brief one in order to keep within the prescribed rules of this House, but in order that the honourable members may have some sort of an idea of the kind of reasons which lead Government on a careful consideration of all the facts to decide upon this measure of imposing punitive police posts, I wish to give an account to the House of what happened in one particular village in this Province.....

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I was not allowed to give an account of even one particular village.

Mr. President : I did not stop you.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I was told not to go into the details.

Mr. President : I do not recollect saying that.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (continued) : I mention this fact merely by way of example as it is the only way in which it is possible to bring before the House the reasons which necessitate the imposition of punitive police posts.

There is a village in the Punjab in which a singularly brutal crime of murder of an unpopular person was committed in broad daylight in the presence of many inhabitants. Any of them might have come forward for stopping it, any of them might subsequently have given assistance for the discovery of the culprits, or any of them might have given evidence which would have led to the conviction of those who were guilty of this cruel and

[Honourable Sir John Maynard]

brutal murder. But owing to the bitterness of faction and the unpopularity of this unfortunate person, nobody came forward for the purpose of saving his life, not a soul came to assist the police in the investigation and not a soul would give evidence which might have resulted in the conviction of the murderers. For that reason, it was necessary to punish the whole of that village and that punishment took the form of the imposition of punitive posts. That Sir, is the circumstance.....

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Can you give the name of that village ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No, Sir. I do not give the name of the village, because I presume it would be defamatory to a very large number of persons. I presume honourable members opposite accept the facts as I have stated. If they so desire, I am prepared to show the papers to them in confidence and they will find that the facts are as I have already related.

This, Sir, is the kind of thing which compels Government from time to time to impose punitive police. I could multiply instances, but I do not think I can say anything more which would more clearly indicate the true character of the facts.

I ask, Sir, why is it that the sympathies of the gentlemen who investigate these matters should be exclusively with the cruel and tyrannical criminal ?

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Question.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, I conclude by asking the House to support the Government in an action which is necessary for the vindication of law.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I do not wish to make any speech, but I would like to remark that in my humble opinion it seems rather unfair to the House that a member of the Government who wants to make a motion should simply say 'I move motion No. 3 and so'.

Mr. President : Order, order. If the honourable member had been in the House earlier he would have found that a similar point was raised and a member did protest against this procedure. Sir John Maynard in his opening remarks on this particular demand referred to that point and said that whatever information he could give to the House was contained in the explanatory memorandum.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : The honourable member could have given information as to the income and expenditure on punitive police. If he had given that information also it would have saved unnecessary criticism.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : That is not what I want to say, Sir. I will just make my point clear. In his speech the Honourable the Finance Member has given certain facts about a village whose name, of course, he has not given for very good reasons. But at the same time he has made certain remarks about persons who, he said, if I understood him rightly, have more sympathy for the breakers of law than for those who try to vindicate law. This is a statement, Sir, which I have questioned.

Mr. President : Order, order. If the honourable member is raising a point of order he must do so and not make a speech about it.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : The point of order is this. The honourable member of the Government made certain general remarks and my point is that these remarks, especially when they are more or less of a personal

nature should have been made in the speech he made while bringing forward this motion and not when he makes his reply.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The remarks were not intended to be personal.

Mr. President : I do not think I can lay down any rule to that effect at all.

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 council then divided : Ayes 39 ; Noes 29.

AYES 39.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Colonel R. Heard.
Mr. E. R. Abbott.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
Mr. E. A. Scott.
Sir George Anderson.
Lieut.-Colonel W. C. H. Forster.
The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand.
The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.
The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
Mr. A. Latifi.
Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
Dr. C. A. Owen.
Lieut.-Colonel D. M. Davidson.
Mr. J. Coldstream.

Chandhri Ali Akbar.
Mir Maqbool Mahmood.
Sardar Jowahir Singh.
Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Mian Muhammad Sharif.
Chandhri Saadullah Khan.
Rai Shahadat Khan.
Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
M. Haibat Khan.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Captain Mumtaz Muhammad Khan, Tiwana.
Rai Sahib Chaulhri Chhotu Ram.
Chaudhri Dali Chand.
Rao Pohap Singh.

NOES 29.

Chaudhri Najib-ud-Din Khan.
Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan.
Sardar Narain Singh.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.
Sardar Rindhir Singh.
Sardar Bakhtawar Singh.
M. Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Raoa Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
Sardar Har Chand Singh.
Sardar Mohindar Singh.
Sardar Partab Singh.
Sardar Buta Singh.

Pandit Nanak Chand.
Dr. Gokul Chand, Naraag.
Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Lala Sham Lal.
Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
Lala Diwan Chand.
Rai Bahadur Lala Chanpat Rai.
Diwan Nariujan Das.
Lala Mohan Lal.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.
Chandhri Kesar Singh.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh Urban) : May I ask, Sir, the number of elected members who voted for and against the motion?

Mr. President : It can be gathered from the Division List which will be published.

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 Panjab 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 particulars regarding this item will be found in page 2, under Demand 15. Full details appear on pages 5 and 6 of the memoranda.

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS 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 Miscellaneous."

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 Miscellaneous."

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh Urban) : Sir, no explanation is given about the expenditure in England.

Mr. Miles Irving (Financial Secretary) : Sir, I am afraid I am not at present in a position to explain this to the House. The Secretary of State has informed us that he wants a sum of Rs. 6,000 under this head. We have not heard details of this. We trust that the Secretary of State will not incur unnecessary expenditure.

Sardar Jodh Singh : No doubt we trust the Secretary of State. But we must know for what we are sanctioning money. There is no question of trust. This information was promised to us before but it is not forthcoming even now. If you allow me, Sir, I will move an amendment.

Mr. President : An amendment requires notice and you have not given notice.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Then I will move the adjournment of the whole motion.

Mr. President : I am afraid the fact that an amendment has not been put in in time is no reason for an adjournment.

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 Miscellaneous."

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS 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 Miscellaneous Adjustments."

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS—CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (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."

Details of this item will appear from page 2 under Demand No. 83. The explanation is given on page 7 of the explanatory memoranda. I do not think I need add anything to what is given there.

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS (TRANSFERRED) 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 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.

RESOLUTION *RE* AMENDMENT OF THE PUNJAB COURTS ACT.

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

"That this Council recommends to Government that clause (a), sub-section (1) of section 89 of the Punjab Courts Act, 1918, be amended so as to transfer from the High Court to the Court of the District Judge jurisdiction in appeals from decrees or orders of a Subordinate Judge where the value of the suit ranges from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 7,500."

Sir, sub-section (1) of section 89 of the Punjab Courts Act prescribes that an appeal from a decree or an order of a subordinate court shall lie to the Court of the District Judge in cases in which the value of the original suit does not exceed Rs. 5,000. The Honourable the Judges of the High Court have recommended to the Government that this limit of Rs. 5,000 should be raised to Rs. 7,500. The reasons for this recommendation, I will mention presently. A word of explanation is necessary in regard to the procedure. The Local Government after considering the matter would have been glad to introduce legislation to give effect to the recommendations of the Honourable the Judges of the High Court, but such legislation would operate to withdraw from the High Court certain appellate powers which are conferred upon them by article 11 of the Letters Patent. Legislation dealing with the Letters Patent can only be undertaken in the Central Legislature. It was therefore impossible to introduce the desired legislation in this House, but we understand from the Government of India that if this Council passes a resolution such as the one which I have now moved, the Government of

[Mr. D. J. BOYD]

India will be prepared to consider the desirability of introducing the necessary legislation.

The reasons for altering the law are two-fold. The first is the great rise in prices that has occurred since the limit of Rs. 5,000 was first fixed and second is the desirability of speeding up justice and of hastening the disposal of appeals by limiting the number of institutions in the High Court. With regard to the first point, very little need be said. We all know from painful experience that now-a-days a rupee will not go as far as it did a few years ago. The actual limit of Rs. 5,000 was fixed in 1884 when the court of the Divisional Judge was constituted with appellate powers in suits up to Rs. 5,000 in value. In 1918 the court of the Divisional Judge was replaced by the present District Judges. But the appellate powers of the District Judge remained the same as those of the Divisional Judge, so that this limit of Rs. 5,000 is subsisting for the last 40 years. The change in the value of money in that time may be gauged from the two settlements of the Jullundur District. Mr. Parser settled the Jullundur District about 1881-1882. It took a much longer time than that but his enquiry into the prices that the zamindar got for his produce was based on the figures of 1881-1882. That is quite near enough to 1884 for our purpose. After examining those figures he came to the conclusion that the average price of wheat which a zamindar might expect to receive at that date was 32 seers per rupee that is, a price of 20 annas to the maund. The Jullundur District was resettled by Sardar Hotu Singh and in 1914, the Sardar took the average price of wheat at 38 annas. In 1882 it was 20 annas and in 1914 it was 38 annas. If we look at the prices prevailing at the most recent settlement in the Lower Jhelum colony and one or two other colonies, it will be seen that they have risen to as much as 52 annas per maund. The rise from 20 annas in 1881-1882 to 52 annas at the present day is a rise of 260 per cent. In the resolution which I have moved, I propose to increase the powers of District Judges by 50 per cent. the rise in price being 260 per cent. On the ground of rise in prices I think the resolution is justified. With regard to the other matter, it is common knowledge that there are considerable arrears in the appellate work of the High Court. The reasons for these arrears are not relevant at the present time, but the arrears do exist and the Honourable the Judges are anxious to get rid of them by increasing the jurisdiction of District Judges. By this process we will lessen the institutions of appeals in the High Court, and leave more time to the Honourable the Judges to get on with the disposal of pending appeals. A glance at the last number of the Indian Law Reports, Lahore Series, will show that it takes from 3 to 4 years for an ordinary appeal from a civil suit to be decided by the High Court. It is obviously desirable to adopt all reasonable measures which will accelerate the operation of justice. I think the resolution is not open to any objection and is quite a reasonable measure. The question of delays in disposals has been regarded as so serious by the Government of India that a committee has been appointed to go into the reasons for the delay in disposals and to propose measures for accelerating the pace of justice. I hope the House will aid in this operation by adopting this resolution.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That this Council recommends to Government that clause (a), sub-section (1) of section 39 of the Punjab Courts Act, 1918, be amended so as to transfer from the High Court to the Court of the District Judge jurisdiction in appeals from decrees or orders of a Subordinate Judge where the value of the suit ranges from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 7,500."

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari (Non-official, nominated) : Sir, as a mofussil lawyer I should welcome this amendment, but before I support it fully, I want to get certain information on certain points. If the jurisdiction of the District Judge is to be extended to entertain an appeal of which the value ranges between Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 7,500, then I ask whether new District Judges are to be appointed or not, because my experience is that the District Judges' hands are already full, and they feel much difficulty in disposing of the appeals which are already pending in their courts. And whether the result of this amendment will be that more District Judges will have to be appointed and if the pay of the newly appointed District Judges would be equal to the pay of one or two new High Court Judges, in which case there is necessity for amending the law. We know in this world every question of importance ultimately resolves into a question of money. Therefore before we consider this amendment which seems to be a very laudable one we should get this information. I hope the Council will agree with me that the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court have to work very hard and that they cannot dispose off the appeals soon. On the other hand, the public says that the appeals which are pending for the last two or three years are not heard for years and it is not satisfied. I do not forget all these things but at the same time I beg to say that if the District Judges are not able to dispose of ordinary appeals and as my experience is from time to time 20 and 30 and even 50 appeals are transferred to Gurdaspur, from there to Hoshiarpur, and from there to other districts, and if this system of transferring appeals is to be enforced, because the District Judges cannot find time to deal with them, then the litigants will be put to more inconvenience. So I want to know how many more District Judges are to be appointed if all these appeals are going to be transferred from the High Court to the Court of the District Judge. I want to know the number of such appeals pending in the High Court, so that we might be in a position to know how many more appeals will have to be heard by the District Judges if the amendment is made. I ask this because if the number is small, then in that case my arguments would become a little weaker, but if the number is large, then I think my arguments gain strength.

Moreover there is another reason. If these important appeals the value of which ranges between Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 7,500 are transferred to the District Judge, he will have to give more time to them than to trifling appeals made against the judgments of a Munsif. As he will have to give more time to the more important appeals, he will have to keep pending the less important ones. Then to dispose of these appeals of a minor nature there will have to be another amendment that the Subordinate Judges should be invested with power to hear those appeals which the District Judge cannot find time to hear. Then the result will be that the Munsif, who to-day hears cases of value of Rs. 200, will one day hear appeals in the case of suits to the value of Rs. 2,000. These are the points which we have to consider. Thus before we accept it we must go thoroughly into these questions. I have only touched these points so that I may not usurp the time of others who certainly have much to say about this matter and therefore with these remarks I will resume my seat and respectfully ask the honourable mover whether he is in a position to give information on these points, and hence I ask your leave to resume my seat.

Pandit Nanak Chand [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, I have listened very carefully to the honourable mover and I must confess that I am not convinced for the necessity for a change. I find

[Pandit Nanak Chand]

myself in a somewhat embarrassing position from this fact that I am a practitioner in the High Court and it might be said that self-interest induced me to vote against the motion, but I wish to assure all my learned friends of the mofussil that we are all anxious to find out in what way the interests of justice can be best served and from that point of view we ought to look at the question.

My first ground for opposing this change is that it is only the Punjab which is making this change. The other provinces likewise find that the value of money has decreased, but this change has not come from any other province and there is no justification for us here to fight for this change.

My second ground is that really better justice is done in the High Court than can possibly be done in the Court of a District Judge. We know, as a matter of fact, that appeals to the value of Rs. 5,000 and above in the High Court are heard by two Hon'ble Judges of the High Court. By their long tradition, by long training and experience they are better Judges than any Judge of the District Court can be. The emoluments of the High Court Judges amount to Rs. 8,000, while the District Judge is paid from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 700. This also will show that when a case is heard by the Hon'ble Judges of a High Court, better justice can be done than when it is heard by an ordinary Judge of the District Court.

Now I have also practised before the District Court and I know that there is a speedy disposal in the Court of the District Judge. In the High Court a longer time is taken than is taken in a District Court. You will have speedy justice if you want speedy justice of that kind, but it is not justice. In the High Court I know that first appeals are heard some times for six days or three days or four days and they sometimes take as many as between seven and twenty-one days. But in a District Court it is impossible to go into all the questions of facts, and as you are aware the District Court is a final Court on questions of fact, we see at once that the High Court cannot interfere if there is any error in the decision of the case on points of fact. Therefore the decision of the District Court will become absolutely final on points of fact.

Then there is another reason why better justice is done in the High Court; in the High Court both the Hon'ble Judges and the members of the Bar have access to better libraries. In the High Court Library you get all the law books that are to be found. It is impossible to find such libraries in mofussil stations.

Then my third reason for opposing this would be that only recently Government has increased the court-fee by 50 per cent. You are increasing the court-fee on the one hand and you are giving the people an inferior machinery to do justice to the people. It is hardly fair. You charge higher prices and you give them inferior goods. I am speaking with due respect to the District Judges, but the fact is there that you are charging a very heavy rate of taxation and it is unfair and unjust to send these people away to inferior courts for the determination of their cases.

One important fact is missed by the learned mover and it is this that in land cases the jurisdictional value is 30 times the land revenue, while the actual market value of the property is, as the Finance Member said the other day, 250 times the land revenue. So this would mean that cases relating to property worth lakhs will be disposed of by the District Judges. That, I submit, Sir, would be a very unsatisfactory state of things. On these grounds I oppose this motion which has been brought forward by

the learned mover. If there is a movement to cut down the powers of the High Court or to increase the powers of the District Judge, then this question should be taken up in the Central Legislature where all these things will be properly considered and one uniform standard will be laid down for all.

Then the honourable gentleman who has just sat down mentioned the anomalies that will be created, if you require more District Judges. Why cannot you have two or three more High Court Judges? It is idle to deny that the High Court spends large amounts of money on palatial buildings and is it unreasonable when the question of justice arises just to say "if you want to have speedy justice you go to the District Courts.?" We must understand that this Government is popular because of its giving justice with an even hand and it is absolutely necessary that this standard of justice should be maintained and people should not be driven to the belief that on the one hand they are heavily taxed and on the other hand they are asked to go to the courts which dispose of cases in a very speedy and unsatisfactory manner. For these reasons I oppose the motion which has been moved by the learned Mover.

Sardar Randhir Singh [Sialkot-*cum*-Gurdaspur (Sikh) Rural] (Urdu : Sir, my view concurs with those of the honourable mover as the motion brought forward by him would be beneficial to the public. The previous speaker opposed the motion on the ground that the work in the District Judges' Courts would increase, but as the suits of the value of Rs. 5,000 or above would be small in number so an equally insignificant increase in work would be its natural result and may be overlooked entirely. If the central position of the High Court be taken into consideration, the number of such cases will be enormous as compared with that in the Lower Courts as the High Court has to hear appeal from every district of the province and thus a lot of time will be taken to dispose of them finally. It has been stated

5 P.M. by the honourable speaker that the Judges of the High Court are more efficient and capable, but the fact that they are selected from among the Judges of the Lower Courts has been ignored. They can give the same amount of justice while working in the Lower Courts as they can be expected to do in the capacity of the Judges of the High Court. Moreover, the people have to undergo more trouble in coming to Lahore than in attending the District Court. Efficient pleaders are also available in the districts for even a reduced fee, while an ordinary Vakil practising in the High Court will not consent to a fee less than Rs. 500. To pass the motion will be a source of great comfort and help to the public.

Mr. V. F. Gray (Punjab Chamber of Commerce and Trades Association, Commerce) : Talking from the commercial point of view, Sir, any action would be welcome that will accelerate justice. The fact as previously stated that no other province has yet brought forward this suggestion need not influence us at all. But it would certainly necessitate, in my opinion, more District Judges and more lower courts, but if we are to speed up justice, we must have more Judges either in the lower courts or in the High Court. One gentleman said, if I understood him rightly that "speedy justice is no justice at all." I would refer him to the remarks made by His Excellency Lord Reading about twelve months ago 'Justice delayed is often justice denied'.

We talk about more money more courts requiring this, Government will receive more money if they raise the amount from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 7,500 by

[Mr. V. F. Gray.]

way of additional stamp duties. In filing many suits for damages such as infringements, the amount is stated at Rs. 5,000 purely to have the right of appeal this would have to be Rs. 7,500 if the proposal before us were agreed to. But the only point I wish to urge for consideration is that His Excellency the Viceroy has appointed a committee to enquire into the delays in the administration of justice and there is a possibility of that committee making some recommendation on this point. Otherwise anything that would speed up justice will be welcomed by the commercial community.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz [Lahore (Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, I am opposed to this resolution. I am not at all convinced that a change is desirable in section 39 of Punjab Courts Act. Instead of improving and strengthening the constitution of the High Court, the Government is determined to undertake this retrograde measure of legislation. This resolution reminds me of a lobster, a red fish that moves backward. The same is the case here. Instead of moving forward we are made to move backward. Sir, in our Province as well as in all other provinces of India in all suits of the value of Rs. 5,000 and upwards a first appeal directly lies to the High Court from the judgment of the court of first instance. It is heard and disposed of by two Judges of the High Court and the judgment becomes final. Is there any reason for a change? I have listened to the arguments advanced in favour of this resolution and the main argument that requires consideration is that unnecessary delay is caused in getting justice. The Judges of High Court are overworked and some of the appeals must go to District Judge for disposal. The remedy contemplated is worse than the disease. The real remedy is to strengthen the constitution of the High Court, and to increase the number of High Court Judges. Now, Sir, litigants who come to court and pay very high court-fees are perfectly justified in demanding that their appeals should be heard by the highest court and by the best Judges. The law at present gives them a right of appeal to the High Court, and it is really very lamentable that Government should put forward this resolution and empower the District Judge with higher power. I do not wish to say anything against the District Judges, but I am of opinion that they are liable to be hasty and impatient. It is an admitted fact and one that cannot be denied that the Judges of the High Court are infinitely abler and more patient than the District Judges. The present law also has worked satisfactorily in all parts of India and I therefore cannot understand why this change is to be made in this province now. Is the object of the Government to get twice the amount of court-fees, first in the court of the District Judge and then in the High Court? If that is the reason, then Sir, it is a very sad plight. The only possible justification in favour of a change is, that justice should be done speedily. For that, I think, you should increase the number of Judges. Then justice will be done speedily and to the satisfaction of all parties concerned. For these reasons, Sir, I am opposed to this resolution.

Diwan Narinjan Das [Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Division, North (Non-Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, in my opinion we are groping in the dark. (Laughter). The most important point on the subject that should be considered is the average number of appeals of the value of between Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 7,500 that we get every year in the High Court. The honourable mover of the resolution has in a very emphatic manner given us a great many reasons, with most of which I am in substantial agreement. But my submission is that in the present case the most important fact to bear in mind is as to how many appeals are affected by this measure. I

it is a question of only 10 or 20 appeals, then we will probably consider whether for these 10 or 20 appeals we should think of any change or not. If it is a question of a larger number of appeals, then we shall have to consider the question whether we should increase the number of the High Court Judges or whether we must send these appeals to District Judges in which case we will have to increase the number of District Judges. Unless we have that information before us we cannot decide one way or the other, as to whether we should have purity of justice or speedy justice. I hope the House will not accuse me of rising on every motion and moving for adjournment for fuller information for the discussion of the resolution before the House. But I consider that in the present case which is one of principle and of far reaching effect we should have full information before we can give our opinion one way or the other.

I will not make it a question of mufassil and the High Court, and I will not support this resolution because I am a mufassil lawyer. I will also ask other members of the House who are High Court lawyers not to consider the interests of the High Court lawyers only. I think it is entirely a question that concerns the purity on the one hand and the delays of justice on the other. I, therefore, fully support Mr. Gray in his suggestion that this resolution be postponed till we are able to know what the Committee on the delays of civil justice has to suggest. Probably the conditions that are at present prevailing in the High Court will be ascertained by the Civil Justice Delays Committee. I think it practically amounts to a denial of justice to see in several cases that a person has to attend 20 or 30 hearings in the High Court and then after 4 or 5 years he is told that his case is dismissed. It would be far better to know from the District Judge that his case is dismissed in about a month's time. By that I do not mean to imply that where you can get better and purer justice, you should prefer instantaneous justice whatever its quality. All I mean to suggest is that we should know where we stand. We should know whether such a scheme would involve the creation of additional District Judges or High Court Judges, so that we might keep in view the financial considerations as well as other considerations, namely, purity of justice, acceleration of work and the interests of the litigant class.

Mr. President : Do I understand that the honourable member wants to move an adjournment?

Diwan Narinjan Das : If you will allow me, Sir, I wish to bring in an amendment to this resolution, namely, to postpone this till the report of the Civil Justice Delays Committee is submitted or till the honourable member is able to give more information as to how many appeals are affected thereby.

Mr. D. J. Boyd (Home Secretary) : Sir, I tried to find out from the civil statements of the High Court how many cases would be transferred from the jurisdiction of the High Court to the District Judges. Unfortunately I could not get exact figures. But the actual original institution of suits of the value between Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 10,000 in the Punjab is approximately 900 to 930 per annum. I am only asking that the appellate jurisdiction of District Judges should be so increased as to include suits of the value up to Rs. 7,500. If we perform a simple arithmetical operation I think that on the whole the annual institution of suits between the value of Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 7,500 will be about 450. But in what proportion of this, an appeal will be preferred I really cannot tell. Even if an appeal is

[Mr. D. J. Boyd.]

preferred in every one of the cases, it will only mean an addition of something like 15 to 20 cases every year to the file of each District Judge.

Mr. President: I think one has to consider the question of adjournment rather from the effect it will have. If the adjournment is pressed only for the object of getting information which Mr. Boyd has practically given us now, the debate may be continued. But if we have to wait until the Civil Justice Committee which is now sitting has come to some conclusion, then obviously we shall have to wait till after the end of this session. If the debate is adjourned, then it dies at the end of the session and it cannot be brought up again in a shorter time than a year. If the Government do not choose to press it for that reason but choose to withdraw it, then they can bring it again next session. I do not know what course the Government wish to adopt whether they would like to defer to the wishes of the honourable members. I may point out that if we are to wait for the result of the Committee which is now sitting we may have to wait for months. I take it the object of the Government is very largely to have the opinion of the House on the resolution put before them. In that case it would be better to allow the debate to continue and not press the motion for adjournment.

Diwan Narinjan Das: I would leave the matter entirely in the hands of the honourable member. If he considers that the matter is urgent, then the debate may go on. But evidently the matter does not seem to be urgent.

Mr. D. J. Boyd: I would give good reasons for not withdrawing the resolution.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh) Rural]: I am a mufassil lawyer and I am naturally expected to support this resolution. But my self-interest does not prompt me to support this resolution. There is a proverb which in English means, he who is bitten by a snake fears the rope. The venomous snake of expenditure is every day biting us and therefore, I naturally fear that there is some other move in the matter. I am not sure whether some more District Judges or High Court Judges may not be appointed and another item of supplementary grant may not be brought before the House. Experience tells me that the hand of the District Judge is so full with other work that it necessitates the transfer of appeals from one District to another. For instance, I may say that Multan appeals were transferred to Ferozepore and any man with common sense will say that a litigant of Multan can more easily go to Lahore than to Ferozepore. The second point that I wish to impress on the House is that the clients will be obliged to pay double fees to the lawyers. If an appeal is transferred from Multan to Ferozepore he has to engage pleaders in two places and pay them fees twice over. So the argument of the other party that the client will be benefitted is wrong.

There is a proverb in Panjabi which says: سہل ہے بار بار مہلے لے آئے ایک بار

Instead of going to the High Court and having his appeal decided once for all, he will first go to the District Court and then go to the High Court for revision. The client will be ultimately burdened with double costs of stamps and of pleaders' fees. The most important point that I wish to bring to the notice of the House is that the system which is recommended in this resolution can in no case work well with the present strength of District Judges. Therefore the strength of District Judges will have to be increased, and this involves extra expenditure. Taking all the facts into

consideration, I think that justice will not be cheap, it will be rather dear I therefore appeal to the House to disallow this resolution.

Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan [Gurgaon-cum-Hissar (Muhammadian) Rural]: Sir, the hands of the District Judges are already full as they have to dispose of a number of appeals pending in their courts. Besides they are expected to give their decisions on appeals filed in their courts with little delay, and if to this task is added the heavy burden of some other important appeals one cannot say into what difficulties these District Judges will be driven into. They will not be able to give sufficient attention to a heap of files and naturally the justice done will be unsatisfactory.

The second important form is that the litigants are more anxious to have the appeals heard in the High Court, for they have more confidence in the ability and the integrity of the Honourable Judges of the High Court than that of the Judges of the District Courts. With these few remarks I oppose the resolution.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din [Sialkot (Muhammadian) Rural]: I had no mind to speak on this resolution, but the interesting debate which I have heard during the last few minutes has prompted me to say a few words. On its face, the resolution may not appear to be so important as it really is. The greatest achievement the British Rule in India has to its credit is the confidence in the High Courts in India. The question is whether the courts subordinate to the High Courts command the same confidence which the High Courts do. Any one, even an illiterate person, may be able to do real justice between litigating parties. But this alone is not sufficient. The question is whether that justice is received and accepted by the parties with full confidence. The real justice is that which inspires confidence and this, I think, is the duty of the Government to give to its subjects. (Hear, hear). If the disposal of appeals, the value of which ranges between Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 7,500, will satisfy this condition. I shall most gladly support the resolution. But knowing, as I do, the Indian mind and the Indian conditions, I am afraid, the people of India will not be satisfied with the justice which may be given to them in cases of big value by the District Judges in the province. I do not mean to cast any aspersion on or to make any insinuation against the ability or efficiency of District Judges, but one thing is quite clear and it is this: if the District Judges are as fit, as efficient and as able to administer justice in all cases, why should there be a High Court at all. (Hear, hear). In that case we may have a larger number of District Judges and have all cases, regardless of valuation, decided by them. Sir, perhaps the most important and the most relevant point is and probably other speakers have referred to it, before my arrival, what is the income from the sale of judicial stamps in the province? If that income is sufficient to increase the personnel of the High Court, then we must first think of raising the number of High Court Judges and this, I am sure, will inspire greater confidence in British justice—and consequently in British rule than the lowering of the standard of efficiency by transferring such important cases to the jurisdiction of the District Judges. I for one do not think it is fair for any Government to get an income from the sale of judicial stamps—if not from the sale of justice and to spend that income on other administrative needs and requirements of the Government and the country. So the first question which I would very respectfully ask the honourable mover of this resolution is, what is the income from the sale of judicial stamps and how much of it is being spent on Administration of Justice in the Province? If that income exceeds the expenditure, then

[K. B. Gh. Shahab-ud-Din.]

there can be no justification for this House to vote in favour of this resolution. But, on the other hand, if that income is less than the expenditure, then it is the duty of the House to support this resolution unless money is available for employing abler and more highly paid judicial agency in the Punjab. Sir, before I sit down I would like to make one observation and it is this.

As remarked by Mr. Gray a few minutes back, a Committee has been appointed by the Government of India to enquire into the law's delays. That Committee is either already going about doing its duty or it may shortly begin its labours. I think we should wait till the report of that Committee is before the public. Many important points are involved in this apparently unimportant resolution. One of them is the right of appeal to the Privy Council. But no more in this strain. In a large number of cases points of law are involved. It appears that the Punjab is going perhaps to give not exactly but nearly the same power to the District Judges which people expect to be exercised by a more highly trained and more efficient judiciary. I am not against economy being effected or delays of law being removed. But along with this we should look to confidence in the British Rule and British Justice. I for one cherish these two things more than the mere removal of delays and I hope that even the Government benches will be pleased to consider my humble suggestion from the point of view which I have put before them and wait and see the result of that Committee's labours and in the meantime also sound the people to see how the province will take the change. In the case of millions of the Punjabis, Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 7,500 is perhaps the saving of a whole life. Now to allow cases of such a high valuation being decided by the District Judges with their present legal education, experience and judicial training, I may be allowed to say, would be simply preposterous. If we are going to import, as District Judges, members of the English or the Indian Bar, with their long experience and thorough grounding in law it might be different, but with men of present education and experience and training, present personnel of the District Judges and with the present economic conditions prevailing in the Province, I would again ask Government to re-consider the advisability of pressing this resolution to-day. They should wait and collect more figures and try to have the resolution carried after convincing the House of the reasonableness of their position.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban]: Sir, the debate has already extended over a considerable time and I do not want to take further time of the Council in repeating what has already been said, but certainly I think it necessary to point out that the honourable mover does not seem to have had sufficient time to acquaint himself with the state of affairs prevailing either in the High Court of this Province or in the High Courts of other provinces of India. A question was put to him whether he would state the number of appeals which were pending decision in the Punjab High Court and the only information that could be elicited was that the number of institutions of original suits to the value ranging between Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 10,000 in the whole Province is, say 900 per annum, and therefrom he concluded that the number of suits whose value would range between Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 7,500 would be about half of that. My submission is that that does not supply sufficient data for the formation or expression of any definite opinion by the members of this

House and personally I should have been very glad if Diwan Narsingh Das had pressed his amendment for adjournment and adjournment had been granted because the facts which have been placed before us to-day are not sufficient as I have submitted for the formation of correct opinion. So far as I am aware there is no province in India in which the value for first appeals has been raised from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 7,500 or to any higher figure and no case has been made out why the value of first appeals in this Province should be raised. There is no doubt, as one honourable member (Mr. Gray) remarked that there is no reason why our Province should not take the lead in some matters at least, but my submission is that when there are High Courts of older standing and they have not raised the limit and the people of this Province have been quite content with the valuation of first appeals, there is no reason why this Province should take the lead in deteriorating the administration of justice, as Mr. Shah Nawaz rightly put it. As he put it, there is no doubt that it is a retrograde step that is proposed to be taken. It has been said that there are two grounds for the carrying out of this resolution and I shall examine these grounds at a little length. One ground is—I shall reverse the order of the honourable mover—that this acceleration of justice would necessitate our raising the limit of first appeals because the value of money has fallen. So far as the question of acceleration is concerned, I may submit that in the first place it is the Honourable Judges of the High Court who are concerned in this and I am told that the initiative came from them. But with due deference to the Honourable Judges of the High Court and I would speak with all respect that is due to their position, the Honourable Judges were ill-advised in sending up a requisition of this nature without consulting the members of the Bar. I take it as a slight to the Bar of this Province that in a matter of this great importance they should not have been considered worthy of consultation. The delays of justice are either caused by the incompetence or the laziness of the Bench or by the tricks and devices of the lawyers.

Mr. President : Order, order. I would ask the honourable member not to reflect on the Courts of Justice. It is most undesirable.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I did not mean any disrespect, Sir.

Mr. President : You have said it.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang (continued) : What I intended to submit, Sir, without meaning any disrespect to any court was that it was a matter in which the members of the Bar should have been consulted. Those who have practised and have experience of law would know that it rests with the Bench and the Bar how long a case would take. If the Bar had been consulted, I submit that some method would have been found out for curtailing the time of the duration of the first appeal or the second appeal or even of a revision in the High Court or of cases pending in other courts. That has not been done.

Much has been said about this and I would not take up the time of the Council in saying it over again that every litigant is anxious to have justice from the very highest tribunal in the country that he could have access to and especially in cases in which as has been remarked perhaps all his life earning, all his capital is involved he would like that his case should be decided by the highest court in the province; and good administration of justice should not be sacrificed for the sake of acceleration.

So far as the question of commercial community is concerned, perhaps my honourable friend is not aware that even in this High Court commercial

[Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.]

cases have always preference. There is always a certain Judge who is looked upon as a commercial Judge, and all commercial cases are marked to him and they are marked early. So the commercial community cannot have any complaint on the ground of delays. Bombay is the biggest commercial province in India and yet they have not thought it necessary that the limit of first appeals should be raised from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 7,500. One argument that the honourable mover advanced, and that was the very argument which some other members used for opposing the resolution, was that if the value was increased Government will have more income from court-fee. It is true that Government will have more income by way of court-fee in the court of the first instance, another court-fee for the appeal in the court of the District Judge, then there is a second appeal for which fresh court-fee has to be paid and then if the case does not come within certain provisions of the Civil Procedure Code which concerns the value of the property, then a review petition has to be filed which requires further court-fee. Thus a litigant will have to pass through four stages before he can approach the Privy Council if he feels a necessity for it, and so he has to incur a very heavy expenditure and the poor fellow will be ruined before he gets justice. This is the very reason why the resolution should be opposed. Then again it has been ignored by those speakers who tried to support the resolution that one way justice will be defeated or can be defeated will be in cases where the court entirely depends upon the finding of facts. As Mr. Nanak Chand observed, there is another circumstance in which justice can also be defeated and that is where the question of custom is involved. Lately we have made a change in this Province in the Punjab Courts Act under which a certificate from the District Judge is required before a second appeal can be allowed in the High Court. That matter probably has not been fully taken into consideration by those honourable members who have supported the resolution. It is not, as a matter of course, that certificates on questions of custom are issued and if a certificate on a certain question is refused, then no second appeal lies. Thus on questions of fact and on questions of custom the door of appeal or the door of justice will be closed as soon as the District Judge has given his judgment.

Then, Sir, there is the question of the fall in the value of the rupee. I submit, Sir, that there is a fallacy in this argument which ought to be exposed. It has been said that the value of the rupee has gone down, and the honourable mover of the resolution was at some pains to explain this by referring to settlements. He pointed out that in the settlement of 1881, the price of wheat per maund was 20 annas while in the last settlement it was 52 annas per maund, the wheat being the same in quality and in weight, thus showing that the value of the rupee had fallen proportionately to $\frac{3}{4}$ of its previous value according to arithmetical calculation. If that argument is to be applied everywhere, we shall be driven to many difficult, if not absurd, positions. For instance, those Government officers whose salary was settled some 20 years ago or in the last decade of the last century may say, the value of the rupee has fallen to $\frac{3}{4}$ of what it was before and therefore their salary should be multiplied by $\frac{4}{3}$ (Hear, hear). That is a necessary corollary from this statement.

Then again, if I lent Rs. 5,000 to a zamindar 20 years ago and the pro-note had been renewed from time to time so that the principal with interest had amounted to Rs. 50,000, I should say Rs. 50,000 I am entitled to under the terms of the Bond, but this amount must be multiplied by $\frac{4}{3}$

because at that time the rupee was worth much more than it is now and therefore my claim should be Rs. 50,000 multiplied by $\frac{52}{100}$

Mr. President : This is no doubt very clever but is rather far-fetched. (Laughter).

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I am simply pointing out the fallacy of the argument on the Government side.

Then Sir, there is another matter also which the zamindars and other tax-paying people should bear in mind. Their revenues or rates were fixed at a certain time when the value of the rupee was very low. District Board taxes, Chowkidari taxes and other taxes were fixed when the value of the rupee was very low. Could anybody with equal justice on the part of the Government and with equal consistency claim that the rates should be increased proportionately? I submit, Sir, that this is not an argument which must appeal to the zealous financial member of the future.

Mr. President : The honourable member is nearing his time.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : If you wish me to stop, I shall do so.

Mr. President : I will give you two minutes more.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Very well, Sir. In these two minutes I shall explain in Urdu what I have already said and finish my speech.

(Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang gave a summary of his speech in Urdu).

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz : Sir, I move—

"That the question be now put."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That the question be now put."

The motion was carried.

Mr. D. J. Boyd (rising to reply).

Mr. President : I suppose the power of reply has been delegated to you.

Mr. D. J. Boyd : The Honourable the Finance Member has delegated the power to me.

The first thing I would like to say in reply is that it is most gratifying to hear the encomiums that have been bestowed upon the High Court by practically every speaker. The High Court has been spoken of in terms of very high esteem and I understood one speaker to say that Government was popular on that account. But many of those who have spoken so very highly of the High Court appear to have forgotten that this very proposal emanated from the High Court. The High Court which can decide appeals and give such satisfactory judgments on cases has also with due deliberation decided to ask Government to undertake legislation in the sense of this resolution.

I think a proposal emanating from the High Court should be given due weight. It is inconvenient at this late hour to answer all the arguments put to me. One of the arguments that struck me as least applicable to facts was that in which an honourable member described the Government as a lobster moving backwards. In the last 40 years, I think it must be conceded that our District Judges or the courts which preceded them have improved and not deteriorated. We are now proposing that their powers should be brought a little nearer what they used to be 40 years ago. Surely this is not a retrograde step. It is the reverse. The last speaker traversed my argument with regard to the rise in prices. He said that other things have also bene

[Mr. D. J. Boyd.]

affected. This is doubtless true. But we cannot raise all monetary values, raise wages, raise revenues, raise water rates, raise all prices and all remuneration in proportion to the fall in the value of the rupee. But the fact that the District Judges 40 years ago were capable of deciding suits whose real value was very much greater than what is at present represented by Rs. 7,500 must be borne in mind. The other argument that was adduced was that of acceleration. A great many speakers have objected to acceleration on the ground that they would get bad justice and expensive justice because they would have to pay extra fees on account of transfers and further appeals.

Mr. President: I am in the hands of the House as to whether we should finish this debate or adjourn it. Presumably the House wants to proceed with the debate.

Mr. D. J. Boyd: One fact that all speakers have missed is that owing to the delay in deciding appeals in the High Court a man is kept out of his money or property for 3 or 4 years and he is thus losing interest on the money or the value of the property for that period. No order for interest or mesne profits would really compensate him for that loss. I am sure that by delaying justice indefinitely, he loses more than he ever loses by having to pay extra court-fees or extra lawyers' fees once or twice. The fact that a man is kept out of his money for 3 or 4 years is one that should be given due weight. I once more remind the House that the proposal emanated from the High Court, and that legislation will be undertaken if necessary in the Central Legislature. It has been urged that legislation should be uniform for the whole of India and should therefore be undertaken in the Central Legislature. It will be undertaken if at all, in the Central Legislature, but whether it will be uniform for the whole of India or not I cannot possibly say. The point will undoubtedly be considered. Another point urged by two or three members is that a committee is sitting to consider the means of expediting the operation of justice and therefore we should await the result of its deliberations. But I think this proposal should be before the Government of India when they are considering the recommendations of the committee and the proposed resolution to increase the power of District Judges is assented to by this House, then this recommendation will go to the Government of India with all the weight of the opinion of this House. I hope the resolution will be carried because the Honourable the Judges of the High Court who know the position well have recommended it and I think we can trust to their discretion.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That this Council recommends to Government that clause (a), sub-section, (1), of section 39 of the Punjab Courts Act, 1913, be amended so as to transfer from the High Court to the court of the District Judge jurisdiction in appeals from decrees or orders of a Subordinate Judge where the value of the suit ranges from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 7,500."

The motion was lost.

The Council then adjourned till two of the clock on Tuesday, the 26th February 1924.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

2ND SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 26th February 1924.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

INCONVENIENCE CAUSED TO VOTERS IN RECENT ELECTIONS.

31. Diwan Narinjan Das : (a) Is it a fact that Bhaun, in District Jhelum, is several hours' journey by a difficult hilly road from its police and polling station whilst it is a few minutes run by train from Chakwal ?

(b) Is it a fact that at the last elections people were required to vote at their respective police stations only ?

(c) Is it a fact that instances were numerous where another polling and police station was nearer or more convenient to voters than the one at which they were required to vote ?

(d) Will the Government consider the advisability of so grouping the polling areas at future elections as would give the greatest convenience to the voters ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes, so far as rural areas are concerned.

(c) Government has no information.

(d) Under regulation 9 of the Regulations for nominations and elections, the polling stations are selected by the Deputy Commissioners in their respective districts. At the time of next elections, any representation made to them on the subject by the voters concerned will doubtless receive due consideration.

SUITS BETWEEN MONEY-LENDERS AND AGRICULTURISTS.

32. Sayad Muhammad Husain : (i) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(a) the number of suits for money filed during the last three years ending the 31st December 1923, between money-lenders and agriculturists ;

(b) the number of these suits in which the provisions of the Usurious Loans Act were applied ;

(c) the interest claimed in suits referred to in question (b) and the interest awarded by the court ?

(ii) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a similar statement every six months for the information of this Council ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (i) Money suits are not shown separately. The number of suits for money or moveable property brought by bankers and shopkeepers against agriculturists can be ascertained from statement II, Part I, of the Annual Civil Statements of the High Court. For 1921 and 1922 they were 59,674 and 66,567. The figures for 1923 are not yet available.

[The Hon. Sir John Maynard.]

The information required by parts (b) and (c) of the question is not available and to obtain it would involve the examination of many thousands of files and an undue expenditure of labour.

(ii) After consultation with the High Court the Government regret that they cannot agree to add to the information already provided by the Annual Civil Statements of the High Court of Judicature.

GRANT OF LANDS TO JUNGLES IN THE MONTGOMERY DISTRICT.

33. Sayad Muhammad Husain : (a) Is it a fact that last year land was granted by the Government in the district of Montgomery—

(i) to increase the holdings of all the *Junglis* who happened to possess less than half a square of land in the original grant ;

(ii) to give land to those *Junglis* who are unprovided with land and who though enlisted have not so far received any land on account of commitments in favour of Military grantees ?

(b) Is it also a fact that practically all the *Junglis* of the Bar with the exception of a few villages in the Okara Tahsil situated on I-L. Distributary availed themselves of the munificence of the Government, and consequently their holdings were increased to half a square each ?

(c) Is it also a fact that the Colonisation Officer, Montgomery, recommended to the Government for a further grant of land to give effect to the policy of the Government to increase the land of the few remaining *Junglis* living in *Chaks* situated on I-L. and other deserving *Junglis* who are unprovided for ?

(d) If the answers to (a), (b) and (c), are in the affirmative will the Government kindly pass orders for the further grant of land on the recommendation of the Colonisation Officer ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : (a) (i) and (ii). Yes.

(b) It is believed that the great majority of deserving local *Junglis* have now been accommodated with grants on the Lower Bari Doab Canal.

(c) and (d). List of locals with claims to land but for whom no land is at present available have been prepared. Government have agreed that their claims should receive due consideration in the event of suitable land becoming available whether through anticipated extensions of irrigation or otherwise.

GRANT OF LAND TO INHABITANTS OF CHAK BAIT IN SUTLEJ VALLEY AREA.

34. Sayad Muhammad Husain : (a) Is the Government aware of the fact that the inhabitants of Chak Bait in the tahsil of Pakpattan have suffered great hardships on account of the construction of the Sutlej Canal and the consequent shutting off of floods which irrigated their lands ?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative will the Government kindly consider their claims in the distribution of lands in the Sutlej Valley Area in preference to others ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Government is not aware of any such alleged hardship but where floods have been cut off by the alignment of the Pakpattan Canal, suitable provision for irrigation will be made to lands so cut off and the necessity for giving the owners land elsewhere will not arise.

GRANT OF LAND TO MUSLIM RAJPUTS OF THE GURDASPUR DISTRICT.

35. Chaudhri Ali Akbar : (a) Is it a fact that Jats, Arains and Non-Muslim Rajputs in the Gurdaspur District have received grants of land as Sufedposhes in the colonies ?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state why the Muslim Rajputs of the Gurdaspur District have not received such grants ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The honourable member is referred to the reply to his question No. 21.*

Chaudhri Ali Akbar : Question No. 35 is quite different from question No. 21. I want answer to question No. 35.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The collection of information required will involve an amount of labour incommensurate with the purpose it may serve.

DISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN SALE-PROCEEDS TO THE PROPRIETARY BODY OF THE VILLAGE SHAMILAT IN THE KANGRA DISTRICT.

36. Chaudhri Ram Singh : Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(a) that in the Kangra District a specific portion of the sale-proceeds of the trees sold by the Forest Department from Government forests and village *Shamilat* lands is distributed among the village proprietary body of the village whence the trees are sold ;

(b) that in the Kangra District, the Forest Department has arranged to extract resin from the standing *Chil* trees for the purpose of manufacturing turpentine oil ;

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative will the Government be pleased to state if any share of the price of resin or turpentine is also distributed among the village proprietary body or not ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : (a) The answer is in the affirmative, but the share of the gross income from the sale of trees divided among the proprietors and the village servants is not paid in recognition of their property in the soil. It is a voluntary grant made by Government to secure their interest and co-operation in forest conservancy.

(b) Yes.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

REMOVAL OF THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF SHAH JIWANA SUB-TAHASIL IN THE JHANG DISTRICT TO AHMEDPUR SIAL.

37. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : (a) Has Government received a representation from the residents of Ahmedpur Sial, District Jhang, in which a request has been made that in the event of Government contemplating the removal of the head-quarters of Shah Jiwana Sub-Tahsil to Garh Maharaja in the Jhang District, they might consider the desirability of removing it to Ahmedpur Sial which is a more important place than Garh Maharaja ?

[R. B. Lala Sewak Ram.]

(b) If the Government be not prepared to accede to the request contained in the representation referred in part (a) will they consider the desirability of establishing a separate sub-tahsil at Ahmedpur Sial in the Jhang District?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PANCHAYATS IN THE KARNAL DISTRICT.

38. Chaudhri Duli Chand : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any action has been taken to give effect to the Panchayat Act in the Karnal District?

(b) If so, in which villages have the Panchayats been established?

(c) Will Government be pleased to expedite the establishment of Panchayats in villages where people demand them?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Yes.

(b) So far Panchayats have been established in the following villages :—

(1) Barsat.

(6) Fatehpur.

(2) Munak.

(7) Jakhauli.

(3) Idiana.

(8) Rajaund.

(4) Kharindwa.

(9) Asandh.

(5) Thaska Miranji.

(10) Keorak.

(c) This is always done after observing the formalities prescribed by sections 4 and 5 of the Village Panchayat Act.

ODS IN THE KARNAL AND ROHTAK DISTRICTS.

39. Chaudhri Duli Chand : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the Karnal and Rohtak Districts the Ods wander as nomads?

(b) Is Government aware that they keep cattle?

(c) Is Government aware that these cattle injure crops?

(d) Is it a fact that when owners of the land try to prevent the cattle from injuring their crops quarrels arise between the Ods and the owners?

(e) Will Government be pleased to make arrangements for the settlement of the Ods or for their removal from the district?

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

(c) and (d) Complaints of the nature indicated have been made.

(e) The matter is being considered by the Deputy Commissioner for Criminal Tribes.

EMPLOYMENT OF HINDU JATS IN THE P. E. S.

40. Chaudhri Duli Chand : (a) Is it a fact that there is not a single Hindu Jat in the P. E. S.? If the answer be in the negative will the Government please say how many Hindu Jats are there in this Service?

(b) Will Government please give preference to Hindu Jats in their future direct appointments to the P. E. S.?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) There are no Hindu Jats in the Provincial Educational Service at present.

(b) The suggestion of the honourable member will be considered.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Will Government be pleased to state if it has recognised the Hindu Jats as a separate community for the purposes of separate communal representation in the Provincial Educational Service ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : An enquiry has to be made before this can be answered.

EMPLOYMENT OF HINDU JATS IN THE P. C. S., JUDICIAL BRANCH.

41. Chaudhri Duli Chand : (a) Is it a fact that there is not a single Hindu Jat in the P. C. S., Judicial Branch ? If the answer be in the negative, will the Government please say how many Hindu Jats are there in this Service ?

(b) Will Government kindly give preference to Hindu Jats in their future direct appointments to the P. C. S., Judicial Branch ?

Mr. H. D. Craik : 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 VARIOUS CLASSES OF SERVICES UNDER GOVERNMENT.

42. Chaudhri Duli Chand : (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total number of the following officers classifying them as Non-Zamindar Muhammadans, Zamindar Muhammadans, Non-Zamindar Hindus, Zamindar Hindus, Non-Zamindar Sikhs, Zamindar Sikhs and others ?

1. Inspectors of Police.

2. Deputy Superintendents of Police.

3. Excise Sub-Inspectors.

4. Excise Inspectors.

5. Assistant Jailors.

6. Jailors.

7. Assistant District Inspectors of Schools.

8. District Inspectors of Schools.

9. Subordinate Judges.

10. Extra Assistant Conservators of Forests.

11. Forest Rangers.

12. Clerks in the Punjab Civil Secretariat.

13. Deputy Directors of Agriculture.

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how many, if any, of Hindu Jats officers there are in each of these classes of posts ?

(c) Is Government aware that in spite of all circulars for increasing the number of Hindu Jats in public services, there is still paucity of Hindu Jats in these Services ?

(d) If so, what steps does Government propose to take to give to the Hindu Jats their full share in the public service ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I regret that the answer to this question is not ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE SEVERAL SERVICES UNDER GOVERNMENT
IN THE KARNAL AND ROHTAK DISTRICTS.

43. Chaudhri Dull Chand : (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of persons employed in the offices of the Deputy Commissioners, the Superintendents of Police, the Civil Surgeons at Karnal and Rohtak and in the Tahsil offices of Karnal and Rohtak Districts, giving the name of the community to which they belong ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Jats, Gujars, Ahirs and Rors are very meagerly represented in those offices ?

(c) If so, will Government issue instructions to District authorities to consider the advisability of increasing their number in proportion to their population ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Government does not consider any enquiry of this nature will serve any useful purpose.

RECRUITMENT OF SIKHS FOR THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

44. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please state whether it has issued any instructions to Heads of Departments that recruitment of Sikhs into the Services is to be discouraged ? If so, will the Government please lay the document on the table ? If not, will the Government please issue instructions to its officers that the Sikhs be given their due share in the Services ?

Mr. H. D. Crank : No such instructions have been issued. No special instructions are considered necessary.

NON-OFFICIAL PRESIDENTS FOR DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE PROVINCE.

45. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please state how many District Boards in the Province have been given Non-Official Presidents and when does it propose giving Non-official Presidents to all the District Boards in the Province ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain :

1. The right to elect non-official President was given to the Sialkot District Board in 1884.

2. Government has under consideration the framing of a rule under which all District Boards with 75 per cent. elected element will get the right to elect its own President.

REPRESENTATION OF SIKHS IN THE AMBALA MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

46. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Arising out of the answer to question No. 2467 (-) given on the 23rd March last, will Government be now pleased to reconsider the case and make adequate provision for the separate representation of the Sikhs on the Ambala City Municipal Committee ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Government are not aware of any fresh considerations that would justify a reversal of the constitution already fixed.

WATER SUPPLY IN AMBALA.

47. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will Government be pleased to state what steps it has taken to better the conditions as to water supply for drinking and domestic purposes in the Ambala District in general and Ambala city in particular and what further measures it proposes to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazi-i-Husain : In the Ambala District a general fall in the water table has been observed and the cause is under investigation. Steps are being taken to improve the water supply of Kharar.

The water supply of Ambala City has been increased by the construction of a large well at Sarangpur. The Municipal Committee, Ambala, by resolution has conveyed its thanks to the Sanitary Engineer and his assistant for their keen interest in the supply of water from the new well. The use of the Morni lakes for increasing the city supply is under investigation.

The Military Department is undertaking a deep boring at Ambala in connection with the Cantonment supply.

SEARCH OF THE GURDWARA COMMITTEE OFFICE AT AMRITSAR.

48. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : (a) Will the Government please state by whom the office of the Local Gurdwara Committee, Amritsar, was searched after the arrest of Sardar Bahadur Sardar Mehtab Singh and others of the 1st Akali Leaders' Case ?

(b) Is it a fact that the officer-in-charge did not have any warrants to search the Local Gurdwara Committee Office and that he himself and on the spot substituted "Local" for "District" in the warrants which he had with him ? If so, will the Government please state what action it has taken against that officer ? It no action has yet been taken will the Government please state its reasons for the same ?

(c) Is it a fact that a notice for payment of compensation for damages for this search has been served on the Government. If so, will the Government please state what action has been taken in the matter ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) By a Sub-Inspector detailed for the duty.

(b) The warrant given to this officer wrongly described the Local Committee Office as the District Committee Office. The exact situation of the building had been previously described to him, and he acted on this description. It is not a fact that the officer altered the warrant. He noted the word 'Local' in pencil above the word 'District' on the original warrant.

(c) Government has no information.

APPOINTMENT OF A SIKH AS MANAGER OF THE ESTATES IN THE AMBALA DISTRICT UNDER THE COURT OF WARDS.

49. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Is it a fact that practically all estates in Ambala District under the control of the Court of Wards are Sikh Estates and that the appointment of General Manager for Ambala District is shortly to be made ? If so, will the Government please consider the advisability of giving this appointment to a Sikh applicant ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : (a) Out of the five estates which are at present under the superintendence of the Court of Wards in the Ambala District, four are Sikh estates.

(b) The appointment having already been made and thus there being no vacancy the question of the appointment of a Sikh does not arise.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE INDIAN PENAL CODE, ETC.

50. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please state the number of prosecutions undertaken during the last 3 years under sections 124, 153, 120-B., 120-A of the Indian Penal Code, and sections 107 and 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and section 17 (a) and (b) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, and the number of Sikhs prosecuted in connection with the Guru-ka-Bagh affair of 1922, and *Kirpan* ; and state further the number of cases in which Zaildars and Sufedposhes have appeared as witnesses for the prosecution ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The number of prosecutions undertaken during the period 16th April 1921 to 15th April 1922 under the sections specified are contained in the accompanying statement.* Statistics containing similar information for the period 16th April 1922 to 31st December 1923 have recently been tabulated and are now in the Press. A copy of this statement will be sent to the honourable member when ready.

(b) The number of Sikhs arrested in connection with the Guru-ka-Bagh affair was 5,554, of whom 4,464 were sentenced. Information is not readily available with regard to the number of prosecutions connected with *Kirpan*.

(c) Government has no information as to the number of cases in which Zaildars and Sufedposhes appeared as witnesses for the prosecution.

OVER-FLOODING AND WATER-LOGGING OF LAND IN CERTAIN VILLAGES IN THE KOT ADU TAHSIL, MUZAFFARGARH DISTRICT.

51. Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan : Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact (a) that the villages extending from Daira Din Panah to Gujrat between the Railway line and the Canal bund of Sananwan in the Kot Adu Tahsil of the Muzaffargarh District, are every year flooded with water during rainy season and is also water-logged and that in consequence most of the land in this *ilaga* is becoming barren ?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken by the Canal Department in this matter ?

(c) Is it a fact that during the eight years no authority higher than the Superintending Engineer has toured in this *ilaga* ?

(d) If the answer to (c) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to direct the Chief Engineer to visit the *ilaga* for himself and to take immediate measures for the safety of the *ilaga* against floods ?

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.

*Not printed.

BREEDING OF DHANNI AND HARIANA CATTLE.

52. **Chaudhri Duli Chand :** (i) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(a) that the breeding of Dhanni cattle is limited to Talagang and Chakwal Tahsils ;

(b) that there is a separate Veterinary Inspector for the breeding of Dhanni cattle ;

(c) that a sum of about Rs. 6,000 excluding the Inspector's pay, etc., is annually spent on the breeding of Dhanni cattle from Provincial revenues ?

(ii) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(a) that the breeding of Hariana cattle is limited to Rohtak, Hissar, Gurgaon and Karnal Districts ;

(b) that there is no separate Veterinary man in charge of the breeding of the Hariana cattle ;

(c) that an annual sum of about Rs. 4,000 only is spent on the breeding of the Hariana cattle ?

(iii) (a) Is it a fact that the Hariana breed of cattle is exported to other Provinces as well as to foreign countries ?

(b) If so, what steps do the Government propose to encourage and preserve the Hariana breed of cattle ?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : (i) (a) The breeding of Dhanni cattle is carried on in the Gujar Khan Tahsil of the Rawalpindi District and part of the Fatehjang Tahsil of the Attock District as well as in the Talagang Tahsil of the latter district and the Chakwal Tahsil of the Jhelum District.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(ii) (a) The scheme for encouragement of the Hariana breed of cattle by District Boards with the assistance of Government, is confined to the Rohtak and Gurgaon Districts.

(b) Yes.

(c) Owing to financial stridency nothing has yet been contributed to the scheme except free maintenance for the young stock at the Hissar Cattle Farm. The Council is, however, being asked to sanction a provision of Rs. 4,000 for the purpose in the budget for 1924-25.

(iii) (a) There is a considerable demand from other Provinces, especially from the United Provinces for cattle of the Hariana breed ; but Government have no information as to export of the breed to foreign countries.

(b) Government have approved the scheme referred to in (ii) (a) above and are prepared as explained in (ii) (c) to assist with grants-in-aid as the financial situation improves.

SIMLA WATER SUPPLY.

53. **Lala Mohan Lal :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that there is always a scarcity of water in Simla during the months of April, May and June ?

[Lala Mohan Lal.]

(b) If the reply to the above be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state if the Municipal Committee of Simla undertook the Gumma Water Works Scheme with the sanction and approval of the Punjab Government and the Government of India to meet this scarcity and to provide more water for Sanitary and other purposes in Simla ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Municipal Committee of Simla is going to borrow 20 lakhs of rupees for carrying out this scheme ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the work in the Gumma Water Works was to be completed by April 1925, and the Simla public were to get additional water for their requirements after this date ?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Municipal Committee of Simla increased the water rate in Simla from 2 to 5 per cent. from January 1923, under the orders of the Punjab Government and the Government of India, to get an income to meet the current expenses of the Gumma Water Works Scheme, and gave the Simla public a definite understanding that they would get additional water supply by April 1925 ?

(f) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that they had agreed to supply the electric power for driving the Gumma Pumping Motors by April 1925 ?

(g) If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether they will supply the Municipal Committee of Simla the electric power as promised, and if not, will they be pleased to state by what date they will be in a position to do so ?

(h) If the Government are not in a position to supply the electric power by the date promised, will they be pleased to state if they will reimburse the Municipal Committee of Simla for any out-of-pocket expenses in connection with the scheme, until such time as they can supply the electric current, and order the Municipal Committee of Simla, to remit the increased water rate until such time ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain :

(a) Generally so, but not always. There was no scarcity in 1923.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) No.

(e) To the first part of this clause the reply is "yes". The second part is not clear. If the honourable member means to inquire whether the Simla Municipal Committee gave an understanding as to additional water supply under the orders of the Punjab Government and the Government of India the reply is "no".

(f) No.

(g) and (h) Do not arise.

ENTERTAINMENT OF COPYISTS AS GOVERNMENT SERVANTS ON TIME-SCALE.
OF PAY.

54. **Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** Will Government be pleased to state whether resolution No. 33, viz., that Copyists in District Offices be entertained as Government servants on Time-scale which was accepted by the

Retrenchment Committee (*vide Punjab Government Gazette*, dated 16th February 1928, Appendix C, page 165) has been given effect to by Government? If not, when does Government contemplate doing so?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The proposal was taken up and a scheme circulated for the views of Deputy Commissioners and Commissioners. On receipt of their opinions it was considered that the proposals would lead to extra expense, discontent and inefficiency and it was accordingly dropped.

GENERAL CONDITION OF ZAMINDARS OF BARANI VILLAGES IN THE HISSAR DISTRICT.

55. Chaudhri Sahibdad Khan : Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the total irrigated area (in acres) of the Hissar District and the ratio it bears to the total unirrigated area of the district ;
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the *barani* villages of the Hissar District have had poor crops during the last five years ;
- (c) Whether it is a fact that on account of the poor crops the Government had to suspend land revenue and advance *tagavi* ;
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the Hissar District is a tract with scanty and precarious rainfall ;
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the general condition of the Zamindars of *barani* villages in the Hissar District is not good especially since reductions in the Indian Army ;
- (f) Whether there is any scheme in contemplation for bettering the condition of the Zamindars of the Hissar District in the shape of the extension of irrigation known as Bhakra Dam Scheme? If so, when is it to come into operation?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

- (a) The total irrigated area of the Hissar District is 805,049 acres and unirrigated 2,458,123, the ratio being 1 to 8.
- (b) During the last five years, *viz.*, 1918-19 to 1922-23 the crops in *barani* villages were poor in 1918-19, 1920-21 and 1921-22. Crops in 1919-20 and 1922-23 were fairly good.
- (c) The answer is in the affirmative. It is a recognised feature of Hissar Land Revenue Policy that suspensions and *tagavi* should be freely given when required. Reference may be made to the last Settlement Report.
- (d) The answer is in the affirmative.
- (e) In view of the above answers it is clear that as a whole Zamindars in *barani* tracts in Hissar cannot be as well off as in non-favoured tracts. Certain classes formerly enlisted in the Army in large numbers are now enlisted in reduced numbers. This avenue of employment is therefore partly closed to the surplus population who are now forced to seek employment elsewhere. In this sense reductions in the Army have added to their difficulties.
- (f) A scheme called the Bhakra Dam Scheme is in contemplation but as decided by the Legislative Council at its session in August 1922, it will be taken up after the Thal Project. It is impossible to say definitely when the Bhakra Dam Scheme will come into operation.

FLOODS IN NUH, BALLABGARH AND PALWAL TAHSILS OF THE GURGAON DISTRICT.

56. Chaudhri Sahibdad Khan : (a) Is it a fact that in Nuh, Ballabgarh and Palwal Tahsils of the Gurgaon District water stands for miles together in the rainy season owing to huge floods of water ?

(b) If so, has the Government taken any steps within the last five years to utilise the flood water for irrigation purposes in these areas ?

(c) If the answer to (a) of this question is in the affirmative, does the Government propose to abate the evil by constructing *bunds* in proper places and thereby irrigating large tracts of land lying unirrigated ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : (a) Yes, in years of good rainfall particularly in Nuh and much less so in Ballabgarh and Palwal.

(b) and (c). The district contains 35 *bunds*, the control of which has been entrusted temporarily to the Drainage Board, who are completing local surveys, repairing such of the *bunds* as require repairs and collecting data with a view to submitting proposals to Government for the betterment of this area.

WATER SUPPLY IN NUH TAHSIL.

57. Chaudhri Sahibdad Khan : (a) Is it a fact that generally speaking water is brackish in the Nuh Tahsil ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to provide facilities, *e. g.*, boring and other expedients, for the Zamindars of the said tahsil to find sweet water ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Enquiries are being made from the local authorities ; a further reply will be furnished later.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE GURGAON DISTRICT.

58. Chaudhri Sahibdad Khan : Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact :—

(i) That the Gurgaon District rendered meritorious services during the war ?

(ii) That the Zamindar population of the district is comparatively poor, and that large tracts of land are lying uncultivated in the district ?

(iii) If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to appoint a small committee of experts to go into the question of the general development of the district and to suggest proper remedies among other things :—

(a) Plantation of trees on the arid hills reserving, however, suitable portions of this hill land for cultivation ;

(b) Constructing *bunds* and utilizing flood water for irrigation purposes ;

(c) Utilizing large tracts of land for pasturage purposes and converting them into cattle breeding tracts by providing the Zamindars with necessary facilities for achieving this object ;

(d) Extension of irrigation by means of tube-well ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

- (i) Yes.
- (ii) Yes.
- (iii) Government is not prepared to appoint a committee of experts as proposed because the obstacles in the way of development are mainly financial and it is more convenient to obtain the advice of experts in each of the subjects referred to separately.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECOND CANE RESEARCH STATION IN THE CANAL COLONIES.

59. Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai : Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the report of the Indian Sugar Committee, page 76, recommending that a second cane research station of some 200 acres should be established in the interests of the cane-growers in the canal colonies ?

If so, has the Government taken any steps to establish such a research station ? If not, will the Government be pleased to state why no such steps have been taken up to this time ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The recommendation has been brought to the notice of Government, but cannot be adopted as funds are not available for equipping and staffing the research station proposed.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOVERNMENT SUGAR FACTORY IN ROHTAK OR KARNAL DISTRICT.

60. Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai : Is it a fact that possibilities of establishing a Government Central Sugar Factory in the Rohtak District have been under consideration of the Government ?

If so, what has been the result of all this consideration and the recommendation of the Indian Sugar Committee to establish a Government Pioneer Sugar Factory in the Rohtak or Karnal District ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Yes.

This Government is not in a position to establish the suggested Pioneer Sugar Factory. The Central Government to whom the recommendation appears to have been addressed has not as yet communicated its views to this Government.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh, Urban) : Sir, I beg leave to move for an adjournment of the business of the Council to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the situation created in the Punjab by the shooting of a large number of Akalis, British subjects, at Jaito on 21st February 1924.

Mr. President : Honourable members are aware that when it is intended to ask for leave to make a motion for an adjournment of the business of the Council, the member so intending has to hand to the President beforehand a written statement of the matter proposed to be discussed. I received notice of two motions in identical terms at 1-30 P.M. yesterday and at my request the members proposing to ask leave kindly consented to let the matter stand over until to-day in order to give me time to form a considered opinion.

[Mr. President.]

as to whether the motion would be in order. There were obvious reasons tending to a decision unfavourable to the admission of the motion, but at the same time I wished as far as I possibly could do so to uphold the privileges of the House and the last thing I wished to do was to stifle legitimate discussion. I have twice seen the honourable members, who gave notice of the intended motion and I have explained to them the difficulties arising from articles 44 and 104. The intention of the rules clearly is that the affairs of Native States should not be discussed in this Council. It has to be considered therefore how the discussion which it is proposed to raise can be carried out without infringing the rules, and I asked the honourable members to give me in outline how they proposed to conduct the discussion. Their reply centres on the action past and future of the Punjab Government in respect of Jathas, what Government will do to ease the existing situation and their fear that if nothing is done certain events may be repeated. Such matters, in so far as discussion thereon might remain in order, merely deal, it seems to me, with one aspect of the question raised by the proposed motion, and the more I have considered the subject the more I feel that the real situation in the Punjab which it is proposed to discuss is something quite exceeding the limits which the honourable members would have to observe during the debate they propose to raise. The whole situation especially in the only aspect in which it can form proper matter for a motion for adjournment, namely, the recent definite occurrence and the urgency of the case, really centres round Jaito and cannot be discussed in anything approaching completeness without bringing in the affairs of and the administration of a Native State. I feel that every line of argument leads sooner or later to Jaito and to attempt to discuss the Punjab situation entirely apart from the rights and wrongs of the policy and events and possible impending events at Jaito is impossible. Discussions on such matters are outside the scope of this Council and cannot be permitted by the Chair. In other words, it is not possible for the Chair to permit a real discussion of the situation in the Punjab as it has been created by the recent events at Jaito and to permit a fractional discussion is mere evasion of this difficulty. I asked the honourable members if they could re-word the motion so as to get over this difficulty. They did not suggest any solution and indeed such solution would in my opinion be hard to find because if you eliminate Jaito you at once eliminate the one fact which gives the matter the definiteness and urgency which are essential conditions. I am with reluctance therefore compelled to say that the motion is in my opinion out of order and therefore cannot be allowed. I do this with added regret because I feel that it would be expedient in every way that the Council should be in a position to give Government the benefit of their views on this difficult situation which has arisen and because I would have wished to avoid any feeling of soreness on the part of Sikh members I can only assure them that if I could have held the motion in order I would have done so.

(Some members then rose up and cried protest.)

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, on behalf of Government I shall explain to the House that Government has no desire to prevent a discussion on the Sikh question within the limits of the rules of procedure and standing orders of the House.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, is the honourable member permitted to make a statement ?

Mr. President : Yes.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, I was about to say when the honourable member interrupted me.....

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Are other honourable members also permitted to make statements ?

Mr. President. That is a hypothetical question.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, I was about to say that the object of the Government is to allow full discussion in so far as it may be possible within the limits of the authorised procedure of this House. I should like to say with the permission of the Chair that it is my intention, if any member presents a resolution which is within the limits permitted by the rules of the House to set aside a Government day for the discussion of it. (Hear, hear.)

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh, Urban) : Sir, the discussion of this question whether it is presented in the form of an adjournment motion or a resolution can only be carried on within the limits laid down by the rules. It has been suggested by the Honourable the Finance Member that if a resolution is proposed which is not against the rules then it will be considered. I confess that it is hard for me to find such a hypothetical resolution, which will give us a real occasion for discussion. In the resolution I sent in certain lines were cut out which alone will allow us an opportunity to discuss the action of the executive Government in declaring certain bodies unlawful. If every resolution of ours is to be disallowed simply because it relates to a certain course of action in accordance with the necessities arising in a foreign state, then our difficulty is how to frame a resolution which will not be open to this objection and at the same time allow us an opportunity to discuss the action taken by the Government. The Honourable the President has said that the resolution cannot be discussed in anything approaching completeness without bringing in the affairs of the administration of Native States, in other words the Nabha affairs, and that partial discussion will not be permitted. That is a position that you cannot conceivably find. . . .

Mr. President : This is all somewhat out of order. The honourable members is not permitted to discuss the subject, but the position is this : if the honourable member can bring forward anything which is within the rules there will be no difficulty. If he cannot, then I am afraid he is in an unfortunate position and that cannot be helped. We must proceed to the next business.

NON-OFFICIAL RESOLUTIONS.

RESOLUTION RE RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Chaudhri Saadullah Khan : I beg leave to postpone the consideration of my resolution.*

Mr. President : The honourable member has not moved the resolution at all. If he moves it and then moves for an adjournment giving some reasons for the same which must arise in connection with the debates itself, then it can be considered.

Chaudhri Saadullah Khan : I do not want to move the resolution.

A similar resolution* standing in the name of Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan was also not moved.

* This Council recommends to the Government that residential quarters with two meeting rooms be built in Lahore as soon as possible for the use of members of the Punjab Legislative Council.

**RESOLUTION RE THE CIRCULAR OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
RELATING TO THE VERNACULAR FINAL EXAMINATION.**

Pandit Nanak Chand [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadian), Rural]
(Urdu) :—

Sir, I beg to move the following resolution :—

“ This Council recommends to the Government that the Director of Public Instruction's Circular No. 10, dated the 6th of April 1923, enforcing Vernacular Final Examination with English as optional subject for students from unrecognised schools, or boys that have not previously attended any school, seeking admission into the 9th class of a recognised school, be withdrawn.”

Before making any statement as to what untoward results will ensue if the Circular referred to is not withdrawn, I consider it necessary to explain to the House the practice previously in force.

There are at present two kinds of schools in the Province, namely, recognised and unrecognised. Under the previous system if a student from an unrecognised school was desirous of seeking admission to the 9th class of a recognised school, he was simply required to pass the Headmaster's test which was considered to be sufficient for the purpose. And sufficient, no doubt, it was and in my opinion far better than a collective test can be. The reason is obvious. The Headmaster is the responsible head of his school. He is naturally anxious that his school should produce best results and as such he cannot be expected to admit a student who is below the mark. This was not all. The previous system provided that if any Headmaster by mistake or error of judgment happened to admit a student in his school, who was afterwards, found to be incapable and unable to pull on with the class, the Inspector concerned could have that student removed from the school. That system was in no way defective and all will agree when I say that it worked satisfactorily for so many years.

But under the system intended to be introduced according to the circular the Headmasters have been left with no power. On the other hand this system requires that students from unrecognised Anglo-Vernacular Schools should pass the Vernacular Final Examination with English as an elective subject before they could be admitted to the 9th class of a recognised school. If any one cares to study closely the wording of the circular, of course, with his mind unprejudiced, he will find for himself what impediments this system is likely to place in the way of the progress of education.

The courses of study in the Vernacular Schools being greatly different from those of the Anglo-vernacular Schools, most of the students from the unrecognised Anglo-vernacular Schools will fail to get a pass in the Vernacular Final Examination and consequently will have to wait at least for another year to achieve their desired end. The result will be to inflict a blow at private unrecognised schools and then at private enterprise in education. If it is contended that the private unrecognised schools should apply for recognition to avoid this unnecessary hardship, I would, in reply, say that it is very difficult to please the whims and idiosyncracies of the different types of Inspectors and cases are numerous where schools have remained unrecognised for years together in spite of the efforts of managing bodies of those schools.

If all the private schools are not recognised as they cannot be as a matter of course and the circular is also not withdrawn the private enterprise will be discouraged. The beneficent activities which are no longer con-

fined to a particular class or area and are permeating the masses will receive a set back and the enthusiasm now prevailing will subside. No one will be prepared to come forward with liberal donations as before and in course of time private enterprise will give way, and if it so happens one cannot guess rightly what will be the state of education in this already backward Province. An extract as given below from the "Report on the progress of Education in the Punjab" will show what remarkable results have been achieved in education during the last six years. "If the figures of last year's report are combined with those of 1922-23 and comparison is made between the year 1916-17 and the past year the results are remarkable. The figures are :—

	<i>Muhammadans.</i>	<i>Hindus.</i>	<i>Sikhs.</i>
1916-17 ..	169,849	177,201	53,882
1921-22 ..	241,743	212,005	76,373
1922-23 ..	334,212	251,766	88,461

This table shows that while Sikh pupils have increased during the past six years by 64·2 per cent. and Hindus by 42·1 per cent. and the number of Muhammadans has increased during the same period by 96·7 per cent., it cannot be ignored that private enterprise has had due share in the achievement of these results and an eloquent tribute is paid to that effect on another page of the same "Report." In the face of these facts it is not understood why private enterprise is going to be stifled. On page 23 of the same publication it is reported that "The masses have begun to clamour for Anglo-vernacular Schools in the villages." It is strange that quite contrary to that demand the people are being discouraged to open new schools at their own costs and stranger yet when Government, on account of financial stringency, cannot afford to provide the masses with new schools. To prove that the public is prepared to spend any amount of money and labour required for the expansion of education I would like to quote one or two examples.

Some years ago there was only a primary school in my own village. Recently the inhabitants of that village felt the necessity for raising the school to the middle standard. With that object in view they approached the Deputy Commissioner of their district and requested him to have the standard of their school raised. Money being not available, the Deputy Commissioner could not accede to their wishes. What they did is really praiseworthy. They made up their mind to open a school and started to collect a sufficient amount of money to start the school though in a small building. For three or four years they had to run the school in that small building, but the idea never left them that a better building was required, and at last they succeeded in having a spacious building for their school, for a public-spirited gentleman offered them a piece of land, 4 acres in area, for the purpose, and a good and beautiful building was erected.

The second example is that of a village near my own village. There too a prosperous school is being run purely through the efforts of the villagers.

Another noteworthy point is that the issue of the said circular has given rise to discontent and dissatisfaction amongst the educationists of all shades of opinion. Nearly all the Headmasters of different private schools have in their meeting at different places, recorded their protests against this circular. At a meeting convened at Montgomery under the presidency of Chaudhri

[Pandit Nanak Chand.]

Shahab-ud-Din a resolution protesting against the circular was unanimously passed. Hindu societies too have raised their voice against the proposed system. And if any regard is paid to the voice of the general public, as it ought to be paid, the circular should be withdrawn forthwith. For my part I would not doubt, for a minute, the sincerity of the Government, but I may say that in some quarters the people have begun to apprehend that the Government is anxious to put a stop to further expansion of education. If it is not possible for Government to introduce compulsory education at this stage, why should it hesitate to grant a sufficient latitude to the public to look after their own needs?

My next point is that holding of public examinations for the boys of lower classes is a burden which they are unfit to bear, and that is why the old system of Primary and Middle University Examination had been abolished. In this connection I would like to state a bit of my experience of the Oxford University where I had the good fortune to study. The system regarding the admission of students in that University is that those who are desirous of seeking admission are examined with a view to finding out whether they would be able to understand the courses of study taught therein. They are not so much required to produce certificates and Degrees. No one will say that that system has deteriorated the standard of education in that University.

We ought not to lose sight of the consideration that variety is the spice of life. Supposing for a minute that all the schools have been recognised the result will be a uniformity all over and it is much if it said that that uniformity would retard the progress in education.

I do not assert that there are no defects in the previous system but the remedy adopted is not the right one. The Director should have called a meeting of the prominent educationists and discussed the matters with them and I am sure proper remedy must have been found out.

One more point and I would have finished. The system that is being introduced is most detrimental to the interests of the agriculturists and rural population which cannot have access to the recognised schools so easily as the townspeople. It would be injustice, pure and simple, if their interests are overlooked. The girls' education which is still in its infancy will suffer most of all.

Taking into consideration the few points I have raised, I think the Director should have no hesitation in withdrawing his circular.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That this Council recommends to the Government that the Director of Public Instruction's Circular No. 10, dated 6th of April 1923, enforcing Vernacular Final Examination with English as optional subject for students from unrecognised schools or boys that have not previously attended any school, seeking admission into the 9th class of a recognised school, be withdrawn."

Diwan Naranjan Das [Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Division North (Non-Muhammadan), Bural] (Urdu): Sir, the circular under discussion was issued in April 1923 and since then I had been trying to find out the reasons that led to the enforcement of so strange a circular, but all in vain. I should indeed be grateful to the Secretary of this Council who provided me with the book "Report on the Progress of Education in the Punjab." The contents of page 78 of the book disclose the reason for the circular, and say that the unrecognised schools produce a bad effect on the discipline of the department. In order to remove this defect a circular of this nature

was issued which amounts to the strangling of private educational enterprise. It is a curious circular apparently intended to keep up the discipline, but is really a death blow to the unrecognised schools. In the very first Chapter of the book much has been said on the general progress the Province has made in education. We feel gratified and look upon the achievements of the department with satisfaction. This progress, however, is due more to the private institutions which can be proved by the facts and figures given on page 2 of this book. In 1922 there were 6,756 recognised schools in the Province, and in 1923 the number increased to 7,542 which shows an excess of 784 schools. Likewise the number of unrecognised schools was 2,148 in 1922 and it rose to 2,578 in 1923 which means an increase of 425 schools. From these figures it is obvious that the proportion of private institutions as compared with recognised schools is about one-third, but the progress the former have made is about double that shown by the latter. It may be said that this progress may have created some misapprehensions in the mind of the Director of Public Instruction that he therefore wished the failure of the unrecognised schools in the hope of expecting a number of recognised schools springing up in their stead. I do not believe this could be the object. This jealousy can only be attributed to two motives; first that these private institutions may not excel the recognised ones, secondly that the unrecognised schools may not support the non-co-operation movement. In my opinion both motives are not healthy and everybody in touch with this problem should try for the expansion of education in the Punjab. Now it is admitted in the book referred to above that non-co-operation movement with regard to schools was dead. In spite of untiring efforts in this direction there are only 6 per cent. male literates and 1 per cent. female literate in the province, hence I would strongly request every one in the Punjab to leave no stone unturned for improving the educational status of the province. If the circular is not withdrawn students of unrecognised schools will remain under the impression that they will have to lose one year by subjecting themselves to an examination and so they will not willingly join such institutions. In rural areas they may be too far from recognised schools with the result that they will be deprived of the benefits of education.

Moreover it has always been the policy of the Education Department to hold as few examinations as possible. The examinations of lower and upper primary classes and middle classes were one after another discontinued. Now again another examination has been introduced between the middle and the matriculation examinations which would certainly be detrimental to educational progress and policy. As every community has strongly protested against the circular I hope the Director of Public Instruction will withdraw it.

Sir George Anderson (Director of Public Instruction): Sir, I am grateful to the honourable mover of this resolution for having brought this most important matter before this Council, for there is, I fear, much misunderstanding which I hope to remove. I am also glad, Sir, that I have been fortunate enough to catch your eye at this early stage of the debate because I am keenly anxious to explain to the Council within my limited powers of exposition, what I consider to be the real problem at issue.

The problem, Sir, is a far wider one, infinitely more difficult and infinitely more complex than has been suggested by the honourable mover. I fear that in his speech he has scarcely touched the fringe of this most complicated

[Sir George Anderson.]

and difficult problem. I feared that this would be so. I read only yesterday in a paper that the honourable mover has sent out an appeal throughout the length and breadth of this province in which, after certain remarks to which I shall allude later, he asked to be provided with useful information. In what respects is the information to be useful? Useful, for the preparation of his case; or useful for the thorough and earnest study of a difficult educational problem?

I shall now refer to a few remarks of the honourable mover. First of all, he has spoken about the danger of this circular killing private enterprise. What an amazing statement! The circular does not touch the vast proportion of recognised schools, except indirectly by way of assistance, but yet we are told that the circular will kill private enterprise. What I would like to know rather is the reason why these schools did not desire inspection and recognition? Through the kind co-operation of Pandit Mohan Chand of Jullundur, Bakhshi Ram Ratan, Professor Devi Dyal, Mr. Rallia Ram, M. Muhammad Din, Rai Sahib Raghunath Sahai and others, these schools now desire inspection and have asked for recognition. (Hear, hear).

The honourable mover then proceeded to say that the greatest sufferers on account of this circular would be the poor and the agricultural classes. I do not understand this statement. I should have thought that the vernacular middle schools would have been more useful to them, but I do not desire to interfere with the decision of the authorities. In this connection I would say that my heart also warms towards the poor. My heart also warms towards the agriculturists in remote villages. This circular enables the agricultural boy to kill two useful birds with one stone. First, it enables . . .

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Do we kill two useful birds?

Sir George Anderson : Yes, the first bird is admission to the High School. The second bird has not been referred to. It is a great concession which has been allowed; admission to the Vernacular Final Examination, which is the admission qualification to the Normal Schools.

My honourable friends keep on asking me why we do not employ more agriculturists in our village schools. This is one of the objects of the circular, which enables these boys to enter the normal schools without any further test. They will also be eligible for other suitable occupations. I am a little nervous of speaking on this matter with the Financial Commissioner in front of me, but I understand that this examination is also qualification for the posts of patwari and for other suitable forms of occupation.

My friend then goes on to say that these schools are located in remote villages where, owing to the financial stringency, there are no District Board or Government Schools. That is not always so. I should have thought that he would have obtained more information on this aspect of the question. As a matter of fact, I have a file before me which shows that, in many cases, there is already a District Board School.

Pandit Nanak Chand : There is no District Board Middle School in the village to which I referred.

Sir George Anderson : That may sometimes be the case. I cannot go into each of these cases. The real point at issue is not, as has been suggested, the encouragement or the discouragement of education. If that were the issue, we could close the debate at once and all vote for the encouragement of education. Again, the issue is not between the continuance or the discontinuance of the circular. If the circular is cancelled, we shall have to try and find some other suitable solution of this problem.

The problem really is how best to provide for the regulation of admissions to the 9th class. In this connection, I am afraid that I must weary the Council for a few minutes by reminding it of the classification of schools which, in the course of ordinary expansion, has become much more varied in order to suit the varying needs of a large number of categories of schools. There are first of all the primary schools with the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes, which may either be separate primary schools or primary departments of secondary schools. But these classes need not detain us at this stage. There are then the middle schools with 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th classes and these are of five types:—the middle classes of high schools; the Anglo-vernacular middle schools; the vernacular middle schools; the vernacular middle schools with optional English; and now there is the fifth category of unrecognised schools which are not open, or were not open, to inspection.

The problem then is a very difficult one. How are we to bring the boys from these five varying categories of schools to our great educational junction, the 9th class of high schools? That is the problem; and I may assure this Council that it is a very difficult problem, the satisfactory solution of which is vital and fundamental to the satisfactory progress of secondary education. There are two very important aspects of this problem to which I am astonished that the hon'ble mover has not alluded. First of all, we must consider the satisfactory teaching of the 9th class. If the 9th class is recruited indiscriminately and without sufficient care and supervision from these five categories, then there is a very serious danger of the 9th class ceasing to be a class at all. It will become a mere collection of discordant units with the result that all class teaching will become impossible; there will be chaos; and there will be a breakdown of the whole system. The second objective is to arrange for the fair and reasonable treatment for each of these five categories of schools in obtaining admission to the 9th class. I will not labour the point, but we have to consider all interests; for example, the interests of boys already involved in the school. We do not want their work to be embarrassed by an indiscriminate admission of boys into the class. On the other hand, we need to be strictly fair to each of the other four categories. If, for example, the vernacular final is taken by the boys of the vernacular school, is it unreasonable that it should be taken also by boys from these unrecognised Anglo-vernacular Schools?

Our main objectives then are the satisfactory treatment of the 9th class and a fair treatment to each of the five categories of schools. There are two solutions to this problem, so far as I can see. The first solution is to institute a public examination for all boys at the middle stage. This solution is advocated by a large number of eminent and experienced educationists who have some forceful arguments in their support. There is, they say, a Vernacular Final Examination on the vernacular side, why should there not be a Middle Examination on the Anglo-vernacular side also? They also argue that there was such an examination some year's ago; and that since the abandonment of that examination there has been rapid deterioration.

I am very doubtful, however, whether such an examination would be really a fair test for the admission of so large a number of boys. (Hear hear). My honourable friend is thus in agreement with me that this solution is inadvisable. Therefore, we come to the second solution which both he and I favour that we should support the existing system of dependence on recognition and inspection. By recognition and by inspection we test

[Sir George Anderson.]

the school rather than the individual, and the testing of the individuals can then be safely left to the Headmaster. The Headmaster has much to guide him. He has information about the schools from which the boys come. He knows that promotions are properly supervised; what subjects they have been taught and the methods of teaching by which they have taught. It is thus a comparatively easy matter to admit the boys. But now we come to the main point. The whole system breaks down, or at any rate is in danger of breaking down, if there are a large number of unrecognised schools which are not open to inspection. The Headmasters of unrecognised schools have not that information which is essential; they know nothing about the schools; they know nothing about the standards of each class; and thus they are helpless in admitting these boys. Therefore, to meet these emergencies, this circular (which has largely been misunderstood) was issued, which permits the boys of these unrecognised Anglo-vernacular Schools to go in for the Vernacular Final Examination.

I would now assure the honourable mover that every encouragement is being given to those schools which have applied for inspection and recognition. I trust that what I am going to say will satisfy his requirements. Through the co-operation of my friends, whose names I have already mentioned, a vast majority of these schools have asked for inspection and have applied for recognition. That is the first point gained. I should like to express my gratitude to my friends for the very valuable co-operation they have given. In the next place, as they have told me, the department has gone more than half way in meeting the desire of these schools to receive inspection and recognition. I have informed Inspectors that they can send up cases for recognition of schools at any time during the year instead of, in accordance with the usual practice, sending them in the month of May of each year. A large number of such applications have been forwarded and have been accepted. In respect to a large proportion of the vernacular schools, I have informed Inspectors that they are at liberty, on their own authority, to sanction provisional recognition. Enquiries have been made; and I find that 18 schools in the Hoshiarpur District have been forwarded for recognition. This letter arrived yesterday, and my honourable friend can peruse the letter if he likes

Pandit Nanak Chand : Our information is derived from a common source. These are my informants too.

Sir George Anderson : This letter was posted on the 20th; and it was sent to the Inspector in camp and arrived yesterday. I cannot claim to have read this letter very carefully, but I trust that orders will be passed on Thursday. So far as I can see, a large number of these schools will receive provisional recognition. There may still remain a few schools. In order that the pupils shall not be penalised, I have suggested to Inspectors that they should make arrangements for the testing of these boys. As I was anxious to explain this matter as clearly as I could, I fear that I have taken up much of the time of the Council. I trust that the information and the explanation that I have given will meet the wishes of the honourable mover; and that he will see his way to withdraw his resolution. If the resolution is not withdrawn, I trust that it will be defeated.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh, Urban] : Sir, I am sorry that in spite of the able arguments of our eminent Director of Public Instruction, I must still oppose him. In the first place, the evil complained of was observed in one division only but the circular has upset the Headmasters of all the

divisions. In the second place if there was any evil, I may say that this circular is no remedy for it because every Headmaster (I think our eminent Director of Public Instruction would see in the circular) every Headmaster can admit these boys two months before the examination into the 8th class and examine them and promote them to the 9th class. There is nothing in the circular to prevent that. Therefore the remedy that has been proposed is no remedy and the agitation that it has raised has been raised by the department for nothing. But I object to the circular on principle. I am glad to see that the Director of Public Instruction has assured us to-day that the arms of the department are wide open for the recognition of the private schools but I am sorry to point out that some of his Inspectors, according to the old adage "It is hard for an Ethiopian to change his skin," have not changed their hearts as yet. I was going to bring to his notice privately the case of the Khalsa High School at Sahiwal that was opened in 1917 and the question of whose recognition is still hanging fire. When the honourable members of this House hear the whole history of that recognition they will be simply astonished to know how these things are being done in the Province. The school was started with all the ten classes but there was a Municipal Board Middle School in that place. Then the Inspector wrote to the managers of the schools to say that if they dropped the first eight classes their recognition would be considered. I have the whole correspondence in my hand for reference if need be. The Managers just to have the recognition agreed to this.

Then the question of building came in. I am glad the building plans have now been revised and instead of one lakh and twenty-five thousand that we used to spend on buildings we have now to spend something like sixty thousand. But in this case we were required to build first class building and the poor Sikhs of that place in order to please the authorities managed for that building also. Do you know what happened after four years? What was the reply given by the Inspector to the managers of the school? It was this: "I am sorry I cannot recommend for the permanent recognition of the school, because the number of Sikhs in this school is very small and there is no need of Khalsa School," as if the Khalsas cannot establish schools for the benefit of other communities. Sir, this step-motherly attitude of some Inspectors was responsible for so many schools remaining unrecognised.

Sir, that is not the only thing on which I want to base my opposition. I want to oppose the circular on principle. Our eminent Director of Public Instruction has proposed a problem for the members of the Council to solve. He says there are five sorts of middle schools, and if no examination is established, the system will break down.

Sir George Anderson : I did not say that.

Sardar Jodh Singh : I am sorry if I misunderstood.

Sir George Anderson : I said that was one, I did not say that is the only solution.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Then I think I caught your words wrongly. Sir, the Director of Public Instruction says that this is one solution. But may I ask whether any *garbar* has been reported in the ninth class by the Headmasters themselves? Sir, the circular itself contains the remedy that is being sought. Perhaps the Director of Public Instruction has not been able to find it out. I feel that things hidden from wise men are revealed unto babes. The circular says that in the case of the recognised schools, the Headmasters' test is sufficient to promote the boys to the ninth class. My

[Sardar Jodh Singh.]

I ask, why that test fails if a boy presents himself to the Headmaster of a high school and says: 'Sir I was privately educated. Please examine me and admit me to the ninth class if I am found fit.'? Why is that Headmaster's test considered to be insufficient in the case of students who were not educated in that school or in a recognised school? I confess, Sir, that I am against the test of collective examination being held superior to the test of a single Headmaster. The departmental examination which is proposed as a remedy is far inferior from the educational point of view. For, the examiners who examine the boys do not know the students and they do not care for them, whereas in the case of boys coming to a recognised high school, the Headmaster who is responsible will be able to examine the students more thoroughly and if there are any shortcomings he can see whether those could be made up within the next year and the boy will not lose a year, and therefore I say that the general test is not a better system than the Headmaster's test which is already being applied in the case of high schools.

The second thing, Sir, is that the Director of Public Instruction has pointed out that if a boy passes that test he will be able to become a patwari, he will be able to join a Normal School. But, Sir, I want to point out that the boys who join the Anglo-vernacular schools join with their eyes open and they intend to go for higher education. Why was the middle school examination abolished? It was abolished only in the case of Anglo-vernacular schools and not in the case of Vernacular schools, because Vernacular schools mark a definite stage in the system of our education. We prepare those boys not only to become teachers, we prepare them for patwaris. But in the case of Anglo-vernacular schools, the students want to go up for the Matriculation or the School Final Leaving Certificate Examination. Therefore it was considered that in the case of those boys who went to study further in the school, the test of the Headmaster was better and that should be substituted for the general examination.

From the educational point of view, Sir, therefore, I consider the circular to be a great set back to the system.

I have a second objection to the circular from another point of view. I have not thoroughly studied this aspect yet, because it was only lately that I received the departmental report, but I have gone through it sufficiently for the purpose of this debate. (Hear, hear.) Sir, I may point out that the department has very rightly changed its method of inspection. I was really delighted to read in this report Mr. Sanderson's note on the inspection of schools. As pointed out by the Director of Public Instruction, inspection is mainly to test the efficiency of a school and not the individual merit of the students. This principle was enunciated years back, when the Headmasters were authorised to promote the boys of their own schools. But somehow or other these Inspectors are such a lot that they will not let the Headmasters do so, and slowly and steadily, I find, they are giving a set back to this principle. What do the Inspectors do? They continue to test the ability of individual scholars. I have been told that there was a great outcry in the villages against Headmasters extorting money from the parents of the students. That may be, I do not deny it. (A voice: You ought to know as a Headmaster. You must have knowledge of corruption.) My knowledge, Sir, is from the Honourable Minister for Education (Hear, hear.) We had a discussion on this subject and an interchange of views. Well, Sir, there might be some black sheep among the Headmasters, but instead of remedy-

ing this evil, the Inspectors want to take upon themselves the responsibility of testing every individual student. What will be the result of this? We will be asked in the next budget to increase the number of Inspectors, (Hear, hear) they are not sufficient for testing the individual students of all schools. (A voice: Yes, yes.) I therefore protest against this. I think the department in some sane moments of its existence did a right thing by entrusting promotion to Headmasters and the Inspectors are now changing the system in their own interests, in order that they may increase their number. I say they should not take back the power which has been given to Headmasters.

Sir, as I have already pointed out the remedy is clear. If a student who has read in an unrecognised school or privately wants admission in a recognised school, the Headmaster of that school can examine him and admit him if found fit. It is not for the department to say, 'No, our hallmark is not there; therefore you should not take this boy into your school.'

Mr. President: Time is up. I would ask the honourable member to bring his remarks to a close.

Sardar Jodh Singh: So, Sir I protest against this circular and request all the members of the Council to bear the higher educational interest of the Province in view and solidly vote against this circular, and if there is any real evil and the department wants to remedy that, the plan has been proposed by the honourable mover himself. Let them convene a conference of people who are interested in education and find out the way to remedy the evil which is supposed to exist in the educational system.

Chaudhri Duli Chand [Karnal (Non-Muhammadian), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I am strongly opposed to this resolution. Being a Headmaster of a school I know and appreciate the situation because I daily admit students to the 9th class. It is alleged that

the circular in question will prove harmful to the zamindar population. I am unable to agree to it. I should say that the circular will, in the long run, be a boon to all. The unrecognised schools will have a chance to become recognised and in that respect they will be in a position to earn Government grant-in-aid. Perhaps our urban members are growing jealous as to the grants-in-aid which are likely to be earned by the village schools. If the circular continues to be in force, private schools will improve.

At present private village schools, which are unrecognised owing to their inefficiency, generally do not produce better educated men. They generally turn out patwaris and so on. It is contended that the community of Hindus do not wish its unrecognised schools to be placed under the purview of the circular. On this point I beg to differ. If the Hindu community consists of only 10 per cent. of urban population the contention may be a weighty one. But I can assure the House that 90 per cent. of the population of villagers do not find themselves against the circular. This 90 per cent. is comprised of Jats, Gujars, Rors, Ahirs, Rajputs, Sainis and others. They have never raised their voice against it. Now let us turn to the question of admission to the 9th class. There are five classes of boys who seek admission into the 9th class (1) the boys who come from the 8th class of a High School, (2) those who come from Urdu middle schools where English is optional, (3) those who read in the Anglo-vernacular middle schools, (4) the boys who leave unrecognised schools, and (5) those private students who study at their homes. As to the admission of the first class of boys it is the Headmaster who is responsible because the boys come from recognised schools.

[Chaudhri Duli Chand.]

In the case of the second class there is a provision in the Education Code that a student can be admitted after a test and this procedure is generally acted upon. As to the 3rd class, no question arises, the same test can safely be applied in their cases too. Now remain the 4th and 5th classes of boys.

My argument is this that these private schoolboys should not be admitted into the 9th class at all. They come from schools which have got no good educational arrangements. In those schools there is no chance of improving the social aspect of life owing to the lack of debating societies, playgrounds and dramatic conversations, etc. They generally acquire a kind of secular instruction, there being no discipline, no inspection of their work and attendance. If there happens to be a couple of schools in a village one of them being a recognised one and the other an unrecognised one, then there is a possibility of great inconvenience. Let us suppose that two boys read in the 8th class of a recognised school. One of them gets admission into the 9th class of an unrecognised school by means fair or unfair, the second boy also tries to get admission into that school regardless of the fact that his education will be spoiled. On the other hand when a boy comes to a recognised school from an unrecognised one he is generally found much below the mark and the result is that the efficiency of the class is affected. Let us take an instance. Formerly the examination results of the old Jat School of Rohtak when it was recognised were about 85 per cent., now owing to its disaffiliation in pursuance of the non-co-operation movement, they have fallen low. Let me mention a specific instance. A boy of this school came to me for getting admission into my school. He was a student of the 2nd year class of a National College but when I tested him he was found hardly fit for the 9th class. Such is the state of education in the private institutions. These unrecognised schools are a source of detriment to educational purposes. Another point is this that the Headmasters of the aided schools make efforts to add to their number of boys so that they may be able to earn more grant, because the grant-in-aid is, as a rule, given on the average number of students. In future, thanks to the valuable efforts of the Honourable Mian Sahib, the rights of the backward communities will also be kept in view. Now when the number of students swells, it contains a great deal of ordinary stuff and results are affected to a great extent.

The admission of students of low qualifications causes a great deal of harm to the efficiency of Government schools, because the boys who read in schools managed by non-official bodies, do not possess the required qualifications owing to the fact that some of them get admission into higher classes by means of a recommendation made by a member of the managing committee.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari (Non-official, nominated): Are not the recognised schools to whom grants are made under the management of the managing committee? The honourable member's argument applies with more force to these schools.

Chaudhri Duli Chand (continued in Urdu): Private students generally belong to the *Rais* class where tutors are engaged to coach students. These tutors try hard to approach the authorities of schools in order to get their pupils admitted into some higher class and thus earn a big tuition fee. Moreover many students, whose parents are influential, get through their examinations. The schools, which show their examination results as 88 per cent., generally contain such boys as I have mentioned

above. It is alleged that the University examinations are rather stiff. My submission is that the University only tests the ability of students in accordance with a fixed standard. We cannot attribute any stiffness to the University. Produce a better class of students and the results will naturally become good. The circular issued by the Director of Public Instruction is very beneficial to those who understand the real aspect of the things. A clever boy can always sit in the test and education is meant for clever and diligent students, not for those who do not care for their studies. Moreover the circular makes a provision for unrecognised schools to become recognised ones. Formerly the Headmasters of unrecognised schools made complaints as to the state of affairs; but now when that provision has been made they are still dissatisfied. According to the system which prevails at Oxford, the Primary and Middle tests are recommended in the circular. I think the test for the Primary Schools is highly useful. It must be enforced. I support the circular with all my power. I know school work and school education. I am fully conversant with the state of school admissions, because I admit students almost daily into my school. I strongly appeal to the rural members of this House that they should not raise their voice against the circular because it is very useful to the rural community.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din [Sialkot (Muhammadans), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I cannot claim the same experience which my friend Chaudhri Duli Chand naturally possesses. Yet I oppose very strongly, though with some reluctance, the resolution put forward by Pandit Nanak Chand. Before entering into a discussion of the resolution in question, I wish to make my position clear in connection with a discussion which took place at Montgomery in the month of October 1928 when the Provincial Muhammadan Educational Conference was held there under my presidency. There a resolution was passed to the effect that the Director of Public Instruction's circular was likely to prove very harmful.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: Was it put from the chair? (laughter).

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din (Urdu): Many a resolution was passed there without discussion for want of time. Apart from that one—one should not hesitate to change his opinion in the light of changed facts. Now I proceed to say a few words on the resolution itself.

The speeches of the honourable mover and the Director of Public Instruction have not made the position quite clear—at least from one point of view. Ostensibly the resolution relates to a simple educational matter but the principle underlying it is a political one. One community, as we all know, wishes to take education out of the Government control. But if they care to acquire sound education on a sound basis they should not do this. They wish that a boy may be taken in a class without any real test. I have used the word "real," because I mean that no one can test a boy's fitness for a class in a minute or two. No, my friend Chaudhri Duli Chand has rightly remarked that in private unrecognised schools hundreds of boys are admitted without a real test. The test is only nominal. In fact it is the recommendation of the friends and relations of the Headmaster that secures promotion from the eighth to the ninth class. Parents and guardians do not know the real significance of education, they only want to get their boys promoted to higher classes no matter whether they have acquired ability for that class or not. An American writer has made a very pertinent remark about the Indian students. He says that when they are asked about their educational

[K. B. Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.]

attainments most of them say : " we have failed in such and such examination." In other words, the only qualification they are so proud of is that they have failed in this or that examination. We all know about the state of affairs in a certain Province of India. That Province has been making gigantic efforts to get all the boys passed in the University examinations. I for one am unable to endorse such a policy. Education must be imparted on a sound basis. A weak foundation cannot sustain a strong superstructure. Therefore, we should admire rather than criticise the efforts of Sir George Anderson, in issuing the circular under discussion. As regards his opinion about the middle schools examination, I wish to make it clear that I cannot agree with him. The Middle Schools are under the supervision of Inspectors of Schools and they are making, no doubt, very good progress. But if we would maintain a uniform standard of efficiency for promoting boys from the 8th to the 9th class, we must reintroduce the Middle School Examination. It is essential that there should be one real and uniform test for the whole Province. The question of recognition and inspection of schools cannot improve the present state of things. If the re-introduction of a Provincial Middle School Examination is impossible let the boys of unrecognised schools join the 8th class in recognised schools without undergoing any test at all, and after studying there for a year in the 8th class and passing a real test they can safely go to the 9th class of recognised school. At present a test for the 9th class is essential. In my opinion that test should be enforced for admission to the 8th class. This will save much trouble and make matters smooth. The Headmaster will be able to judge the ability of a boy in the course of a year and then admit him to the 9th class. The boys of unrecognised schools should either submit to the test prescribed by the Director of Public Instruction or join the 8th class of a recognised school as explained by me. I pay a tribute of thanks to my friend Pandit Nanak Chand who has so kindly thought of the rural community but I would respectfully ask him not to care for us, we do not deserve yet his sympathy or assistance. When we are in a position to seek help we shall most thankfully avail of it. Much light has been thrown upon each and every aspect of the matter under discussion and I believe the Council has understood the real situation. The circular in question is a boon to zamindars. Zamindars want to get their sons educated on sound basis and for the achievement of that object the test prescribed in the circular is essential. The admission of the boys of private schools into recognised schools without a proper and effective test is unthinkable and if allowed will result in chaos and disorder in the Education Department. With these words I support the circular which has been issued by the Director of Public Instruction and oppose the resolution moved by Pandit Nanak Chand.

Chaudhri Ram Singh [Kangra (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, it has been stated by a member of the House that the circular under discussion is highly useful for the rural population. But in my opinion it is as harmful as it can be. I can state facts, on the strength of my experience, about the district of Kangra where there are four private schools, i. e., Dera Gopipur, Sujampur Tera, Nadoun and Andora. The Andora school has been established by Chaudhri Mukha Singh who has given an endowment of rupees three lakhs. About seventy thousand have been spent on its buildings. The staff of the school is well-qualified and every effort is being made by the Chaudhri Sahib for its equipment, etc. In spite of all this the school has only received a provisional recognition for six months. The

population of the Kangra District mainly consists of zamindars and villagers and Rajputs who have been deriving much benefit from these private schools. My honourable friend Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din has remarked that a test for the eighth class be enforced instead of that for the ninth class. My submission is that in that case what will be the position of those boys who read in the schools of Nadoun, Sujampur and Dera Gopipur, etc. ? In Kangra District many students have been able to acquire education simply because the schools were situated near their homes. It is a difficult job to go to a school a long way off. Let me make mention of another school at Bhora, Tahsil Dasuha, District Hoshiarpur. The population is mainly Rajput. Its Headmaster, Pandit Bhagat Ram, has devoted his life for the school. He does not take any remuneration from the School Committee. He goes on foot to collect subscriptions for the school and leads the life of a bachelor.

Mr. President : That has no bearing on the question before the House.

Chaudhri Ram Singh (continued in Urdu); Sir, in my opinion, the circular under discussion will certainly stifle the private institutions. An idea prevails in the villages that the Government does not wish to encourage private schools and for that reason circulars are being issued. I think those people who are keeping private schools under their management, are helping Government in the spread of education. For these reasons I ask the House to support the resolution. The zamindars will feel grateful if the Government will take the circular back.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh). Rural] (Urdu): Sir, Chaudhri Duli Chand who seems to consider himself the sole representative of villagers, finds this circular very beneficial to the rural interests. If I mistake not he is a headmaster of a school in a city and as such, I do not know how he claims to be the mouthpiece of the villagers.

As far as my knowledge of the facts go, this circular is highly detrimental to the progress of education in rural areas. Evidently there is hardly any unrecognised school in the towns but you would find dozens of such schools in rural areas in each Division.

I am myself running 3 or 4 schools under my management in rural areas and can speak on this matter with some authority. For some reason or other means are sought to delay the recognition of the rural schools. I know of a High School in the Ambala District which in spite of its six years' existence has had only provisional recognition. The school is situated in an *ilaga* populated mainly by Sikhs in the tahsils of Rupar and Kharar and like every other rural school this too is still far away even from the half-way house on the road to recognition.

The unrecognised schools depend for their very life and existence entirely upon the numerical strength and the fees of the students on its rolls, but if according to the circular their students are henceforth to be under a ban they are sure to die a natural death, and the education they are at present spreading amongst the illiterate masses of the province is bound to suffer.

Chaudhri Duli Chand feels the test to be helpful in making the villagers efficient patwaris and teachers, and by this he means to show his sympathy for them. I cannot but pity such sympathisers along with those for whom such sympathy is being expressed, for what a poor lot is this of being patwaris or teachers. The poor villagers have throughout been patwaris or teachers, and have had very few chances of getting higher appointments. I doubt very much the sympathy of Chaudhri Duli Chand for these

[Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.]

villagers when he wants them to go on becoming patwaris and teachers of which they have had already more than enough. The higher offices are the monopoly of people living in cities. I do not, however, grudge this to them, but I wish that the villagers should have their due share in these offices.

Again the honourable headmaster complains of the looseness of discipline in the unrecognised schools. Perhaps this is an expression of his own sad experience in some schools. In reality the discipline in an unrecognised school is in no way inferior to that in schools with the hallmark of the Education Department.

I have been the manager of an unrecognised school for the last three years and my experience shows that there is hardly any thing to complain of in an unrecognised school. Inspectors have been inspecting the school and they have had no complaint to make against it though they have never cared to recommend it for recognition at the due time. But why should there be any difference at all when both the headmasters are equally willing and anxious to train their students mentally and morally. No teacher can bear to see any breach of discipline in his class. There may be a few scattered examples of such cases but as a rule every unrecognised school has the same standard of efficiency as the recognised ones.

No body thinks much about the grant-in-aid as the Chaudhri Sahib has tried to hint. The question of grant has nothing to do with the unrecognised schools for so long as they are unrecognised, they never can have any grant.

I have yet to answer another misstatement of my friend. It is asserted that the private schools can never show good results. I need hardly say this is wrong; for they cannot afford to show poor results. Their very existence, without any official support, as they are, depends upon the amount of good work they can put, and they try their best to be as attractive in every way as possible.

Chaudhri Duli Chand : Sir, by private schools I meant unrecognised schools.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Yes I am coming to that. Unrecognised schools as stated cannot send their students to the University Examinations without the recommendation of Inspectors, and Sir, it is mere commonsense to realise that such students as have their own and their *alma mater's* reputation at stake can ill afford to fail. I am sure they try to pass as high a percentage of students as the recognised schools.

This circular may have an ostensible object of improving the staff in the 9th class but the real object is to stifle and choke the national and private enterprise in the field of education. I fain would disbelieve this, but the facts against it are simply too strong to be ignored.

On the one hand it has been made essential for all private and independent enterprise to bear the official patent mark, while on the other, the golden fleece of official recognition is placed so secure that you have to repeat adventures hundredfold more difficult than those of Jason. In every civilised country education is sought to be made free and independent of all official interference, but here in our Province, we live under a new heaven for our salvation and are told education is tried to be as much officialized as possible. Even the educational activities of District Boards are not immune from official encroachments and the District Inspector of Schools who is a Government official is the main spring or the educational machinery in a District.

Board. Even Middle Schools are not free and many a time has it happened that the District Board authorities who are the actual employees do not know the names of the teachers selected for their schools till they are actually taking their classes. The official 'Father Providence,' the allwise Inspector takes all the trouble of selecting the suitable candidates for the District Board schools. There are other things as well, equally significant to show the official encroachments upon popular control. In places where private institutions are running successfully and are competent enough to cope with the demands of the *Naqa* Government or District Board schools are established and thus an unhealthy spirit of competition is infused to the effect that the private institutions close their doors.

It is sought to control the admission of students to the 9th classes. It may be asked to what end? Is it for the convenience of the Headmasters? I think they know their business well and can understand their own interests in admitting new students to the 9th class.

Sir, for the above reason, I think the circular is harmful, detrimental and injurious to the growth and spread of private institutions in rural areas.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali [Gujrat East (Muhammadan), Urban] (Urdu): Sir, I have the honour of being connected with the management of a school. I have a hand in the affairs of a Municipality and a District Board too, and for that reason can speak with some knowledge about the school affairs.

There is a Zamindar High School which has been showing very good results and which is quite up to the mark in its discipline and output of work. It is recognised as well. In the days when non-co-operation was at its height and educational institutions were boycotted, this school too fell a victim to that misguided policy. A number of students withdrew from that school and a private institution was started. Subscriptions to the value of nearly a lakh of rupees were collected from Gujrat and the villages. This school was teaching up to the matriculation standard. After a short time some students left the school, without entering any other institution and are now marring their whole life, while a number of others applied for re-admission to their old institution. This had its effect upon our school and the pass percentage of our schools fell for a number of years.

Lala Ruehi Ram, Sahni (Punjab University): Are we here to discuss the question of the effect of non-co-operation on schools?

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali: I am not discussing this question, Sir.

Mr. President: The honourable member may just touch on it, he must not spend his whole time on this.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali (Urdu): This new school has now classes up to the middle standard only and the management are thinking of keeping it up to the primary standard only. The whole of the money collected has been spent out and now they are selling away the tract of land purchased for erecting a mosque and a school. The consequence of this whole waste of time, money and energy was that the property of another institution purchased by the poor villagers of Gujrat is being disposed off.

[K. B. Chaudhri Fazl Ali.]

Now, Sir, what was the cause of this? The authorities of the private institution were at liberty to make their best arrangements for the young folks for whose career they had taken the responsibility on their shoulders, and if they have failed in spite of that, we may enquire into the cause of that.

What is the difference between a recognised and unrecognised school? There are certain regulations and conditions to be fulfilled by recognised schools. These are the result of a tried policy of years and the schools which have no such tests and codes can never be efficient.

Many gentlemen have complained against the regulation, only because certain Khalsa schools have not been recognised. In reply to it I want to say that in Rawalpindi District where Sikhs form only 5 per cent. of the population, Khalsa schools are having 90 per cent. of the grant, while Muhammadans who constitute 90 per cent. of the total population have only 5 per cent. of the grant.

Under the circumstances if a few Khalsa High Schools have been refused grants, nobody should take objection to that.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang. On a point of order, Sir. My honourable friend, Mr. Jodh Singh, when he referred to the case of a Khalsa school, was not referring to the grant but to its recognition.

Sardar Jodh Singh : I simply referred to the recognition of the school and not to the question of grant.

Mr. President : I do not think the honourable member is raising a point of order. It is an explanation; the honourable member can rise and say that he did not say so and so. It is not a point of order.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali (continued in Urdu): When there are no regulations to guide the management of a school, how can it claim efficiency in the face of those who have their policy chalked out beforehand. It is unbelievable that unrecognised schools can show as good results as the recognised ones do.

It has been stated that Headmaster admit only good students. If only good students had been admitted why then, was there so much difference in their results? This disparity is a clear proof of the varying abilities of the students admitted and the management in the different schools.

Zamindars and villagers had been asleep so far, but now they have got up from their sleep and are determined to atone for the past. The honourable mover has expressed his sympathy with the villagers. I am myself one of them and profess to be their wellwisher; but I would request the honourable mover to keep his good intentions for some more suitable occasion.

In cities there are already scores of schools having grants-in-aid, but the villagers are advised to send their children to unrecognised schools and have scanty education to the end that they may fail.

Education is very dear now-a-days, and the poor agriculturists can not afford to have first class schools without Government aid. It is my experience that neither Hindu nor Muhammadan agriculturists can run a good school, simply on account of their poverty. Therefore, it is necessary that they should be recognised schools working under certain rules and regulations. If there is no regulation to govern the schools, the consequence

will be that bad schools will spring up and our education will suffer. Hence I am strongly against such schools and oppose the motion.

Mr. E. R. Abbott : 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.

Panjit Nanak Chand (Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan), Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, in reply to Sir George Anderson's remarks I will say this, that it is the desire of the people that their children should receive education, whether in recognised schools or unrecognised schools, it matters not to them. If they cannot get recognised schools on account of financial stringency, they should not be deprived of the benefit of sending their children to unrecognised schools. Therefore the people are anxious that the unrecognised schools should be allowed to exist side by side with the recognised schools. What right have we to say to the people, no, we cannot allow schools which are unrecognised and which are the result of private effort, to exist. Grant for a moment that the education they give is not efficient and up to the mark, but, Sir, imperfect education is better than no education at all. Education is an expensive thing : where are the poor village boys to go, if you force the village-middle schools to close by means of this circular ? Secondly, it is wrong to say that the managers of these schools do not wish that their schools may be open to inspection. It is really the Government Inspectors of Schools who refuse recognition even to good and efficient schools sometimes on unreasonable grounds. They insist upon costly buildings. The idea of education is confused with spacious buildings. But in ancient times students studied in open air and received instruction under the shade of trees. Nobody can say that the education imparted was inefficient. The works of the ancients extort admiration even to-day. Western scholars have paid very high compliments to the books written by the ancients. Even the present-day educationalists realise and advocate the necessity of open air education. Sound mind in a sound body ought to be the policy which we should follow in our educational institution and village schools are better fitted to achieve this. Again, it is not correct to say that education imparted in these schools is inefficient. The unrecognised middle schools show better results because their students devote all their time to study or the pursuit of innocent games. Their attention is not diverted by amusements of big cities. Sports and dramatic societies receive exaggerated importance in the city schools.

Let me now answer some of the objections of Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din. Chaudhri Sahib asserts that these schools do not benefit the zamindars. But when I said that the agriculturists will suffer, I did not mean the agriculturists of the type of Chaudhri Sahib. They are not agriculturists in the meaning in which I used the word. I was thinking of the poor tillers of the soil, the poor cultivators who year in and year out work on their lands and get a bare subsistence. Big and rich zamindars owning hundred of acres of land, who never work on the land with their own hand were not in my thoughts at all.

Secondly, Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din suspects pure political matters behind the resolution. I have no political motives and I am astonished that Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Sahib should say so. It was the Muhammadan

[Pandit Nanak Chand.]

Conference at Montgomery which passed a resolution of protest against the circular under the presidency of the honourable member. It is unjust on his part to impute motives to others. Sir, this is not a controversial political matter. Every community is adversely affected by this circular. The question is one of giving education to the largest number of people and if Government is not going to make arrangements for education, the people must do it themselves. It may be that people have not enough means to start good schools, but what right have we to poke our nose between and say that their students are not up to the mark.

This circular affects both the rich and the poor; for even private students educated under efficient and able tutors after great expense of money are not to be admitted without a special test. This test has been considered to be unnecessary in the case of the recognised schools, then how can it be useful in the unrecognised ones? We should keep the convenience of the public in view. Why should we take away the rights of a Headmaster and give them to the Inspectors, and try an experiment which has failed already?

It has been asserted that without this circular there would be chaos in the admission to the 9th class. But so far we have had no such thing. On the other hand we have had protests from all sides against this circular.

The syllabus of studies in unrecognised and Vernacular schools is different from that of the Anglo-vernacular Schools and according to this circular students from the former schools will have to spend 2 years more than the students of the latter.

For these reasons, Sir, I strongly protest against the circular and propose that it may be withdrawn.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education): Sir, I have listened to the speeches on both sides of the question for the last three hours, and the arguments advanced on either side are as one would have expected them to be. When a discussion is prolonged, there is every likelihood of the main points being ignored, and the attention being largely absorbed in the side issues.

I would request the honourable members to forget all the side issues and concentrate their whole attention on the subject really under discussion, so that we may decide whether the proposal is for the good of the province or not, and not have our attention solely directed to only part of the problem, i.e., its relation to the agriculturists or non-agriculturists, unrecognised or recognised schools.

We have now to consider the circular and the resolution. What does the circular complain of? It is generally believed that the standard of efficiency of the matriculates of to-day is not that of the matriculates of the year 1892. If this is true, then, is it not high time that we should try to find the causes of this deterioration and try to remedy the evil? All the members of this Council do not know how much thought is given to this question by the Inspectors of Schools. Every Inspector of Schools devotes a considerable portion of the week in thinking out some way of improving the system of education to improve efficiency.

Complaints were received from a couple of divisions that certain schools neither want inspection nor seek recognition, but want their pupils at the 9th class stage to be grafted on the 8th class of the recognised schools.

Complaints are from time to time made against Inspectors that they unnecessarily delay the disposal of applications for grant of recognition. I can not express my opinion about this as the matter has not been enquired into. They may be true or they may have been exaggerated. Applications for recognition do not come up to me, for they are considered and decided by the Director of Public Instruction. It is well understood that the Inspectors have definite principles by which to deal with these applications; I agree with the Director of Public Instruction that children ought to be good educationally and morally. They must be educated under teachers of unimpeachable character who may not spoil their lives.

Now, the resolution requires that the circular be withdrawn because it retards the progress and advancement of schools. May I know if the schools would become inefficient after recognition?

The honourable mover of the resolution avers that unrecognised schools are better from the educational standpoint than the recognised ones, and the reason for that, the honourable Pandit states, is that the unrecognised schools have no such thing as Boyscouting, Dramatic Clubs or other societies to waste the time of their students, and therefore, they can devote themselves whole-heartedly to their studies. I differ from my friend in this. I do not know in what Oxford journal he has noticed that Dramatic Clubs, Debating Societies and Boyscouting are considered objectionable and treated as harmful to studies of school pupils. I think, on the other hand, that they help in acquiring true education. I do not like the students to become book worms.

Pandit Nanak Chand : I did not say book worms.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mir N Fazl-i-Husain (continued in Urdu) : I would now make a brief survey of the arguments given against the circular :—

1. It was said that there should be a number of experiments in education for uniformity in education is not good. I agree with the principle enunciated above, but challenge its application to the case of unrecognised Anglo-vernaacular Middle Schools. What educational experiment is going on in these schools unless it be of defiance of discipline? Surely this is no experiment if you have the same courses of study, and the end in view is unchanged, i.e., Matriculation Examination. What else is being done? Let me assure you that any really new method worthy of the name of a new experiment will have my whole-hearted co-operation.

2. Then it was said that increase in the number of unrecognised schools is larger than in the recognised ones, and the circular will have a stifling effect upon the unrecognised institutions.

The honourable member who was responsible for this argument had apparently not had time enough to study the Annual Report carefully, otherwise he would have discovered that the figures he has quoted refer mainly to the indigenous schools, Maktabas and Patshalas which on account of the more favourable grants-in-aid rules have increased in number. This, however has nothing to do with the unrecognised Anglo-vernaacular Middle Schools whose total number does not run into three figures.

3. Again it was urged that the non-co-operation having failed, Government now want to crush all private enterprise in education. I assure you, Sir, this is not the case. On the other hand, if anybody were to suggest

[The Hon. K. B. Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

a really new system of education, I would be the first man to sanction with the approval of the House sufficient grant for the carrying out of the scheme.

4. Some members of the Council appear to nurse certain grievances on the ground that their schools were not rapidly recognised. I do not know how far they are justified in thinking so, but I hope they will not bear this in mind while thinking over the present question.

5. It is urged that formerly the headmasters could add something to their incomes in the matter of promotions, and now these powers having been taken away from them and vested in the Inspectors, they will be deprived of it. I do not say there is any truth in the assertion but if an evil exists it is imperative that we should find a remedy for it.

I hope the members will not put the headmasters to a very severe test. They have three difficulties at the time of admission, as mentioned by my friend Chaudhri Duli Chand. First, they have to see that they are in the good books of the management committee which is a non-official body; secondly, they have to comply with the recommendations of their friends and relatives and lastly, they have to pay some regard to the private tutors who are members of their own profession. A headmaster is therefore in a fix and it is alleged he cannot follow the dictates of his own conscience. If this is true, it is deplorable and the circular will save him from all this. Again it is contended by those opposed to the circular that the Government wants to take education under their own control. This statement is simply meaningless. The Department of Education is a Transferred Department and entirely under popular control. The representatives of the people can have every thing done in their own way if they so desire. One member complained that District Boards have not got sufficient powers in educational matters. This is not correct. It is the result of the joint efforts of the District Inspectors of Schools and the District Boards that the Punjab has shown during the last two or three years far greater progress in the field of education than any other province in India during the same period.

Again it is asked why should one set of students appear in an examination while others do not. The answer is clear. The former come from unrecognised schools while the latter come from the recognised ones.

The Director of Public Instruction has during the past few months made a proposal for which I hope all of us will thank him. During the debate it was more than once said that so far the villagers have proved themselves fit only for patwaris or teachers, but now with the addition of English as an optional subject, and the syllabus of the Vernacular and Anglo-vernacular Schools being reversed to make them uniform the villagers by taking English as an optional subject can qualify themselves for Entrance Examination. This proposal is a part of the circular under discussion.

Again it has been urged that a joint examination is not useful. I do not agree with this statement. It is not advisable that the headmaster should examine every day a number of students. It would be better if a general examination were to be held to examine pupils from a large area and from different schools instead of many headmasters examining different pupils who have never been in their schools. No headmaster can judge the ability of a student in a few minutes, especially when he has never seen him before.

It was again contended that the unrecognised schools should remain unaffected by this circular for they cater for the demands of the locality very

efficiently. I ask, will their efficiency be lost by their being recognised? If it is not so, what is the harm in their being recognised? The fact is that a few headmasters and managers were dissatisfied on account of their institutions at the time not being recognised; and now that the department has shown willingness to take them within its fold, they wish to keep away. Why let such trifles stand in the way of helping the course of educational progress?

The effect of this circular has been that the schools which never care to be recognised are seeking recognition or have already been taken on the list of recognised institutions. To say that there is a universal ill-will against the circular is to misstate facts, for we have long lists of such headmasters who have intimated their approval of the step taken. On the publication of the circular some of my friends objected to it. I at once requested the Director of Public Instruction to go into the matter and invite some old and widely respected headmasters of well-established institutions in Lahore for discussion cancelling this circular. In pursuance of that committee's suggestions, several important changes were made which it is understood have given widespread satisfaction.

Under these circumstances the correct thing to do would have been not to discuss the resolution or having started to discuss, to seek permission of the House to withdraw it as soon as Sir George Anderson has spoken and stated all that had been done. Since this has not been done, I trust the Council will reject the resolution.

Mr. President: The resolution proposed runs—

"This Council recommends to the Government that the Director of Public Instruction's Circular No. 10, dated 6th of April 1923, enforcing vernacular final examination with English as optional subject for students from unrecognised schools or boys that have not previously attended any school, seeking admission into the 8th class of the recognised school, be withdrawn."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The Council then divided: Ayes 29; Noes 86.

AYES 29.

Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan.
Sardar Narain Singh.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das,
Bhandari.
Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.
Sardar Randhir Singh.
Sardar Bakhtawar Singh.
M. Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Sardar Mohindar Singh.
Sardar Partab Singh.

Pandit Nanak Chand.
Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.
Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Lala Sham Lal.
Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Lala Banke Rai.
Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
Lala Diwan Chand.
Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.
Raizada Bhagat Ram.
Diwan Narinjan Das.
Lala Mohan Lal.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.

NOES 86.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Colonel R. Heard.
Mr. E. B. Abbott.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
Mr. E. A. Scott.
Sir George Anderson.
The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chaudhri
Lal Chand.
The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian
Fazl-i-Husain.
The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
Mr. A. Latifi.
Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
Dr. C. A. Owen.
Lieut.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
Mr. J. Coldstream.
Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
Sardar Jowahar Singh.

Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Mian Muhammad Sharif.
Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
Sayad Husain Shah.
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat
Khan.
Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
M. Haibat Khan.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
Chaudhri Nur Din.
Sardar Harchand Singh.
Captain - Muntaz Muhammad
Khan, Tiwana.
Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Chaudhri Duli Chand.
Rao Pohap Singh.
Chaudhri Kesar Singh.

The motion was lost.

RESOLUTION RE RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The following resolution standing in the name of Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan was not moved :—

"This Council recommends to the Government that residential quarters with two meeting rooms be built in Lahore as soon as possible for the use of the members of the Punjab Legislative Council."

The Council then adjourned till 2 o'clock on Thursday, the 28th February 1924.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

2ND SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 28th February 1924.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

METHOD OF RAISING CAPITAL FOR SUGAR FACTORY.

61. Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai : Has the attention of the Government been drawn to paragraph 345 of the report of the Indian Sugar Committee as to the method of raising the capital for the Sugar Factory recommended by them to be started, and has the Government any intention of giving effect to that recommendation ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The recommendation appears to be for action to be taken by the Central Government. In any case this Government is not in a position to take action upon it.

FEES TO SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR PROSECUTING THE AKALI LEADERS' CASE.

62. Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai : Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the amount of fee that is being paid to the special counsel engaged to prosecute the Akali Leaders' trial ;
- (b) the fee paid to him for drafting the complaint in the said case ;
- (c) the probable time the said case will take till its termination ;
- (d) the ordinary daily fee of the Government Advocate or the Assistant Legal Remembrancer which is paid to them for conducting Government cases ;
- (e) if it is a fact that they engaged the special counsel for the Akali Leaders' case after the defence had engaged eminent lawyers ?

Th: Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) Mr. Beyan-Petman's remuneration as Public Prosecutor in the Akali Leaders' case for the period 13th October 1923 to 31st December 1923 was fixed as follows :—

Rupees 1,000 for isolated hearings and the same fee for the first day's hearing of a continuous series and Rs. 800 per diem for continuous hearings after the first day—subject to the condition that the total fee did not exceed Rs. 25,000. No fee was allowed for the period spent in the preparation of the case. From 2nd January 1924 and onwards his fee has been fixed at Rs. 600 per diem for actual hearings. In addition a junior counsel has also been engaged on a monthly salary of Rs. 2,000. The Assistant Legal Remembrancer also receives a consultation fee of Rs. 50 per hour subject to a maximum of Rs. 1,000.

- (b) No fee was paid for this purpose.

[The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.]

(c) It is difficult to estimate the duration of the case for various reasons, and Government is not prepared to make any statement as to the probable date of its termination.

(d) In respect of every criminal case in which the Government Advocate or the Assistant Legal Remembrancer is engaged, they ordinarily receive a fee of Rs. 100 for diem for each day's attendance in any court, other than the High Court, in addition to travelling allowance, when permissible.

(e) The date at which the accused engaged their counsel is not known to Government.

MILITARY ASSISTANT SURGEONS IN THE CIVIL DEPARTMENT OF THE PROVINCE.

68. **Lala Nihal Chand, Sikri :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Military Assistant Surgeons employed in the Civil Department of this Province, and also the appointments which they are at present holding, with emoluments which each of them is in receipt of?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state how many of these are in possession of medical qualifications registerable in Great Britain?

(c) Is it a fact that sometimes Military Assistant Surgeons with qualifications not registerable in England and with shorter service are appointed Civil Surgeons over Civil Assistant Surgeons with registerable qualifications and with much longer service?

(d) Is it a fact that a large number of Civil Assistant Surgeons holding medical qualifications registerable in India or in the United Kingdom are available in this Province? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the policy which underlies the employment of Military Assistant Surgeons in the Civil Medical Service of the Province?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) The information asked for is given in Part XXIV of the Quarterly Civil List, a copy of which can be seen in the Council Library.

(b) One.

(c) Yes, it does so happen sometimes, the reason being that out of 28 Civil Surgeoncies in the Province 6 are reserved for officers of the Indian Medical Department and 9 for officers of the Provincial Medical Service, and when a vacancy occurs it is filled by selection from officers of the class for whom the appointment is reserved.

(d) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. Officers of the Indian Medical Department are employed in the Civil Medical Department under the orders of the Government of India in order to maintain an efficient war reserve.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Arising out of the answer to clause (d) of the question, will the Government be pleased to represent to the Government of India that in future officers of the Indian Medical Department who are sent to the Civil Department of the Punjab be employed in a subordinate capacity and posted to stations held by Sub-Assistant Surgeons as they are supposed to work only in a subordinate capacity in the war?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Not as at present advised. But if a resolution to that effect is passed in this Council it will have very great weight with me.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Will the Government please state its reasons for not representing the matter to the Government of India ?

Mr. President : I am afraid that question does not arise out of the answer already given. A supplementary question can be put only when the answer already given is not clear. A fresh question requires fresh notice.

EMPLOYMENT OF PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS IN THE STAFF OF GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS.

64. Lala Nihal Chand, Sikri : How far, if at all, does the practice prevail in this Province of employing private practitioners in certain special cases in the staff of hospitals maintained by Government ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Not at all.

CIVIL ASSISTANT SURGEONS IN CHARGE OF CENTRAL JAILS.

65. Lala Nihal Chand, Sikri : (a) With reference to paragraph 12 of the Jail Manual, will Government please say whether any Civil Assistant Surgeon has ever been put in executive charge of a Central Jail ? If so, for what period ?

(b) Will the Government please say whether, when the Indian Medical Service Officers were withdrawn from the Civil Medical Service of the Province for military service, any Civil Assistant Surgeons was put in administrative charge of a Central Jail ? If not, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The reply to both parts of the question is in the negative.

The reason was that Civil Assistant Surgeons were not considered suitable to hold executive charge of the Central Jail in view of their not having had the requisite training.

SUSPENSION OF THE CIVIL ASSISTANT SURGEON OF BHERA.

66. Lala Nihal Chand, Sikri : Arising of the answer to question No. 2464,* put on the 28rd of March 1928, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the violation of departmental rules ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazi-i-Husain : In view of the fact that the gentleman chiefly concerned in the matter has served Government with what purports to be a notice for a civil suit, it is not considered desirable to answer this question.

PROVINCIALISED HIGH SCHOOLS AND ANGLO-VERNACULAR SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE RAWALPINDI CIRCLE.

67. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : Will Government be pleased to state the number of—

- (i) Provincialised High Schools, and
- (ii) Anglo-vernacular Secondary Schools belonging to local bodies in the Rawalpindi Circle : and the number of —
 - (i) Hindu, including Sikh.
 - (ii) Musalman, and
 - (iii) other teachers ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The necessary information is being collected, and will be supplied to the honourable member and laid on the table when ready.

JUNGLE ALLOWANCE TO ENGINEERS IN THE IRRIGATION BRANCH.

68. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the principle on which Jungle allowance is given to the Engineers in the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department, Punjab ;
- (b) if it is a fact that such allowance is not given to the other establishment of the Irrigation Branch. If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons ?
- (c) the total amount paid to the Engineers in the Irrigation Branch, Punjab, during the year 1922-23 on account of this compensatory allowance ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) Jungle allowance is granted to officers of the Irrigation Branch in order to compensate them for serving in inhospitable and isolated localities where they are largely deprived of social intercourse and of the ordinary amenities of life.

Officers of administrative rank do not receive the allowance. Four years' service in charge of a Division or Sub-Division is necessary in order to qualify for the allowance and service in certain excepted stations such as Lahore, Amritsar, etc., does not count.

(b) Yes. The subordinate ranks are recruited locally and their conditions of service do not differ materially from those in any other department.

(c) The total amount paid to the Engineers in the Irrigation Branch, Punjab, during 1922-23 on account of Jungle allowance is Rs. 68,337.

RELIEF TO PEOPLE WHOSE LANDS HAVE BEEN WASHED AWAY BY FLOOD IN THE MUZAFFARGARH DISTRICT.

69. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have taken any measures to give relief to those people whose lands have been washed away within the last few years in Mauzas Lalpur, Hajipur, Machhiwala Tahli, etc., in the district of Muzaffargarh ?

(b) Is it a fact that Rangpur, Khangarh and Shehr Batta are in danger of being washed away if no steps are taken in time to regulate the flow of the river ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) The estates of Lalpur, Hajipur, Balawahan and Wafadarpur, in the last two of which the old estate of Machhiwala Tahli was absorbed at last settlement, are exposed to river action and are placed under a fluctuating assessment, which automatically relieves those people whose lands have been washed away by the Chenab of the obligation to pay land revenue and cesses. Government has taken no other measures of relief.

(b) (1) The Chenab river threatened the town of Rangpur three years ago, but has not since advanced towards the town, to which no immediate danger is apprehended.

(2) The protective embankment on the east of Khangarh was breached by the Chenab three years ago. A new embankment to the west of the old one is being constructed by the Irrigation Department. Shahr Sultan and the town of Khangarh are not believed to be in danger at present.

TALIRI AND GANESH CANALS.

70. Lala Bodh Raj : Is it a fact that the landlords and tenants of Muzaffargarh suffer a good deal on account of the fact that the flow of Taliri and Ganesh Canals is not regular ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The Taliri and Ganesh Canals like all canals in the Muzaffargarh District are inundation or monsoon canals, and their supply is not controlled by a weir.

In these circumstances, which are understood by the landlords and tenants of the lands watered by these canals, it is impossible to guarantee a regular supply.

REVISION OF MUNICIPAL VOTERS' LIST.

71. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please state, whether before the introduction of the new constitution in the various municipalities in which the strength of municipalities has been based on population as modified by voting strength, the lists of voters were not properly revised ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member's question is not quite clear. Government have no reason to believe that the lists of voters were substantially inaccurate as regards the relative strength of the various communities.

Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please state if any instructions were issued to various municipalities for the revision of the voters' lists before the new constitution was introduced ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Not immediately before the revision of the constitution. But a general instruction was given in 1921 that lists of voters should as far as possible be accurate.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES OF MULTAN.

72. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether instructions have been issued to the Honorary Magistrates of Multan to hold their courts in the bungalow rented near the District Courts Buildings ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state if these instructions are being carried out and also whether the Honorary Magistrates hold their courts regularly and at fixed hours ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : (a) No general instructions have been issued, but Honorary Magistrates are accommodated from time to time as rooms become vacant by transfers of stipendiary Magistrates.

(b) There is reason to doubt that they sit regularly and at fixed hours, but the District Magistrate has been asked to see that they do so.

GRANTS OF LANDS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

73. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if free grants of land can be made in the Colony of Montgomery or in any other colony area to Government officials ?

[Lala Bodh Raj.]

(b) If not, will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that grants have been made to certain Government officials in the names of their sons, although in some cases they are minors ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of such grantees in the colony of Montgomery ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that such Government officials to whom or to whose minor sons lands have been granted are posted in the area where the land granted is situated ?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to state the occupations and ages of the sons of such Government officials ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The Government is not precluded from making grants to officials or ex-officials in cases where no special concession in money or its equivalent is made beyond the fact that the grantee has received the grant in preference to others.

The Government is not aware that any grants to Government officials have been made since the present orders were issued which do not conform to these orders.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST PRESIDENT, MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, GOJRA.

74. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have taken any action to remove the complaint of the inhabitants of Gojra detailed in various memorials submitted by them to the Government ?

(b) Whether any enquiry has been made into the allegations made in those memorials against the President, Municipal Committee, Gojra ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the name of the officer who is making the enquiry and the lay necessary papers on the table ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member's question is vague. Perhaps he refers to the complaint of some inhabitants of Gojra made against the President of the Gojra Municipal Committee and received by this Government through the local officers in 1922. This complaint was reported by the Deputy Commissioner of Lyallpur to be baseless alike as regards the administration of the Gojra Municipality in general and the conduct of its President in particular. In view of this report similar memorials received subsequently have not been considered worthy of further inquiry. The correspondence of Government with its local officers on such matters is regarded as confidential, and it is against the public interest to place it on the table.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONGST THE EMPLOYEES OF GOJRA MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

75. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs and other residents of Gojra according to the last census and the direct contribution of each community to the municipal funds ?

(b) What is the number of Hindu, Muhammadan and Sikh employees in the Gojra Municipality and the aggregate pay drawn by each community, respectively ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) (b)
Population of Gojra town according to 1921 census :—

(a) Hindus	..	..	..	..	8,688
(b) Muhammadans	..	..	..	..	2,495
(c) Sikhs	..	..	..	..	710
(d) Others	..	..	..	..	779

(ii) The main source of income is the terminal tax in respect of which no statistics can be prepared to show the proportions paid by different communities. The only direct tax is the house tax, payment of which was as under in the past year :—

					Rs.
(a) Hindus	..	..	..	..	7,634
(b) Muhammadans	..	..	..	..	1,183
(c) Sikhs	..	..	..	..	2,440
(d) Others	..	..	..	..	99
(e) Government	..	..	..	..	226

(b) The number of Municipal employees and the aggregate pay drawn by employees of each community are as follows :—

Community.	Number.	Aggregate pay drawn.
		Rs.
Hindus	15	888 per mensem.
Muhammadans ..	31	1,756 " "
Sikhs	1	48 " "

TERMINAL TAX IN GOJRA.

76. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please state what necessity was felt for increasing the terminal tax in Gojra? Was any time allowed for objection?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain :

- (1) To meet growing expenditure.
- (2) Yes.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, GOJRA.

77. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) When was the Municipal Committee established in Gojra?
- (b) What was the number of Hindu, Sikh and Muhammadan members in the Committee before the system of election was introduced?
- (c) How long the present incumbent of the office of President has held this office?

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

- (a) 1912.
- (b) 2, 1 and 3, respectively.
- (c) Eleven years.

SUB-JUDGE'S COURT ROOMS AT MULTAN.

78. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is fact that the Sub-Judge's Court rooms at Multan are in a very bad condition?

[Lala Bodh Raj.]

(b) Whether the attention of the Government has been drawn in this direction by the Inspection Judges of the High Court? If so, will the Government be pleased to state when it will take steps to replace these buildings by better ones?

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.

Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please lay the answer on the table when ready?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Yes.

CASES OF NON-CO-OPERATING POLITICAL PRISONERS.

79. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of cases of political nature in which the accused non-co-operated and did not put in their defence from September 1920 up till the end of the year 1923?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The time and labour involved in collecting the information required would be out of all proportion to the result. In the circumstances Government regret that they are unable to answer the question.

CASES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THE HIGH COURT.

80. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement of cases of political prisoners in which the High Court thought fit to interfere in pursuance of the resolution of the Council passed in 1922?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : A statement is appended, showing the cases of a political or semi-political character in which the Local Government after considering the report of a Judge of the High Court intervened in 1922 :—

Serial No.	Name and description of convict.	Date of conviction.	Offence.	Sentence.	Order of the Local Government.
1	Phera Singh, son of Iahar Singh, Jat, aged 16, of Dhakowal.	24th April 1922.	Section 17 (1) of Act XIV of 1908.	6 months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 50 or 1½ months' further rigorous imprisonment in default.	Released.
2	Chatar Singh, son of Phula Singh, Jat, aged 70, of Bilaspur.	8th May 1922	Ditto	6 months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 45, or in default 1½ months' further rigorous imprisonment. One year's rigorous imprisonment.	Released and fine remitted.
3	Arian Singh, son of Kishan Singh, Bksh, aged 24, of Toba Tek Singh.	30th March 1922.	Section 19 (a) of the Arms Act.	One year's rigorous imprisonment.	Released.
4	Hazara Singh, son of Pal Singh, Jat, aged 25, of Chak 45 and 23 others.	6th April 1922.	Sections 147 and 342, Indian Penal Code.	Nos. 1 to 23 to one year's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100 or in default 3 months' further rigorous imprisonment under section 147, and one year's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100 or in default 3 months' further rigorous imprisonment under section 342, the sentences to run concurrently and No. 24 to a fine of Rs. 20 or in default one month's rigorous imprisonment under section 147 and a fine of Rs. 20 or in default one month's rigorous imprisonment under section 342, Indian Penal Code.	Only fine imposed under section 342, Indian Penal Code, remitted.

LEASE OF MUNICIPAL LANDS AND SHOPS IN GOJRA MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

81. Lala Bodh Raj : Is the Government aware of the fact that tenders were accepted for the lease of municipal lands and shops by the Gojra Municipal Committee, and that they were not auctioned in public ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Government are informed that during the financial year 1923-24 altogether forty-five leases were given out by the Gojra Municipal Committee, fourteen of which were given on tender and thirty-one by public auction.

82-90. Cancelled.

GHAGGAR INUNDATION CANALS.

91. Lala Sham Lal : (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a brief statement showing the following particulars regarding the working of the dam commonly known as Ottu Head constructed some 30 years ago on the river Ghaggar in Sirsa Tahsil of the Hissar District :—

(1) The general conditions under which the naturally existing ancient rights of irrigation from the river were taken away from the zamindars of Ghaggar villages of Sirsa Tahsil for the construction of the Head.

(2) The increase or the decrease in the area under actual cultivation in the year just after the completion of the Head in the settlement of 1902, and in the last settlement, over that in the year just before the construction of the Head was taken in hand, showing separately—

(a) the areas under fluctuating assessment, and

(b) those under fixed assessment.

(3) The increase or decrease in Government demands by way of revenue, and water rates separately for the two classes of lands mentioned in (2) above.

(4) The total area separately of the two classes of lands specified in (2) above commanded by canals issuing out of the Head.

(5) Whether the quantity of the water discharge from outlets of Ghaggar canals granted to each Ghaggar village for agricultural purposes was fixed at the time of the construction of the Head or it was left to the discretion of the Canal authorities alone to increase or decrease that according as they chose. For purposes of this statement the Ghaggar villages may kindly be divided into 3 groups as follows :—

(1) The western group comprising the villages on the west of the Head ;

(2) The eastern group comprising the villages on the east of the Head ;

(3) The central group, that is, the villages lying on the borders of the old Annakai Lake ;

(ii) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there have ever been any measures in contemplation for further improvements on the canal system ; if so, in what direction ?

N. B.—As to (i) (1) and (2) if the answers be in the affirmative, no detailed statement is necessary ; a general idea conveyed may be sufficient.

(iii) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there have ever been any proposals for removing the dam and restoring the river to pre-existing conditions ?

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.

WESTERN JUMNA CANAL.

92. Lala Sham Lal : (i) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

- (a) that the section of the Western Jumna Canals that used, of old time, to irrigate the Hariana tract and passed through the Hansi and Hissar Tahsils of the Hissar District, has during the last thirty years been divided off into several branches going in several directions ;
- (b) that the bulk of the water discharge at the Head of the canal remaining nearly the same, the old main canal and the branches can each now be allowed to flow at long intervals ;
- (c) that as a result of this division into branches fresh *barani* lands in other parts of the Hissar District and even outside that have been brought within canal *chakbandi* (area liable to canal irrigation) while the *chakbandi* on the old main canal remains almost the same ;
- (d) that all the lands in these *chakbandis*, both old and new, have in subsequent settlements been charged with a fixed land revenue at the rates fixed for canal-irrigated areas, and thus the Government have been able to increase their revenue to a considerable amount ?

(ii) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that the zamindars of Hissar and Hansi Tahsils of the Hissar District owing to the diminution of water supply on the main canal have during the last 30 years had difficulties in irrigating their lands, and have sent in many petitions on this point to the Canal authorities ?

(iii) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that the major portion out of the available canal water at Hissar is yet taken away for irrigating Government Farm lands which are recently broken out of pastures and are let out to tenants for Government profit thus depriving some of the old important gardens and vegetable lands there from the benefit of canal irrigation ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(i) The reply to (a) to (d) is in the affirmative.

(ii) The cultivators of Hansi and Hissar Tahsils have not suffered in the least from the extensions made ; in fact they have benefitted universally due to increased irrigation.

The number of petitions received from the tracts referred to is not found to be larger than in other tracts.

(iii) Only a very minor portion, viz., 22 cusecs or one-twelfth of the available supply of water (Hissar Distributary), has been allowed to the two Government Farms at Hissar and Hansi.

No gardens or vegetable lands have been deprived of their allotted share of water.

NOMINATIONS TO THE AMBALA MUNICIPALITY.

93. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : Will the Government be pleased to state (a) whether the principle enunciated in paragraph 12 of Government Note on the reconstruction of the Municipal Committees and District Boards of the Punjab, "that in Municipalities where communal representation prevails, nominations shall not ordinarily be so made as to disturb the balance of the elected seats apportioned to the various communities," has already been departed from or is about to be departed from in making nominations in the near future?

(b) Whether the aforesaid principle has already been contravened or is about to be contravened in making nominations to the Ambala Municipality?

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.

LAND REVENUE PAID BY HINDU, SIKH AND MUSSALMAN LAND-OWNERS.

94. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : Will Government be pleased to state how much land revenue is being paid in the Punjab by Hindu, Sikh and Mussalman land-owners, respectively?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The information requested is not available, and Government is not prepared to incur the expenditure which would be involved in its supply.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : May I ask with your permission, Sir, whether any extra expenditure will have to be incurred in collecting information or will the agency already available be able to collect this information, and whether the only extra expenditure to be incurred will be only stationery and perhaps postage?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : It will not only be stationery, but it will be time and something else.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : Sir, when questions are asked by members of this Council, is it open to honourable members of Government to say that the answers, if given, will be out of proportion to the labour employed in collecting the information?

Mr. President : The honourable members of Government are not bound to answer questions if they consider that the benefits derived from answering them are incommensurate with the labour involved.

PERSONS RECOMMENDED FOR DIRECT COMMISSION IN THE ARMY.

95. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many persons were recommended by them in 1921, 1922 and 1923, respectively, for direct Commission in the Army, and how many of them were Rajputs or Jats or members of other important agricultural communities which have been supplying men for the Indian Army and Cavalry?

(b) Is it a fact that no Rajput, Jat or member of any other recognised martial class has been recommended for direct Commission during the past three years?

(c) If so, what steps do Government propose to take in the matter of recommending Rajputs and Jats for direct Commission in the Army?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : (a) The Punjab Government recommends no one for "direct commissions" in the Army. Twice a year it sends on to the Government of India the names of approved candidates from the Punjab who wish to compete in the entrance examination for admission to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, with a view to their ultimately being granted Commissions at the end of the Sandhurst course, if they pass all the required tests, and if they are found in all other respects eligible and suitable. In the last three years this Government has recommended the following numbers for permission to sit at the entrance examination for Sandhurst :—

1921..	9, including 8 members of an agricultural community.
1922..	11, including 7 members of an agricultural community.
1923..	17, including 10 members of an agricultural community.

Of these, 10 including 7 members of an agricultural community, were selected to go to Sandhurst, and are at present under instruction there. None of them have so far completed their course and consequently none have yet been given commissions.

(b) It is not a fact,—vide (a) above.

(c) This Government will be only too glad to recommend any eligible Rajput or Jat belonging to the Province, who wishes to compete in the entrance examination, and who is, in the opinion of the Selection Committee appointed for the purpose, likely to turn into an efficient officer.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN VARIOUS SCHOOLS OF THE PROVINCE.

96. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : Will Government be pleased to state how many students were there in the Province according to the latest statistics on the rolls of—

- (1) High Schools,
- (2) Middle Schools,
- (3) Upper Primary Schools,
- (4) Lower Primary Schools, in—
 - (i) Urban, and
 - (ii) Rural areas,

respectively, and how many of them are the sons of agriculturists ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The statement below gives the number of students in various kinds of schools for boys on 31st March 1922 and 1923 :—

	1923.	1922.
High Schools	83,472	75,776
Middle Schools	163,541	132,568
Primary Schools	350,434	270,704

A reference is also invited to the general table II-A of the Report on the progress of education in the Punjab during 1922-23, a copy of which has already been supplied to Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.

The suggestion that the number of agriculturists and non-agriculturists should be given is valuable. Such information can at present be obtained in the log books of schools. Steps will be taken to collect such information in future.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE.

97. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : Will Government be pleased to state what arrangements, if any, exist for imparting Elementary Education in Agriculture to the sons of the zamindars of this Province and to what extent they are being utilized ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : It is not considered advisable to give training in agriculture in primary schools as the removal of illiteracy should be the first aim ; but arrangements are being made to simplify the primary courses and to bring them more in touch with rural conditions. The agricultural training in vernacular middle schools is being expanded and is much appreciated.

CONCESSIONS TO STUDENTS BELONGING TO AGRICULTURAL CLASSES.

98. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : Will Government be pleased to state whether any special concessions or facilities are being given to students belonging to the Agricultural classes acquiring education in such Government institutions as are maintained entirely or mainly from Provincial Revenues ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The following concessions are being given to students belonging to the Agricultural classes receiving education in Government High Schools in the Punjab :—

(i) Exemption from the payment of tuition fees in the Primary classes throughout the province.

(ii) Concession of half fees in the Secondary classes of Government High Schools, Dera Ghazi Khan, Jampur and Muzaffargarh in the Multan Division and in all Government High Schools in the Rawalpindi Division.

2. The concessions under (ii) above are granted in view of the poverty and educational backwardness of these localities. Further concessions have been under consideration and will be published shortly.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : Is Government contemplating to give any concessions to agriculturists in higher education, that is, in Government colleges ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Not to my knowledge.

VILLAGE CHAUKIDARS.

99. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : (a) Is it a fact that in some, if not all, districts of the Punjab the pay of the village Chaukidars has been raised to Rs. 96 per annum ; and that in a number of cases several small villages have been taken together and given one Chaukidar ?

(b) Is it a fact that in many a case the effect of this arrangement is that in practice the Chaukidar is serving no village at all ?

(c) Is it a fact that in many small villages the *Pachotra* of a lambardar is Rs. 5 or less, while the pay of the Chaukidar is Rs. 96 per annum ?

(d) Does Government realise that this change has subordinated in fact the position of village headmen to that of the Chaukidar ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) With the sanction of the Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner may enhance the remuneration of any village watchman up to a maximum of Rs. 8 per mensem. Doubtless in some villages the pay of the village Chaukidar has been raised to Rs. 96 per annum. It is the case that one Chaukidar is frequently appointed to serve two or three small villages.

(b) So far as the Government are aware, the suggestion contained in this part of the question is not justified.

(c) It is possible that in very small villages in which the land revenue is not more than Rs. 100 per annum the *Pachotra* of the lambardar may be Rs. 5, while the pay of the Chaukidar may be Rs. 96 per annum.

(d) The dignity and authority of the village lambardar does not depend upon his remuneration, and Government do not believe that in any village the position of the headman has been subordinated to that of the Chaukidar.

RESOLUTIONS.

RESOLUTION RE EDUCATION AS A PROFESSIONAL AND THEORETICAL SUBJECT IN THE B. A. COURSE.

Sheikh Faiz Muhammad : [Dera Ghazi Khan (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, the resolution which stands in my name and which I move reads as follows :—

"This Council recommends to the Government that the new University regulation proposed by the Punjab University introducing 'Education' as a professional and theoretical subject in the B. A. Course be not approved."

Sir, I am strongly opposed to this regulation of the University. Before I proceed to discuss it, I wish, with your permission, to state briefly the circumstances under which the regulation was passed by the Senate of the University. It was on the 19th December 1922 when the regulation was presented before the Senate. On that day there were only 33 members present at the meeting whereas the total strength is 85. Out of these 33 members 17 voted for the regulation and 16 against it. And under the circumstances when the regulation was only carried by one vote how can it be said that it had the full support of the Senate? I may point out to the honourable members of the House that the regulation was not even fully discussed in the Senate. It did not receive the due consideration which it deserved. In the meeting of the Senate an argument was advanced to the effect that the regulation was adopted by the Arts Faculty with an overwhelming majority, there being only one dissentient vote. This is not a sound argument.

Now, Sir, with your permission I am going to explain the meaning of the regulation. The main object of the regulation is that the professional education should, in future, be enforced in the Arts Colleges along with the B. A. Course. The professional course would probably include—

- (1) 8 Lessons in criticism.
- (2) 18 Lessons in observation.
- (3) 30 days' experience of teachership.
- (4) A study of general principles of education, school management and organization.
- (5) A study of the methods of teaching.

Such is the lengthy course which is being proposed to be introduced in the B. A. Course.

Sir, I cannot ascertain the underlying object of the regulation. Even in the Senate of the University it was not dilated upon. It is said that the regulation will improve the B. A. Course by introducing a sort of variety. I cannot agree. Variety could have been achieved by introducing only a theoretical subject. The real object of the regulation, as far as I can see, is to produce a larger number of teachers for Punjab schools. In this connection I would like to draw the attention of the House to two things, i.e., (1) the demand and supply of teachers in the Province, and (2) the educational abilities of these new teachers.

If it is proved that supply is greater than demand and that the number of teachers produced by the regulation would be still larger, then we are not justified in spending an exorbitant sum on this scheme.

As for the question of demand and supply, I would, with your permission, Sir, invite the attention of the honourable members to page 52 of the "Report on the Progress of Education in the Punjab". It clearly shows that at present the supply of teachers is greater than the demand, and in that respect it would be unnecessary as well as extravagant to add to the number of teachers. Moreover, teachers of good qualifications will not be produced. I wonder how in these days of financial stringency our University desires to introduce a new system of education in the Province which is costly and will not prove beneficial. It may be useful for other provinces as these new teachers will seek employment out of the Punjab and will probably get it there. Would it not be better to postpone the generosity to better times? The second question is that of the educational attainments of these new teachers. Most of the members perhaps know that there are three subjects in the B. A. Course, namely, English and two other optional subjects. It is proposed that one more subject about the art of teaching should be added to these two optional subjects. I can safely say from my personal experience that an average B. A. student devotes more than half of his time to his compulsory subject, English, and the remaining period of time is spent on other work. If the new system is enforced, it would be a very hard job for students. Either they will be deficient in their studies or they will only be able to acquire a rudimentary knowledge, which will, in the long run, prove itself to be defective.

On the other hand, we have got a nice arrangement in the shape of the Central Training College. It produces B. T. and S. A.-V. graduates who are trained in the profession of teaching. The Training College is very well equipped. A practising school is also attached to it. There the students can find occasions for practical teaching in different subjects which they are taught to teach, and thus they are able to acquire experience of more than a year. According to the new regulation the new teachers will only get practice for 80 days, which will be quite insufficient. Moreover, we have not been told as to the arrangements for the practice of teaching. Is it intended to create more practising schools which would be attached to the Arts Colleges. If so, a huge expenditure will be involved, which is most inadvisable. Again if the students will be required to go to their own districts and get practice at private schools, this too will not be a suitable or good arrangement. Lastly, these new teachers will certainly be much below the standard of the B. T. and S. A.-V. trained men. In my opinion their qualifications will be lower even than those of the J. A.-V's. In

[Sheikh Faiz Muhammad.]

J. A.-V. Matriculates are taken, they devote their whole time to the art of teaching, while a B. A. student cannot bestow his undivided attention upon this one branch of study. I may point out that if these new teachers are appointed in schools, a great difficulty will be experienced in calculating grants-in-aid, because the Government gives grants on the basis of the teacher's qualifications. And for this very reason such teachers will not be taken in Government Schools in preference to trained B. T.'s and S. A.-V.'s. My other argument in support of my resolution is that for some time past the University has removed the age-limit for the entrance to the matriculation examination. By means of this a boy of 13 or 14 years can pass matriculation, and after that can join a college and get his degree at the age of 17 or 18 years. Sir, it would not quite inexpedient to place a class of, say, 40 or 50 students, under the charge of a young man of 17. It can be urged that a boy of 17 can also be trained at the Central Training College. I would submit that his qualifications would be decidedly superior in every respect.

Sir, I have illustrated all the facts before the House to the best of my knowledge, and I hope that the members of this Council will co-operate with me in opposing the University regulation, and getting the present resolution passed.

Mr. President : The resolution proposed runs :

"This Council recommends to the Government that the new University regulations proposed by the Punjab University introducing 'Education' as a professional and theoretical subject in the B. A. Course be not approved."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

Sardar Jodh Singh : [(Sikh), Urban]: I have listened attentively to the speech of my friend the honourable mover, but I am sorry to find that he has produced no convincing arguments in support of his resolution. The first thing on which he laid great stress was that in the Senate meeting at which the proposal was approved only 33 out of 85 members were present. Well, if that betokens anything, it means that most of the Fellows of the University did not care to trouble themselves to oppose this resolution in the Senate, otherwise had they felt that the resolution was such a horrible thing that it should not be passed, they would have made it a point to attend the meeting. Then the honourable mover says that it was passed only by 17 votes against 16, but I find from the history of the case that this proposed change remained before the different departments of the University for almost three years, and I am astonished to find that the Honourable the Minister for Education was one of those who actively supported this change. The matter was considered by the sub-committee appointed early in 1920, and in the proceedings of the sub-committee, dated the 25th March 1920, the following appears :

"Mr. Fazl-i-Husain advocated a University Department of Education and the introduction of Education as a subject in a degree course not to increase the output of teachers but to evoke an interest in indigenous systems of education."

Not only this, but it went before the Arts Faculty which has, I am told, 33 members, of which only two are not teachers. There the proposal was passed with only one dissentient voice. That means, that the people who are concerned with the education of this province, who understand their business thoroughly, they were unanimously for it. Then, of course, as usual the matter came before the syndicate who appointed a sub-committee to go into

the details thoroughly. The Principal of the Training College was asked to serve on that committee, but he refused to do so as he thought that it was an interference with his kingdom. The sub-committee reported and the report came before the syndicate and then was considered by the Senate not in one meeting, but in two meetings, and was finally passed in December 1922. This is so far as the history of the resolution is concerned. I may also inform the honourable members of the House that the Honourable the Finance Member who is practically the head of the University was also in favour of this resolution. I am very sorry to find that this debate which purely concerns the educationalists should be transferred to the floor of this House. I am afraid this will be the beginning of long drawn battle between the University and the Government departments, and it will be a very unseemly spectacle as it has been in another province, that is, Bengal. I wish that the Honourable the Finance Member and the Honourable the Education Minister had shed more light on this question, but I find that somehow or other they are not speaking to-day. Perhaps they may not be able to throw more light on it. But I should warn the House that once the thing is taken up it will not end by our passing the resolution in this Council, it will go to the University again and it may again be passed there, and so the controversy will be continued as has been the case in Bengal till a compromise is effected.

As for the arguments advanced by the honourable member, I shall examine them now one by one. First of all, he says that the supply would increase. I wonder whether he is considering only the supply of teachers. At that rate, why should he not propose that all the colleges should be closed because the supply of graduates is far beyond the demand? Why should not the Arts Colleges be closed? After all, I may point out, it is the University that examines the B. T. students; and we may depend upon it that the University will not grant certificates to men who take "Education" for their B. A. Course unless they pass the examination.

As for the second argument that Government will have to incur a good deal of expenditure, I am afraid I am not able to understand it. The mere provision of a subject in the curriculum by the University does not mean that every college is bound to open a class for that course. It is open to the colleges to open a class or not; and if the Government has got no funds, it is open to them not to open the class in the Government College. As far as expense is concerned, that is no argument. I should rather think this is conducive to economy. If you read the Educational Report, you will find, Sir, that the Education Department has effected economy by attaching normal schools to high schools, by attaching J. A. V. classes to second grade colleges. Similarly, if we can give training in education even in the B. A. classes, we can ultimately close the Training College and save a good deal of money. My friend said that unless a man has got the stamp of the Training College, he is not a good teacher. I am afraid I am one of those teachers who have not got that stamp, and yet none of the Inspectors has ever thought me the worse for it. And I can repeat the line of Saadi:—

خبر عینی اگر منہ رو دسچون زیادہ سار و آخر ناکند

It is not the stamp that makes a teacher, but it is the material. I may also quote a line from Burns:—

"Rank is but the guinea stamp
A man's a man for all that."

[Sardar Jodh Singh.]

It is therefore not the hall mark that makes a good teacher. Far be it from me to say that training does not improve the man, but the material must be there. If we stamp lead, it will not produce the guinea.

As for *تربیہ*, if a student does not give sufficient time to a subject, he will fail. I may remind the House that it is the University which examines and gives the B. T. degree, and it is the same University that is going to examine the B. A. students in Education, and therefore there is not going to be any material difference as to the test in the two cases. Again of course *مذہب* is mentioned. The greatest *taklif* that is mentioned is whether these graduates are to be styled S. A.-V.'s or B. T.'s. I think our eminent Director of Public Instruction can solve that difficulty by a stroke of his pen.

Then the last argument was about giving charge to young men (*جوان*). I do not think that if a teacher can hold charge of a class when he is 19 years old, that he cannot hold charge when he is 18. The question of majority or minority of teachers has not yet come before us. I, therefore, say, Sir, that the argument advanced is not very serious. At least they are not of much educational value; and when an educational body has passed a resolution, a body in which all the educationalists of the province are represented, the Council should think twice before interfering with its work. With these remarks, Sir, I beg to oppose the resolution.

Mr. President: Am I to understand that you do not move your amendment*?

Sardar Jodh Singh: No, Sir.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: (Punjab University): Sir, the honourable member who preceded me has cleared up the ground a good deal, and I should like to say just a few additional words. Before I do so, Sir, I want to be permitted to correct a little error into which my honourable friend seems to have fallen. He has referred to the proceedings of the Arts Faculty which adopted the proposal of the sub-committee, and he stated that this faculty was composed of all but two educationists. I want to point out that there is possibly no exception whatsoever. I do not know which two exceptions my honourable friend has in mind....

Sheikh Faiz Muhammad [Dera Ghazi Khan (Muhammadan), Rural]: I did not say any such thing.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: I am referring to my honourable friend Sardar Jodh Singh. Here I have got a list of the 23 gentlemen who were present at that meeting of the Arts Faculty, and I find that almost all of them are eminent educationalists, and that all of them with one exception have been engaged in the work of education for a pretty long time. There is only one gentleman who has perhaps never been directly engaged in the work of education at least on the Arts side, but who has been a teacher for a certain length of time on the legal side as a Reader in the local Law College. We find in this list, educationalists, some eminent men who would adorn any chair in any of the Universities of India. Sir, here I may be permitted to mention only a few names. They are, Rev. Dr. E. D. Lucas, Principal, Forman

* For the word 'be not approved' the words 'be sent back to the University for reconsideration' be substituted.

Christian College, Lahore, (2) Rai Bahadur Lala Sundar Das, Suri, (3) M. Muhammad Din, (4) Lala Raghubar Dayal, (5) Mr. S. K. Rudra, Principal, St. Stephen's College, (6) Lala Sain Das, (7) Lala Devi Dayal, (8) Mr. Manohar Lal, and (9) Mr. H. L. O. Garrett. Sir, I have read out the names of only a few of the gentlemen who were present, but the others were no less eminent as educationalists. Sir, it is such a body as the Arts Faculty of the Punjab University composed of eminent educationalists, and after something like three years' discussion by various sub-committees, that comes to the conclusion that "Education" as a subject should be included in the curriculum of the B. A. pass degree. As has been pointed out by the honourable member who preceded me, it must be borne in mind that no college is compelled to include "Education" as one of the subjects which it teaches. It is also to be borne in mind that even if a College takes up Education as one of the subjects which it teaches, it is not necessary that any particular student who does not want to take up "Education" as a subject need necessarily be compelled to take it up. It is to be one of the optional subjects, one of the dozen or more optional subjects which a student may take up. That being so, namely, that no college need, as a matter of compulsion, introduce "Education" as a subject of instructions and that no student need as a matter of compulsion take it up as a subject for his degree course, it is really surprising that any one should come forward and say that "Education" as a subject should not be included among a number of other subjects, some of which are not perhaps quite as useful as "Education" is, but which are nonetheless included in the curriculum. Its inclusion will help a great many men, and it will hurt nobody. With its optional character I really fail to understand what objection there can be to the inclusion of this subject. It is an important subject, and we will all admit that it is important not only for the teachers but also for those who do not want to take it up as a means of earning their livelihood. I submit, Sir, that education is one of those important subjects which a great many of those who have no idea to become teachers in all their life would probably take up. I submit, Sir, that a great many men and women will take it up because they would find it more useful than many other subjects which they are compelled to take up for want of a proper range of subjects. If "Education" is included as a subject of instruction in the course of the studies for the B. A. degree, then the choice would be widened. Sir, we often complain that our present system of education is backward. All normal men and women want to become and would probably become parents. Whether he likes it or not, every parent is a potential teacher, and is bound to be a teacher, and for the normal growth and prosperity of the community, he should always be a teacher and he must know something of the elements of teaching (hear, hear), something of that which is the essence of teaching, that is to say, an insight into the child mind. That is the essence of "Education" as a subject. When a student takes up "Education" as a subject of study for his B. A. course, he learns that which will be very useful to him not only as a parent, but also as a citizen. Many of our student graduates will become Municipal Commissioners where they will be in charge of schools or colleges or other public institutions as managers. In all these institutions, it will be of very great importance to each would-be-graduate if he takes up "Education" as one of the three subjects for his B. A. degree. My honourable friend the mover of this resolution seems to have been thinking only of teachers. I am not thinking of the teachers nor of the training colleges. I do not anticipate a

[Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.]

times when the Training College will be abolished. It is that fear which seems to lie at the root of the opposition. The opposition is mainly induced by this fear. I want every honourable member who has that idea to banish it once for all from his mind. I want "Education" as a subject, because it is a useful subject and because it is an important subject. The department can very well lay down rules to the effect that those young graduates who take up "Education" as one of their subjects should not take precedence over the B.T., S. A.-V., J. A.-V. or any other examination. I for one would not care if such precedence is not allowed. What I do care for is that "Education" should be introduced as a subject of study of practical importance. I want every facility should be given for those who care to take up "Education" in preference to any other subject. Let them take it up simply because it is a useful subject and it is an important subject. We know that the number of untrained teachers in schools is very large. I do not know how others feel, but I have sometimes felt very deeply when I found a majority of teachers in the same school are untrained. I for one will not complain if the men who have taken this course are classed with untrained teachers. Let them be put in charge of classes as untrained teachers. They will in any case be better than the graduates who have certain privileges allowed to them under the present regulations. I would not care if they are classed as untrained teachers, but what I do care for is that these men should have the opportunity to do so if they care to take up "Education" as one of the subjects in the B. A. Course. Sir, we have often heard of complaints, and I myself have been very very loud about these complaints that the course of studies in our schools and colleges is very miserably unpractical. It is theoretical in the extreme. Well, Sir, here is an opportunity for doing a little, not much, and for God's sake let that little thing be done with good grace and with good heart so that the Province may go forward in the course which has been chalked out for her educationally, that is, the subjects of study should be practical. There should be other practical subjects of study introduced in our curriculum, and here is an opportunity of introducing one subject so that the course of study may be as elastic, as wide and as useful as it can possibly be made to be. Sir, particularly in the case of women, I think, this course would be a very useful thing indeed, and I am looking forward to the time when not only girls, but mothers also would like to go and attend just this course as a casual subject, mothers in our homes, young mothers hoping to bring up a family, would go and take it up as a casual subject in one of the colleges, so that they might be all the better fitted to discharge the duties of motherhood and parenthood in a way in which those duties should be discharged. With these words I oppose the resolution.

Sir George Anderson (Director of Public Instruction): Sir, I am anxious, first of all, to discuss whether this resolution is appropriate in view of the relations which should exist between this Council and the University; in other words, whether this debate does not infringe the right of authority of the University to model and to regulate its Arts and other courses. I do not think that this is the case. The object of the University, so far as I can understand it, is not to improve its Arts courses, but rather to add an additional category to the existing number of trained teachers. Two days ago, Sir, we had in this Council what appeared to me a most interesting, most valuable and most appropriate discussion on the subject of the recognition of schools and the relations between boys in unrecognised schools with those

in recognised schools. It appears to me to be equally appropriate, equally important and equally interesting for this Council now to discuss a kindred matter which is vitally connected with the successful progress of our schools; namely, the supply and the qualifications of teachers in those schools. I am glad therefore that this resolution has been moved.

In the next place, Sir, it will be observed that the proposal of the University is to include "Education" not only as a theoretical but also as a professional subject for the Arts degree. I have no objection whatever to its inclusion as a theoretical subject. I entirely agree with my friend Professor Ruchi Ram that it is most desirable. Indeed I would go further and urge that this study of educational theory should be expanded into a much wider and a fuller study of public administration for I feel that there is an urgent need to train our young men more than we do for public life and for public service. The subject of public administration would embrace the study of educational systems and of educational theory, but it should not include the training of a teacher which should be conducted in a professional college. It would embrace the theory of medical administration, but it should not include the professional training of a doctor. It would embrace the theory of the administration of justice, but it should not include the study of the law which should be conducted in a law college. It would embrace the principles underlying the compilation of that formidable, majestic and, to me, terrifying document which my friend, the Honourable the Finance Member, will present to this House next Saturday.

Then again, Sardar Jodh Singh has spoken about the advisability of creating a University Department of Education. I see no objection. I consider it a good proposal, but unfortunately it is not the subject under discussion. Again, he has raised the question of private effort. I see no objections to a private college undertaking a professional course. Indeed, we have such a course already at the Multan College, but my contention is that professional study should not be included in an Arts course. That is what I object to.

The point at issue, then, is the question whether "Education" should be included not only as a theoretical, but also as a professional subject in the Arts course; and whether there should thus be an additional category of teacher to those already in existence. There are already, so far as the senior teachers are concerned, two categories of trained teachers; the B. T. who is invariably a graduate and then proceeds to a post-graduate course in a Training College, and the S. A.-V. who is usually a graduate and who has also a year's training in a Training College in the teaching of most of the ordinary school subjects. What are the main differences between these two existing categories of teachers and the proposed category? First of all, the teacher of the new type will be an intermediate instead of a graduate at the time of his training. In the second place, he will receive his training in an Arts and not in a Training College. In the third place, he will receive his professional training as a teacher while concurrently studying for the B. A. degree instead of giving his undivided attention after graduation to a professional degree.

I hold, Sir, that this proposal is unnecessary. If I can prove that it is unnecessary, it is also extravagant; and I hold that it is also inadvisable. Mr. Ruchi Ram has spoken of the large number of untrained teachers in our schools.

[Sir George Anderson.]

I have here my last report, from the statistics of which I find that about 70 per cent. of our teachers of High Schools, Government, aided and unaided, are trained. If we include those who are considered as equivalent to trained teachers, then the proportion will be 75 per cent. I should now like to inform the House how the remaining 25 per cent. of untrained teachers are composed.

First of all, there are a large number of young graduates who are now gaining experience as teachers before they go to a Training College. They should benefit by this practical experience. In the next place, there are a large number of women teachers who are untrained. In the third place, there are a very large number, about five hundred, to whom special certificates have already been awarded, either because they have passed certain examinations as private candidates or because they have been specially recommended by the Inspectors of Schools for the excellence of their teaching. Therefore, I am fairly accurate in saying that nearly 90 per cent. of our teachers have either received training or have received training certificates.

It is possible that Pir Muhammad Hussain is now saying to himself "This is all very well, but I look to the future and desire a speedy and rapid expansion of Education." If he is saying so, I am entirely in agreement with him. That is what we are striving to do. I should like to give some statistics in that connection.

In regard to the estimated supply of teachers for the future, the University itself, three or four years ago, considered that the annual output of trained teachers should be between 120 and 150. I have lately made enquiries from the Inspectors who tell me that this is an overestimate and that the probable outturn should be about 90 or 100. This decreased estimate is due largely to the extended use of the vernacular as the medium of instruction. Moreover the Principal of the Training College tells me that it is more and more difficult for the successful trained graduates to find employment. In spite of these warnings we have increased our accommodation at the Training College from 90 to 150. Thus I submit that the present position is satisfactory in regard to the proportion of trained teachers, and I think that our future position is also assured. I would also give the number of teachers now under training under all categories. In 1916-17 there were 1,158, there are now about 2,500. Therefore, I maintain that there is no necessity for this new category of trained teachers. I also hold that the new category of trained teachers is undesirable. First of all the new type of teacher cannot be a trained teacher in the ordinary sense of the term. Instead of spending a year in the Training College, he will have received a training course in an Arts College at the same time as he is working for a degree.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Two years.

Sir George Anderson : I beg your pardon. It is two years. In the next place he will not be a real graduate in the ordinary sense of the word as he will have taken the professional and theoretical subject of education in place of one of the Arts subjects. I hope that the Council will agree with me that the teaching profession, above all others, should be a learned profession, and that we should strive to ensure that our teachers shall be liberal-minded and broad-minded men with a good general education. I submit that the proposed type of teacher will not be of that type. Lastly, I wish to say a word on a matter which seems to me of vital importance. If my friends will recall their own school days, they will remember that the

teachers who had the greatest influence over them were the class teachers who could teach a number of subjects. I submit that teachers of the new type cannot be such class teachers as they will have taken only English and another subject at the degree course.

I would now say a few words on the precedents for this proposal. The Calcutta University Commission was opposed to the proposal as will be seen from the following extract :—

"We think it desirable that a student should be permitted to offer the principles of education as one of the subjects for the pass B. A. examination. This would be an admirable preparation for the professional studies which are the special work of the training colleges The course for the Bachelor of Training should remain a post-graduate course."

I would also ask whether there is any other University in the world which permits students to be trained professionally during the same time as they are reading for an Arts degree.

In conclusion, I would state my case in a single sentence. There are some who seem to me to attach too much importance to the dictates of efficiency. There are others who seem to me to attach too much importance to the dictates of economy. But I have rarely if ever met a proposal, whose main object is to increase expenditure in order to reduce efficiency.

Sayyad Muhammad Hussain [Montgomery (Muhammadan), Rural]: Sir, in spite of my earnest desire for the spread of education, I unfortunately cannot agree with the decision of the University regarding the introduction of "Education" as a professional subject in the curriculum. I disagree with my honourable friend Mr. Jodh Singh when he says that we should not touch on these matters but that they must be left to the educationalists. How can we possibly do that? But for that discussion here, we would not have heard those two valuable addresses from educationalists such as Professor Ruchi Ram and Sir Geroge Anderson. Each of these addresses left an indelible mark on my mind and I perfectly agree with Professor Ruchi Ram that education simply as a theoretical subject must be learned by as many as possible. All possible arrangements must be made in the University for the introduction of "Education" as a theoretical subject. I also very rightly agree with Sir Geroge Anderson that the introduction of "Education" as a professional subject will be dangerous to the best interests of our country. Sir, "Education" is a very vital subject and our future depends upon education and therefore we must be very careful in the selection of our teachers. If we go on flooding the market with untrained teachers, the difficulty will increase and not decrease. Already the cry is that untrained teachers should be eliminated and that their places must be taken by fully trained teachers. What is the remedy for that? The remedy does not lie in the decision which has been taken by the University by the introduction of "Education" as a professional subject; it would again amount to putting the untrained teachers in the field whom we want to eliminate. We want fully trained teachers, for our primary, secondary and higher education. Can we introduce physicians who are not fully trained in the Medical Colleges? Will the country tolerate that? Would we like to entrust our lives to untrained physicians? Certainly not. We would like the doctors to be able men with full training in the medical science. In the same way we would like our teachers to get the best possible training they can in the different

[Sayad Muhammad Hussain.]

training colleges. At the same time I would be the last man to object to my honourable friend Mr. Ruchi Ram stating that theoretical education should be introduced as a subject of the University. With these remarks I only object to that part of the resolution of the Senate which concerns "Education" as a professional subject and I give my whole-hearted support regarding the theoretical part of it.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muham-madan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, everything worthy of mention has been said by my friend Sardar Jodh Singh, and there is hardly anything for me to add excepting Mian Fazl-i-Husain's own opinion about the matter under discussion at a meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Punjab University, held on the 25th March 1920, where he advocated a University department of education and the introduction of "Education" as a subject in degree course, not to increase the output of teachers but to evoke the interest in indigenous system of education. Where lies the harm if one more subject is added to the already dozen or more optional subjects in the B. A. course? This will only widen the range of choice.

It is further contended that the graduates who will pass with "Education" as an optional subject will be less efficient as teachers than the students of the Training College. Well, what does it matter if they are not efficient teachers? They are the poorer for that as nobody would employ them. Nobody is bound to employ them. But to deprive the students of learning the art of teaching, for that reason, is really unwise.

There are so many subjects in the B. A. course such as Zoology, Botany, Geology, Physics, Chemistry, etc., by passing any one of which a man can become a professor in some College. Nobody has ever insisted upon a degree of a training institution being produced by a professor of any of the above-mentioned subjects before employing him.

They say that the supply of trained teachers will be increased beyond the limits of the demand for them. I do not think it is correct to say so, for there are so many untrained teachers still employed in schools. I have a great deal to do with educational matters in the Lyallpur District Board, and I know there is always a great demand for trained teachers.

Moreover, all the big American, European and British Universities like Harvard, London, Aberdeen and Edinburgh teach "Education" as a professional subject, why then, should it not be included in our University? It is not correct to think that the teaching of "Education" as a subject in the Arts Colleges will lower the status of the teachers.

The honourable mover of this resolution has said that the the real object of the resolution of the Senate is to supply teachers. If it is so, I do not think it an undesirable object. When the existing Training College cannot meet the demand of the Province, what harm is there in devising other means of meeting that? If we have not the required number of Government Training College trained teachers, is there any harm in having such graduates as teachers.

I am surprised to hear the mover arguing that due to the abolishing of the age-limit in the Matriculation Examination an 18 years old boy will be able to become a teacher. I cannot understand how it is necessary that such a youngster must be employed as a teacher when the employers themselves do not do so. Moreover, even

through the agency of the Training College, an eighteen years old boy can get diploma of a teacher, under the existing rules, when there is no age limit.

The Honourable the Director of Public Instruction considers this arrangement of teaching "Education" in the Arts College as unnecessary and extravagant. I confess that I am at a loss to understand why it is unnecessary and how it is extravagant?

There is another fear, I imagine, in the minds of the mover that, if the proposed step is taken the Training College will have to be closed.

Sheikh Faiz Muhammad : The honourable member is repeating the arguments, Sir.

Mr. President : That is perfectly true. I was thinking of calling him to order. Will the honourable member try not to repeat the arguments?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : In the end, I would like to say that the Director of Public Instruction's view that we can discuss this matter in this Council is wrong.

Mr. President : It is a really a point for the chair as to whether this is the proper place for the discussion of a matter like this. Whether this is within the scope of the Council or not is a point for the decision of the chair. I have already decided that it is within the scope of this Council to discuss this matter, so that the honourable member can only deal with the point whether the discussion is expedient or not?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Then I am afraid, my tongue is shut. I, therefore, oppose the motion and resume my seat.

Chaudhri Dull Chand [Karnal (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, before I proceed to say a few words in favour of the resolution before the Council, I take the opportunity to explain to the House in one sentence what the new regulation proposed by the University means. It is intended to introduce in the B. A. Course the theory of teaching and practice of teaching as one of the elective subjects. I have no objection to the introduction of the theory of teaching. It requires you to learn the principles and general methods of teaching, history of education, school management, etc. If the regulation had proposed to introduce theory alone I would have heartily supported that. But I am sorry I cannot persuade myself to approve a regulation which proposes to introduce practice of teaching as well. As one who has undergone such a course, I realise what difficulties the professors and students will have to face if the new regulation is introduced in Arts Colleges, I cannot really understand, how it would be possible for the college pupil-teachers standing on their legs for hours together to give their lessons in the practice of teaching and at the same time do their college work. Besides it would be very difficult for the authorities concerned to fully equip their institutions with the requisite instruments and materials for the study of the subject.

Supposing for a minute that the regulation has been given effect to, the question naturally arises what useful purpose it will serve. Is it that the new system will produce better type of graduates or is it that we will have sufficient supply of abler teachers? I think that it is idle to expect that any of these two objects will be achieved. I would rather expect the market flooded with graduates and teachers of lower standard. The reason is obvious.

At present there are three subjects taught for the B. A. Examination with English, of course, as compulsory subject. Those who have studied up to the B. A. standards will bear me out the

[Chaudhri Duli Chand.]

most of the time of the students is spent in preparing English, which is one of the most difficult subjects. The students hardly get time to look to the other two subjects. But if, as proposed, the theory and practice of teaching are introduced, the students will neither be able to prepare English thoroughly, nor would they be able to give sufficient attention to the practice of teaching. If any one questions as to whether it is necessary to devote so much of the time to the practice of teaching, I would ask him to visit one of these days the Training College and see for himself how much time is required. The preparing of lessons for classes, practising them at home and after the lessons have been given to classes, understanding the criticism and remarks of their professors in regard to their lessons are things which are not so easy for an average student to pick up within a short time. There is another point in this connection which I cannot but point out before I proceed further. The students, having attended only 10 or 15 practical lessons and not more than eight or ten observation lessons will be no good teachers and will not prove of any utility to the Education Department.

Is it contended that the new regulation will lead to economy and reduce expenditure? I think not. On the other hand, the demand for grants will increase as the Colleges have to entertain more professors.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : No grants are given to any private college.

Chaudhri Duli Chand (continued): I do not exactly remember whether these colleges are in receipt of grants or not, and if they are not, they are entitled to ask for such grants. If it is alleged that this new regulation is proposed to be introduced in order to meet the demand for teachers, I would ask him to look at the statement published by the Education Department, where he will find that the schools in the Province can not afford to employ more than 100 teachers a year. I have already said that the quality of teachers in future will be very poor and hence the students are to suffer a great deal. The teachers too will not benefit by this proposed scheme, for, the number having multiplied, their market value will decrease. After all that has been said I do not understand why the regulation was at all taken up. As far as I can guess it was a political move to introduce this regulation. The Education Department having placed certain restrictions on the admission of students to the Training College, the wise members of the Senate thought it fit to introduce "Education" as a professional and theoretical subject into the B. A. Course. If some such ulterior motives had not been at work where was the justification to propose the new regulation? With these few words I support the resolution.

Lala Mohan Lal [North-East Towns (Non-Muhammadian), Urban] (Urdu): With your permission, Sir, I would like to say a few words against the resolution under discussion. The Punjab University came into existence in 1882 and the relations between the University and the Government have been cordial. Political experience requires that we do nothing to disturb these happy relations.

If my source of information is not wrong the University did not pass the new regulation a short time ago but so far as I think it was passed somewhere in December 1922, about 15 months back. During this period of 15 long months not a soul raised its voice as to the regulation being defective or impracticable. The Punjab Council too met not less than two

or three times after the regulation was passed last year, but none of the members thought it necessary to bring forward a resolution of the kind. I really wonder what special reasons have since sprung up that now persuade us to withdraw our approval.

Another important point is that we ought to pay due regard to the private unrecognised schools and the private enterprise. Only day before yesterday we allowed education to do its worst towards private enterprise as it proposed to do by holding a Vernacular Final Examination for students from the unrecognised schools, who are desirous of seeking admission to the 9th class of a recognised school and if to that is added another difficulty by cutting off the supply of teachers for those private schools whom the new regulation promises to produce, I think their position will become altogether untenable. It will follow as a result that the private schools will be closed all at once. And, therefore, it behoves us that we should welcome the new regulation, more so because some of our young graduates will find employment in those private schools.

As to the remarks made by my honourable friend Chaudhri Duli Chand that the market value of the teachers will depreciate, I see no reason why such a remark should have been made. We still require a sufficient number of teachers for our schools and the more we have the better. Of course if he, as headmaster of a school, is afraid that he will have so many rivals to combat, I would only tell him that it is not a manly spirit.

If it is questioned as to whence the grants will come that will have to be given to the various colleges demanding such grants, I would remind this Council that under the rules now in force the Government is not bound to pay the grants. It may give such grants or it may refuse and therefore we need not fear that we will ever have to face a financial difficulty.

With these few words I oppose the resolution.

Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan : 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.

Shelkh Falz Muhammad [Dera Ghazi Khan (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, two kinds of arguments have been advanced against my resolution. Sardar Jodh Singh has admitted that in this way we would be able to get teachers for schools, but has remarked that if the question is of demand the colleges may be closed for they have already produced a very large number of graduates in the Punjab. This is quite a separate question and it has nothing to do with my proposition which touches professional education only. Again Sardar Sahib urges that a question of this sort should have not been brought before the Council. To this, Sir George Anderson has given a very satisfactory reply: yet I would respectfully ask the honourable member that if a question pertaining to the present situation in Jaito can be put in the Council why a purely educational question equally affecting all communities be not discussed. As regards other departmental difficulties, nobody has suggested any solution but Sardar Jodh Singh has said that these can be removed by Sir George Anderson's single stroke of pen. Next Lala Ruchi Ram, while opposing the reso...

[Sheikh Faiz Muhammad.]

tion, pointed out that our efforts should be towards producing good parents, good members of District Boards and good Municipal Commissioners in the country. To this I would say that it is sentimental. If the colleges had been able to produce scholars hitherto, I do not see any reason why these would not do so after the acceptance of my resolution. Moreover, it is one of the most important duties of a Municipal Commissioner to look after the sanitation of his city and thus a question arises why hygiene should not be included in the B. A. Course. There are jacks of all trades, but I cannot bear with the jacks of Education as they are proverbially very dangerous. Further on it is urged that practical training is imparted to the students of the Western Universities. I do not think it is a fact.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Can my friend quote the authority for his statement ?

Sheikh Faiz Muhammad (continued) : I am open to correction but so far as I think the system can only be practicable if it be introduced in the schools. Another wonderful question is raised about which I cannot say whether it is for or against my resolution, that is when this resolution was not moved previously why it has been moved now. It is moreover urged that the present Training College is not capable enough to produce a sufficient number of teachers to meet the demand of unrecognised schools. Perhaps my friend, the speaker, has not gone through the ' Report on the Progress of Education in the Punjab,' otherwise he would have come to know that there are sixty trained teachers in the Punjab who have got no employment at present.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain [Minister for Education] (Urdu) : Sir, I have risen to announce to the House that the Government has decided to take no part in the debate ; hence the members of Government, will not vote at all, but the official members may vote for or against the resolution as they like.

Mr. President : The resolution proposed is—

"That this Council recommends to the Government that the new University regulation proposed by the Punjab University introducing "Education" as a professional and theoretical subject in the B. A. Course, be not approved."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The Council then divided : Ayes 37, Noes 23.

Ayes 37.

Colonel R. Heard
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
Mr. E. A. Scott.
Sir George Anderson.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
Lt.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
Mr. J. Goldstream.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.
Malik Feroz Khan, Noon.
Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr Shah.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Jamal Khan.
Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
Chaudhri Najib-ud-Din, Khan.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazal Ali.
Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
Chaudhri Nur Din.
Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan.
Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Rana Feroz-ud-Din Khan.
Sayyad Muhammad Raza Shah.
Sayyad Muhammad Hussain.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Mian Muhammad Sharif.
Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
Sayad Hussain Shah.
Sheikh Faiz Muhammad.

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul
Qadir.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Chaudhri Duli Chand.
Rao Pohap Singh.
Chaudhri Kesar Singh.

NOES 23.

Sardar Jowahir Singh.
Sardar Narain Singh.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Lala Banke Rai.
Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
Lala Diwan Chand.
Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.

Sardar Partab Singh.
Pandit Nanak Chand.
Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.
Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Lal Sham Lal.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram.
Diwan Narinjan Das.
Lala Mohan Lal.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.
Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was carried.

RESOLUTION RE SELECTION GRADE FOR TAHSILDARS.

The following resolution standing in the name of Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram was not moved:—

"This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council to sanction a selection grade carrying a salary of Rs. 400 per mensem for Tahsildars."

RESOLUTION RE. RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS IN LAHORE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The following resolution standing in the name of Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din was not moved:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that residential quarters with two meeting rooms be built in Lahore as soon as possible for the use of members of the Punjab Legislative Council."

RESOLUTION RE. ADDITIONAL IRRIGATION FACILITIES TO THE HISSAR AND ROHTAK DISTRICTS.

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram [South-East Rohtak (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:—

"That this Council recommends to the Government that early steps should be taken to redeem the promises held out by the Government to the Hissar and Rohtak Districts in the way of providing additional irrigation facilities."

To avoid any misunderstanding, I consider it necessary first of all to inform the House that I do not mean by my resolution to present any rival scheme to any other that may be under consideration for the irrigation of any other part of the Province.

It is an admitted fact that these two districts receive a very scanty rainfall and in the absence of any other means of irrigation, it would not be an exaggeration to say that it is only once in three or four years that crops

[Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.]

ripen well. The result is that nearly every year the inhabitants are visited by famine and the like calamities. To save the poor people of these districts it is necessary that early steps be taken in this direction.

If we look at this large tract of land from an historical point of view, I am sure it will not fail to command our sympathy. It will certainly appeal to the sentiments of all the members alike whether Hindus, Muhammadans, or Sikhs and even of Government members. This is a place which is sacred in the eyes of Hindus for it constituted a large portion of what was called Brahma Rishi Desh in the Vedic times. Muhammadans like this piece of land because of the tradition in their Muhammadan rulers who used to pay special attention for the good of the people of these districts. As a concrete example of that attention it may be advanced that it was Feroz Shah Tughlik who first of all took upon himself the construction of a canal for the irrigation of that area and thus to some extent relieved the inhabitants from miseries. I think my Sikh friends, too, will not lag behind when the question of the amelioration of the conditions of these people is taken into consideration. They love this part of the globe because Guru Tegh Bahadur and Guru Gobind Singh happened to pass through these districts when on their way to Delhi and at certain places stopped to take rest and at the same time to preach their Gospel to the people of that locality. The question remains why the Government members should have particular sympathy with the people of these districts. The answer is simple. During the war these districts readily responded to the call for men and money and admittedly they occupied a very high position in this respect.

Leaving the above considerations aside for a minute, I will request the members to help these poor inhabitants simply because they are men, simply because they are our brethren. The consideration that the poor people fall a prey every now and then to famine and drought ought to prevail. In this connection I would like to point out that these calamities do not only take away their toll of men, but leave the survivors with a very weak health and poor physique, so much so that they succumb to the first attack of even an ordinary disease?

Another important point in this connection is that the scarcity of water resulting in the scarcity of fodder leads to the death of so many cattle every year. All will bear me out that these districts can boast of a fine class of cattle breed and if we cannot persuade ourselves to care for the interest of the local inhabitants we ought to take steps to prevent the occurrence of so many deaths among the cattle from universal economic point of view.

Now the question arises whether such a scheme would bring any profit to Government. I might point out that it should not be the primary outlook alone of a scheme which should weigh with the Government. The foremost object that a Government should have in view should be the welfare of its people. And in my opinion it is wrong to allege that no profits will accrue if a canal is constructed for these parts. I am rather confident that the Government will gain a good deal from the income of lands that are now lying waste.

I should not omit to tell you that this area is a land of soldiers. It gives birth to so many stout fighters that every care should be spent to preserve that blood. It should be the business of the Government to see that these people are provided with necessary facilities for irrigation.

Before I resume my seat I would like to draw the attention of the House to the promises made in the year 1919 by Sir Michael O'Dwyer, the then Lieutenant-Governor, in his two different speeches at Hissar and Rohtak each after an interval of two or three days. At Rohtak he said :

"When our canal engineers bring to fruition the great Sutlej Dam Project the claims of Rohtak will not be forgotten."

At Hissar he said :

"But you are still far from adequate protection against drought and famine. What the future may bring forth I will not venture to predict, but great canal schemes for the benefit of this part of the Punjab are now being worked out, and I trust that before many years have elapsed large areas of barren waste in Hissar and Rohtak will, by the skill of our irrigation engineers, be transformed from 'jungle' to 'mangel'."

But 5 years have gone by since these promises were made, but so far no steps have been taken to convert the jungles into cultivable lands.

I trust that the members of this Council will vote in favour of the resolution and thereby earn the gratitude of the people of Rohtak and Hissar.

Mr. President : The resolution proposed runs :—

"This Council recommends to the Government that early steps should be taken to redeem the promise held out by the Government to the Hissar and Rohtak Districts in the way of providing additional irrigation facilities."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majlithia (Revenue Member) : Sir, I take an early opportunity at this stage to put forward certain points before this House, the consideration of which, I believe will facilitate the decision of this resolution. The members of this House will perhaps remember that not very long ago this question was raised when my friend, Mian Shah Nawaz, put forward a proposal about the construction of the Thal Canal. This House will perhaps remember that after a full discussion of the question and after I had put forward both the sides of the schemes, both the Thal and the Bhakra Dam Projects, this House adopted the resolution of Mian Shah Nawaz. This House has to bear this in mind when we are coming to a decision on this question that Government will have to give full consideration to the views expressed by this House. My friend, Chaudhri Chhotu Ram, has referred to the promises made by Sir Michael O'Dwyer in his Durbar speeches and has also mentioned the conditions as regards famine both in Hissar and Rohtak and also the services rendered by men of those districts to Government during the war and he has like an ingenious lawyer appealed to the members of this House both Sikhs and Muhammadans to support his cause. I do not in any way give the question of the conditions of this tract less consideration because it is subject to famines, but this House will remember that on that subject the Revenue Secretary in his speech on Mian Shah Nawaz's resolution explained to the House that the Government had practically abolished famine from this Province. On the other hand, I have got the fullest sympathy with the people of these districts in their troubles and shall be delighted if the scheme which my friend has in view comes to fruition. This House probably will bear in mind that before Chaudhri Sahib's proposals could be accepted by Government the matter has to be fully discussed in this House. This House has to vote grants for the purpose and the scheme has to be fully looked into from the financial and engineering points of view and the proposals have to be submitted to the Government of India for sanction and

[The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.]

possibly for the sanction of the Secretary of State. Unless these formalities are observed it is not possible for the Government to bind themselves to any action in the matter.

I should further like to bring to the notice of this House the remarks made by the Inspector-General of Irrigation on the Thal Project and I think it will be right if I tell this House what these remarks are. With your permission, Sir, I will take this opportunity of reading a few quotations from the note of Mr. Gebbie, the Inspector-General of Irrigation with the Government of India. He says: "I made enquiries regarding the present position of the Bhakra Project and it seems to me it will be some years before a satisfactory project can be submitted. I understand the political difficulties, especially in the case of Patiala, are likely to be serious; but even if these can be readily and speedily overcome, there are certain technical points which will have to be very carefully investigated, before the project can be submitted to the Government of India for consideration. I have seen the project estimate for the dam and in this a most elaborate description is given of how the foundations of the dam are to be made water tight." This House will realise that in the valley where the dam is proposed to be erected, Government will have to make a fairly high dam to impound the water in the dam. That will be, I may tell you, something like 400 feet in height because the depth of water in the dam will be 400 feet or so. This wall or dam will have to be made water tight and to lay the foundation for this purpose we will have to see that the rock underneath is firm. About this point, the report goes on: "but, as a matter of fact, nothing whatever is known about the nature of the foundations beyond what is revealed by two trial pits and an examination of the surface by a geologist. The Bhakra Dam is to hold up 400 feet of water and no dam has ever yet been attempted to deal with more than two-thirds of this depth. The pressure on the foundations will be much greater than engineers have hitherto had to provide for and the nature, not only of the foundations but of the sides of the valley, must be carefully determined before the plans of the dam can be sanctioned. Bore holes at close intervals and over the whole area of the foundations should be sunk to a depth of at least 30 feet below the bottom of the dam. If the rock should not prove satisfactory, it may be necessary to sink the bore holes to a greater depth. This investigation will take two if not three working seasons and will cost a considerable sum of money. Drilling is not cheap, because experts must be employed and they mostly come from America. It will also be necessary to divert the river in order to drill in its present bed."

This is the position, Sir, as regards this dam. But, on the other hand, as I have very great sympathy with the objects of this resolution I would be willing to do all that is possible for the Government to do in the circumstances and to meet the situation, I am prepared to propose with your permission an amended resolution in the following form. If that resolution is accepted by the honourable mover, I think Government will be prepared to accept it. Sir, I may be permitted to read the amended resolution—

"This Council recommends that the construction of the Bhakra Dam be taken in hand as soon as the construction of the Thal Project is sufficiently advanced to admit of work on this project being undertaken subject to the pro-

viso that the Council votes the money and that the project should be found suitable from an engineering and financial point of view and has received the sanction of the Government of India."

I may inform the House that before I can bind the future Government of this Province the safeguards proposed in this amended resolution are absolutely necessary.

Mr. President : The original resolution runs :—

"This Council recommends to the Government that early steps should be taken to redeem the promise held out by the Government to the Hissar and Rohtak Districts in the way of providing additional irrigation facilities."

To this an amendment has been proposed :—

"That for the original resolutions the following be substituted :—

"This Council recommends that the construction of the Bhakra Dam be taken in hand as soon as the construction of the Thal Project has sufficiently advanced to admit of the work on this Project being undertaken, subject to the proviso that the Council votes money and that the project should be found suitable from an engineering and financial point of view and has received the sanction of the Government of India."

The question is that that amendment be made.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz : Sir, if this amended resolution is accepted I do not move my amendment.*

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : I wish that the amended resolution has been more definite and less qualified. However, in the circumstances, I am prepared to accept the amended resolution.

Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan [Gurgaon-cum-Hissar (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, the resolution brought forward is absolutely necessary for the deplorable state of the *Ilaqa* requires immediate help of the Government. Since 1890 there has not been a single year when the people have been able to harvest both crops *rabi* and *kharif* in full. The amendment proposed is a useless one for it gives no definite assurance but postpones everything for better times. Many inhabitants of the districts have emigrated and cattle have perished for want of water. Under the circumstances the agriculturists have suffered the most. I would request the Government to take necessary steps for the relief of the unfortunate inhabitants of these districts as soon as possible.

Lala Sham Lal [Hissar (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I was thinking of making a speech in favour of the resolution moved by my friend Rai Sahib Chhotu Ram, but I am sorry to find that he has accepted the amendment proposed by the Revenue Member, which does not give any definite assurance. The condition prevailing in the districts of Hissar and Rohtak in the matter of irrigation is so bad that it had better not be mentioned. The zamindars there are not in a position to wait for a long time without disastrous effects on them. The amendment proposed by the Honourable Revenue Member and accepted by the mover cannot help matters and it is a pity such a thing has come. I do not, however, want to go into detail in the matter at present as I have put some questions the answers to which have not yet been made and I hope to move resolutions regarding this matter when the questions are answered.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz (Urdu) : Sir, I support this resolution in its amended form. The Bhakra Dam scheme is supposed to irrigate nearly two millions of acres of land comprised within the territories of Patiala,

*That the word 'early' be omitted and after the word 'taken' the words, 'after the completion of Thal Project' be inserted.

[Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.]

Jind and Bikaner States and the Districts of Rohtak, Hissar and Karnal. Its total cost will amount to nearly fourteen crores of rupees. The profits will be nearly 6 per cent. on the capital outlay. There are no crown waste lands in the Districts of Rohtak, Hissar and Karnal. It therefore cannot positively be said that the scheme will be sufficiently remunerative and financially sound. The construction of the Dam in itself will be a difficult and formidable task and as shown by Mr. Gebbie in his note may be insurmountable. The Bhakra Dam therefore stands on the border line of productive and protective work.

On the other hand, the Thal Project is a scheme of high order and admittedly highly remunerative and will bring in nearly 20 per cent. profits on an outlay of nearly nine crores of rupees. It is a perfectly straightforward scheme and has no engineering difficulties. It will irrigate nearly three millions of acres of lands comprised within the limits of Sindh-Sagar Doab.

I have fully discussed the merits of the Thal Project in my resolution which I had the honour to move in the Council in August 1922. It was carried by an overwhelming non-official majority. The Government accepted the resolutions and a *Communiqué* No. 6574, was issued and published in the *Punjab Gazette* on 26th February 1923, to the effect that Government intends to complete the survey and the detailed plan of the Thal Project by October 1924, and begin its construction in October 1925. It is therefore perfectly clear that the Government is now committed to the Thal Project and I am glad to see that the Government has now definitely stated that it must have priority over the Bhakra Dam. The Government must redeem its pledges with regard to the Thal Project, otherwise the Thal proprietors will be compelled to get Act I of 1902 repealed and sue for damages. I understand that the Thal Project is now complete for submission to the Government for sanction which should be given without any hesitation and justice done after all to the Thal proprietors.

With these remarks I support the resolution.

Pandit Nanak Chand [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] : Sir, the fact is that by accepting the amendment of the Government member, the honourable mover of resolution has put us in an awkward position. I would like to say something about the Hissar people. I have no lands there and I have no self interest of any kind. I do feel that the people in that district are in a very miserable plight. The amendment suggested by the Government member amounts almost to nothing. Their project might be postponed indefinitely. What we want is an assurance that this matter would be speedily taken up. If you would permit me, Sir, I would say a few words.

Mr. President : Yes.

Pandit Nanak Chand : What I beg to submit to the House is that both these districts, Hissar and Rohtak, have done splendid service during the war.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majitha (Revenue Member) : Nobody denies that.

Pandit Nanak Chand : The Government after having given them a definite promise should fulfil it.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : I did not say that the Government had promised. It is only the speeches of Sir Michael O'Dwyer that my honourable friend read.

Pandit Nanak Chand : I learn from my honourable friend Mr. Chhotu Ram that some promise was given.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The honourable member read only the speeches of Sir Michael O'Dwyer which is quite plain.

Pandit Nanak Chand : I take the word of the Lieutenant-Governor to be as good as a promise.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : I repeat it is not a promise.

Pandit Nanak Chand : That I take to be a definite promise held out to the people of these two districts. Now as my honourable friend has already said, even the non-agriculturist classes helped the Government in a splendid manner. I am sure Mr. Latifi would bear me out in this matter.

Mr. President : The honourable member is simply repeating what the honourable mover said.

Pandit Nanak Chand : I would finish in a short time. One fact is quite clear, namely, that the Hissar District is irrigated by the Jumna Canal and the fertility of the Sar tract is acknowledged. If this new canal is opened up, it is bound to pay a good dividend to the Government. Moreover after all it is merely a question of give and take ; it is merely a contract between persons who are to take water and the persons who are not to give water. My honourable friend who preceded me did not want that the Thal Project should be superseded by this.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz : I accepted the amendment of the Government.

Pandit Nanak Chand : The honourable member went on to say that this project might be given up.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz : I said nothing of that kind.

Pandit Nanak Chand : The question is whether the Government will be prepared to redeem their pledge.

Mr. President : The position is really this, that both sides want big projects to be carried out. The Government already have on hand one very big canal scheme and then there is the Thal Project and this Bhakra Dam Project and the Government are not in a position to carry out all the three projects at one and the same time. This amendment implies that the Government should go on with the Thal Project and should take up the Bhakra scheme only when it is in a position to do so ; and when it is shown to be feasible from an engineering point of view.

Pandit Nanak Chand : The question would be which project should be taken up first. My submission is that the project suggested by me should be taken up first because you have already got a project to irrigate the Nili tract and there is no reason why these districts should not have the benefit of the second project.

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : As I have already explained my position regarding the amendment proposed by the Honourable the Revenue Member, I have nothing more to add.

Mr. President : The resolution proposed runs :—

"This Council recommends to the Government that early steps should be taken to redeem the promise held out by the Government to the Hissar and Rohtak Districts in the way of providing additional irrigation facilities."

To this an amendment has been moved :—

"That for the original resolution the following be substituted :—

"This Council recommends to the Government that the construction of Bhakra Dam be taken in hand as soon as the construction of the Thal Project has sufficiently advanced to admit of the work on this project being undertaken subject to the proviso that the Council votes money, and that the project should be found suitable from an engineering and financial point of view and has received the sanction of the Government of India."

The question is that that amendment be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is that the resolution as amended be adopted.

The motion was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. STOPPAGE OF RECRUITMENT OF IMPERIAL FOREST SERVICE OFFICERS TO THE PUNJAB.

Lala Mohan Lal [North-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban] :

Sir, I beg to move :—

"This Council recommends to the Government to recommend to the Government of India that no further Indian Forest Service officers be allotted to the Punjab for a period of at least ten years."

Sir, I take my stand on Government reports that I have studied. After listening to me, perhaps the Honourable Revenue Member would be inclined to accept my resolution. In the last budget speech of 1923, the Chief Conservator, Mr. Gibson, said :—

"I have recently put before the Government the project of reducing the administrative staff by two permanent conservators, realising that for a few years to come we must economise."

My resolution is based on two grounds, firstly, that we have got at present a sufficient number of officers in the Forest Department and that we do not require any more. That submission of mine is based on economy. The Punjab Forest Department report in 1921-22 gives us an idea about our financial position. The cash surplus for the year 1921-22 amounted to Rs. 6,20,865 as against Rs. 23,94,865 for the last year, the average for the past five years being Rs. 7,47,119. In this very report the financial income and expenditure for the previous five years are discussed. From this it is clear that the average income of the Forest Department during the last five years preceding the report was much more than it was in that year. Leaving this aside, I have prepared a statement which I am sure will be borne out by the officers of the department and I will show from that statement the annual surplus from the Forest Department and the top heavy expenditure of the department on establishment.

I have got a statement for about 12 years : but I will not bother the Council with the figures for the first seven years. I will take my statement from the year 1918 up to the year 1921-22. In the year 1917-18 the

RESOLUTION RE. STOPPAGE OF RECRUITMENT OF IMPERIAL FOREST 191
SERVICE OFFICERS TO THE PUNJAB.

total expenditure of the Forest Department, including the Conservators' pay, the Deputy Conservators and Extra Assistant Conservators' pay and the pay of the subordinate establishment was Rs. 4,11,295. In the year 1917-18 it rose to Rs. 4,49,860. In the year 1918-19 it rose to Rs. 5,20,122; in 1919-20 to Rs. 6,29,948, in 1920-21 to Rs. 5,92,506, and in 1921-22 to Rs. 9,34,128. Against this, Sir, is surplus in the Punjab—

	Rs.
in the year 1917-18	9,34,704
in the year 1918-19	5,69,472
in the year 1919-20	15,23,318

in the year 1920-21 there was a deficit of Rs. 17,246.

and in the year 1921-22, a surplus of Rs. 6,20,865.

So far as regards the position of the Forest Department as to income, I have got a statement which shows the number of the I. F. S. Extra Assistant Conservators' Cadre as sanctioned and as actually filled in.

The statement shows that on the 1st February 1924 we had the following sanctioned cadre 38 I. F. S., out of which 3 are Conservators and 35 Deputy Conservators and Assistant Conservators. Out of the 35 appointments 29 are filled and 6 vacant. The sanctioned cadre of Extra Assistant Conservators is 38, out of which 27 have been filled and 6 vacant. Up to 1918 we had 1 Conservator, 12 Deputy and Assistant Conservators and 9 Extra Deputy Conservators and Extra Assistant Conservators.

I have already drawn attention to the expenditure over this Service and now beg to say that the total number of Forest divisions in the Punjab is 18. In the 18 divisions according to my estimate we require 18 officers to take charge and no more. In these 18 divisions there is Hazara included and the divisions are Simla, Kangra, Hoshiarpur, Northern Plantations, Southern Plantations, Upper Bashahr, Lower Bashahr, Lahore, Kulu, Saraj, Multan, Jhelum, Rawalpindi East, Rawalpindi West, Hazara and Depôt. In these divisions 18 officers are required. We may require 25 per cent. for leave reserve, making the total of 23 officers. For some divisions probably we may require more than one officer, and allowing six more for this purpose I think that we do not require at present more than 30 officers in the Punjab belonging to the Imperial Service. I am sure that the Government member-in-charge when he is replying will enlighten me on the subject as to the requirements and say how the cadre has been distributed in the Forest divisions.

I saw in the Gazette of the 8th February that three of the officers are at present attached to the Forest Divisions. Some of these officers have been lent to the various Indian States and some are attached officers which means that they are not required. Some of the officers of the Indian Forest Service are at present in charge of ranges which is not their duty. That is the position of the Forest Department in the Punjab and as I have submitted before our expenditure on the Forest Department is very large, and each new officer that we import in the Punjab costs Rs. 10,000. I am speaking from the economic point of view, when I say that we should not import more officers in the present condition of our budget. It is my opinion that we cannot afford to have any more of these officers and that we do not require any more. With these words I resume my seat.

Mr. President : The resolution proposed runs :—

" This Council recommends to the Government to recommend to the Government of India that no further Indian Forest Service officers be allotted to the Punjab for a period of at least ten years."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz [Lahore (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I regret to say that I am opposed to this resolution which I consider quite unnecessary. It binds the hands of the Council and is clearly absurd in its nature. Vacancies in the Department are never filled in unreasonably. The honourable mover has argued that as the Department is not a paying one either recruitment be stopped or the existing establishment be reduced. The fact of the matter is that in the Punjab the Forest Department is not of a long standing as it is in other provinces, where labour is also cheap and therefore it proves very lucrative. A perusal of the Report on Forests shows that 26 lakhs of rupees were gained as a net profit during the last few years. The working of the Department is not only confined to cutting wood but plantation and afforestation works are also carried on in order to create a perpetual source of income. The Forests extend over 6,250 square miles in the Punjab and 200 miles in the Forest Area with 39 Imperial Service and Provincial Service Officers. Thus each of them controls an area of over 175 square miles. By a reduction of officers the area under control of each may extend over 300 or 400 square miles. A reduction is impossible but an increase in the number of officials may be desirable if forests are to be further developed. Moreover, my friend, the mover has totally ignored the fact that towards the end of 1924 the number of officers on the effective list will go down to 32 on account of retirement and leave.

In order to cope with the situation caused by death, resignation or pension of officers further recruitment will have to be made. My worthy friend is also labouring under another misunderstanding that is, that the officers sent by the Government of India must be provided for but this practice has ceased and now it rests with the Punjab Government to have so many as the local Government requires. *(At this stage Mr. President left the Chair and the Deputy President took the Chair.)* If it be resolved that outsiders are not to be provided, while those candidates who belong to the Punjab be sent to other provinces of India it will be retrograde to the interest of the Province as it prevents new enlistments and leaves no scope for improvement.

The reality is that the Department desires that the profits should remain with the Department alone while the timber merchants try to raise them for themselves and this is the cause of tension between them. The prices of timber have gone very low but when the present depression in timber trade is over, the Department will naturally gain much. With these remarks I oppose the resolution.

Sardar Jodh Singh [(Sikh), Urban] : Began to talk in Punjabi when the Deputy President interrupting said that the member must not talk in Punjabi.

Sardar Jodh Singh : There is a rule, Sir, that any member may talk in a recognised vernacular of the province, with your permission.

The Deputy President : I would, you talk in English or Urdu.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : I rise to a point of order, Sir. I have got permission to speak in Punjabi and I have been speaking in Punjabi. (Hear, hear.)

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : What is the bye-law on the subject? It says in any recognised vernacular of the province. Is not Punjabi a recognised vernacular?

The Deputy President : I do not think any further discussion on this question is needed. We are just now dealing with the particular speech of the honourable member Sardar Jodh Singh and I have asked him to make his speech in English or in Urdu. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : With due respect may I ask, Sir, whether this ruling will hold good in the present case only or whether it will be binding on any other member who may like to speak in Punjabi on some other occasion?

The Deputy President : We will see to it when the occasion arises. (Hear, hear).

Sardar Jodh Singh [(Sikh), Urban] : Sir, according to your ruling I will just make a few remarks in English. I do not wish to make a long speech. I am for economy. The resolution is so worded that instead of asking that some of the Provincial Forest Service people should be substituted for the Imperial Forest Service officers, it says that no officers should be taken for ten years. That is an impossible proposition. I want to draw the attention of the House to one fact more. We are constituting a Forest Board and I think the Forest Department will consult the Board and place its requirements before them every year. That Board will have every opportunity of discussing the subject and finding out the particular necessities of each year. I am, therefore, unable to agree with the learned mover of the resolution to lay down a general rule that no officers should be taken for ten years. (Cheers.)

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the question be put.”

The Deputy President : The question is—

“That the question be put.”

The motion was carried.

Lala Mohan Lal [North-East Towns (Non-Muhammadian), Urban] : Sir, my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz probably thinks that he knows more of the department than I do. But I can assure him that I know much better of the department than he does. I have no personal feelings against the department, rather I am as friendly with it as he is. I brought this resolution not with a view to criticise the administration of the department. The only consideration for the resolution is one of economy. At present we have got more officers than we actually require. Perhaps I may be wrong in saying that the period should be fixed at ten years. I only meant for the period for which we do not require them.

As for the statistics I have given I may assure you, Sir, that these are the figures given in official reports.

In conclusion, Sir, I may assure the House once more that there is no personal feeling in the matter and that I only considered it my duty to bring the facts to light.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member): Sir, I shall first start by giving this House certain information which I have got from the Chief Conservator of Forests. The present strength of the Imperial Forest Service in the Punjab, including the North-West Frontier Province, is 39. Out of these 39, we have got four vacancies at the present moment. Five people are on leave, three officers are shortly to go on leave and five are on deputation to foreign service, and two will be shortly going on leave or will be going on deputation to foreign service. Thus we are left only with twenty officers both in the Punjab and in the North-West Frontier Province. I may point out, Sir, that out of these twenty, five will have three years' experience or a little over that.

The area as has been pointed out by my friend, Mian Shah Nawaz, the Forest area in the Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province is 6,500 square miles, 6,250 in the Punjab and 250 in the North-West Frontier Province. My friend has very ably put forward the point of view that the Imperial Forest Officers who have to supervise an area of this extent are comparatively speaking very small in number. We have got the Provincial Forest Service men, we have got Rangers, and Deputy Rangers under them and we have got Forest Guards scattered all over this area who require to be supervised properly. Even now there are many complaints, of which the honourable members of this House must be aware. If these subordinates are not properly supervised the number of complaints will increase every year and the trouble and annoyance that the people of this Province will have to undergo will be very great. Therefore, for the administration of the department it is absolutely necessary that there should be a fair number of Imperial Service Officers in order to supervise the subordinates, leaving aside the question of the proper control of the expenditure and income from the forest property of the Province. We have got something like 40 lakhs of revenue every year and an expenditure of something like 30 lakhs during the present time. But with the revival from the present slump of the timber trade, perhaps, the income would be much more than what we have at the present moment.

The Deputy President: Is it the wish of the House to continue the debate and finish it in a short time or to adjourn it till to-morrow?

6 P.M.

The House signified its desire to continue the debate.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: Well, Sir, as regards recruitment, I expect that at the end of 1924, three more men would be coming. But in this period we will normally have two officers to retire. There is also the possibility of some other officers asking to retire on proportionate pension, or there may be casualties over which no one has any control. We will have something like 33 officers instead of 39 that we have at the present moment. I may inform the House that recruitments are made three years in advance. Applications are invited by a notification and applicants are selected by a committee appointed by the Local Government and their recommendations after an interview with the candidates are submitted to the Government of India who have got the final say in the matter. Three years in advance we have to intimate to the Government of India our requirements for the Forest Service. We are not likely to have any recruits in 1925-26 as was hinted at by Mr. Gibson in his speech and in the report which my honourable friend read. The idea underlying this is that as we find that we are not in need of Imperial Forest Service officers, we ourselves

SERVICE OFFICERS TO THE PUNJAB,

are doing out best to cut down our requirements in this matter. My honourable friend opposite asks us to cut down our requirements for the coming ten years. I should like the House to recognise and realise the difficulties in which we may be landed if this resolution is carried out. If the Government of India accept this recommendation and if later on when normal conditions, as in pre-war days, were to prevail and if there was a good deal of timber trade and if we are precluded from recruiting any more then the difficulties of this Province would be increased. I would even say that the resolution so far as it goes is unnecessary because it binds us for the coming ten years ahead. As I pointed out already, we do not want any recruits in 1925-26 and for 1927. Ten years hence, it would perhaps be too early to bind this Government down in our requirements. If we accept the sweeping recommendations contained in this resolution, the House would be tying the hands of the Government in this matter.

My honourable friend has made certain observations, but he was so quick in putting forward his views that I was not able to follow him. But anyhow I am placing before the House some interesting information from a paper which has been given to me by the Chief Conservator of Forests just now. This gives the revenue, expenditure, surplus and cost of the Imperial Forest Service officers and the Provincial Forest Service officers. I am giving the figures in thousands. In 1915-16, the revenue was 17.18; expenditure 9.28; surplus 7.95; and the cost of the Imperial and the Provincial Forest Service officers was 1.27. In 1918-19, the revenue was 24.61; the expenditure 18.92; surplus 5.69 and the cost of the Imperial and the Provincial Forest Service officers was 1.59. In 1921-22, the revenue was 49.97; expenditure 43.76; surplus 6.21 and the cost of the Imperial and the Provincial Forest Service officers was 2.73. In 1923-24 the revenue was 43.27; expenditure 32.06; surplus 11.21 and the cost of the Imperial and the Provincial Forest Service officers was 3.45. The figures for the coming year would be seen when the budget is presented. There was only one year in which there was a deficit, but hitherto there has not been a deficit in the revenue and expenditure. I may say one thing more and that is that hitherto the Forest Department has been including the capital expenditure in their revenue accounts. That has to be borne in mind when people are looking into the various reports which have been published by the Department. The sanctioned cadre in January 1900 was 12 Imperial Forest Service officers and 9 Provincial Forest Service officers. In July 1903, there were 12 Imperial Forest Service officers and 10 Provincial Forest Service officers. In February 1905, there were 13 Imperial Forest Service officers and 9 Provincial Forest Service officers. In January 1915, there were 13 Imperial Service officers and 9 Provincial Service officers. In April 1921, there were 39 Imperial Forest Service officers and 33 Provincial Forest Service officers. One more point, Sir, and that is the cost of the two services roughly is 2½ lakhs as compared with the pre-war cost of 1.15 lakhs. With the better prospects of timber trade, I hope this House will not stultify this Department by cutting down our requirements in future. With these few words, I would leave the fate of the resolution in the hands of the House.

The Deputy President : The question is...

Lala Mohan Lal [North-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban] ; In view of the assurance given by the Honourable the Revenue Member, I beg to withdraw my resolution.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : With your permission, Sir, I may point out that every year the recruit-

[The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.]

ment list would be placed before the Forest Board of the Province that has been recently constituted.

Lala Mohan Lal : In view of the above assurance, I beg to withdraw my resolution.

The Deputy President : The honourable member has been a little hasty. I have already begun to put the question. Now the motion will be decided by the vote of the House.

Lala Huchi Ram, Sahni (Punjab University) : On a point of order, Sir. The House may allow the honourable member Lala Mohan Lal to withdraw the resolution and so the question whether he has the permission or not may be put to the House.

The Deputy President : The Council has already carried the closure motion thereby deciding that the question should be put to vote. Motion for leave to withdraw is out of order at this stage. Resolution proposed runs as follows:

"That this Council recommends to the Government to recommend to the Government of India that no further Indian Forest Service officer be allotted to the Punjab for a period of at least ten years."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The motion was lost.

The Council then adjourned till two of the clock on Friday, the 29th February 1924.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2ND SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, the 29th February 1924.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

WATER-LOGGING OF THE AREAS ADJOINING THE BANKS OF CANALS.

100. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din: Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that on account of water-logging very large areas of agricultural land adjoining the banks of several Government Canals have been rendered unfit for agriculture?
- (b) If so, have the owners of water-logged areas been compensated for their loss in the past? If not, do Government propose to compensate them in future?
- (c) Whether Government are prepared to exchange the water-logged tracts with cultivable Government lands and thus give relief to the owners of water-logged areas?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that owing to water-logging and accumulation of water a large number of village roads and paths have become impassable and that this has seriously affected trade, traffic and intercourse in the affected neighbourhoods?
- (e) Whether Government propose to build bridges at all places where traffic has become impossible owing to such accumulation of water and absence of such bridges?
- (f) Whether they have received any representations from the inhabitants of Tahsil Daska, District Sialkot, praying for the construction of a bridge near Jethike on account of water-logging? If so, what action have Government taken or propose to take on that representation?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

- (a) Some narrow strips of land along one or two canals have been rendered unfit for agriculture owing to water logging permanently; other areas which are at present unfit for agriculture it is hoped to redeem.
- (b) and (c) Compensation has been paid in some cases and in so far as has been practicable preference has been given to owners of water-logged areas when land has been distributed for temporary cultivation. The whole question, however, is at present under investigation by Government in consultation with the Drainage Board and a decision with regard to the policy to be adopted for the treatment of such areas will be shortly defined.

[The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.]

(d) Country roads have certainly been made impassable in places but Government has no information that trade has been seriously affected.

(e) No. The proposal is not practicable.

(f) No.

JAGRAON MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

101. Lala Mohan Lal : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if a memorial from the residents of the "Anderson Gunj", Jagraon, District Ludhiana, was received by the Government complaining about the neglect of the Municipality in not providing proper drains for the drainage of the water of the Mandi and not looking after their conveniences ?

(b) If the reply to the above be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken in this matter ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that as alleged in the said memorial, the residents of the Anderson Gunj, Jagraon, pay a sum of about Rs. 25,000 a year to the Municipality of Jagraon by way of terminal tax and that it forms the major portion of the income of the Jagraon Municipality ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to direct the Municipality of Jagraon to attend to the requirements of the residents of the Anderson Gunj Mandi, Jagraon ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Yes.

(b) The memorial was sent to the Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana, whose full report has not yet been received by Government. It is understood, however, that the Municipality of Jagraon is negotiating with the Ludhiana District Board regarding the financing of a scheme for draining the mandi.

(c) The Anderson Gunj has only recently been included in the limits of the Municipality and has only been contributing to the income of the Municipality for 3½ years.

The residents of Anderson Gunj paid Rs. 24,595 on account of a total of Rs. 32,793 and Rs. 21,149 from 1st April 1923 to 25th February 1924, out of a total of Rs. 28,198.

(d) No. Government has no reasons to suppose that the matter will not be given proper consideration by the Local Body concerned which includes 2 members elected to represent the interests of the mandi wards of the Municipality. The residents of Anderson Gunj have other requirements than those of drainage of the mandi such as educational facilities, and the Municipal authorities are in the best position to decide how their funds should be allocated to these different requirements.

DOCUMENTS STAMPED UNDER THE INDIAN STAMP ACT.

102. Mr. V. F. Gray : Will Government be pleased to state whether any Rule or Regulation has been made by His Excellency the Governor of the Punjab in Council for the protection of parties to documents stamped in terms of the Schedule to the Indian Stamp Act, II of 1899, or the Indian Stamp (Punjab Amendment) Act, VIII of 1922, and executed in the Punjab between the 6th October 1923, the date of promulgation of the Indian Stamp (Amendment) Act, XLIII of 1923, in the *Gazette of India*, and the 10th October 1923, the date when that *Gazette* became available for the information of the public in the Punjab ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The answer is in the negative. Under section 9 of the Stamp Act it would have been for the Governor-General in Council to make any such rule or regulation.

Mr. V. F. Gray : Sir, arising out of this answer, I beg leave to ask a supplementary question. Will Government consider the advisability of making a representation to the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Yes, Sir.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, LYALLPUR.

103. Lala Mohan Lal : Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) If it is a fact that the Agricultural College at Lyallpur was started with the idea of providing agricultural education to the sons of zamindars to enable them to improve their lands?
- (b) If the reply to the above be in the affirmative will the Government be pleased to state the number of the sons of zamindars who have availed themselves of the education of the college and the number of those who after completing their training have gone back to their lands?
- (c) If it is a fact that the number of applicants for admission to the Lyallpur Agricultural College is decreasing now? If so, why?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : (a) This is one of the objects with which the College was started.

(b) Prior to the year 1917 a total of 198 students availed themselves of training at the Agricultural College—sons of zamindars were not distinguished from other students. Since 1917 a total of 363 students have been admitted, of whom 293 are agriculturists and 70 non-agriculturists. No record is maintained of students who return to their lands after completing the course of training. Few of them keep in touch with the College after leaving it, but ten who have returned to their lands are in touch with the Department.

(c) From 1913 there has been a gradual increase in the number of applications for admission to the Agricultural College until 1923 when there was a decrease. This is accounted for by the fact that the results of the Matriculation examination were not issued until one day prior to the date of selection of candidates for admission to the College and therefore did not allow sufficient time for students to obtain results and present themselves at Lyallpur; the fact that the graduates are now finding difficulty in getting employments in Government service is also a factor.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT AND ZAMINDARS.

104. Lala Mohan Lal : Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) If it is a fact that the Agricultural Department gives practical assistance to zamindars applying for help? If so, in how many instances during the past 5 years has such help been sought and given and with what results? Has it been found necessary to refuse help in any case on any grounds?
- (b) If it is the practice to charge any fees for advice given or for analysing soils, etc., at the request of the zamindars? If any fee is charged, will Government be pleased to state the scale of such fees and whether such fees militate against zamindars freely applying for agricultural advice?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : (a) The answer is in the affirmative. Nothing like full records of cases where advice has been sought and given are kept—many take place verbally when staff are on tour—but they run to many thousands per annum. As a result of this advice the Province has benefited to the extent of many crores of rupees, details of which will be found in the annual reports for the years under reference. In some cases shortage of staff has crippled the Department's attempts to assist people in all directions.

(b) No fees are charged for advice given. Nor are fees generally charged for soil analysis. In very rare cases fees have been charged for soil analysis which were considered beyond the scope of the Department, or in order to keep work within manageable limits and have varied from Rs. 15 to Rs. 45 for a complete analysis of a single soil sample. The answer to the last part is in the negative as no fees are charged for advice.

GRANTS OF LANDS TO TRAINED GRADUATES IN AGRICULTURE.

105. Lala Mohan Lal : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if the Government has been making any special grants of lands for cattle-breeding, dairy-farming, fruit culture, etc.? If so, in how many cases such grants have been attended with success? If not, what have been the causes of failure?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to try an experiment of making grants of land to trained graduates in agriculture to start model farms under the supervision of the Agricultural Department?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : (a) Grants of the kind described have been made. It is however too early yet to say whether any of them have been attended with success or failure. Some are reported to be doing well.

(b) A proposal has already been considered by the Department of Agriculture to lease suitable areas to graduates in Agriculture but it has not been possible yet to adopt any scheme.

SHAHABAD MUNICIPALITY.

106. Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan : (a) Is it a fact that under the amended constitution, the municipality of Shahabad in the Karnal District consists of eight elected and two nominated members?

(b) Is it a fact that on the principle of separate communal representation, out of eight elective seats five were allotted to Muhammadans and three to Non-Muhammadans, in proportion to the numerical strength of the various communities?

(c) Is it a fact that both the seats reserved for nomination are proposed to be given to Non-Muhammadans?

(d) If the answers to (a), (b), and (c) be in the affirmative will the Government be pleased to state their reasons for so doing?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazli-Husain : (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) and (d) Only one seat is given to a non-official and a Hindu gentleman has been nominated (by the Commissioner). The other seat is filled by an *ex-officio* member who happens to be a Hindu.

NON-OFFICIAL PRESIDENT FOR SHAHABAD MUNICIPALITY

107. **Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Municipal Committee of Shahabad, Karnal District, has got an official President ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of conferring upon the said Municipality the privilege of having a non-official President ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) and (b) Yes.

KIRPANS.

108. **Sardar Jodh Singh :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they issued a *communiqué* on 10th March 1922, in which the word *kirpan* was held to mean sword ?

(b) Is the Government aware of decision by a High Court Bench in case No. 672 of 1922 in which it was held that "a Sikh can possess or carry a *kirpan* without a license. Further, he is not prevented by any provision in the Arms Act from dealing with a *kirpan* which he possesses in any way he likes" ?

(c) Is the Government aware that Sikhs are still being harassed in various places by the Police for wearing the so-called long *kirpans* or swords or wearing them in a particular way not acceptable to the Police or dealing with them as they like ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to issue instructions to all the subordinate Police officers and rank and file that Sikhs are not to be molested in that way ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) The *communiqué* referred to did not state or imply that a *kirpan* was synonymous with a sword.

(b) The citation made by the honourable member from the High Court's judgment No. 672 of 1922, conveys a misleading impression of the law. The High Court has ruled that a sword is not a *kirpan* merely because it is carried by a Sikh and that the burden of proving that a particular weapon is a *kirpan* rests upon the person who asserts it to be such. On the assumption that a particular weapon is shown to be a *kirpan*, the law, so far as the Arms Act is concerned, is as stated in the honourable member's citation.

(c) No.

(d) No additional instructions from Government are needed.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, arising out of the answer given by the Honourable Finance Member, I want to ask a supplementary question. In the expression "sword or kirpan" occurring in the judgement will the Honourable Member please say whether 'or' indicates alternative or whether it means synonymous ?

Mr. President : It appears to be quite a new question. It does not arise immediately out of the answer given.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, I want to know the meaning of the word 'or', whether it means synonymous or alternative.

Mr. President : That is a new question and I cannot allow it.

Sardar Jodh Singh: Sir, I do not find the words quoted in the answer in the High Court judgment No. 672 of 1922 which is in my possession. I want to know whether the Honourable Member is referring to that judgment.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: No, Sir.

Sardar Jodh Singh: I am referring to that judgment only.

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO LOCAL BODIES.

109. Sardar Jodh Singh: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have issued any instructions to Deputy Commissioners or other officers concerned enunciating principles that should guide them whilst recommending names for nomination as members of the local bodies?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay a copy of those instructions on the table?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (a) and (b) Yes, as contained in paragraph 12 of the "note on the reconstitution of the Municipal Committees and District Boards of the Punjab", a copy of which is laid on the table.

INTERCEPTION OF POSTAL ARTICLES ADDRESSED TO AKALI-TE-PARDESI.

110. Sardar Jodh Singh: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it has issued any orders to the Postal Department under section 26 (c) of the Indian Post Office Act to intercept all postal articles addressed to *Akali-te-Pardesi*, Amritsar?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the nature of the public emergency that has arisen or the danger to public safety or tranquillity that is apprehended to justify this action?

(c) Is it a fact that Post Office under the pursuance of Government orders has stopped the delivery of insured articles and payment of money orders as well to the above mentioned paper?

(d) Is it a fact that in section 49 of the Posts and Telegraphs Guide the term "Postal Article" is defined to include the following six classes of articles only, viz. :—(1) Letters, (2) Post Cards, (3) Book and Pattern Packets, (4) Blind Literature Packets, (5) Registered Newspapers and (6) Parcels.

(e) If so, will the Government be pleased to state under what authority the money orders and insured letters are being stopped, and if they are being stopped under a misapprehension, will the Government be pleased to issue orders to the Postal Department to effect delivery of the above articles at once?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (a) The honourable member is referred to the answer given to S. Gurbakhsh Singh's question No. 13.

(b) and (c) It is not in the public interest to give information on these two points.

(d) The honourable member is referred to the definition of 'postal article' given in Section 2 of the Post Office Act (VI of 1898). The definition includes every article or thing transmissible by post.

(e) This does not arise.

BABAR AKALIS.

111. **Sardar Jodh Singh :** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the reports appearing from day to day in the vernacular press of the province that the Police in pursuit of the alleged Babar Akalis in the districts of Hoshiarpur and Jullundur are harassing innocent people by arresting them on insufficient data and then releasing them after detention for a few days, or by making them dance attendance upon the Police officers or by causing destruction to their crops either by passing through them on horseback or by using them as fodder for their animals?

(b) Has the Government considered the advisability of contradicting these allegations?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to appoint a mixed Committee of enquiry, consisting of a majority of non-official members of this Council to enquire into the truth or otherwise of these allegations?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) Government has from time to time noticed such reports, but very few have appeared recently.

(b) It is impossible for Government to contradict all untrue allegations appearing in the Press, and it is doubtful whether such contradictions serve any useful purpose.

(c) No.

BURNING TO DEATH OF CERTAIN AKALIS.

112. **Sardar Jodh Singh :** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the evidence given by Mr. Jacob, Deputy Commissioner, Jullundur, in the Babar Akali Case?

(b) Has the Government noted that it is stated in the evidence that in the village Munder a *chaubara* in which the alleged Babars had sought protection was set on fire by the Government officers?

(c) Is the Government aware that by this action of its officers the inmates were burnt to death?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state if such action could be taken even against alleged criminals under the existing law and, if so, will the authority be quoted?

(e) Is the Government aware that it is being stated that an innocent man was also in the *chaubara* when it was set on fire and that he besought the onlookers to take him out?

(f) Has the Government paid any compensation to the carpenter whose *chaubara* was forcibly entered into by the Babars as alleged and was burnt afterwards? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) If the honourable member implies that the persons who habitually resided in the *chaubara* were burnt to death, there is no truth in this suggestion. Of the three proclaimed offenders who had forcibly taken refuge in the *chaubara* after ejecting the inmates and who had opened fire on the Police and officers of Government, two were shot while trying to escape and the third man succeeded in escaping.

(d) The action taken was in accordance with law. The honourable member is referred to section 46 (2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

[The Honourable Sir John Maynard.]

(e) It is believed that there is no truth in this allegation.

(f) Government has no information on this subject, but will enquire.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Has the honourable member noticed in the evidence of Mr. Jacob that he said they were probably shot ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The answer is that two were shot while trying to escape.

BHAI TARA SINGH OF THETHAR.

113. Sardar Jodh Singh : (a) Is it a fact that Bhai Tara Singh of Thethar imprisoned in connection with the Manak Gurdwara case, and now confined in the Lahore Central Jail gave evidence against the Jailer of that Jail in a certain defamation case ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of transferring the prisoner from that Jail ?

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.

ASSESSMENT OF THE COST OF THE PUNITIVE POLICE IN THE VILLAGE MAKHI KHURD.

114. Sardar Jodh Singh : (a) Will Government be pleased to state what the orders are as to assessment of the cost of the Punitive Police in the village of Makhi Khurd, District Lahore ?

(b) Will not the Government see the advisability of taxing land-holders according to their *haisiat* instead of taxing them all alike ?

(c) Are *Akalis* being taxed as such ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to issue instructions that those families that consist of minors and females only should not be taxed ?

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.

GOJRA MUNICIPALITY.

115. Sardar Jodh Singh : Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have received any representation from the Sikhs of Gojra, District Lyallpur, requesting for separate seats on the Municipal Committee of that place ;

(b) Whether it is a fact that the Sikhs have not been given any representation by election in the Gojra Municipality ;

(c) The total amount of taxes paid by the Sikhs and the Muhammadans respectively to the Gojra Municipal Funds ;

(d) Whether the Muhammadans have been given two seats by election and perhaps one or more by nomination in the proposed draft rules of Gojra Municipality, while the Sikhs have got none ;

(e) Why the Sikhs in Gojra have been included in "Hindus and others" for election purposes in spite of their prayer to the contrary while in some other municipalities of the province they have been treated as a separate community ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) The only representation received is a telegram purporting to be from the Secretary, Singh Sabha, Gojra, and received after the confirmation of the Rules for the Gojra Municipal Committee.

(b) No. The Sikhs have been given representation by election jointly with the Hindus.

(c) It is not possible to give the total amount of taxes because the main source of the income of this Municipality is the terminal tax for which no communal statistics are available.

(d) It is correct that Muslims have been given two seats by election. The nominations on the Committee will be made in accordance with the principles explained in paragraph 12 of the Note on the reconstitution of the Municipal Committees and District Boards of the Punjab, a copy of which is laid on the table for the honourable member's information.

(e) As explained in paragraph 5 of the note mentioned above communal representation is not given to any community except with a view to remove communal friction or to satisfy a keen local demand on the part of that community. Government have no reason to believe that friction exists between the Hindus and Sikhs of Gojra and as already stated, no request for communal representation was received from the Sikh community until after the rules had been confirmed.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Now that a representation has been made to Government, will the honourable member consider the desirability of changing the rules?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : I will refer the honourable member to refer to the answer to part (e) of the question.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please state whether it is recognised that the Sikhs should have separate representation on local bodies?

Mr. President : I think this a much larger question and it requires notice.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Sir, it arises out of the answer to part (b) of the question.

Mr. President : No, no.

CHANGE IN THE ROUTE OF TAZIAS IN MULTAN.

116. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there have been riots at Multan at the time of Muharram in or about the years 1881, 1897 and 1922?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that representations have been made every now and then by the citizens of Multan that the routes of the *Tazias* that pass through the thickly populated quarters of the town should be changed?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government contemplate the change of the routes?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) There were riots in Multan in or about the time of Muharram in 1881, 1898 and 1922. The riot in 1881 had no connection with the Muharram celebrations.

[The Honourable Sir John Maynard.]

(b) Representations in the sense suggested in the question have doubtless been made from time to time, though there is no record of them in the Secretariat. The change is desired only by one party to the dispute.

(c) The answer is in the negative. No recommendation that the route should be changed has been made by the local officers?

SECRETARY, MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, MULTAN.

117. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the appointment of the present Secretary of Municipal Committee, Multan, was sanctioned and approved against the provisions of section 38 of the Municipal Act;

(b) Whether it is a fact that the Commissioner, Multan, in his letter No. LXI-10-1, dated 21st October 1918, has placed on record that the present Secretary is not a suitable person to discharge the onerous duties of Secretary except as a purely temporary measure;

(c) What are the educational qualifications of the present Secretary;

(d) What was his substantive pay when the above letter was issued from the Commissioner's office;

(e) What is his present substantive pay;

(f) Whether these irregularities were set right by the Municipal Committee in the month of July 1923, or after, when the Hindu elected members did not remain on the Committee?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain :

(a) No.

(b) Yes : but the Commissioner subsequently approved of his appointment under section 38.

(c) He studied up to F. A.

(d) Rs. 240.

(e) Rs. 300.

(f) It was apparently considered necessary to formally appoint the Secretary in another meeting. This was done in August 1923, after the Hindu members had resigned. This resolution confirmed the President's choice given to him by the special meeting of 28th April 1922.

JANJI RAM, TEACHER OF SHEIKH UMAR, DISTRICT MUZAFFARGARH.

118. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the orders of transfer of Janji Ram, teacher of Sheikh Umar, District Muzaffargarh, were passed because of the Police report that he was taking part in Congress activities?

(b) If so, was any enquiry made into the matter or was the report of the Police taken as Gospel truth?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement of the grounds of his resignation which he submitted in his resignation letter?

(d) Is it a fact that instead of his resignation being accepted he was dismissed from service?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : This matter is the concern of the District Board, wherein the matter can presumably be raised.

WATER SUPPLY IN THE BASANTPUR MINOR.

119. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will Government be pleased to enquire if there has been insufficient supply of water in the Basantpur Minor in Lodhran Tahsil, District Multan, so much so that the crops did not mature well last year? If so, will Government be pleased to give orders that *warabandi* (regulation) of such Minors and Channels should be so arranged as not to put zamindars to loss?

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.

KHANGARH MUNICIPALITY.

120. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received a representation from the Hindus of Khangarh praying that the constitution of the Khangarh Municipality be revised on the ground that the existing voters' lists are inaccurate?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to direct that the voters' lists be revised?

(c) Will Government be pleased to determine the communal proportion of seats after the revision of voters' lists?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Yes.

(b) No, there being no reason to suppose that the figures supplied were substantially inaccurate as regards the relative proportions of the communities concerned.

(c) Does not therefore arise.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Is not the fact that several people made a representation a sufficient reason for revising the voters' lists?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : It depends upon the number of signatures and the people whose signature they are.

SEED ACT FOR THE PUNJAB.

121. Mir Maqbool Mahmood : Has the attention of the Honourable Minister for Agriculture been invited to the fact that the Governments of England, United States, Denmark, Japan and a few other countries have passed Seeds Acts under which seeds below a fixed high standard of quality and germinating capacity are not to be offered for sale in their respective territories, and to the fact that the operation of these Acts has resulted in the increased production per acre of the crops in these territories?

(b) In view of the low average quality of seeds sold and sown in this Province will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to consider the advisability of proposing some steps, like or similar to those adopted in this matter by the Governments referred to in part (a) above?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : (a) The Ministry of Agriculture believes that legislation of the kind mentioned has been adopted in certain countries. The results have probably been as stated.

(b) The Ministry is not prepared to attempt legislation of this kind at present but the suggestion of the honourable member will be communicated to the Provincial Board of Agriculture for advice, as the object in view is at present being served by Government Seed Depôts.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE BREEDS OF CATTLE IN THE PUNJAB.

122. **Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** Is it a fact that the rate of cattle mortality in the Punjab is very high and that the quality of the cattle breeds in this province is very low? If so, what steps has the Government undertaken recently or proposes to undertake in the near future for the improvement of the breeds of cattle?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : Figures of cattle mortality from all causes cannot be given as there is no existing agency to collect these. Patwaris report contagious diseases and figures are given in annual report of the Civil Veterinary Department.

The quality of the cattle in the Punjab compares favourably with the quality of cattle in other provinces in India, but there is great scope for improvement. Through the Civil Veterinary Department, Government is effecting improvements in cattle by inducing zamindars to adopt a more careful system of breeding, including castration of unsuitable males, and by providing specially approved stud-bulls. The Government Cattle Farm, Hissar sends out about 250 bulls per annum, most of which go to District Boards at privileged prices. Six grants of land carrying a total of 29 bulls and 1,675 cows have been given mainly in the Lower Bari Doab Colony to encourage cattle breeding. Milk registers are being introduced.

Special cattle breeding schemes for the Dhanni and Hariana breed have been started recently. A pedigree register has been started for the former and is proposed for the latter. Further information is given in the annual reports of the Civil Veterinary Department. A specialist in cattle breeding is needed, but financial stringency has at present prevented the appointment being made.

USURIOUS LOANS ACT.

123. **Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** Will the Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken or propose to take on the protest made yearly for the last 4 years by the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Punjab, in his Annual Reports that the courts do not make sufficient use of the provisions of the Usurious Loans Act, 1918, by re-opening unfair transactions between lenders and borrowers and by relieving the latter of the excessive interest charged by the former?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The Usurious Loans Act, 1918, contains a proviso which prohibits a Court from re-opening any agreement, purporting to close previous dealings and to create a new obligation, which has been entered into by parties or any persons from whom they claim at a date more than six years from the date of the transaction which comes before the Court for adjudication. Between 1918 and 1923, when the Punjab Loans Limitation Law was amended, the period of limitation for the recovery of debts in this Province was six years. Under the six year's law it was not probable that agreements purporting to close previous dealings would be made at intervals of less than six years; and there can therefore have been few, if any, cases in which the proviso above cited has not operated to prevent the re-opening of agreements under the Usurious Loans Act in the Punjab. This is the explanation of the insufficient use of the Act by the Punjab Courts. The same influence must continue to be operative until the amended Limitation Law has had time to result in the bringing before the Courts of transactions in cases in which agreements purporting to close previous dealings are of more recent date.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : Sir, the answer of the Honourable the Finance Member relates only to the recovery of loans to which the Act would apply if the loans were contracted after 1924. But the Act applies to agreement relating to securities on loans contracted before or after the Act came in force, in other words, the Act applies to certain agreements already contracted. The answer of the Honourable the Finance Member does not touch this part of my question. Will he be prepared to consider this part over again?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I understand the matter is as I have stated in the answer already given. If, however, the honourable member will come to see me and explain to me what he means, I will be prepared to consider his point.

LAHORE BADSHAHI MOSQUE.

124. Mir Maqbool Mahmood : Is it a fact that the Military have ceased to occupy the Lahore Fort? If so, will the Government be pleased to cancel all restrictions imposed at present on the control of the Mussalmans over the Lahore Badshahi Mosque, and to pass over the said mosque to the Mussalmans unconditionally?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The matter is being considered.

GRANTS OF LANDS TO PERSONS BELONGING TO THE AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

125. Mir Maqbool Mahmood : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving the names of all the persons of Amritsar District whose services were rewarded by the Government, by the grants of land from the end of the Great War to the present date giving also the areas of land granted and the details of their services?

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.

PREVALENCE OF DACOITY IN THE AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

126. Mir Maqbool Mahmood : (a) In view of the prevalence of dacoity in the Amritsar District will the Government be pleased to state what steps they propose taking to restore normal conditions of peace and security in the Amritsar District?

(b) If the answer to (a) above be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to put itself in touch with the authorities on the matter forthwith and take necessary steps to deal with the situation?

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.

MILITARY SCHOLARSHIP.

127. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Government be pleased to state whether it has restricted the benefit of "Military Scholarships" to the children of military men whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 500, and, if so, whether the restriction is permanent or only for the period of the present financial stringency?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Yes.

(b) The restriction is permanent but District Advisory Committees may use their discretion in dealing with hard cases provided the annual allotments for military scholarships of the respective districts are not exceeded.

MILITARY SCHOLARSHIPS.

128. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Arising out of the answer to question No. 2784* given on 25th October last, will the Government be pleased to state whether great delay still occurs in securing final sanction for the award of "Military scholarships" and, if so, will the Government be pleased to take necessary steps to secure speedy disposal of applications for these scholarships?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Government is not aware of any great delay in awarding scholarships, but the District Advisory Committees will be requested to expedite matters in future.

PERSONS HOLDING COLONY LAND ON TERMS OF TEMPORARY CULTIVATION.

129. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving—

- (a) the names of the various persons holding colony lands on terms of temporary cultivation;
- (b) the number of squares or rectangles held by each of these persons
- (c) the tribe or district of each such holder;
- (d) a brief statement of the services of such holders and of the main terms under which these lands have been leased out?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: The labour of compiling such a list for any particular year would be enormous and Government is not prepared to call for the information desired.

NON-OFFICIAL RESOLUTIONS.

RESOLUTION RE ENCOURAGEMENT OF ARTICLES MANUFACTURED IN INDIA.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns] Non-Muhammadan [Urban]: Sir, the resolution that I beg to move runs thus:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that no part of the money sanctioned by this Council under the various heads of the Budget Estimates should be spent on any article not produced or manufactured in India unless the officer empowered to order the purchase of such articles certifies that such article is indispensable in public interest and that after necessary enquiry he is satisfied that the article in question cannot be found or manufactured in India."

Sir, I learn that two amendments have been sent in, in connection with the above resolution. One is by my hon'ble friend Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan that for the words "cannot be found or" the words "is not" be substituted. I have had a talk with my hon'ble friend and I explained to him what difference it would make in the sense of my resolution if I accepted his amendment. By mutual agreement, which I think I may be permitted to lay before the House, I agreed that instead of the words "cannot be found," the words "is not produced" should be substituted leaving the rest of the resolution as it is. This satisfies my hon'ble

friend, and if you would permit me Sir, I would amend my resolution by substituting the words "is not produced" for the words "cannot be found."

Mr. President: The alteration proposed is a very small one and I presume the House will have no objection to accord the permission sought for.

The House signified its assent.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: I am very grateful to the House for permitting this almost a verbal change which suits my hon'ble friend Mr. Sikaudar Hayat Khan. With respect to the other amendment, I will say nothing at present unless it is formally brought before the House.

In support of my resolution, Sir, I would submit that the nature of my resolution is such that hardly any difference of opinion can be expected on this point. I presume that every honourable member of this House, whether official or non-official, Hindu or Sikh, Muhammadan or Christian, is patriotic and feels the necessity for the encouragement of Indian industries and Indian manufactures. I am sure that every one of them will agree with me that this resolution does not aim at the achievement of any political object, but is purely and simply a measure which will be conducive to the encouragement of Indian manufactures and Indian industries. Therefore I am sure that all political acrimony will be kept aside when discussing this resolution and that it will be treated as purely an economic and industrial measure. I need hardly say, Sir, that the prosperity of the country depends mainly upon its industries. At present the staple industry of this country is agriculture. More than 200 millions of its people being engaged therein. Agriculture is perhaps the noblest industry and the noblest occupation in which any human being could engage and when all the occupations were mentioned *kheti* was given the first place and it was described as *uttam* (the best). We have however to compete with other countries which leave no stone unturned to exploit the resources of our country and which take away raw materials that we produce, so that by spending labour and industry on them, they may send back the same materials in a modified form and take from us a price which is sometimes a hundred times the price that they paid us for the raw material. Such being the case, it is really time that we should consider the advisability of devising means by which we may be able to compete with these countries. If the whole world were engaged in agriculture as Adam was, and if there was no steam, no electricity, no chimnies sending out smoke in any of the countries in the world, I certainly would prefer that every one should be engaged only in manual industry and preferably agriculture and that we should produce only as much as we require so that the great wars for capturing the markets of the world may be avoided. But unfortunately that is not the case now. In ancient times, I know, our ancestors who possessed excellent brains, and achieved great success in every other art and science did not yoke nature for the purpose of producing more than was required for their needs. The result was that there was peace, there was happiness and there was prosperity. Now we find that we are overwhelmed with competition on all sides; while we produce raw materials, the others take them away, modify them and then send them back again at a higher price. The result is that while other countries are getting richer, our country is getting poorer. I will support my statement with the aid of statistics. From 1800 to 1901 there were a large number of famines, larger in number than have ever

[Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.]

visited any other country in the world. I am quoting from the minority report of the Indian Industrial Commission, which sat in 1916. We find in the report that :—

"In India there were five famines between 1800 and 1825, two between 1825 and 1850, six between 1851 and 1875, eighteen between 1876 and 1900 and the loss of life between the years 1854 and 1901 was 28,825,000 persons."

That is, the loss of life was about 3 crores in the space of 47 years. My submission is that these famines were the result of the decline of industries in this country and they resulted in the severe mortality of the people of this country. In order to give this House an idea as to how much money goes out of the country simply because our own industries are not in a sufficiently advanced condition, I will again quote from that very report in which the figures for the year ending March 1914 were relied upon. About 2 *arabs* or exactly speaking 127 millions sterling was the amount which we had to pay for the imports from foreign countries. Now, Sir, a country which has to pay 2 *arabs* every year to foreign countries for the ordinary necessities of life can never expect to survive for a long time and it is bound to come face to face with poverty, famines and mortality in consequence. I may submit, Sir, that out of this, Government stores alone count for £ 5,873,350 which comes to about Rs. 8 crores. I am sure that during the last 9 or 10 years this amount has considerably increased. With this drain, apart from other drains, this country is gradually running into bankruptcy and I am sure that I need not quote facts and figures in order to demonstrate this part of my argument. Without any further discussion on this resolution therefore I would commend it for the acceptance of the House, reserving whatever I have to say in addition to this for my reply after having heard what other honourable members have to say, especially after the amendment has been moved.

Mr. President : The resolution proposed runs thus :—

"This Council recommends to the Government that no part of the money sanctioned by this Council under the various heads of the Budget Estimates should be spent on any article not produced or manufactured in India unless the officer empowered to order the purchase of such article certifies that such article is indispensable in public interest and that after necessary enquiry he is satisfied that the article in question is not produced or manufactured in India."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan), Rural] : The idea underlying the resolution is a very good one. Everybody would like to revive the industries of this country and to bring them to their former level. A Spanish historian of the time of Akbar wrote that he found everybody from China to Spain wearing Indian-made dress. That was the glorious period in the history of India when all people were contented. I do not lay any blame at the door of the Government; they did not do anything to destroy the industries of the country. It was the East Indian Company and not the Imperial Government that did it. I do not hold the Government responsible for that. What I want is that every effort must be made to regain the lost position and revive our industries. The brain is there; the people are clever enough. The only thing required is to try and give them work which will in effect produce far-reaching results. The only industry at present in the Punjab is agriculture. If the Government promise to take up all the things that are procurable in the Punjab, then the result will be that the attention of the people which is now solely engrossed in agriculture will be diverted to industries, the pressure on land will decrease.

and the agricultural population will flourish side by side with the industrialists. Sir, I know the great industry run by Sir Ganga Ram. There is Hydro Electric plant to be put up under the supervision of an English expert. I once asked him what his idea was about the people who were engaged in the work under him. His answer was that there were some of the best men who were capable of doing the same sort of work as was done in England. I noticed that these people were very clever. Without even previous experience, they are able to do any work and they are able to produce finished articles of as good a type as is produced in England. (Hear, hear.) I am thankful to the Canal Department that in the Lower Bari Doab Canal every article was prepared in the workshop of the Canal Department. I wish other Departments would follow the example of the Canal Department. I am sure we can produce almost everything and produce it cheaply.

My next point is an economic question. It will be a great boon if the resolution is given effect to by Government. If it is done, much of the present economic trouble will vanish. Why cannot we develop the jail industry and make the jails a paying concern? If the jail industry is run on scientific lines it will reduce most of our present day economic trouble. Everybody seems to have got a mania for land now-a-days. Everybody wishes to buy it, even the potter and the carpenter. Consequently the price of land has risen and the agriculturists cannot afford to buy it. With the introduction of industry a good many weavers, for instance, will be able to get work. Even if goods made in this country are of inferior quality, so long as they can be had they should be purchased here. I give my hearty support to Dr. Gokul Chand and resume my seat.

Mr. V. F. Gray [Punjab Chamber of Commerce and Trades Association, Commerce]: Mr. President, I have given notice of moving an amendment which I will do in a few minutes. I have great sympathy with the mover of the resolution up to a certain point. The industries of India must come ahead very shortly now, I think. In my opinion, Indians have lagged behind the world's industries because they were hand-workers. We have just heard of the glories of India in the past. But the present is the mechanical age. India has produced beautiful articles, but the machine-made article is cheaper and always will be. India must follow suit if she is going to keep ahead of the times, and to produce cheap stuff she must produce it mechanically. In my opinion she is quite awake to this fact and I think the Punjab in particular from the industrial point of view is going ahead. You can see the new industries springing up all round. At present the agricultural class is in an enormous majority and if the resolution as it stands is passed, you will make those agriculturists pay most heavily for many of the necessities of life. I should not say necessities but luxuries which for many people have now become necessities. . . .

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: That is not the question. The question is what Government will have to pay and not what the agriculturists will have to pay.

Mr. V. F. Gray: Well, the people eventually have to pay because it is people's money used. The honourable mover said that in 1914 India had to pay 127 million pound sterling for imports. I might here mention these imports were paid for by exports not cash and he also mentioned that the country is in a state of bankruptcy. I think it is hardly true. I think there are very few countries in such solvent position as India is. . . .

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I wish it were so.

Mr. V. F. Gray : It is so.

The amendment I wish to move runs :—

"That at the end of the resolution the words 'quality for quality, at an equal or lower price,' be inserted."

My reasons for moving this amendment are that I consider the resolution before us as it stands a most dangerous one, and yet one sympathises with the wishes expressed, and I also see the safeguard allowed to the officer. But is this sufficient, are we safeguarding the tax-payer's money sufficiently? If the original resolution were passed, would not Government be very nearly obliged to buy almost any rubbish made in the bazaar irrespective of price or quality? It might break the first time in use and cost five times what a good imported article might, and yet it must be bought. My amendment is intended to recommend to Government that they must give preference to goods manufactured in this country. This is only fair, but they cannot do this with the tax-payers' money irrespective of quality and price. I quite realise, the changes my amendment makes, are really in accordance with the resolutions passed by the Assembly in Delhi and the present policy of Government.

If the honourable mover will accept this amendment I trust the House will pass the same as a recommendation to Government.

Mr. President : The original resolution runs :

"This Council recommends to the Government that no part of the money sanctioned by this Council under the various heads of the Budget Estimates should be spent on any article not produced or manufactured in India unless the officer empowered to order the purchase of such article certifies that such article is indispensable in public interest and that after necessary enquiry he is satisfied that the article in question cannot be found or manufactured in India."

To this the following amendment has been moved :—

"That at the end of the resolution the words 'quality for quality, at an equal or lower price,' be inserted."

The question is that that amendment be made. The discussion will now proceed on the supposition that the original resolution or the resolution with the addition of these words will be passed. Now the point before the House is the comparative advantages of the original resolution and the resolution with the addition of the words proposed by the amendment, and the discussion should be confined to that point, that is the comparative advantages of these two propositions.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : [Amritsar (Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, I rise to support the resolution originally moved by my friend Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang, because he has assured me of two things, one, that he is moving this resolution not in a spirit of obstruction, but in a spirit of construction. I welcome that suggestion from him. Secondly, what is more important to the resolution, that he wants this resolution to work only where there is a reasonable proportion in the quality and the price of the articles. In other words, he does not mean that he advocates the purchase of swadeshi goods even if the price is out of all proportions to their merit, or their quality far inferior...

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : There is a slight misunderstanding and I should like to explain it. As the honourable member has referred to me, I think a word of explanation is necessary. As a matter of fact there is no such difference in the prices.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : If there is any such difference, will the honourable member still like to have it? I feel, Sir, that after this vague explanation by the honourable member, so far as the voting on this resolution is concerned, I may have to wait till the honourable mover has replied. I reserve the right of voting against the resolution unless the honourable mover satisfies me as to how his resolution, as it stands, proposes to deal with such cases of great differences in prices and quality.

Mr. President : Order, order. The resolution suggests a definite end and does not make any mention of what you say. I must ask you to take the resolution as it stands and argue on the comparative advantages of that and the amended resolution.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : That being so, Sir, I find myself in a very hard predicament indeed. We all feel that so far as the present economic condition of this country is concerned we have reached a stage when handlooms will pay us no longer. This is a stage when as the honourable mover of the amendment suggested, machine made goods will step in. It is exactly at this stage that Mr. List, the recognised economist, suggests that the State must come in to encourage by a system of voluntary protection the local indigenous productions. Now, Sir, I appeal to the Treasury benches on this point, that since the present agricultural avenues of the province do not find sufficient work for the increasing population and since the increased number of our graduates do not find sufficient employment either in the Government or other services or professions nothing but industrial encouragement and development can solve our present economic needs. (Hear, hear). I am glad to say from the documents and the reports of Government that they are prepared to and do encourage any scheme for the development of industry and I believe that the Government will in the same spirit come forward and meet more than half way by promising to encourage industry by the method suggested in the resolution.

Mr. President : I fear the member is not really speaking on the amendment. The whole supposition is that either the original or the amended resolution will be passed. The honourable member must on this presumption confine himself to the advantages or disadvantages of adding the word or words proposed by the mover of the amendment.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : Is it in order for a member to speak both for and against the resolution and both for and against the amendment?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : May I suggest, Sir, for the convenience of the honourable member that we shall first discuss the amendment and afterwards the resolution as amended if it is amended at all. If he talks now on the amendment he will be quite entitled afterwards to speak on the resolution either in the original form or in the amended form as the case may be.

Mr. President : Quite so. If you catch my eye you will get an opportunity to speak on the resolution after the amendment is disposed of.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : Very well, Sir. Then I will speak on the amendment. So far as the amendment goes, Sir, I am opposed to it because I feel that when we can find things made in India of the quality and the price of foreign goods it is no magnificence or generosity on the part of the Government or any other body to come forward and patronise Indian-made goods. If at all they want to encourage the Indian industry it must be at the present stage.

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

when the country owing to foreign competition may not be able to produce at so cheap a price or of the same quality as the foreign country. Even the Governments of France, America and England have come forward to help the nascent industries of their countries in the way which this resolution contemplates. (Hear, hear).

I want to make one position clear, that if this resolution were intended only as a system of imperial boycotts or boycott of foreign goods or the amendment was brought forward to save that, I would have found it very hard for me to oppose the amendment. With due deference to my honourable friend who has moved the amendment, I wish to urge two points. No doubt by the suggestion contained in the resolution we are asking Government to spend more than they will ordinarily have to spend. But this is counterbalanced by the fact that the Government will be encouraging the nascent industries of the country which they say they have as much at heart as any of us. If the honourable mover of the amendment had worded it in the form 'more or less of the same quality and more or less of the same price' I would have supported him, but he definitely expects at this stage of our industrial development that the Indian-made goods should be of the same quality and of the same cheapness as the foreign goods. This is rather too much to expect.

Another point I would like to mention in this connection. I had the privilege of being present during one of the days of the budget discussion in the House of Commons and I remember that when the question of Imperial Preference was being discussed the honourable the Finance Member got up and said 'We cannot grant Imperial Preference at the expense of the home producer.' That, Sir, is exactly the position we take in this country also. We are prepared to support within our limitations all those members of the Empire who respect our sentiments, but not at the expense of our home producer. With these few words, Sir, I oppose the amendment.

Mr. H. D. Crank (Chief Secretary) : Before the debate proceeds further, Sir, I want to point out one small fallacy in the argument of Mir Maqbool Mahmood. In order to do that, I would like to take a concrete illustration. The honourable member wants to make it compulsory for me, if I have to purchase an article on behalf of Government, say an office clock, to buy one made in India, although there may be a better clock and a much cheaper one available but made in some foreign country, because he says that would be encouraging Indian industries. I do not see how that will encourage Indian industries. If the clock is not of good quality I would naturally go about and tell everybody that the clock I bought is of no use. This would discourage and not encourage the Indian industry. I only want to show by this illustration the fallacy in my friend Mir Maqbool Mahmood's arguments.

Khan Bahadur Chandhri Shahab-ud-Din [Sialkot (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I stand to support the spirit of the proposed amendment. The arguments advanced in support of the resolution and against the amendment by my worthy friend occupying the seat on my right hand are neither relevant nor convincing. If an article of foreign manufacture is cheap in price and superior in quality to a country-made article it would be unwise to prefer the latter. I would particularly ask the Zamindar members of the House to refrain from helping the capitalists by the acceptance of this resolution. I will explain my meaning by an illustration : suppose an article of foreign manufacture and of superior quality can be had for 75 lakhs of rupees

while the same article of local manufacture and inferior quality costs a crore of rupees. If we decide to buy the latter we shall have to spend 25 lakhs more. Now on whom will fall the burden of this excess? The money shall come from the pockets of the Zamindars of the Province. Is this business-like? Is it fair? If the capitalist cares to cater to the needs of the Province, he should produce superior articles and compete with the foreign manufacturer, both in price and quality. During the Great War articles imported from Japan were found to be inferior, hence their purchase was stopped. This shows that the manufacture of inferior articles retards the progress of industry rather than advances it. India should try to make articles of such quality and finish as may favourably compare with the articles of foreign manufacture. So long as the capitalist is unable to produce such articles, I would strongly appeal to the members of this wing, especially the Zamindars, to support my contention that an article of Indian make should be purchased only when it is cheap and superior or equal in quality to the article of foreign manufacture. With these remarks I support the amendment.

Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram [Ambala-cum-Simla (Non-Muham-madan) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din has concluded that an article of Indian make should not be bought unless it is sufficiently durable and superior in quality. The honourable speaker has ignored the fact that industry cannot develop without help in the very beginning. If articles of inferior quality be not accepted how would it be possible for industries to improve. Take any foreign country its production was the most inferior at the outset. Moreover to pay the capitalists is not to waste money as they are our own countrymen. I admit that it is essential to keep in view the present financial condition of our country and so the resolution may be amended thus: that Indian manufacture may be allowed at a similar price. There is a strong complaint of unemployment in our country and if the status of industries be not specially improved the sufferings of the country would enhance and the present disease of unemployment would become unremediable. The question of unemployment has been raised in the Council of State and it is pleasing to see that the same has invited the attention of this House as well. The secret of the prosperity of India lies in industry and for this reason I oppose the amendment.

The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): Sir, I think it is a thousand pities that the honourable members who are dealing with this subject did not look at the existing rules on the subject before they began to speak. As a matter of fact, the existing rule on the subject is virtually identical with the very condition which, as I understand it, the honourable mover of the resolution wanted to bring about but with the safeguard of that sort of reservation which the amendment aims at. As has been stated by one honourable member, it would be an extraordinarily unbusinesslike thing to say that the Government must buy in this country however high the price and however bad the article. I understand my honourable friend, the mover, to say that that is not his real intention. He does not mean entirely to ignore the question of price; he does not mean entirely to ignore the question of quality. But, Sir, people are assumed to mean what they say and they are assumed to say what they mean. If my honourable friend really means that we should have some regard to price and some regard to quality, then surely his obvious course is either to accept the amendment which has been moved or to accept some other amendment couched in similar language. Now, Sir, I will read with your permission the actual

[The Honourable Sir John Maynard.]

existing rule on this subject which as it appears to me does meet the object of the resolution as amended by the proposed amendment. This is the language of the rule :—

" All articles which are produced in India in the form of raw materials or are manufactured in India from materials produced in India should by preference be purchased locally provided that the quality is sufficiently good for the purpose and the price not unfavourable. "

These words " not unfavourable " are now about to be altered into the word " reasonable " so that the rule would read " provided that the quality is sufficiently good for the purpose and the price reasonable ". That means to say there is no requirement that the quality must necessarily be identical with that which is found in the imported article and that there is no requirement that the price must necessarily be the same or lower but merely that it should be reasonable. Now, Sir, without a reservation such as that it would clearly be impracticable for any Government to accept or to act upon a resolution of this character. Honourable members have suggested that there might be some sort of generosity on the part of Government so as to ignore both quality and price. Well, Sir, I should like honourable members to stop for a moment and consider what might be the result of ignoring quality. Let us suppose that the question is one of purchasing a sluice gate for a new canal, a canal upon which the fortunes of half a million human beings depend. Let us suppose that the Government is compelled by the resolution worded as it is to buy in this country an extremely unsatisfactory sluice gate because the rules prohibit importation. The article may be there but it may be a bad one. Then, Sir, in the event of that sluice gate failing, floods might burst into the canal and breach it and plunge half a million human beings into a distress which may continue for two or more years until the canal has been repaired. In the event of that happening, this would be the result of adopting the unamended resolution, supposing it to bear the natural construction of its language. So much for the ignoring of quality. I now turn to the question of ignoring the price. It has been stated that it is unlikely that an article manufactured in this country would necessarily be so very much more expensive than the same article manufactured elsewhere. It is within my recollection, Sir, that this particular question was investigated during the war and it was found that certain articles were five times as expensive when manufactured in this country as those imported from abroad. Is there any one who suggests that the Government should be bound to purchase an article five times as expensive as an imported article? Is there any honourable gentleman here who if Government comes before the House with a budget based upon such unbusinesslike arrangements would be prepared to vote the grant required to pay for that piece of foolish extravagance?

Chaudhri Afzal Haq [Hoshiarpur-*cum*-Ludhiana, Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, it is clear as light that the resolution moved by the honourable mover is meant to encourage manufactures and industries in India in which the country is lamentably backward and I think there is none who will deny the noble idea that underlies the resolution. It has been argued that if a country desires that her home-made goods should be welcomed by the Government and her countrymen it is essential that it should manufacture goods of finest quality and offer them for sale at normal price. I confess it is a principle which ought to guide all countries if they are anxious to stand the competition of the world. But is there any one who can cite a single

example from the histories of different countries where goods manufactured in the beginning were as fine as they were after some experience and where the industries in that particular locality were able to stand on their legs all at once? As far as I know, History can supply us with no example of this type rather we will find that all the countries that are advanced in industries and manufactures had to make sacrifices in the way of accepting home-made goods of low quality and at higher prices. They realised that the temporary loss was going to be converted into a permanent gain to the country in the near future. And if likewise we begin to take interest in our home-made goods, I see no reason why we should not stand to gain in the long run although, I admit, we will have to make sacrifices in the beginning. If some of my honourable friends have studied the History of India, they must have found that the East India Company, on gaining its supremacy, introduced in India their country made goods even when such were available here at lower price and of higher quality. They cared little that the interest of industries in India was at stake why, because they loved their country and possessed the noble feelings of a patriot. If I am not wrong it went so far as to directly discourage our industries.

Those are things of the past. Now a new era of reformed Government has set in. At the same time there is a widespread demand in the country that Government should take early steps in the way of setting up industries in this country. Of late the people have begun to say, at least in Bombay and Bengal, that before it can be possible to purchase every article in India, attempt should be made to buy them from a country which is ready to accept a lower price. In response to that agitation, the Bombay Government was recently persuaded to requisition certain machines from Germany because the prices there were lower. In consequence, a hue and cry was raised in England against the Government that patronizing German industries even at a lower price was detrimental to the interests of British industries. Under these circumstances it is hardly necessary for me to say that the Government should expedite the development of industries in this country.

I am sorry that this problem has remained unsolved so far. I wonder that it has not been found possible so far even to open an 'Information Bureau,' for such an institution would have, to some extent, encouraged our existing industries. I cannot but say that it really reflects on the Government and some are compelled to say that, if the East India Company crushed our industries, the Government replacing that company has done nothing to make good that loss.

With these few words I oppose the amendment.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain [Minister for Education] (Urdu): Sir, I have listened to the various speeches made by the honourable members on the opposite benches and so far as I have been able to make out all of them are based on one and the same principle, which is that the Government should encourage industries in India: and with a view to achieving that object, it should preferably purchase the stores locally even if they some times cost us more than the same stores would cost if purchased from a foreign country. I have also carefully listened to what the Honourable Sir John Maynard has said in his speech and I can say that there are no two different opinions on the point, for materially the same principle underlies the extract that the Honourable the Finance Member has read from the Civil Accounts Code.

[The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

And if the same principle is already there why all this heated discussion. If I may hazard an opinion it is because of some of the departments having been unable to observe the principle that we find to-day this note of distrust in the discussion in this House.

Before I proceed to give an idea as to how far the principle is being acted up to, I consider it necessary to point out that the question of the development of industries is not a question of recent growth. It is a question which has been agitating the minds of our political leaders from the time perhaps when some of us were not even born. Recently many a time the question came before the Assembly and the Council of State to consider devices by which to give impetus in this direction and perhaps it is the outcome of these persistent demands that a Tariff Board has recently been constituted to propose duties on the imported goods to the extent as would protect the infant Industries in India. Besides, this, difficult problem is being solved by another committee named Indian Stores Committee and it is a healthy sign that its labours are facilitated by the pioneers of industry in India who are appearing as witnesses before the Committee, and in the circumstances it does not seem necessary that the matter should occupy the time of the Council any longer.

By the way I realise that the amendment moved by Mr. Gray is not suited to the times. It proposes further restrictions on the purchase of Government stores than the honourable mover would have us impose. But the position explained by the Honourable Sir John Maynard is midway between the two and we should reject both the resolution and the amendment.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : On a point of order, Sir, is the honourable member speaking on the amendment?

Mr. President : I think he is speaking on the amendment.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (continued) (Urdu) : Or we should add certain words to the resolution.

Now the question arises as to whether the rules regarding the purchase of stores are really being practised or not. So far as my experience goes, the articles required for jails and some other departments have for the last two or three years been purchased locally. If it is not a breach of trust I may mention a concrete example. A few months ago there was a question before the Government as to whether the drill required by the Government should be purchased locally or from England. I may tell you, gentlemen, that Sir John Maynard was the first man to say that it should be purchased locally, even if a little inferior in quality.

After all that has been said I think the honourable mover of the amendment and this resolution will not press their views any further.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Am I to understand that the honourable member is supporting the amendment or opposing it.

Mr. President : You must judge from the speech itself.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural] (Urdu) : With your permission Sir, I rise to point out that the question of zamindars and non-zamindars interests is being repeatedly brought in every now and then to prejudice the opinion of zamindar members of this House. I myself am a zamindar and I can say with certainty that the amendment if carried, would be injurious to the welfare of the zamindars. My honourable friend Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din wants to convey to the House the impression that the excess

of 25 lacs of rupees will come from the pockets of the zamindars. I admit it for the sake of argument, but this loss would produce no lasting effect and would repay the country in the long run. Now, Sir, I submit two or three examples to elucidate this case fully. Our countrymen, mostly zamindars, emigrate to various foreign countries, such as Canada, New Zealand, etc., in search of employment and undergo every sort of insult and degradation in these inhospitable countries. If they can find even bare subsistence while living within the limits of their own country they will not migrate to these far off countries. If the resolution is adopted supply must come from within India and naturally the number of firms and factories would increase.

Mr. President : I think I must interrupt the honourable member. I do not think he is devoting his speech to the consideration of the amendment.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh (continued in Urdu) : I am trying to confine myself to the amendment. Chandhri Shahab-ud-Din has remarked the amendment and not the resolution would be beneficial to the zamindars' interests. I want to assert that I hold quite the opposite opinion. This resolution if passed in the original form will solve the unemployment problem. If the amendment is accepted it will not improve matters to any extent.

Mr. President : The honourable member still seems to me to be arguing in favour of the main resolution. He must suppose that either the main resolution or the amendment will be passed. On that assumption you have to show how the proposed amendment will nullify the resolution.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh (continued in Urdu) : That is what I am trying to do. I am now trying to meet the arguments of Chandhri Shahab-ud-Din that the acceptance of the amendment will be for the benefit of the zamindars. I am trying to convince the House that it is fallacious. I am dealing with this point that if a great majority of zamindars is suffering from unemployment and if factories be established there would be a sufficient scope for these people to get employment in these factories. Besides the resolution in its original form will help in imparting industrial education to the zamindar boys. Therefore I would request the zamindar members of this House that they should not be led away by these apparently plausible appeals made in favour of the amendment and that they should give their unanimous support to the main resolution.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh Urban) : Sir, I should like to ask for one piece of information. I admit it will be very difficult to answer my question off hand, but if the Honourable the Finance Member can give it I shall feel much obliged. My question is how much money is spent annually on the purchase of stores by the Provincial Government and whether the Provincial Government buys these stores directly or whether the Central Government buys these stores for us. For, the answer to this question will influence the course of our debates.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I am sorry I cannot give the figures and I am not quite sure whether the honourable member wants figures. I can say this to the Council that the Government obtains its requirements from abroad by means of indents which are sent through the Central Government. But there is another machinery which has been just set up for the purpose of encouraging Indian manufactures. I shall, later on, when I reply on the main resolution explain what that machinery is. The machinery has been set up for the past two or three years for the express

[The Honourable Sir John Maynard.]

purpose which the honourable mover has in view. It is a Department with which we are entitled to communicate direct. It is called the Indian Stores Department.

Rao Pohap Singh [Gurgaon (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, the resolution moved by the honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang, is understood to mean or is meant to convey that the Indians are poor, and as a remedy to remove that poverty it is suggested that industries should be encouraged in India. We have now to see what will be the results if industries are encouraged. Who will stand to gain thereby? Whether the country as a whole will gain or only the capitalists will usurp all the earning. My experience tells me that none but the moneyed men alone will profit by the proposed measure. In support of my statement I would like to refer the honourable members of the Council to the Swadeshi Movement of 1907. We know that its results were disastrous. The poor people had to make sacrifices by way of paying more than the normal prices but all the profits were pocketed by the shopkeepers. The movement recently started by Mahatma Gandhi called Khaddar movement met the same fate.

These examples not only show that the capitalists class alone will gain at the cost of poor agriculturists, but that we are not fit for all kinds of industries. I would, therefore, request that efforts should be made to encourage specialisation. We ought not to fritter away our energies on every department, for it will end in chaos. We must first see what are the industries suited to India and what will be the material gain. If we are really anxious that our country should prosper, we should better specialise in

the Agriculture Industry, for as the honourable mover has said it is the most profitable one. Is it that we have exhausted all our resources in agriculture that we are directing our attention to other industries? I belong to the Gurgaon District and I know that not a single pie has so far been spent in the improvement of lands in that district. In America the produce from land per acre is 30 maunds of wheat.

4 P.M.
Mr. President : The honourable member is beside the point.

Rao Pohap Singh (continued in Urdu) : If we are asked to give preference to the articles produced in India, we are prepared to accede to the wishes of the honourable mover, but we cannot persuade ourselves to comply with a demand if that is extravagant. We cannot indiscriminately buy everything in India and I think it would be foolish to bind the Government to purchase all kinds of stores locally.

Mr. President : The honourable member is again off the point. He must speak directly to the point. Otherwise, he may resume his seat.

(The honourable member then resumed his seat.)

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Minister for Agriculture) (Urdu) : Sir, as far as I can follow the speeches delivered just now I understand that the words "quality for quality" used in the rules regarding the purchase of Government stores are responsible for this heated discussion. Under the present condition of industries in India, it is difficult for them to compete with foreign countries as the former are in their infancy. I therefore with a view to curtail discussion and also to effect a compromise between two sets of opinions.

move the following amendment hoping that the honourable mover of the amendment under discussion and the other honourable members will accept the same. The amendment is that the following words be added to the original resolution—

“Provided that the quality is sufficiently good for the purpose and the prices not unreasonable.”

Mr. President: Amendment under discussion: Further amendment moved—

“That for the words ‘quality for quality at an equal or lower price’, the words, ‘provided that the quality is sufficiently good for the purpose and the price not unreasonable’ be substituted.”

The question is that that amendment be made to the amendment.

The Council then divided: Ayes, 37; Noes, 28.

AYES 37.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Mr. E. R. Abbott.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
Mr. E. A. Scott.
Sir George Anderson.
The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand.
The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.
The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
The Honourable Sir John Maynard.
Mr. A. Latifi.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
Dr. C. A. Owen.
Lt.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
Mr. J. Coldstream.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.

Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr Shah.
Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
Mir Maqbool Mahmood.
Sardar Jowahir Singh.
Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Rai Shahadat Khan.
Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
Khan Bahadur Sardar Jamal Khan.
Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
M. Haibat Khan.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan.
Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.
Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Rao Pohap Singh.
Mr. E. Maya Das.

NOES 28.

Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
Chaudhri Nur Din.
Sardar Narain Singh.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
Manvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
Sardar Partab Singh.
Sardar Buta Singh.

Sayad Muhammad Husain.
Pandit Nanak Chand.
Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.
Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Lala Sham Lal.
Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Lala Banke Rai.
Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
Lala Diwan Chand.
Diwan Narinjan Das.
Lala Mohan Lal.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.

The amendment was carried.

Mr. President : The matter now before the House is the amended amendment as at the end of the resolution—

“ That the words ‘provided that the quality is sufficiently good for the purpose and the price not unreasonable’ be added.”

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North West Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban] : Sir, my absence for five minutes has really done me a good deal of harm because I do not know what has happened in my absence. Therefore I want a little light in the matter of this amendment to the amendment by the Minister for Agriculture. Now that the amendment has been passed, it means that the subject now before the House is the amended amendment and we have a right to speak on it and after a debate on that amendment is over, the amended amendment will be put to vote again. Then, have I your permission to say a few words on this amended amendment?

Mr. President : Yes.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang (Urdu) : Sir, the amended amendment that has been put before the House is one which should not be approved by the members. The reason is obvious. It imposes the same restrictions as to price and quality in the way of purchasing stores as are laid down in the Civil Accounts Code. It means the same thing that those articles alone should be purchased which are sufficiently good in quality for the purpose and the prices of which are not unfavourable. If the amendment is accepted the object of my resolution will be defeated. I have listened to the argument of the honourable member who says that a thing which can be had for 75 lakhs in England or other foreign countries would cost one crore of rupees in India, causing thereby a clear loss of 25 lakhs to us. I fail to understand what the honourable member means. Obviously the honourable member does not know the difference in the prices of foreign articles and home made ones. There has never been so great a difference between foreign and Indian prices as the Honourable Sir John Maynard and other honourable members think. They have mentioned quite a number of imaginary cases where they think the prices vary in England and India. I wish any one of them had given a couple of concrete examples to demonstrate their point. These mere flights of imagination in order to create impressions on the House will not do at all but, I think, I may discuss the examples given by the Honourable Sir John Maynard. One in which there was an obvious appeal to sentiment was about an inferior sort of sluice gate being put up in a canal and the damage which would be done if it gave way, causing loss of hundreds of lives and so on.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, may I make a personal explanation? I did not talk about people being drowned but I did talk about their getting deprived of their subsistence for the reason that the canal will be put out of action for a long period.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Sir, that would not make any difference for the purpose of my argument. This, I submit, Sir, is mere imagination. The second instance given, is again of the same category and I do not like to take the time of the House in discussing it. However, I would ask the gentleman who oppose my resolution or propose an amendment to it to give some definite examples. This is a matter of actually purchasing a thing and no amount of verbal manœuvring can satisfy me. I am no fool to pay twice the price for a thing when I can have it for half the price elsewhere. If I insist upon the language of my resolution being left intact

it is because I know that there is no such difference in the prices. Chaudhri Sahib has depicted an exaggerated picture of the real fact.

He promised to send me a copy of the rules applicable to the purchase of stores. The copy probably could not be had but I looked up the Civil Account Code and though I gave every consideration to the matter I failed to discover any necessity for making any alteration in my resolution.

Now, there is the other alternative of accepting the amended amendment. If this be done the whole affair passes into the hands of the purchasing officers. Supposing a man brings a thing, the officer will enquire the price and if the price of the thing is equal to the British made one he may find fault with it on the ground of quality perhaps because it is not equally well finished. It may not for some time be possible to polish a thing so well here as it may be done in England where even Indians themselves go and return with an improved exterior. Thus the officer will reject the article on the ground of its being of inferior quality. But if the price is little higher, then, there would be no difficulty in rejecting it when a better finished thing can be had for a comparatively cheaper price. This resolution aims at avoiding such a possibility. It may be said that we should have faith in the officers. Quite so. I do not want to go far into this question as it is a delicate matter, but the officer even if honest may have very little time to inspect personally the samples and he will leave it to his subordinates who will do such things. Therefore any resolution with such restrictions imposed by my amendment will be a mere waste. I, therefore, oppose the amended amendment as well.

Chaudhri Sahib, who has posed himself as the well-wisher of the zamindars, ought to have suggested to them to start some industry as the Honourable Member for Revenue owns a sugar factory and it would have been much better for the honourable Chaudhri Sahib to advise the zamindars to combine together and start one themselves, instead of exciting them by posing as their well-wisher and creating misunderstandings against my resolution.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I rise to a point of order, Sir how is Government interested in this matter? Government is not expected to buy sugar, I suppose.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang: Government is also interested in the matter.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: No, Sir.

Mr. President: Probably the Commissariat buys sugar, but not the Punjab Government.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang (continued): Sir, I am only trying to remove the fear which has been created in the minds of the zamindar friends by Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din. I hardly thought that the Honourable the Finance Member would think it necessary to interrupt me.

(Then continued in Urdu): I believe that the zamindars will not be carried away by the argument of Chaudhri Sahib. Other zamindars have supported me and no one can say that Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din has a monopoly of wisdom and other zamindars are fools.

Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan (Rawalpindi (Muhammedan) Rural) (Urdu): Sir, whatever country of the world I have had a chance to visit, and I have visited a number of them, there wealth and economic progress were the two things which struck me the most, and the secret of their prosperity and progress was the existence of industries. The diversity of indus-

[Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.]

trial activity was the only reason of their progress. I wonder why this resolution was not adopted some fifty years back. If it had been, we should not have had the present poverty and unemployment. We have gained nothing from our connection with the British. Our ancestors who had all the advantages of a good Government like the British ought to have acquired the ability to start industries so that we should have become industrially as strong and productive as the British people are.

It is a pity that while the question in other countries is one of gaining the markets of the world and growing rich and powerful, with us it is a question of mere life and death. We are starving and want something to eat first. I do not deny that we will be losing a few lakhs of rupees, if we buy our stores in India. It does not matter if we do, for this money would be really spent on the industrial training of our countrymen. Would we not spend something upon it if we wanted really to train some of our youngmen in different industries? This temporary increase of expenditure would be insignificant in the face of the advantages that will accrue out of it.

No country can progress which always depends for the supply of its necessities of life upon other countries. Foreign articles are always dearer than home-made things and only the rich can afford to have them. But the majority of us, the agriculturists and the soldiers will have to go without them. We are poor, poor to the point of starvation. The soldiers who had shed their blood in the war were promised jobs, but now they have been dismissed and are starving and no one cares for them.

There was a time when the rest of the world bought and displayed our manufactures as marvellous productions, but we have now, nothing to boast of. The one reason and the only reason for that is that we began to prefer foreign articles to our home-made things. Hence, in order to regain the same economic freedom and wealth, it is necessary that we should prefer home-made things: This, as stated by my honourable friend, is not harmful to agricultural interests. It is highly beneficial for poor agriculturists. If there had been industries running on successfully in our country we would not have starved to-day and all the demobilised and ex-service soldiers could have obtained an easy means of subsistence if nothing more, in the factories. But this question of subsistence has not been solved at all, and how can we think of having finer and better things? What does it matter if we use for the time being only rough things? But though rough, they will be Indian at least, and this will have an extra advantage of giving us practical training and experience. I would advise that we should buy nothing of foreign manufacture; we should build our own trade ships here. They will afford still more employment to our countrymen. The question of subsistence is the most important one, and that is the only cause of all the crimes. In our Thana 11 men have been murdered and the cause of that is the poverty of the people.

Pandit Nanak Chand [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan)—Rural] : 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 : Original resolution under discussion : Amendment moved :—

"That the words 'provided that the quality is sufficiently good for the purpose and the price not unreasonable' be added at the end of the resolution."

The question is that that amendment be made.

The Council then divided; Ayes, 33 ; Noes, 32.

AYES 33.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Mr. E. R. Abbott.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
Mr. E. A. Scott.
Sir George Anderson.
The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand.
The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.
The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
Mr. A. Latifi.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
Dr. C. A. Owen.
Lt.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
Mr. J. Coldstream.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.

Nawab Sayad, Muhammad Mehr Shah.
Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
Mir Maqbool Mahmood.
Sardar Jowahir Singh.
Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Rai Shabadat Khan.
Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
Khan Bahadur Sardar Jamal Khan.
Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
M Haibat Khan.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Rao Pohap Singh.
Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
Mr. E. Maya Das.

NOES 32.

Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
Subedar Major Farman Ali Khan.
Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
Chaudhri Nur Din.
Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan.
Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan.
Sardar Narain Singh.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
M. Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
Sardar Mohindar Singh.

Sardar Partab Singh.
Sardar Buta Singh.
Sayad Muhammad Husain.
Pandit Nanak Chand.
Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.
Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Lala Sham Lal.
Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Lala Banke Rai.
Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
Lala Diwan Chand.
Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.
Diwan Narinjan Das.
Lala Mohan Lal.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.

The motion was carried.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Sir, with your permission I just want to know whether a recounting can take place, because we counted 33 against the amendment and 31 for the amendment.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, I protest against the proposal to recount. It is the second time that a division on this question has taken place and if there were another, it would be a third.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Sir, I would submit that there was obviously some confusion about counting.

Mr. President : I cannot have a fresh counting unless there is a good reason. If you tell me that there is doubt about any particular member, I will ascertain whether that member voted for or against the amendment.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : It is impossible, Sir, to say which member has not been taken into account.

Mr. President : I cannot have another division. The totals are correct. The main resolution is now before the House as amended. . . .

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Sir, I want to say before you put the question that if the resolution is to be passed as amended, I have absolutely no interest in it and if I can withdraw it, I will do so. It would be absolutely useless to pass it in the amended form.

Mr. President : Is it the pleasure of the House to allow the honourable mover to withdraw the amendment ?

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-din : May I rise to a point of order ? Can a resolution after it is amended be withdrawn ? That is the point for the Chair to decide ?

Mr. President : I think so, certainly.

The resolution as amended was by leave of the Council withdrawn.

**RESOLUTION RE. RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS AT LAHORE FOR MEMBERS OF THE
PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

The following resolution standing in the name of Sayad Hussain Shah was not moved—

“This Council recommends to the Government that residential quarters with two meeting rooms be built in Lahore as soon as possible for the use of the members of the Punjab Legislative Council.”

**RESOLUTION RE. THE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE CLAIMS OF
MONEY-LENDERS AGAINST CULTIVATORS.**

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan), Rural]
(Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move—

“This Council recommends to the Government that a Committee of three be appointed to tour the villages in the South-Western Punjab to examine the claims of money-lenders against cultivators when the parties agree to this course and to arrive at sums which they are actually able to pay within a reasonable time such Committee to consist of (a) a judge with insolvency powers, (b) a representative of cultivators and (c) a representative of bankers.”

Sir, the resolution aims at the economic progress of the depressed community of the South-West Punjab by taking effective measures to remove their indebtedness. The condition is better seen than said. Their indebtedness has gone beyond all bounds and has reduced them to the status of serfs. No real progress is possible without uplifting and neither education nor any beneficent measure is useful to such a backward community without redeeming them from debt. So great is the indebtedness which increases by leaps and bounds with usurious interests and so resourceless and helpless are the people that it has practically jeopardised all the economic growth of the Pro-

vince. My selection of the South-West Punjab does not mean that the condition in other parts of the Punjab is good enough. I have only chosen the darkest spot without in the least belittling the grave situation in the other parts of the Province. Sir, so helpless are the debtors and so extortionately oppressive are the creditors that besides economic slavery, moral degradation has set in. There are examples where a debtor had to give his daughter or sister for immoral use in lieu of a little recess for the payment of interest or debt. He has no property, no bedding and no vessel at all. His whole property consists in earthen vessels without any value, beddings of the leaf of *khajour*, a pair or two of ill-fed cheap oxen and rude implements of agriculture. All that he grows—which is very little under the circumstance—is taken away by the money-lender towards interest and he is to go the very next day to get rotten food for his maintenance. He hardly gets wheat grown by the sweat of his brow and he is satisfied to live on *mukka*, *baflra*, *chisa*, *gram* and barley.

The inauguration of the co-operative movement has been a real boon to the people but they are so backward, so sullen and so helpless that they cannot avail themselves of the advantages of the co-operative societies. Some impetus is required, some official support is necessary to co-opt with the co-operative movement to restore normal conditions. The loss is not only to the debtors but to the whole Province. The economic growth of the Province is at a standstill, the output of crops is meagre and agriculture, the only industry of the country is generally in a backward condition. Not only is indebtedness confined to the lower strata of society, but even the big landlords are most miserably embarrassed with the result that they usually under economic pressure exert their influence on the side of the creditor. The total indebtedness of the province amounts to fifty crores of rupees and the interest paid annually is estimated by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies to amount to about eight crores of rupees. This money spent in the right direction can remove the illiteracy of the Province, can revive industries, invested in Government securities, can tend to complete all the canal projects and the hydro-electric scheme of Mandy, besides, the moral and political advantages will be incalculable. The root cause of all the Hindu-Muhammadan disunion in the Province is the indebtedness of the masses and the consequent mistrust of each other. The remedy which I propose is the appointment of a committee to remove the evil not by force of law but with mutual trust, with the co-operation of credit societies. Those of my learned members who are born leaders of rural communities know fully well that the money-lenders do often listen to the advice of the leading people and come to reasonable terms.

The personnel of the committee which will rest entirely in the hands of the Government will do a good deal to ameliorate the wretched condition of the people. No man can be a better representative of the zamindars on the committee than the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. A judge with insolvency powers may exercise his powers in accordance with law in extreme cases and though the occasion may not arise the very fact of his presence in the committee will have a good moral effect on the parties in bringing about the voluntary agreement. As regards the financial side of the question, the Registrar will find the money either from his own local banks or from other central banks of the Province. There will not be only one committee but many committees with identical functions may be appointed by the Government if the experiment proves satisfactory in one or more districts. At any rate a beginning must be made and even if the committee

[Sayad Muhammad Husain .]

fails which I hope it will not, in its original function it will have collected a very useful data and its recommendation will lead to a legislation stronger than the present serious Loans Act to remove the curse of usury from our Province.

Sir, every civilised country has had to pass Acts to check usury whose effects are so detrimental to the best interests of the community. Manu dealt with usury, Islam dealt with usury and the British Government deal with it in its own country; and the time is not far off when some such measure will have to be adopted in this country if the present attempt proves useless.

Mr. President: Resolution moved:—

"This council recommends to the Government that a committee of three be appointed to tour the villages in the South-Western Punjab to examine the claims of money-lenders against cultivators when the parties agree to this course and to arrive at sums which they are actually able to pay within a reasonable time, such committee to consist of (a) a judge with insolvency powers, (b) a representative of cultivators and (c) a representative of bankers."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr Shah [Jhelum (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I beg to offer my strong support to the resolution moved by my honourable friend Sayad Muhammad Husain and I think it my duty to congratulate him upon his efforts in as much as that he has cast his glance on a poor and helpless section of the community which is being ruined through ignorance and imprudence. I am referring to the case of the agricultural classes who are on the verge of ruin and whom nobody cares to look after. Sir, the zamindars and agriculturists are living in a precarious state of mind. They have been made a target of the sahukars' high-handedness. What a pitiable plight! When these poor people borrow something from the sahukars they are made to affix their signatures on documents which are not even read out to them. I can easily point out an instance. Once an agriculturist cleared off his debts but he was perplexed to find that his money-lender had filed a suit against him. He was stunned to know that all his payments were not entered into the *Bakis* and *Khatas*. Now when the case was tried, the court being unaware of the real facts, passed a decree against him. The fact was that the agriculturist had not taken any receipts for payments and his thumb-impressions were present on the documents which showed his being under debt. Sir, in view of the fact which I have just mentioned, enquiry committees are needed almost throughout the Punjab, but, as a tentative measure it should, at present, be appointed for the south-western villages of the Province and if it proves fruitful I shall on some other occasion ask the House to extend it to other parts of the Province also. Sir, if the resolution is passed, I hope that the Government will issue such instructions to the members of the committee that they will enquire as to the genuineness of the complaints and after ascertaining the real payments made by the borrowers, will fix such instalments as may be reasonable. With these words I support the resolution and remind those members of the House, who are inclined to wish well of the zamindar community, that in voting for the resolution they will be extending a helping hand towards their poor brethren, the zamindars.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I was wondering what made my honourable friend the mover of this resolution limit the scope of this resolution to only the south-western districts of the

Province, when similar conditions exist throughout the Punjab. His object would have been served better by the extension of the scope of the resolution to the whole of the Punjab.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : I do not mind an amendment. I would not object. I quite agree to it.

Sardar Tara Singh (*continued*) : It is a proverb that a cart will run only when both the wheels move equally. This is true in the case of a family where a man and wife must both be able to pull together at the same speed. It is equally true in the case of various communities of the Province. For the Punjab to get self-government, it is necessary that the various communities be well-balanced. For it is a well-balanced and well-poised population that can hold for any length of time, the advantage of self-government; but the indebtedness of the peasants is a standing block in the material prosperity of this Province.

I know from my experience of a decade as a lawyer that the cause of much of our miseries is the indebtedness of the people. There is in every village or groups of two or three villages a insurer, a veritable Shylock who would have his pound of flesh anyhow. Many a time has it happened that the whole harvest of a poor peasant has been devoured by these money-lenders at the threshing floor and still the poor farmer has the interest to pay, and does not know where to get money to pay the Government revenue. In many cases this debt is handed down by the poor peasants to their succeeding generations. A man borrows 10 maunds of *makes* to tide over the famine time, but this 10 maunds of *makes* is not returned for generations, either he does not return it, or returns only a part of it or if returned in full, the interest still remains unpaid and is calculated at compound interest. This in years amounts to thousands of rupees and the whole effects of the peasant, his house, his land, his cattle and his harvest are not enough to meet it.

Mr. President : I think the honourable member is getting far from the original resolution, as well as from his amendment. I think he need not go into the details of what the extent of indebtedness in the Punjab is. The question is whether a committee should be appointed.

Sardar Tara Singh : The conditions described by the honourable member are prevalent in the whole of the Punjab. I am quoting from Eastern Punjab where only I have got experience.

(*Then continued in Urdu*) : Sir, I submit that a number of *Dahis* have been caught, in which finger prints have been imprinted on blank pages for use when required. These prints are obtained when the peasants are under the influence of intoxicants or in very tight corners and cannot gainsay the wish of their enchanters, as if hypnotised they submit, and these prints are used as incriminating evidence against them. The poor peasants almost always deny their having given their thumb-impression but the impression is there. In these circumstances it is better and more beneficial to the peasants that their conditions be improved. Co-operative societies have already proved a blessing to the agriculturists, but the staff is so insufficient that there is still much to be done in that direction, and it is necessary to take some steps to supplement the work of the Co-operative societies. There are 117 villages in the Tabell where I come from, and the Sub-Inspector who is in charge of it cannot possibly go to each of the villages and explain to the villagers the blessings of co-operation, especially in the direction of getting rid of indebtedness. It is necessary, therefore, that something else be added to the existing machinery.

[Sardar Tara Singh.]

The money-lenders who are uncommonly shrewd set of men, take advantage of the agriculturists' simplicity. They do not even hesitate to adopt underhand and unfair means to throw their poor peasants into indebtedness. They tempt them into the habit of drink only in order to get at their lands.

Mr. President: The honourable member had better get on to the question of appointing a committee. He is telling us in great detail of the trouble of the zamindars and the way money-lenders try to over-reach them. He should get on to the point in question, i.e., that of appointing a committee.

Sardar Tara Singh (In English): I am proving the case that . . .

Mr. President: The point is this that you have tried to prove that the remedies are not sufficient. My point is that you have laid sufficient stress on that. You should now get on to something else.

Sardar Tara Singh (Urdu): My object is that if this committee is constituted, they will tour round the villages and obtain facts and in cases where the parties agree they will settle the matter. It is not difficult to make a settlement, for the parties, I hope, will feel it very advantageous. The peasants will have to pay less than the sum demanded while the money-lenders will have readier payment. With these words, Sir, I support the motion.

Mr. President: The amendment which Sardar Tara Singh aimed at moving during the course of his speech goes beyond the scope of the resolution and I therefore rule it out of order. The discussion will proceed on the resolution as moved.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali [Gujrat (East-Muhammadian) Urban] (Urdu): Sir, the proposal meets a long-felt demand. But I was wondering why the honourable mover confined himself to the South-Western Districts of the Province. This is such a pressing need that there can be no difference of opinion about it. It is a matter of common occurrence in the villages that a man borrowing Rs. 50 pays back about Rs. 2,000 in the next few years; and still there is something left to be paid. I regret that the honourable Sayad has moved the formation of the committee only as an experiment. I do not think he was unaware of the conditions prevalent in the other districts. There was hardly any need of making any experiments about an already tried thing.

This proposal is in the interests of both the money-lenders and the debtors, and I hope everybody will take a sympathetic view of it. If no enquiry is made into the condition of the debtors they are doomed and even the lives and property of the money-lenders will not be safe. With these words, I support the resolution.

Mr. President: Anybody who speaks now will have only two or three minutes to speak. I shall adjourn at 6 o'clock.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: Sir, I move that the question be now put.

Mr. President: No, I cannot put the question just now. We have not discussed the question sufficiently yet. I will call upon Sardar Narain Singh to speak.

Sardar Narain Singh [Rawalpindi Division and Gujranwala (Sikh) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, there is an outstanding complaint about the mutual relations of the cultivators and the sahukars.

On the one hand it is stated by the cultivators that sahukars perpetrate many tyrannies over them and that the sahukars make false entries against them and charge compound interest, at exorbitant rates. The cultivator lives to earn for the sahukar. On the other hand it is asserted by the sahukar that he ultimately returns every penny he earns to the cultivator. He has to lend all he possesses to the cultivator in his sore need but very often the result is bare disappointment. In short, he says, he lives to save and hoard for the cultivator. The complaint being reciprocal, it is highly advisable to reach an early settlement of these mutual grievances.

Sahukars are shrewd set of persons, but all their intelligence and business capacity is being wasted, nay, is being spent to the loss of the country. I wish they had utilized it in better occupations.

But to-day's resolution even if adopted cannot solve the difficulty; it clearly states that this is to work only if the parties agree. I would like to know whether the honourable mover's so-called Shylocks would, at all, welcome his proposal.

The introduction of such a useless resolution is not in keeping with the dignity of this Council. The resolution is absolutely meaningless. There are already on the statute the Land Alienation and the Usurious Loans Acts. The ancestral property, the fodder, and the standing harvest of a cultivator cannot be attached in execution of any decree. Besides, the courts are already overcautious against the sahukar class. Sir Rattigan, one of the most eminent Judges of the Chief Court, Punjab, rightly remarked in his judgement. It is easy to talk about "simple-minded zamindars" and "cunning *bunias*" but now-a-days the ignorant, credulous rustic is met with far more frequently in the arguments of learned counsel than in the realities of life. In my opinion we should try to take practical steps to make the cultivators more businesslike instead of our continuing to lament over their poverty and ignorance. The sooner they are taught to stand on their own legs, the better for all concerned.

At this stage the Council adjourned till two of the clock on Saturday, the 1st March 1924.

PRINTED BY
THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRINTING, PUNJAB.
251 PLC-426-8-3-24-SGPP Labors.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

2ND SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, the 1st March 1924.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

LANDS GRANTED TO PERSONS IN THE MONTGOMERY DISTRICT.

130. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Government be pleased to state the names of persons who have been granted lands in the Montgomery District during the last five years and who or whose relations were in Government service in any capacity in that district at or about the time when these grants were made or recommended ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Government has received a list of about 300 names of persons of the description mentioned and supplementary lists are expected. It is believed that this statement will serve the purpose, which the honourable member had in view in putting the question and as the cost of printing the lists does not appear to be justified the lists will not be printed but they are open to inspection by the honourable member at any time.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

131. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of each of the following posts in the Province and the number of them held by Hindu Jats, Sikh Jats, Muhammadan Jats, Hindu Rajputs, Muhammadan Rajputs, Hindu Gujars, Muhammadan Gujars and Ahirs, respectively :—

- (1) Extra Assistant Commissioner.
- (2) Sub-Judge (Old Munsiffs).
- (3) Tahsildar.
- (4) Deputy Superintendent, Police.
- (5) Inspector of Police.
- (6) Sub-Inspector of Police.
- (7) Deputy Collector of Canal Department.
- (8) Zilladar.
- (9) Extra Assistant Conservator.
- (10) Forest Ranger.
- (11) Deputy Director of Agriculture.
- (12) Assistant Registrar.
- (13) Veterinary Superintendent.
- (14) Veterinary Inspector.
- (15) District Inspector of Schools.
- (16) Assistant District Inspector of Schools.
- (17) Excise Inspector.
- (18) Excise Sub-Inspector ?

Mr. H. D. Craik : The honourable member is referred to the Punjab Quarterly List as regards all the gazetted appointments mentioned in his questions.

[Mr. H. D. Craik.]

As regards the non-gazetted appointments, *viz.*, Nos. 6, 8, 10, 14, 16, 17, and 18, Government regrets that it is unable to undertake an elaborate enquiry of the nature suggested which would involve considerable expense of money and time.

DIET MONEY.

132. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of diet money which remained undistributed to witnesses and unreturned to depositors during each of the last three years ?

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.

NUMBER OF VILLAGES AFFECTED BY PLAGUE IN THE ROHTAK DISTRICT.

133. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Government be pleased to state the number of villages affected by plague in the Rohtak District, the number of deaths recorded during November, December and January last and the measures taken by the Government to combat the spread of the epidemic ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Forty-one villages were affected by plague in Rohtak District during November and December 1923, the number of villages affected in January is not yet available.

Plague caused 485 deaths in November 1923, 571 deaths in December and 1,021 deaths in January 1924.

The steps taken to check the spread of the disease include inoculation, disinfection, and rat destruction.

Since the commencement of the epidemic in September last 17,492 inoculations have been performed in this district by 17 Medical Officers, 9,876 rooms have been disinfected, 11,676 rats have been destroyed and 34,305 rat holes have been "smoked" and closed.

Two additional Medical Officers have recently been posted to the district to afford additional assistance.

REVENUE FROM NAL CHAH.

134. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of revenue which accrues to the Government annually from the levy of what is known as *nal chah* ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : There is no head "*nal chah*" maintained in Government Land Revenue accounts and it would be difficult and very costly to extract the information from the material at the disposal of Government.

AWARD OF LAND TO WITNESSES IN THE FIRST AKALI LEADERS' CASE.

135. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please state whether it is a fact that squares of land have been reserved for award to witnesses in the first Akali Leaders' case ; if so, will the Government please give the number so reserved ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No.

SIKHS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH GURDWARA BHAI PHERU.

136. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving the number of—

- (a) Sikhs arrested in connection with Gurdwara Bhai Pheru ;
- (b) Sikhs arrested under section 17 (a) and (b) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act since the declaration of the Shromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee and Shromani Akali Dal as unlawful associations ;
- (c) Sikhs arrested in connection with the wearing of *Kirpans* during the last three years ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) The number of persons arrested up to the 16th of February 1924 is 1,000, but the number convicted and sentenced to imprisonment is 747.

(b) The number of arrests under the Criminal Law Amendment Act so far reported to Government is 324.

(c) No Sikh has been arrested for wearing a *Kirpan*. The number arrested for wearing swords which they allege to be *Kirpans* is not known, but it is comparatively small.

AKALI PRISONERS IN FEROZEPUR JAIL.

137. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Will the Government be pleased to state whether corporal punishment has been given to any Akali prisoners in Ferozepore Jail during the last three months ? If so, will the Government be pleased to give the number of persons so treated ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Corporal punishment has not been given to any Akali prisoners in the Ferozepore District Jail during the last three months.

SARDAR SANTOKH SINGH VIDYARTHI AND SARDAR GANDA SINGH CANADIAN.

138. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Is it a fact that the weights of Sardar Santokh Singh Vidyarthi and Sardar Ganda Singh Canadian now undergoing sentences in Dera Ghazi Khan Jail are less than the regulation minimum weights ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state what action it has taken 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.

DETENTION OF SARDAR MOHINDAR SINGH.

139. **Sardar Gurbakash Singh** : Is it a fact that Sardar Mohindar Singh, late Editor of the "Nation," Lahore, at present in charge of the Akali Hospital at Bhai Pheru, was recently arrested at Bhai Pheru, without any warrants and detained for a time ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether it proposes to take any action against the persons responsible for the same and pay compensation to Sardar Mohindar Singh ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The suggestion made in the question is not correct. Mohindar Singh was neither arrested nor detained.

SARDAR SUCHA SINGH.

140. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Is it a fact that Sardar Sucha Singh, Editor, "Kirpan Bahadur", Amritsar, arrested on 24th January, 1924, at present an under-trial prisoner, is on hunger-strike because of the removal of his *Kirpan* ? If so, will the Government be pleased to see that the *Kirpan* is immediately restored to Sardar Sahib ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sucha Singh, who has now been convicted, is on hunger-strike because of the removal of his private *Kirpan*. A miniature *Kirpan* has been offered to him as to all Sikh prisoners. Jail regulations do not allow a prisoner to retain his private *Kirpan* and Government will not countenance any departure from these regulations.

SUITS FOR DAMAGES FILED BY GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.

141. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Will the Government be pleased to supply the following information with respect to suits for damages filed by its officers during the last three years :—

Name of Officer (Plaintiff),

Name of Defendant,

Amount of damages claimed,

Final result to date giving amount of decree if claim decreed,

Total expenditure borne by the Government ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The information will be found in the statement which is laid on the table*.

CASES AGAINST THE EDITORS, PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS OF NEWSPAPERS IN THE PROVINCE.

142. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Will the Government be pleased to supply the following information with respect to cases against the Editors, Printers, and Publishers of Newspapers in the Province since January 1st, 1921—

Name of paper.

Name and rank of person against whom the case was started.

Section of law under which the case was started.

Result giving the amount of sentence in case of a conviction ?

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.

SEARCHES IN NEWSPAPER OFFICES.

143. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Will the Government be pleased to state how many newspaper offices in the province have been searched during the last three years giving the names of the papers concerned and the dates of search and its object ?

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.

*Vide the Appendix on page 261.

FORFEITURE OF PRESS SECURITIES.

144. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government be pleased to state the number of cases in which security of press has been forfeited during the last three years giving the name of the press concerned, the amount of security forfeited and the reasons for the forfeiture?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The Act under the authority of which security was taken from certain presses was repealed in 1922. In the circumstances no useful purpose would be served by collecting the statistics asked for.

NON-OFFICIAL PRESIDENTS OF MUNICIPALITIES.

145. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government be pleased to state how many Municipalities in the Punjab have got non-official presidents at the present time and also state further the steps it has taken to give non-official presidents to all the Municipalities in the Province?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Fifty-two Municipal Committees in the Punjab now have non-official presidents.

The reply to the second part of the question closely touches the question of the increase of the elected element in Municipal Committees and information in regard to this will be found by the honourable member in the Note on the re-constitution of the Municipal Committees and District Boards of the Punjab, a copy of which is laid on the table.* Every Municipal Committee in the Punjab, with the exception of Simla, Dalhousie and Murree, has now the right to elect a non-official president if it wishes to do so.

VETERINARY ASSISTANTS.

146. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : (a) Is it a fact that a number of Veterinary Assistants who passed their diploma Examination from the Punjab Veterinary College, Lahore, are still unemployed? If so, will the Government be pleased to state why they have not been taken in service so far? Will Government be pleased to take up the question now and give them preference over candidates who pass their examination hereafter?

(b) Is it a fact that teaching in English has been substituted for that in Urdu in the Punjab Veterinary College, Lahore? If so, will the Government be pleased to state why it has been done, and what defect, if any, did it experience in teaching in Urdu?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether this change to English teaching will entail a rise in the emoluments of the Veterinary Assistants; and if so, will it be pleased to state the comparative advantages it expects from this change?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : (a) Yes. Diplomates however do not become Veterinary Assistants until appointed. They have not been taken in service so far because there are not enough vacancies in the Civil Veterinary Department. Government will give as many appointments of Veterinary Assistant to diplomates of the old course as circumstances permit.

[Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand.]

(b) Yes. This was done with a view to raise the standard of Veterinary education in India in order to fit Indians for superior appointments. There is no advanced literature on Veterinary Science in Urdu and by having English as the medium of instructions, the students are enabled to use the literature of the greater part of the world.

(c) Yes. The advantage will be that greater skill will now be at the disposal of the public in the care of their stocks.

MINORITY REPORT OF THE RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE.

147. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Will the Government be pleased to state what recommendations of the Minority Report of the Retrenchment Committee it has accepted so far stating further whether it intends to accept any other of these recommendations or not ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Reference is invited to the Note by the Secretary, Finance Department, on the Retrenchment Report which has been laid upon the table.*

OPIMUM SATTA.

148. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Is the Government aware that Opium Satta is rampant in the Province ? If so, will the Government be pleased to take immediate steps to introduce legislation with a view to check this evil ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : In 1915 it was ascertained that the form taken by Opium Satta in Amritsar, where it is understood to be most prevalent, was that of a lottery which can be adequately dealt with under Section 294-A, Indian Penal Code. Deputy Commissioners were requested to apply to Government for sanction to prosecute wherever Opium Satta gambling was prevalent. In the circumstances fresh legislation does not appear to be necessary. In 1919 the attention of Deputy Commissioners was again drawn to the matter and fresh instructions will now be issued.

HEAD VERNACULAR CLERKS OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICES.

149. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Is it a fact that the system of promotion by time-scale has not yet been introduced in the case of the Head Vernacular Clerks of Deputy Commissioners' Offices ? If so, will the Government be pleased to consider the matter and apply the system to these officers at an early date ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia : The answer to the first part of the question is "yes".

The changes made do not affect existing incumbents who are already Naib-Tahsildar candidates. It is possible that the cases of existing incumbents who are not Naib-Tahsildar candidates may require consideration. There is *prima facie* no case for alteration of the pay of the post of Head Vernacular Clerks, because officials newly appointed to that post are aware of its conditions.

JAGIRDARS AND LAMBARDARS.

150. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** Is it a fact that Jagirdars receiving their jagirs direct from Lambardars sometimes experience great difficulty in getting the same from them and have to seek relief through Civil Courts? If so, will the Government be pleased so to arrange the matter as to facilitate this payment and make it recoverable from Lambardars as arrears of land revenue?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : No such complaint has reached Government.

HIGH SCHOOLS UNDER THE CONTROL OF LOCAL BODIES.

151. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that the Government has asked the local bodies in the Province to hand over high schools under their control to the Government? If so, will the Government be pleased to state its reasons for so doing and the advantages expected to accrue from this step?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state how many institutions have thus been taken over from the local bodies, giving the names of the local bodies concerned and the state of their finances and the information under the following heads:—

1. Name of institution.
2. Name of managing local body.
3. Date of transfer.
4. Fees—school and boarding—of the school for 6 months previous to the date of transfer.
5. Grant-in-aid paid by Government for the 6 months mentioned above.
6. Contribution by the local body for the same 6 months.
7. Total expenditure of the school for the same 6 months.
8. Total expenditure of the school for 6 months previous to 31st December 1923.
9. Income from fees for 6 months previous to 31st December 1923.
10. Balance met from Provincial funds for 6 months previous to 31st December 1923.

(c) Is it a fact that a civil suit is pending against the Government in Ambala District in connection with the transfer of Municipal Board High School, Rupar? If so, will the Government please state what action it is going to take in the matter?

(d) Is the Government prepared to hand over the institutions taken over from local bodies back to the local bodies concerned, if they so desire? If not, why not?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Government has not asked local bodies to hand over their high schools, but has offered, funds permitting to do so, if the local body concerned so desires it. The general policy of Government in this respect is explained in C. M. No. 6374-G. of April 18th, 1922, a copy of which is laid on the table.

(b) *Date of provincialization.*

Name of Schools.

1st April, 1921 ...	1.	M. B. High School, Kasur.
	2.	D. B. High School, Pasrur.
	3.	" " " Gurgaon.
	4.	M. B. High School, Jagadhri.
	5.	" " " Rahon.
	6.	" " " Fazilka.
	7.	" " " Pind Dadan Khan.
	8.	D. B. High School, Talagang.
	9.	M. B. High School, Kahror.
	10.	" " " Jampur.
	11.	" " " Kamalia.
1st October, 1922...	12.	M. B. High School, Chunian.
	13.	" " " Ruper.
	14.	" " " Phillour.
	15.	" " " Jagraon.
	16.	" " " Hazro.
	17.	D. B. High School, Bhera.
1st January, 1923 ...	18.	D. B. High School, Pakpattan.
1st January, 1924 ...	19.	M. B. High School, Khushab.

(c) Government has no recent information on the subject.

(d) No. Each of the local bodies passed a Resolution inviting provincialization of the schools and signed a conveyance form and many local bodies are pressing Government to provincialise the remaining schools.

C. M. No. 6374-G., dated Lahore, 18th April 1922.

From—G. ANDERSON, Esq., C.I.E., M.A., Director of Public Instruction, Punjab.

To—All Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Divisional and District Inspectors of Schools in the Punjab.

I HAVE the honour to address you on the subject of the responsibilities of district boards and municipalities in regard to education ; in particular, in the matter of secondary education which was discussed in Colonel Wright's C. M. No. 10175-G., dated 24th December, 1919 ; subsequently, in my C. M. No. 11995-G., dated 29th November, 1920 ; and in my C. M. No. 149-G. S., dated 8th June, 1921.

2. Closely allied with these circulars is that of Mr. Richey which dealt with the responsibilities of district boards in regard to the expansion and improvement of vernacular education ; and also the Compulsory Education Act which permits local bodies to introduce compulsion, subject to certain conditions.

3. In reply to Mr. Richey's circular referred to above, district boards entered into a compact with Government to carry out what is generally known as the five-year programme for both the expansion and the improvement of vernacular education, which programme should be completed by April 1st, 1923. In close connection with this, circulars have been issued from time to time dealing with the provision of vernacular school buildings.

4. It is not intended to discuss in this letter the detailed working of the five-year programme as you will be addressed shortly on this matter; but it is not possible (nor would it be wise) to divorce, either in the matter of finance or in that of policy, the problems connected with vernacular from those connected with anglo-vernacular education. For the present, therefore, it is sufficient to point out that the expense of carrying out the full programme of vernacular education has proved infinitely greater than was anticipated. This is due, in the main, to improvements in the salaries of teachers, to the large number of lower middle school now required, and to the general rise in prices. Moreover, the need for that continuous development and expansion of vernacular education throughout the province, which was intended to be the main feature of the five-year programme, has only too often been disregarded. In consequence, some boards have completed their programme already in the matter of improvement; others in the matter of expansion: some few in both. Others again are sadly backward both in the matter of improvement and in the matter of expansion. In regard to expenditure, it is to be noted that, though as a whole the boards have incurred expenditure considerably in excess of their contracts, Government has, to an even greater degree, increased its contributions to district boards over and above the amount of its obligations under the terms of the contract. In his circular referred to above, Mr. Richey estimated that the additional cost of carrying out the five-year programme would amount at the end of the fifth year to Rs. 12 lakhs, Rs. 8 lakhs to be defrayed by Government and Rs. 4 lakhs by the boards. The basic grant at the beginning of the fourth year of the programme, however, amounted to nearly Rs. 21 lakhs which was roughly the amount estimated for the completion of the whole programme. In other words, Government paid at the end of the third year the amount which it intended to pay at the end of the fifth year. The additional grant required this year will be even greater, but this question will be discussed more fully in a subsequent letter. Government has also made considerable contributions indirectly towards the carrying out of the programme. In the matter of building grants Rs. 8½ lakhs were distributed in 1920-21 and Rs. 6 lakhs have been distributed during 1921-22. Moreover, the Legislative Council has agreed to the inclusion of Rs. 10 lakhs in the proposed loan for the same purpose. Again, in the training of teachers Government has made further indirect contributions. The number of junior vernacular teachers under training has increased from some 1,000 a year ago to about 1,300 in the present year; and arrangements have been made to increase the number to over 1,500 next year. Considerable additions have already been made to the numbers of senior vernacular teachers in training institutions; and it is hoped soon to have as many as 400 under training each year.

5. Government has thus largely increased its contributions. In the first place because it has realised clearly that, for the various reasons enumerated above, the cost of the programme has inevitably been increased; in the second place because the majority of the boards have largely increased their own expenditure, though scarcely in the same measure as has Government;

[Honourable Khan Bahadur Fazl-i-Husain.]

in the third place because the resources of the boards are difficult of expansion ; and, lastly and chiefly, because Government is keenly anxious to assist as much as is within its power the expansion and improvement of vernacular education which it regards as the most urgent educational claim on its resources.

6. It has been necessary to refer to these matters because they effect both directly and indirectly, the formulation of a policy of secondary education, and also the amount of money which Government can spare for the purpose. This gist of Colonel Wright's circular letter No. 10175-G., dated the 24th December, 1919, was an explanation of the policy which Government considered might be possible in the following directions :—

- (a) It had hitherto been assumed that the educational activities of local bodies should be confined to the provision of primary education and that the requirements of secondary education should be met either by Government or by private enterprise. In consequence, municipal high schools had been provincialised in 1905 ; and, in 1913, the whole responsibility for grants-in-aid to anglo-vernacular secondary departments had been assumed by Government.
- (b) It was then pointed out that, on the other hand, the provision of vernacular middle schools formed an integral part of the five-year programme for the expansion and improvement of vernacular education. Moreover, the introduction of optional English classes in vernacular middle schools (and, indeed, in some lower middle schools) had removed the main distinction between vernacular and anglo-vernacular middle schools ; and therefore no clear distinction appeared to remain between these two types of schools. [Before coming to a final decision on these matters, i.e., the question of optional English classes, the future of the vernacular final examination and other kindred subjects, Government intends to await the findings of the Committee which have been appointed to investigate these problems.] It was therefore decided that it was the right and duty of local bodies to provide middle schools, both vernacular and anglo-vernacular, and that these schools should, under certain conditions, be entitled to grants-in-aid from provincial revenues under the ordinary rules.
- (c) The maintenance of high schools was considered to be clearly beyond the ordinary educational responsibilities of a local body. Not only was this in contravention of the policy of the Government of India which had been accepted by the Punjab Government, but it also tended to exhaust the resources and to absorb the energies of local bodies which would be directed more appropriately to the provision of middle and primary education.
- (d) The recommendations submitted by the Education Committee of the Legislative Council that Government should aim at maintaining one high school in every tahsil of the province was therefore generally accepted. It was realised even then that there might be considerable difficulties in carrying out this policy. In the first place, there was the uncertainty of Government being able to find the necessary funds for the early

provincialisation of the high schools maintained by local bodies ; and, still more, for the provision of Government high school in every tahsil. It was considered that local bodies were entitled, subject to certain conditions, to the ordinary grants-in-aid for the secondary departments of anglo-vernacular schools such as obtained in the case of aided schools of a similar grade.

7. Since that time, Government has been able to take some steps towards the realisation of the policy laid down in Colonel Wright's letter. At the invitation of the local bodies concerned, eleven of the high schools have been provincialised. Government has also been able to make certain indirect contributions towards the improvement and expansion of secondary education, e.g., steps have already been taken to increase the number of senior teachers under training at the Central Training College by 50 per cent. Money was not, however, forthcoming in 1920-21 for the payment of grants-in-aid to secondary departments of anglo-vernacular schools ; and, owing to a largely increased demand on Government towards the expansion and improvement of vernacular education, it has not been possible to find the money for that purpose during the year 1921-22.

8. As a next step, Government is making arrangements whereby all, or at any rate the majority of, high schools maintained by local bodies shall be provincialised in 1922-23 provided that the local body concerned in each case is prepared to sign the conveyance form, copies of which have already been forwarded, and to observe the general conditions laid down in Colonel Wright's circular No. 10175-G., dated 24th December, 1919, and modified in my circular No. 149-G.S., dated June 8, 1921 ; and provided that funds are available. It is to be hoped that by this means local bodies will be relieved of all responsibility in connexion with the maintenance of high schools and will thus be assisted indirectly in the maintenance of anglo-vernacular middle schools.

9. I am to add that while Government is in no way desirous of cramping the scope of local bodies in the matter of high school education, it is very anxious that no obstacle should be placed in the way of the expansion and improvement of vernacular education or of the introduction of compulsory education. Provided, therefore, that funds are available, and that provision has been made to the satisfaction of the Education Department for the requirements of compulsory education, local bodies will not only be permitted to open high schools of their own in areas where a distinct demand exists, but will be encouraged to do so by the ordinary grants-in-aid. Until this object is achieved, it is not considered advisable that local bodies should diffuse their energies and exhaust their resources, all of which are needed for the provision of primary education to the masses. In view of these considerations and also in view of the fact that Government is willing, subject to funds being available, to provincialise in 1922-23 all high schools now maintained by local bodies who desire provincialisation, Government does not feel justified in awarding grants to such schools unless and until satisfactory provision has been made for compulsory education.

10. It is clear that the provision of a Government high school in every tahsil can only be a distant ideal ; and, indeed, it is doubtful whether such a rigid distribution of high schools by areas would be either equitable or expedient. On the other hand, Government is keenly anxious

[Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain].

either to provide or to assist in the provision of high school education in areas where a distinct demand exists and where support is forthcoming through local efforts. With this object in view, therefore, a survey of the existing provision and of possible future needs is being made, as has already been done in the case of vernacular education. As soon as this survey has been completed, Government will be prepared, from year to year, to consider the applications of local bodies for the raising of their anglo-vernacular middle schools to the high standard and for their consequent provincialisation.

11. I am to add that though Government is not prepared to give grants-in-aid to high schools maintained by local bodies, except when the conditions named in paragraph 9 above have been complied with, grants will be paid as from 1922-23 to anglo-vernacular middle schools maintained by local bodies on the same conditions as obtain in aided schools of a similar grade. Such grants, however, will not be admissible to the middle departments of high schools. New anglo-vernacular middle schools and vernacular schools converted into anglo-vernacular schools will only be eligible for grants after the sanction of the Education Department has been obtained to their inclusion in the list of schools for which grants are admissible.

CIRCULAR REGARDING ADMISSION OF STUDENTS TO 9TH CLASS IN RECOGNISED SCHOOLS.

152. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that the Education Department has issued a circular to the effect that no students passing 8th Class from unrecognised schools be admitted to 9th Class in the recognised schools unless they pass a certain test of the Education Department? If so, will the Government please state the reasons for doing so quoting the authority under which this circular has been issued?

(b) Has Government received any protests against the issue of this circular? If so, will the Government take steps to cancel the circular?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Yes.

(b) Protests have been received. As this matter is the subject of a Resolution which is already down for discussion, it will serve no useful purpose to lay down the policy in answer to this question.

EDUCATIONAL POLICY OF LOCAL BODIES.

153. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** Is it a fact that local bodies in the Province sometimes act upon a policy of competition in education by opening and continuing schools where recognised schools under private management already exist? If so, will the Government be pleased to issue instructions to local bodies to avoid this competition and encourage private efforts?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Government is not aware of the cases, if any, to which, the honourable member refers, but has already advocated an economical spirit of competition between Government, board and private schools.

FIVE YEARS' PROGRAMME FOR EXPANSION IN EDUCATION.

154. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that the idea of an advance on the 5 years' programme for expansion in education has finally been given up by the Government? (b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state its reasons for so doing giving also the total number of schools opened as a result of this programme and the increase in the number of students and expenditure?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) No. Government is continuing the programme of expansion and improvement of vernacular education.

(b) Does not arise.

COMPULSORY PRIMARY EDUCATION IN LOCAL BODIES.

155. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** Will the Government be pleased to state the number and names of the local bodies which have started compulsory primary education within their jurisdiction, giving the number of villages in the case of each district board, and the total number of schools opened?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : A statement showing the number and names of the local bodies which have started compulsory education and the number of school areas in which compulsion has been introduced in case of district boards is laid on the table.

Names of the district board who have introduced compulsory primary education.	Number of school areas in which the compulsory primary education has been introduced.
1. District Board, Hissar ...	4 school areas.
2. " " Rohtak ...	6
3. " " Gurgaon ...	Mehola Maharajpur school area. (Tahsil Ballabgarh).
4. " " Karnal ..	8 school areas.
5. " " Ambala ...	3 " "
6. " " Simla ...	6 " "
7. " " Amritsar ...	7 " "
8. " " Montgomery ...	20 " "
9. " " Lyallpur ...	59 " "
10. " " Jhang ...	19 " "
11. " " Muzaffargarh ...	3 " "
12. " " Dera Ghazi Khan	Choti Zerir school area.

[Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Main Fazl-i-Husain.]

Names of the Municipal Committees who have introduced compulsory primary education.

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Municipal Committee, Rapar (District Ambala) | In ward No. 3 of the area under the control of the Municipal Committee. |
| 2. | " " Lahore. | |
| 3. | " " Amritsar. | |
| 4. | " " Montgomery. | |
| 5. | " " Pakpattan (District Montgomery). | |
| 6. | " " Okara (District Montgomery). | |
| 7. | Notified Area Committee, Tandlianwala, | |
| 8. | " " Jaranwala, | } District Lyallpur |
| 9. | Municipal Committee, Gojra, | |
| 10. | " " Toba Tek Singh, | |
| 11. | " " Multan. | |
| 12. | " " Shujabad (District Multan). | |
| 13. | " " Alipur (District Muzaffargarh). | |
| 14. | " " Dera Ghazi Khan. | |
| 15. | " " Jampur (Dera Ghazi Khan District). | |
| 16. | " " Rewari (Gurgaon District). | |

PROFESSIONAL TAX

156. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Is it a fact that the Haisyat or Professional Tax was originally meant as a tax for the expansion of education ? If so, will the Government be pleased to see that the local bodies which have imposed this tax use it for this purpose alone ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Government have no information to show that any district board has earmarked the Haisyat Tax for the expansion of education. The second part of the question does not therefore arise.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, AMBALA CITY.

157. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : (a) Is it a fact that there are five High Schools in Ambala City in addition to the Government High School, and (b) that the Government High School is not showing good results or attracting a good number of students? (c) If so, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of closing the institution at Ambala City and starting one at Naraingarh where the necessity is greater than at Ambala City?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain :

- (a) In addition to the Government High Schools, there are four High Schools in Ambala City.
- (b) The examination results are not altogether unsatisfactory, but the enrolment does not tend to increase.
- (c) Government has been considering the utilization of the school property for another educational purpose. The suggestion of the honourable member will be borne in mind, but it should be remembered that the school at Naraingarh is a Vernacular Middle School.

SUBORDINATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE ASSOCIATION.

158. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Is it a fact that an application was submitted by the Subordinate Educational Service Association for its being formally recognised? If so, will the Government be pleased to state why the Association has not been recognised so far and state further as to what action it intends to take in the matter?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain :

- (a) The answer is in the affirmative.
- (b) The necessary information was not provided, and this was the cause of the delay.
- (c) The Association is now being recognised.

PROMOTION BY TIME-SCALE IN THE SUBORDINATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

159. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Is it a fact that the system of promotion by time-scale has not yet been introduced in the Subordinate Educational Service? If so, will the Government be pleased to state why this has not been done so far and will it take necessary steps in applying the system to this Service?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The Subordinate Educational Service is organized on a time-scale basis and the members of the service rise by annual increments from the minimum to the maximum of the various grades of pay in which they are placed.

PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : A famous poet has described the voyage of a certain much-enduring hero in his hollow bark through a narrow strait. On the one side is a monster, with six heads, each having a triple row of teeth, and each head barking like a dog and greedy for prey. On the other side is a whirlpool sucking down the black waters till the blue gray sand of the sea bottom shows itself, and then belching them forth again so that the waves froth up to the top of the high cliff. The hero passes the strait in his ship, but the six-headed monster jerks out six of his ship-mates, as a fisher might seize fish, and devours them shrieking in her lair.

Even such is the passage of the good ship *Budget* between the six-headed monster of the administrative departments, barking for prey, and the dangerous sucking undertow of the Council opposition, which threatens to engulf all together. The enchantress who warns the hero of the dangers in his path bids him endure the loss of some of his men to the monster rather than stop and fight and lose more of them, and rather than risk complete engulfment in the whirlpool on the opposite side of the strait; and such are the inglorious compromises of the financial department in its difficult feat of navigation between contrary dangers.

Whoever be the captain, the toils and anxieties of the pilot have certainly fallen upon my friend and colleague, Mr. Miles Irving. In ordinary times, when there are no particular difficulties over meeting the requirements of the departments and yet balancing the budget, a Financial Secretary may have a task no harder than the normal one which the curse of Adam brings to all of us. But when funds are short, his task, of reconciling the irreconcilables, of adjusting and readjusting the figures when the Accountant-General announces after the budget has gone to press that he has made a mistake of seven lakhs, or when other new facts come to light, of doing all this in such a manner as not to exceed the limits set by the Government of India; and of working in all respects punctually, up to a programme of dates, so that a complete volume of accurate figures with explanatory notes, and even the Finance Member's proposed speech, with an Urdu translation of it, may be lying in print on the desk of each Honourable Member at two o'clock on this very afternoon—believe me! it is no light matter to achieve these things to satisfaction. Mr. Miles Irving has received valuable help from the Deputy Secretary, Mr. Grindal. As for the budget branch of the office, they are the crew whose strong muscles propel our boat through the dangerous strait, and without whose devotion to duty no guiding skill could achieve the passage. I think I can assure them that no six-headed monster will pluck them, shrieking victims, from the labouring vessel, like the sailors of Ulysses. On the contrary their good work will command the approbation of all, whatever be the criticisms upon those who command and those who manage the helm.

The year which is now drawing to a close has been one of good harvests, with prices of food-grains below normal rates, and the beginning of an apparent recovery of trade from its long depression. Except in two districts where an impetus has been given to violent crime of all kinds by the operations of the Babar Akali gang, crime in the Province as a whole has been markedly less than in the preceding year. Political discontent in one great section of the community has been virtually ended, by the conclusion of peace at Lausanne on terms gratifying to the friends of

the Turkish Republic. In another section, unfortunately, unrest is still prevailing. With the entrance to this Council of members of an important party which had previously held aloof, we welcome a new section of opinion to the constitutional fold. Financial conditions reflect the improvement in economic and political conditions. The most striking evidence of this improvement was the success of the Punjab loan, the first attempt made by Government to finance a Punjab enterprise by borrowing from Punjabis. The proposal was to raise a crore of rupees for expenditure upon the Sutlej Valley Canal Project and other productive canal projects in the Province, and the offer took the form of ten-year bonds, transferable by endorsement, to be raised at par, bearing interest at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum, subject to income-tax, and payable only at Treasuries and branches of the Imperial Bank in the Punjab. There is yet no Stock Exchange in the Province and some doubt was felt whether the novelty of the enterprise and the absence of market facilities for the scrip, might not interfere with the success of the loan. The loan was open for a few hours only, and was greatly over-subscribed at once. The sum raised was nearly 192 lakhs all of which will be devoted to capital expenditure on irrigation works. Most of the subscriptions came from the Banks, but there is reason to believe that larger amounts would have been offered by the outside public if there had been more time. This success was a gratifying evidence of the confidence which is felt in the ultimate stability of Punjab finances. I have reason to believe that it made a favourable impression in the City of London, where the misleading stories previously current as to the disturbed conditions of this Province were thus effectively contradicted. We are encouraged to rely again upon the willingness of Punjab investors to offer their money for expenditure upon productive enterprises here, and I believe that it will be a subject of satisfaction to this House that, when money has to be borrowed by this Government for the beneficent purpose of extending irrigation, our own people are beginning to establish the habit of lending to us, so that the interest which we have to pay will be disbursed within the Province.

3. The success of the Punjab loan was not the only favourable symptom in the finances during the current year. The budget anticipated a deficit, on the revenue account for the year, of 63 lakhs. Our latest figures indicate that it will not exceed 31. If we leave out of account for the moment the 25 lakhs which are debited on account of the repayment of previous overdrafts, and the additional interest due on these overdrafts, those figures mean the temporary attainment of an approximate equilibrium between revenue and expenditure. This approach to equilibrium has been reached in spite of a disappointment of 20 lakhs in the Stamp revenue, three-fourths of it under the head of Judicial Stamps. Roughly speaking it may be said that the fiscal legislation which was calculated to increase the Stamp revenue by 31 lakhs has only succeeded so far in increasing it by 12. In the meanwhile the disappointment over Stamps has been more than redressed by the notable achievement under the Land Revenue head, where the receipts (apart from sales of land which are credited to capital) are better by 39 lakhs than we anticipated when the budget was framed. The net income from irrigation owing to a rise in receipts and a fall in working expenses is better by nearly 12 lakhs. No other head of revenue shows any really significant difference between the budget and the revised figures. A gain of three lakhs under taxes on income is counterbalanced by a fall of three in the net receipts from Forests, Excise is virtually unchanged, and

[Hon'ble Sir Johan Maynard.]

there are small variations under the less important heads of revenue, some for the worse but more for the better. The substantial difference under the head XXXV—Miscellaneous, where the revised is worse than the budget by nearly seven lakhs is due to delay in the disposal of lands adjoining the fort at Lahore. On the expenditure side the fall of 3½ lakhs in the revised figures under the two Interest heads 14 and 19 is due to changes in the Auditor-General's methods of calculation, and not to any actual changes in the indebtedness of the Province or the rates of interest payable. There is also a noticeable diminution of three lakhs in Medical expenditure. On the other hand, the revised estimates of charges for Police and the Administration of Justice are higher by six and four lakhs, respectively, than the budget. In the result, the expenditure charged to revenue stands at the figure of 10,60 lakhs, against the budget figure of 10,66, while the revenue receipts will be 10,29 lakhs, better by 26 lakhs than the original estimate. The net improvement on the budget forecast for the current year is 32 lakhs.

I will ask the Council to be on its guard against a too facile optimism in contemplating these figures. We have, as it were, a little light shining at the end of the black cavern, full of pitfalls and stumbling blocks, through which we have to make our way. It gives a new hope to the gropers in darkness; but the end is not yet. The revised figures for the current year, which indicate equilibrium between revenue and expenditure, apart from the repayments and the interest charges which are the penalty of previous overdrafts, do not, without explanation and qualification furnish material for an estimate of the normal financial situation of the Province. We have recently been fortunate in our rainfall and in our harvests, and the recoveries of land revenue in 1923-24 have been swelled by substantial amounts of suspended arrears and by the increase in the fluctuating receipts which is the natural consequence of a good year. However good the harvests of the next year may be, such a record can hardly be repeated, because the bulk of the outstanding arrears must now have been collected. On the other hand expenditure has been cut down by drastic expedients which represent rather the postponement of necessary works or of due development than permanent retrenchment.

Those who were members of the first Council were familiarised by frequent discussion with the figure of 123 lakhs which I calculated to be the normal recurring deficit of the Province. During my absence on leave the subject was investigated afresh by Sir Reginald Mant, who arrived at the conclusion that the normal deficit was between one and one and a quarter crore, say between 10 and 12½ per cent. of the annual revenue of the Province. These figures were reached on the basis of the budget for the current year by the addition of necessary items of expenditure which had been postponed in consequence of financial stringency, and by the subtraction of the estimated total product of feasible measures of retrenchment. They did not take into account a circumstance which must for some years to come increase the difficulties of equilibrium: namely, the necessity of providing for a sinking fund of 25 lakhs per annum for the repayment to the Government of India of its advances in deficit years; nor the large item of interest upon productive capital expenditure; some day to be more than covered by fresh receipts from new irrigation, but temporarily constituting a net addition to our revenue liabilities.

I shall make no apology for repeating to the present Council my explanation of this normal recurring deficit. It is sometimes supposed that it

is due to the contribution which the Punjab has to make to the Government of India under the award of the Committee, commonly known as the Meston Committee, which investigated the financial relations with the Province prior to the introduction of the reformed system of administration in 1921. This supposition is erroneous. Under the pre-reform system of finance, there was a system known as the system of divided heads, under which the receipts and the expenditure of particular departments of the administration were divided between the Government of India and the Province. So long as the Government of India was entitled to part of the receipts of such a department as Land Revenue, and responsible for part of its expenditure, it would inevitably claim the lion's share of the control, and provincial autonomy would not in practice be attainable. It was decided therefore, as part of the scheme of reform, to abolish the divided heads. In this process of readjustment, the financial position of the Government of India was changed for the worse, and that of most provincial Governments greatly for the better. The Meston Committee was appointed to determine what the provincial Governments ought to pay in order to redress, or partly to redress, the financial balance thus disturbed. It found that the abolition of the divided heads had improved the financial position of this Province by 2,89 lakhs per annum, and the Provincial contribution was fixed at 1,75 lakhs, so that the new Government should have started with a betterment of 1,14 lakhs. Recent recalculations made by the Financial Department have shown that this estimate was out by only 12 lakhs. There was an actual improvement of 1,02 lakhs, as the result of the abolition of the divided heads, after allowing for the provincial contribution of 1,75 lakhs to the Government of India.

Two influences, one avoidable, one unavoidable, have converted this improvement of 1,02 lakhs into a normal deficit of a crore to a crore and a quarter. The first of these influences was the omission to separate in the accounts capital from revenue receipts. A deceptive appearance of prosperity was given to the Punjab finances by the large proceeds of the sale of land in the irrigated Colonies. It misled outside experts in their enquiry into the financial capabilities of the Province, and it obscured the significance of the excess of expenditure over revenues till a bad year swallowed up the accumulated balances. Our accounts, in the form in which they are now laid before this House, though they do not yet succeed in separating completely all capital and revenue items, have at least the merit of not concealing unpleasant facts by treating the sale-proceeds of land as a receipt on revenue account.

The unavoidable influence was the change in the value of money which the Great War produced. It became necessary to increase substantially the pay of Government servants, and the outlay on all goods and on the wages of labour increased very greatly, most markedly in the working expenses of the Irrigation Department. At the same time, a large fall in excise receipts, apparently permanent in character, diminished income. Meanwhile the demand for increased expenditure in certain beneficent departments, particularly that of Education, became more and more insistent. These, and not the provincial contribution to the Government of India, are the true causes of that normal recurring deficit which is now the pre-occupation of all interested in the finances of the Province. It remains only to add that the readjustment of the salaries of non-gazetted officials, which is by far the largest item in the post-war charges, was based upon the prices of 1918, not upon the far higher prices of succeeding years.

[Hon'ble Sir Johan Maynard.]

One method of dealing with this normal deficit of a crore or a crore and a quarter, upon which critics inside this House and public opinion outside of it have naturally insisted with particular emphasis, is the retrenchment of expenditure. This important matter was the subject of investigation by a Committee containing a majority of non-official members of this House, whose report has since been supplemented by enquiries made personally by the Hon'ble Members and Ministers from the heads of all departments. Members of this House will find on their desks a note by the Financial Secretary explaining in detail what action has been feasible on this report and on these enquiries. It is sufficient for me to say here that in addition to the steps described by me in introducing the last budget, the amalgamation of Canal and Revenue patwaries on the whole of the Western Jumna Canal is now actually being carried out, and the Finance Department has definitely pledged itself to a reconsideration of all the rates of travelling and halting allowance which were raised four years ago. That the spirit of economy—but of an economy which did not ignore the claims of development—has governed the administration will probably be realised by everyone who examines the figures of total expenditure on revenue account since 1921-22, and then turns to the corresponding figures for the beneficent departments taken alone. While substantially more is being expended upon the latter and particularly upon Education, there is no increase in the aggregate expenditure. The truth is that the habit of what some would call frugality, and others might stigmatize as parsimony, has established itself not only in the Finance Department, but also in some (though not all) of the spending departments; and the objects of retrenchment are being partially met by the pressure of necessity. And here I desire to pay a special tribute to the Department of Education, which stands easily first in its strenuous pursuit of that cardinal principle of good administration, to make the best use of every rupee and waste nothing (hear-hear).

The second method of dealing with a deficit which has been brought about by a fall in the value of money, is that Government—which is compelled to pay more for the services and commodities which it has to buy—should charge more for the services and commodities which it has to sell. In other words the attempt should be made to make the most of the Government Crown lands, to make the most of the timber in the forests and to make the most of the water of the rivers, which is now spread over nearly ten million acres of cultivation through those great canals which are among the engineering wonders of the world. The sale-proceeds of land benefit the revenue position by reducing the interest which, without them, we should have to pay upon capital borrowings. It is a duty which the Government owes to the Province to see that the valuable asset of the Crown lands is so dealt with as to bring the maximum of relief to the finances of the Province. That is to say that when Government parts with land, it must ordinarily demand its full value from the purchaser and when it lets land it must ordinarily demand its full rent. As to the timber in the forests, a slump in the market has temporarily made developments impracticable, but a new convention has been established with the Forest Department according to which the ratio of expenditure to revenue is not to exceed seven to ten, and the Department will so adjust its arrangements as to fulfil as far as possible this requirement. It is hoped that irrigation from the Sutlej Valley Project will begin on a small scale

during 1925, but it will be some years before it is fully developed. Other great projects of irrigation await their turn. In the meanwhile it is an obvious duty to see that adequate charges are made for the water. Otherwise the cultivator whose lands are so fortunately situated that he is able to benefit by canal irrigation, is not bearing his fair share of the burdens. By reason of the physical configuration of the country, not everyone can get water from a canal. But everyone can and ought to get the advantage of the canal's existence, by the addition which the price of the water makes to the resources of the Province.

A third method of bridging the gap between revenue and expenditure is new taxation. In January 1923 changes were made in the charges under the Court-fees and Stamp Acts, which were estimated to bring an enhanced revenue of 31 lakhs, but which have hitherto added only 12 lakhs to the revenues. It was never anticipated that this measure by itself would achieve all that the situation required, and this House was asked in March last to pass a resolution advocating the appointment of a Committee to investigate ways and means of increasing revenue. The Resolution was rejected; but a reference was made to the Standing Committee on Finance, which advised that additional revenue not exceeding 25 lakhs should be raised by fresh taxation, and that mutation fees be doubled, that motor vehicles be taxed, and that the basis of the valuation of agricultural land for the purpose of court-fees be changed from 10 years' purchase of the land revenue to 20 years' purchase. Mutation fees were increased, with an estimated return of three lakhs per annum; and in October last Sir Reginald Mant brought before the Council three Bills, two of them based upon the advice of the Standing Committee of the House on Finance, and the third conceived with the design of making the urban population pay a portion of the new charges by doubling the Stamp duty on transfers of land in urban areas. The House rejected the Bill for the alteration of the basis of the valuation of agricultural land for the purpose of court-fees; and it was, therefore, thought useless to proceed with the other two measures at that time.

The Government has thus been unable so far to carry proposals for the reduction of the deficit by fresh taxation, in spite of the advice which was given by the Standing Committee of this House. But it proposes to re-introduce the three Bills which were unsuccessful in October last, and next week I shall ask the House to refer these three Bills to Select Committees. They have been carefully framed so as to spread the burden of new taxation in an equitable manner over rural and urban interests alike, and to touch the incomes of the well-to-do. It is calculated that their yield in a full year will amount to 20 lakhs of rupees. By themselves they will not bridge the gulf between revenue and expenditure. But if they are accepted by the House, and if their yield is what is anticipated, and if a very early reduction a substantial portion of the provincial contribution should be made by the Government of India, it is possible that the necessity of increasing the scale of the Canal Occupiers' Rate (a measure which has been under consideration for the past two years) may be averted. I trust that I have made myself quite clear on this point, and that no member of this House will suppose that I have promised that water rates will not be raised, if these three Bills are passed. The new taxation will improve the chances of avoiding the necessity of raising the water rates. But it is not certain that it will avert that necessity.

The truth is that such a promise would only place this House in a financial Fools' Paradise. When a province spends more than its income,

[Hon'ble Sir Johan Maynard.]

and when balances are exhausted, it is from the resources of the Government of India that the deficit has to be made up, for we cannot ask investors to lend us money to fill the gap between ordinary expenditure and revenue. The Government of India is our banker, and the banker's patience is not inexhaustible. There comes a time when he refuses to make any further advances. That time appeared to have arrived after the rejection by the Council in October last of the three money bills, and there then seemed to us to be no escape from the necessity of raising the water rates. A respite of a year was however with great difficulty obtained; and our banker has expressed his willingness to finance a very moderate deficit during 1924-25. In the year succeeding that, equilibrium must be attained, if not by one method, then by another, for the Province will be left to meet its liabilities without the help of the Government of India.

I ask the House now to turn with me to the revenue budget for 1924-25, and in the first place I ask it to take note that our figures are based upon the assumption that it will not reject the three taxation bills which I shall ask it to refer to Select Committees next week. If these bills take effect from April 1st, they should produce between them 20 lakhs of additional revenue of which 17 lakhs are under Stamps and 3 lakhs under Miscellaneous; and our budget estimate of receipts must be correspondingly reduced if these bills are delayed or rejected. Subject to this explanation, our budget is based upon the expectation of a normal year with no exceptional features. The important differences from the revised budget on the receipt side are, under Land Revenue (after deduction of sale-proceeds of lands), Irrigation and Miscellaneous. The first of these is budgetted at 286 lakhs instead of 320, the revised figure for the current year, because we must not count upon another bumper year and because arrears have to a large extent already been recovered. Irrigation, on the other hand, is expected to give us 3.85 lakhs net instead of 3.72. The large increase under XXXV.—Miscellaneous is mainly due to delay in the sales of the Fort lands at Lahore. Excise receipts change slightly for the worse, Stamps stand 2 lakhs higher, without taking the proposed legislation into account, the net income from Forests is expected to be 13 instead of 11, Registration improves by a lakh and a half, owing to the operation over a full year of the new scale of fees. The fall in the receipts under the head of Police is only apparent, and is due to a change in the method of accounting. Receipts from Education increase with the expansion of operations and the consequent growth of fees. Agriculture is expected to realise a larger sum by the sale of seeds than in the current year. Hence the increase in the budget figures under these two heads for the coming year. On the expenditure side the most significant increase is that of 12 lakhs under the interest heads Nos. 14 and 19. That is accounted for, briefly, by our increasing debt, a debt which is partly due to over-spending, but is also the result of productive expenditure.

This growing item of interest is so important as to deserve a full explanation. The results of the calculations of the interest which is payable by the Provincial Government are contained in expenditure heads 14 and 19, and the methods are stated in the relevant budget notes. I am conscious of the fact that these methods are such as to be eminently likely to confuse the plain man. But I can give a clue which I hope will remove the confusion. Members who wish to understand how much the Punjab has to pay, and at what percentage rates, may ignore head 14 altogether so long as they also ignore the subsequent deduction of the amount of head 14

from head 19. The important thing to study is head 19 and the notes upon it. Briefly, what we pay is, first, interest at the rate of approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on capital outlay (entirely on canals) up to the end of 1916-17, secondly, interest on the further capital outlay (also on canals) up to the end of 1920-21, i.e., up to the introduction of the reforms, at the rate of approximately $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., thirdly, interest at $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on our post-reform overdrafts, whether for capital or for revenue purposes, and fourthly, interest at the promised rate (which in the case of the loan of 1923 is $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) on our own Punjab loans. From this total is deducted interest at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on one crore of rupees surrendered to the Government of India in 1914-15. The only other matter which requires explanation is the period for which interest on overdrafts is calculated. The overdraft is known only at the close of the financial year, but we pay interest on the assumption that it accrued at the half year. At any given moment, of course, the overdraft may be greatly less, or greatly more, than the final figure which appears at the end of the year.

I have said that $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. is the rate charged by the Government of India on our post-reform overdrafts. But for further overdrafts not figuring for interest purposes in this budget of ours, the rate will be 6 per cent., not $6\frac{1}{2}$, because the rate at which the Government of India are able to borrow is now lower than it was.

The other significant figures in our expenditure budget are the further fall in the proposed expenditure from revenue on civil works, which stands at little more than two-thirds of the actual outlay in 1921-22, testifying to the strenuous quality of our efforts for retrenchment; and the further increase in the provision for the beneficent departments, which exceeds the actuals of 1921-22 by more than 17 per cent. In the upshot, we budget for 10,81 lakhs of revenue receipts and 10,75 of revenue expenditure. This leaves us with a deficit of 44, of which 25 is accounted for by the sinking fund out of which we are to repay our overdrafts.

I have already warned the House to take note that this position is only attained by adding to our anticipated receipts the proceeds of the money bills with which the House will deal next week. A strenuous economy over buildings and communications, which means a postponement rather than an elimination of expenditure, has also contributed to the result. But I must also draw pointed attention to the fact that we propose to charge to capital certain unproductive works, thus relieving the revenue budget. The word "unproductive" is here used in a technical sense to mean works which do not yield a direct return in money of at least $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on outlay.

The works which the budget now before the House proposes to charge to capital, in spite of the fact that they will not yield $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on outlay or indeed any direct return in money at all, are estimated to cost in the coming year a little over 14 lakhs. They are :—

The renewal of District Court buildings, Sialkot.

High School, Sheikhupura.

Grants to Primary Schools for building purposes.

Second Hostel, King Edward Medical College.

Chemistry Block, Agricultural College, Lyallpur.

Maternity Hospital, Lahore.

Ghatta Hill-Mandi Road.

Multan Hospital.

[Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.]

In future budgets provision will be made for a sinking fund to pay off from revenue this unproductive capital expenditure in an appropriately brief period. We have proposed to pay for them out of capital, because the programme of necessary buildings and communications has been starved by financial stringency, and because there appeared to be some doubt whether Public Works Department establishment (which cannot be got rid of) would be fully employed during the coming year unless some special provisions of this sort were made. It is believed that the programme of works is now quite sufficient to keep the establishment, which has been to some extent reduced by cessation of recruitment and by transfers to the Irrigation Branch, fully occupied.

The most remarkable feature of our capital budget, to which I now ask the House to direct its attention, is the achievement of a position more independent than that which we had contemplated. We expected 1,57 lakhs of receipts and 2,08 of expenditure in the current year, relying upon the Government of India to make up the difference. Our Punjab loan was so largely oversubscribed in a few hours that it gave us 1,92 lakhs instead of 1,00; while receipts from sales of land and town sites realised 47 instead of 34. On the other hand the expectations of expenditure were not fulfilled. Irrigation expended 1,27 instead of 1,78, loans and advances required 12 instead of 22, and the outlay under other heads was generally less than had been expected. The revised figures show receipts 2,62 and expenditure 1,44, leaving us with the large capital balance of 1,18 lakhs. The question of obtaining interest from the Government of India on this substantial balance or of otherwise utilising it to the advantage of the Provincial finances is engaging the attention of the Finance Department. The large capital balance, so obviously advantageous to the Government of India for its ways and means operations, and so gratifying as an indication of the position of financial independence which appears to be within reach of this Province, is open to the financial objection that it will swell our interest charges during the coming year. The lessons which the figures inculcate are that estimates of capital expenditure particularly in the Irrigation Branch, must be closer and more careful and that, in issuing our next Punjab loan, we must take precautions to enable us to reject offers in excess of our strict requirements.

There is another point in connection with our Punjab loans which I must explain clearly to this House. If we had abstained from issuing our loan, and had elected instead to rely upon advances from the Government of India, interest would have been charged at the rate of 6 per cent., because the former rate of $6\frac{1}{2}$ has now been reduced to that figure. Our loan was taken at $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the present quotation of its price on the stock exchange shows that this was not an excessive rate of interest to offer, as the scrip is now selling at only a trifling fraction above par. Why then did we deliberately elect to raise our own loan at $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., when we might presumably, have obtained an advance from the Government of India at 6 per cent.? The answer is twofold. We desire to stimulate in our people the habit of lending to Government, and we believe that local loans can be made so attractive as to tap sources of supply in the Punjab which the Government of India cannot touch. This is one reason. The second is that success in raising purely local loans will give to the Province a degree of financial autonomy which dependence upon the good will of the Government of India would deny to it. This advantage would be apparent if the sums available for advances to the Provincial Governments in any year

should be somewhat short of their requirements, and if a promising Punjab project should consequently be held up.

In our capital budget for 1924-25 on the receipt side we carry forward a balance of 1.18 lakhs from the current year, and anticipate 34 lakhs from sale of waste lands and Government estates, 5 from town sites, 13 from loans and advances, and we provide a crore and a half under the head of permanent debt incurred. This last item is the amount of the loan which we are asking the House to authorise us to raise during the coming year. Within the limit set, we shall adjust the amount of our borrowing to the actual requirements as we may estimate them later on. The total receipts including the opening balance are budgetted at 3.20 lakhs, and our budgetted expenditure is 3.15, of which 1.91 is for irrigation works, and 25 on account of Loans and Advances. The remaining expenditure amounting to just under a crore is accounted for by 35 lakhs for hydro-electric works, 23 lakhs for the diversion of the Sutlej Valley Railway so as to carry it through the crown lands of the Nili Bar (a project which was approved by Resolution in the late Council), 20 lakhs for the provision of communications in the Nili Bar which will add very greatly to the sale-proceeds of the crown lands and otherwise increase revenues there, 14 lakhs for those unproductive works to which I have already alluded, and smaller sums for expenditure on Industrial development and Forests.

Our ship is launched upon the perilous passage between monster and whirlpool. Sir, I present to the House the budget for 1924-25.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE RAILWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Mr. President : Three representatives are to be elected to serve on the Railway Advisory Committee to represent Trade, Agricultural and Industrial interests, respectively. The following members have been duly nominated for the purpose of election :

To represent Trade interests ... Lala Mohan Lal and Rao Pohap Singh.

To represent Agricultural interest ... Khan Bahadur Syad Mehdi Shah, Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram and Sardar Tara Singh.

To represent Industrial interests ... Rai Bahadur Lala Dhunput Rai and Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.

Voting papers will now be distributed to members. As soon as they have marked a cross against one name in each of the three groups they shall be handed in to the Secretary who will count the votes and inform me of the result. Candidates securing the largest number of votes will be declared elected.

(After the voting was over.)

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE FOREST BOARD.

Mr. President : Four non-official representatives of the Council are to be elected to serve on the Forest Board. The following seven members have been duly nominated as candidates for the purpose of election :—

Rai Sahib Chandhri Chhotu Ram.

Lala Mohan Lal.

Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.

Sardar Randhir Singh.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.

Khad Bahadur Chandhri Shahab-ud-din.

The election is to be held by a single transferable vote system. Voting papers will now be distributed to the members. They should be filled in and handed over to the Secretary. The results of the election will be announced later.

(After the voting was over.)

RESULTS OF THE VOTING FOR THE RAILWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Mr. President : The following are the results of the voting for the Railway Advisory Committee :—

Trade interests	...	Lala Mohan Lal	40	Votes.
		Rao Pohap Singh	29	Do.
Agricultural interests...		Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah	43	Votes.
		Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram	10	Do.
		Sardar Tara Singh	17	Do.
Industrial interests	...	Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai	30	Votes.
		Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan	40	Do.

Lala Mohan Lal, Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah and Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan are therefore declared duly elected.

The result of the other election will be announced later.

The Council then adjourned till two o'clock on Monday the 3rd March 1924.

APPENDIX.

(Vide the answer to question No. 141 on page 238 *supra*).

No.	Name of Plaintiff and Defendant.	Amount of damages claimed.	Final result to date giving amount of decree, if claims decreed.	Total expenditure borne by the Government as on Legal Remembrancer's book.
		Rs.		Rs. A. P.
1	Mr. F. C. Isamonger <i>versus</i> "Zamindar."	15,000	<i>Ex-parte</i> decree for Rs. 15,000 has been obtained and is being executed. The judgment-debtors have filed appeals in the High Court. Appeal against order refusing to set aside <i>ex-parte</i> decree dismissed, but the one on the merits still pending.	650 0 0
2	Mr. Gray, Deputy Superintendent of Police <i>versus</i> "Bande Matram."	7,000	Decree awarded for Rs. 700 <i>plus</i> costs on full claim, Rs. 745 realized.	338 0 0
3	Mr. Ogilvie, I.C.S., <i>versus</i> "Bande Matram."	15,000	Decree for Rs. 100 awarded without costs.	1,764 14 0
4 & 5	{ Major Courtney and Khan Sahib Abdul Ghafur <i>versus</i> "Bande Matram." }	15,000	The Directors have published an apology and paid Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 750 damages.	200 0 0
6	Mr. C. M. King <i>versus</i> "Akali."	15,000	Decree given in favour of plaintiff for Rs. 5,000 <i>plus</i> Rs. 723-6-0 costs. Defendants have lodged appeal in the High Court.	925 0 0
7	Mr. Bowring <i>versus</i> "Akali."	15,000	Decree given in favour of plaintiff for Rs. 5,000 <i>plus</i> Rs. 541-8-0 costs. Defendants have lodged appeal in the High Court.	2,396 0 0
8	Major Wilson <i>versus</i> "Akali" (Master Sunder Singh, Mast, Editor).	15,000	<i>Ex-parte</i> decrees passed against the defendant on 25th November 1923.	875 0 0
9	Mr. J. M. Donnett <i>versus</i> "Garga] Akali."	10,000	Case compromised. Defendants expressed regret and paid Rs. 492-8-9 spent by Government on court fees and Rs. 250 half of counsel's fee.	250 0 0

No.	Name of Plaintiff and Defendant.	Amount of damages claimed.	Final result to date giving amount of decree if claims decreed.	Total expenditure borne by the Government as on Legal Remembrancer's book.		
				Rs.	L.	P.
10	Mr. Price, Deputy Superintendent, Police, <i>versus</i> "Gargaj Akali."	4,000	<i>Ex-parte</i> decree for Rs. 4,000 with costs Rs. 3,332 was passed against the proprietor, editor and publisher of the paper on 16th November 1923.	100	0	0
11	Inspector Mota Singh <i>versus</i> "Gargaj Akali."	5,100	Decree for Rs. 500 with full costs.	253	0	0
12	Sub-Assistant Surgeon Diwan Chand <i>versus</i> "Gargaj Akali."	5,000	<i>Ex-parte</i> decree with costs passed on 28th November 1923.	125	0	0
13	Sub-Inspector Dina Nath <i>versus</i> "Siya-sat."	5,100	Decree for Rs. 100 awarded without costs. Appeal pending in the High Court.	252	0	0
14	Sub-Inspector Harrow Das <i>versus</i> "Siya-sat."	1,000	Judgment is awaited			
15	Cholo Inspector Khurdpur, Jullundur District, <i>versus</i> "Pardeesi Khalsa."	8,000	Pending			
16	Mr. Gray, Deputy Superintendent, Police, <i>versus</i> "Ahi-Samratwal-Jamat."	7,000	Case compromised			
17	Khan Salih Khair-ud-din <i>versus</i> "Pardeesi Khalsa."	5,100	Suit pending			
18	Major N. M. Wilson <i>versus</i> "Daler Akali."	5,000	Decree for Rs. 500 with proportionate costs.	250	0	0
19	Major Wilson <i>versus</i> "Akali" (Giani Hira Singh and others).	...	Suit pending			
Total				7,583	14	0

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

2ND SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 3rd March 1924.

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

OATH OF OFFICE.

The following member was sworn in :—

Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. Ward (official, nominated).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

DISTRICT BOARDS AND RURAL SANITATION.

160. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Is it a fact that District Boards in the Province are doing practically nothing towards the rural sanitation ? If so, will the Government please see that the District Boards do not ignore this aspect of their duties and issue strict instructions on the subject ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : It is a fact that rural sanitation has, so far, not received the attention it ought to have received from District Boards. Government are satisfied that the main reasons for this are—

- (1) lack of a special district health agency for advising District Boards as to what they should do ;
- (2) lack of interest generally on the part of the rural population in sanitary problems.

To meet first of these difficulties Government have already arranged to supply District Boards with a special health agency paid from Provincial revenues and to assist the execution of projects by generous grants from the Sanitary Board. Four District Boards have already been given a special health agency with good results.

For the removal of the second difficulty, Government do not believe that instructions from headquarters can effect much. They prefer to rely on the efforts of public-spirited members of District Boards within the Boards themselves. A copy of the question and answer will, however, be sent to each District Board.

MAINTENANCE OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND PROVINCIAL ROADS BY DISTRICT BOARDS.

161. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Is it a fact that a number of Government buildings and Provincial roads have been handed over to District Boards in the Province and that the maintenance and the supervision grants given to these Boards for this purpose by the Government fall very much lower than their actual expenditure on the same ? If so, will the Government be pleased to take early steps either to take back these roads and buildings or to increase the grants to cover the expenditure for this purpose ?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : It is a fact that certain Government buildings and Provincial roads have been handed over to District Boards from time to time for maintenance and it is possible in some cases the original grants sanctioned for these particular works to be utilised by District Boards may be inadequate owing to increase in rates all round, but that system has since 1917 been replaced by a consolidated grant to be given annually to District Boards. The revision of this consolidated grant is under consideration and each Board's case will be duly considered.

However, considering the financial condition of the Boards Government proposes to relieve them of certain roads which are more of Provincial utility than of local and about 200 miles of these Arterial roads (as they are called) will be taken over by Public Works Department from 1st April 1924 without any corresponding decrease in the present consolidated grants of District Boards.

MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN DEFENCE FORCE AND THE EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

162. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Is it a fact that a Press *Communiqué* was issued by the Government, saying that preference should be given to members of the Indian Defence Force in selecting candidates for new appointments in the Excise Department? If so, will the Government be pleased to state how many appointments have thus been made in the Province and how many in the Ambala Division?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The Press *Communiqué* referred to dealt with the University Corps and not with Indian Defence Force. No statistics are available to show how many of the appointments in the Excise Department were given to members of the Indian Defence Force.

PATIENTS IN THE INDIAN PRIVATE WARDS OF MAYO HOSPITAL.

163. Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the average cost of a patient in the Indian private wards of Mayo Hospital and private wards of the Albert Victor Hospital separately?

(b) Is it a fact that a lower rate of daily fee is charged from the patients admitted to private wards of Albert Victor Hospital in case of Government officials drawing less than Rs. 250 per mensem and those members of their families who are dependant on them, whereas no such concession is given in the case of the Indian officials admitted to the Indian private wards and a uniform rate of daily fee is charged from them ordinarily?

(c) If the reply to (b) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether they contemplate any action in the matter? If not, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for this discrimination in making rules for patients of similar category admitted to Indian private wards and those admitted to private wards meant for Europeans and Anglo-Indians?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) The average cost per patient in the Indian Private and Family Wards is Rs. 8-9-0 per diem and in the Private Wards of the Albert Victor Wing, Rs. 5 per diem.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Honourable Member is wrong in assuming that the Albert Victor Wing is for Europeans and Anglo-Indians only while the Indian Private Wards are for Indians only. As a matter of fact the distinction is one of mode of life and not of race. It is understood that in practice the fee of Rs. 5 per diem charged in the Indian Private and Family Wards is reduced by the Medical Superintendent according to the means of the patient and fees as low as Rs. 2 per diem have been charged. The Superintendent is allowed no discretion in the case of European and Anglo-Indian officials of the same status who have to pay Rs. 4 per diem or get themselves admitted into the general wards.

The case, however, will be carefully considered and if there is any cause or grievance on the part of any class it will be removed.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Does the Honourable Minister for Education mean that any Indian having no objection to the English mode of living will be admitted to the private wards of the Albert Victor Wing if he so desires ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : I should have thought that my answers were fairly clear. The question is not of objection to the mode of life but that of having adopted that mode of life.

MAJOR OPERATIONS PERFORMED IN THE INDIAN PRIVATE WARDS OF THE MAYO HOSPITAL, LAHORE.

164. **Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of major operations performed free of charge in the Indian private wards of Mayo Hospital during the last year as provided in the rules ?

(b) If the number of such operations is small, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for the same ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) 20.

(b) Does not therefore arise.

FEES FOR MEDICAL ATTENDANCE, ETC., IN THE INDIAN PRIVATE WARDS OF THE MAYO HOSPITAL.

165. **Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin :** (a) Is it a fact that fees for medical attendance and surgical operations are charged in the Indian private wards of the Mayo Hospital according to the income of the individual concerned, whereas in the case of the private wards of Albert Victor Hospital the fee for medical attendance is a fixed sum and the fee for surgical operations is according to the nature of operations performed and the amount of skill and the time required for performing them ?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether they contemplate any action in the matter ? If not, will the Government be pleased to state why different principles are followed in fixing fees for the Indian private wards and private wards of the Albert Victor Hospital, resulting in charging comparatively much higher fees from Indians than those fixed for Europeans and Anglo-Indians ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) The fees for medical attendance and surgical operations in the Indian private and family wards and the private wards of the Albert Victor Wing of the Mayo Hospital are based on the income of a patient and are the same in both cases.

(b) In view of the answer to (a), part (b) calls for no reply.

FEES FOR CLINICAL EXAMINATION OF SPUTUM, ETC., IN THE INDIAN PRIVATE WARDS OF THE MAYO HOSPITAL.

166. Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Is it a fact that separate fees are charged for clinical examination of sputum, blood, urine, etc., in the Indian private wards of the Mayo Hospital, whereas no such fees are charged in the private wards of the Albert Victor Hospital? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for this differentiation between Europeans and Anglo-Indians on the one hand and Indians on the other?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Separate fees are charged for clinical examination of blood, etc., in the Albert Victor Wing as well as the private Indian wards of the Mayo Hospital, and the fees are the same for both. The honourable member is wrong in assuming that the private wards of the Albert Victor Wing is for Europeans and Anglo-Indians only, while the Indian private wards are for Indians only. As a matter of fact, the distinction is one of mode of life and not of race.

FEES CHARGED BY MEDICAL OFFICERS OF ALBERT VICTOR AND MAYO HOSPITALS.

167. Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : (a) Is it a fact that fees charged by Medical Officers of Albert Victor and Mayo Hospitals for medical attendance, surgical operations and clinical examinations in private wards, go to the officers concerned instead of to the Government?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the total amount of income derived from the sources mentioned in (a) and also state the reasons why this income should not go to Government?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The amount realised during 1923 was Rs. 7,641, out of which Rs. 457 was for laboratory examinations. The reasons why this income should not go to Government are : (a) The present rule under which the visiting Physicians and Surgeons retain the fees for medical attendance and surgical operations has been in force for nearly 25 years ; and (b), the alleged analogy of the practice in the United Kingdom and all large hospitals throughout India.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Is the Honourable Minister quite sure that no fees are charged privately by the officers in charge at their bungalows for cases which are supposed to have been done in the hospital?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The department of my Ministry has not yet taken to espionage.

SARDAR KHARAK SINGH.

168. Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Arising out of the answer to question No. 2799 * given on the 25th October last, will Government be pleased to state—

- (i) Whether it is a fact that Sardar Kharak Singh, late President, Punjab Provincial Congress Committee and Shromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, is now confined in Dera Ghazi Khan Jail on account of additional punishments awarded to him for refusing to wear any clothes and do allotted labour?
- (ii) Whether it is a fact that the Gandhi cap is not allowed to be worn in Dera Ghazi Khan Jail?
- (iii) Whether it is a fact that on the occasion of the visit of the Inspector-General of Prisons to the said jail, physical force was used to remove the Gandhi caps worn by some of the prisoners?
- (iv) Whether it is a fact that Sardar Kharak Singh is a man of high social status, is an old man and is confined in a solitary cell since a long time where he is living without any clothes?
- (v) Whether they are contemplating any steps to appease any feelings of the public from knowledge of the facts mentioned in the answers to question No. 2799* and this question?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (i) No. Sardar Kharak Singh is at present undergoing the term of his original sentence. He was sentenced to the following terms of rigorous imprisonment :—on 12th April 1922 to 3 years under Section 124-A., Indian Penal Code ; on 6th April 1922, to 1 year under 19-A., Arms Act ; on 3rd March 1922 to 9 months under section 52, Prisons Act for (1) refusing to wear his clothes and (2) to obey orders.

(is) Yes.

(iii) No.

(iv) His social status is stated to be good. He is an old man but his health is excellent. Owing to the disposition of the buildings Sardar Kharak Singh is lodged in a separate cell, the door of which is open. He does not wear clothes but his clothes are placed in his cell. Sardar Kharak Singh is an intractable prisoner. He contumaciously refuses to work and to wear his clothes.

(v) There is no intention of permitting any breach of jail discipline.

ROUTE TO THE CREMATION GROUND FOR HINDUS AT KASUR.

169. Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : (a) Is it a fact that the usual route to the cremation ground for Hindus at Kasur crosses the Railway line near the Railway Station and that great hardship is caused to the Hindu community from the biers being held up for a long time at the crossing as the result of shunting which is practically always going on?

(b) If so, does Government contemplate any action in this 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.

LAHORE MUNICIPALITY AND PROFESSIONAL TAX ON DOCTORS.

170. Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : (i) Is it a fact that a professional tax on Doctors has been proposed to be levied by the Lahore Municipality?

(ii) Is it a fact that unanimous protests against this tax have been made by independent medical profession, as well as the Doctors employed in the Government service?

(iii) Does Government contemplate any action against the proposed tax?

(iv) If the reply to clause (iii) is in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state its reason?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (i) and (ii) Government have no knowledge of any such proposal outside an objection received from some medical men of Lahore.

(iii) and (iv) the tax is *prima facie* under section 61 (1) (4) of the Punjab Municipal Act, within the competence of the Lahore Municipal Committee. Any representation on the subject made in accordance with law will be duly considered.

INTERRUPTION OF DRAINAGE AT KASUR.

171. Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : (i) Is it a fact that a Muhammadan gentleman, whose son is a Municipal Commissioner at Kasur, has built three shops in the Mandi close to the Telegraph Office at Kasur with a pacca platform built in front of the drain in such a way that the usual drainage has been interrupted?

(ii) Is it a fact that the Assistant Epidemiologist, Lahore District, visited the site in May 1923 and reported to the Kasur Municipality in August 1923, strongly objecting to the encroachment and recommending that the arches be made below the platform on the drain to allow the usual drainage and that no action has been taken by the Kasur Municipality so far?

(iii) If the reply to parts (i) and (ii) of the question be in the affirmative, does Government contemplate any action in the matter?

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

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) A copy of this question and the reply to it will be forwarded to the Commissioner.

SARDAR AJIT SINGH.

172. Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Will Government be pleased to state—

(i) whether they know anything about the whereabouts of Sardar Ajit Singh, who was deported to Mandalay along with Lala Lajpat Rai in 1907;

(ii) whether there are any restrictions on Sardar Ajit Singh's return to British India;

(iii) whether they intend to renew the prosecution warrants that are said to have been issued against Sardar Ajit Singh in or about the year 1909 ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (i) The present whereabouts of Sardar Ajit Singh are not known to the Punjab Government.

(ii) No.

(iii) No.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES OF GOJRA.

173. Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Will the Government be pleased to state whether any complaints were made to the Deputy Commissioner Lyallpur, during the last Punjab Council Elections regarding the pressure and influence exerted by the Honorary Magistrates of Gojra on the voters ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : Vague complaints were made to the Deputy Commissioner of Lyallpur with regard to pressure being brought to bear on voters at the last Punjab Legislative Council Election by the Honorary Magistrates at Gojra. The only specific complaint proved on enquiry to be entirely false.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE HONORARY MAGISTRATES OF GOJRA.

174. Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Will the Government be pleased to state whether any memorials from the inhabitants of Gojra containing complaints against the Honorary Magistrates of Gojra were received by it ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : A memorial was received from some residents of Gojra protesting against a proposal alleged to have been made by an Honorary Magistrate of the place. The memorial was sent to the Commissioner for disposal.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Will Government please state as to when the matter was referred to the Commissioner and what was the result of it ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : I am sorry I have not got the information on hand.

NORMAL SCHOOLS OF ROHTAK AND KARNAL.

175. Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan : (a) Is it a fact that Normal School of Rohtak has not a single Muslim teacher on its staff ?

(b) Is it a fact that there is only one Muslim teacher, viz., the Drawing Master, in the Normal School of Karnal while all the other teachers are non-Muslims ?

(c) If the answers to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to appoint a sufficient number of Muslim teachers on the staffs of the above mentioned schools ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) and (b) The answer is in the affirmative.

(c) Steps will be taken, if possible, to meet the wishes of the honourable member.

PREACHING OF SHUDHI IN NORMAL SCHOOL, ROHTAK.

176. **Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan :** (a) Is it a fact that the Divisional Inspector, the Principal and both the Vice-Principals of the Government High School and Normal School, Rohtak, are Hindus ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Hindu teachers of that school are secretly helping one Lala Bihari Lal, a teacher, in his preaching of *shudhi*, to the public in general, and to the Muslim students in particular ?

(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what action, if any, has the Divisional Inspector taken in the matter ? If no action has so far been taken will the Government be pleased to state the reason ?

(d) Is it a fact that as a result of Lala Bihari Lal's preaching of *shudhi* the relations of Hindu and Muslim students of the Normal School, Rohtak have become strained ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Yes.

(b), (c) & (d). Enquiries are being made and when the reply is ready it will be communicated to the honourable member.

HINDUS OF SONEPAT AND MUSIC BEFORE MOSQUES.

177. **Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan :** (a) Is it a fact that the Hindus of Sonapat, District Rohtak, desire that they should be allowed to take their Ram Lila procession with music playing before the mosques in contravention of the practice observed at Sonapat since a very long time past and have applied to the local authorities with this end in view ?

(b) Is it a fact that for years the police license has always contained a condition that the music should not be played before the mosques ?

(c) Is it a fact that this is the first time that the Hindus of Sonapat have applied for the cancellation of this condition and that no report was ever made of the breach of this condition to the local officers and consequently no case was started against any Hindu ?

(d) Is it a fact that Muhammadans of Sonapat desire that the above condition should be maintained in the license and their religious feelings respected ?

(e) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Rohtak on the recommendations and with the concurrence of Mr. Scott, Superintendent, Police, Rohtak, rejected the application of Hindus for the removal of the condition of stopping music before the mosques and the Commissioner also upheld the Deputy Commissioner's orders when the matter came before him for consideration ?

(f) Is there any proposal to modify the above orders of the ex-Deputy Commissioner by permitting music before the mosques at certain hours or by a change of route thereby allowing music before other mosques ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) The Police licenses since 1916 have contained such a condition.

(c) The reply is in the affirmative.

(d) The reply is in the affirmative.

(e) The reply to the first part of this question is in the affirmative. The reply to the last clause of this question, and to the (f) next question is as follows : Some Hindus made a petition to the Commissioner, alleg-

ing that as a matter of fact music had always been played before the mosques, that Muhammadans had never objected, and that Hindus had not before protested against the clause in the license, because it had not been noticed by them. In consequence of this petition the Commissioner, while not reversing the Deputy Commissioner's order, suggested to the latter that it was advisable to persuade the Muhammadans and Hindus to try and arrive at a compromise, in order that the former good relations between the two communities might be restored. In consequence of this suggestion a committee of conciliation consisting of members of both communities, including the Sub-Divisional Officer of Sonapat, has been formed and is endeavouring to arrive at a *via media* acceptable to both communities. This committee has not been directed to confine the scope of its enquiries in any way, or within such limits, as are mentioned in the concluding words of the question.

SEPARATE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR AT ROHTAK.

178. Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan : (a) Is it a fact that the Commissioner, Ambala Division, the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police, Rohtak, have recently (within the last two years) felt the necessity of having a separate Public Prosecutor at Rohtak ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Sessions Judge of Karnal agreed to the proposal of the Deputy Commissioner of Rohtak for the appointment of a separate Public Prosecutor at Rohtak ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Rohtak with the concurrence of the Commissioner, Ambala Division, requested the Local Government through the Legal Remembrancer, Punjab, to appoint a separate Public Prosecutor for Rohtak ?

(d) Is it a fact that the consideration of this question was postponed by the Government on account of financial stringency ?

(e) If the answer to (d) above be in the affirmative, does the Government intend to consider the proposal of the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, this year and appoint a separate Public Prosecutor for Rohtak ?

(f) Will the Government be pleased to state separately for each district the number of the following classes of cases tried by Criminal Courts in Karnal and Rohtak Districts during the years 1921 to 1923 (both inclusive) :—

- (1) Sessions cases tried by the Sessions Judge, Karnal, from Rohtak and Karnal.
- (2) Criminal appeals heard by the Sessions Judge, Karnal, from Rohtak and Karnal.
- (3) Cases tried by I Class Magistrates empowered under Section 30 Criminal Procedure Code (separately for each district).
- (4) Cases under the Punjab Excise Act.
- (5) Cases under Sections 147, 148, 395, 396, 397, 401, 457, 458, Indian Penal Code.

Mr. D. J. Boyd : The reply to parts (a) to (e) of the question is in the affirmative.

(d) In view of the need for economy the Legal Remembrancer decided that it was not advisable to apply to Government for an increase in the number of Public Prosecutors.

[Mr. D. J. Boyd.]

(e) If the matter is referred to Government it will be considered.

(f) The information is not at present available. It will be supplied as soon as possible.

REALISATION OF *ABIANA* IN ROHTAK AND KARNAL DISTRICTS.

179. Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan : (a) Is it a fact that formerly in the Rohtak and Karnal Districts the original canal *Khatoni* was given to the Lambardars at the time of realising the *Abiana*, while at present since three or four years a *dhal bakh* is given to them instead which shows only the total area held by each occupier and not the irrigated numbers separately?

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to issue orders that the original *Khatoni* or a true copy of it be given as formerly to each Lambardar in the Rohtak and Karnal Districts, at the time of realising the *Abiana*?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Enquiries are being made. A reply will be furnished later.

FIRST GRADE FEES IN SCHOOLS.

180. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : (a) Is it a fact that orders have been recently issued levying 1st grade fees from sons or wards of parents with an annual income of Rs. 2,000? If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to reconsider these orders?

(b) Is it a fact that orders have been issued by the Inspector of Schools, Multan Division, that the whole income of a Hindu joint family is to be assessed for this purpose? If so, will the Government be pleased to cancel this order?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Yes, but it should be borne in mind that, prior to January 1921, the income limit was Rs. 1,800 per annum. In January 1921, in consequence of the rise in the cost of living, the limit was raised to Rs. 3,000. The income limit is now Rs. 2,000, so that, in comparison with the rates existing in 1920 and before, a concession has been given to those whose annual income ranges between Rs. 1,800 and Rs. 2,000. Government, bearing in mind the urgent necessity of expanding education, does not therefore consider it advisable to reconsider its recent orders.

(b) This matter will be duly considered.

Lala Buchi Ram, Sahni : Is it proposed to reduce the scale of salaries that was raised for the same reason, namely, the increase of prices?

Mr. President : It is quite a different question and I am afraid it cannot be admitted as a supplementary question.

SIKH REPRESENTATION IN WAZIRABAD MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

181. Sardar Narain Singh : Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) if any representation has ever been made by the Sikhs of Wazirabad to give them separate representation in the Municipal

Committee of Wazirabad on account of their being an important community, and if so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for not acceding to their request;

- (b) what reply, if any, was made to their representation in this matter;
- (c) whether the Sikhs made any objection to the revised Electoral Rules of the Wazirabad Committee before these received final sanction of the Government under Notifications Nos. 27638-27639, dated 15-27th November 1923? If so, whether the objections were considered;
- (d) will the Government be pleased to reconsider and revise the constitution of the Wazirabad Municipal Committee and grant separate representation to Sikhs on the Wazirabad Municipal Committee?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (a) and (c) The only representation received on the subject is a copy of a resolution of the Wazirabad Singh Sabha, dated the 4th November, 1923, received on the "previous publication" of the rules of the revised Wazirabad Municipal constitution. The representation was duly considered in the light of the principles given in paragraph 5 of the Note on the reconstitution of the Municipal Committees and District Boards of the Punjab (a copy of which is laid on the table).^{*} It was not accepted because Government were neither satisfied that there was communal friction between the Hindus and Sikhs of Wazirabad nor that there was a keen local demand on the part of the latter to be separated off from the Hindus.

(b) It is neither usual nor desirable to send replies to objections or suggestions received by Government on the "previous publication" of a rule under section 240 (5) of the Punjab Municipal Act and hence no communication was made to the sender of this resolution.

(d) Government will be pleased to reconsider the rules if they are satisfied that the conditions indicated in paragraph 5 of the Note above referred to are fulfilled.

POLITICAL PRISONERS.

182. Sardar Narain Singh: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

- (a) the total number of political prisoners;
- (b) the names of the various jails in which political prisoners are confined with the number of such prisoners in each jail;
- (c) the number of interviews with relatives and friends that on the average each prisoner has had?

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.

POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE MIANWALI JAIL.

183. Sardar Narain Singh: Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the majority of political prisoners are kept in the Mianwali Jail;

[Sardar Narain Singh]

- (b) whether it is a fact that most of the prisoners in the Mianwali Jail belong to places from 300 to 500 miles distant from Mianwali ;
- (c) whether the Jail Department or the Punjab Government received any complaint regarding the remoteness of the place where the political prisoners are confined? If so, what steps has it taken or proposes to take in the matter ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that according to the last census report Mianwali is one of the most malarial districts in the Punjab ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that Mianwali is one of the hottest places in the Punjab ;
- (f) whether it is a fact that during the summer hardly a week passes without there being two or three dust storms in Mianwali ;
- (g) whether the special class prisoners are provided with bedsteads in the Mianwali Jail? If not, why not ;
- (h) whether the special class prisoners in the Lahore Central Jail were provided with bedsteads ;
- (i) whether it is a fact that European prisoners are provided with bedsteads at the Government expense while the special class prisoners are not allowed bedsteads even at their own expense? If so, why ;
- (j) whether it is a fact that before November last, there was no Library in the Mianwali Jail ;
- (k) whether it is a fact that there are only 27 books in the so-called Jail Library and out of these there are 20 Novels in English, seven story books in Urdu and no books in Hindi or Punjabi ;
- (l) if the answers to all or most of the questions in connection with Mianwali Jail be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to see its way to transfer the special class prisoners to places near their homes or to some central place where they might be able to make proper use of the concessions to which they are entitled?

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.

MOTOR ACCIDENTS.

184. Sardar Narain Singh : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving the number of motor accidents that took place in the course of the last year in the Punjab? What steps does the Government propose to take to prevent a repetition of such accidents?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : In 1922, 74 accidents occurred in the Punjab. Forty-four persons were convicted in connection with these accidents. Information with regard to the year 1923 is not yet available. The Punjab Motor Rules are under revision and will provide as far as is practicable under the existing law, against motor accidents. The Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill if passed into law will also help to prevent accidents by keeping the information of the Police up to date with regard to the ownership of cars used in the Province.

WATER-LOGGING IN THE GUJRANWALA DISTRICT.

185. **Sardar Narain Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that as a result of canal water-logging (ssm) has increased alarmingly in the Gujranwala District?

(b) Is it a fact that this water-logging has ruined many villages and made many a person homeless?

(c) Is it a fact that several persons have served the Secretary of State for India with notices for damages?

(d) If the answers to the above be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken or propose to take to save the people from this trouble and itself from litigation and damages.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) According to the most recently received reports the area in the Gujranwala District, which is seriously affected by water-logging, extends to 5,970 acres.

(b) A few villages, not many, have been severely damaged.

(c) Government have no information to this effect.

(d) The whole problem of the water-logged areas of the province where water-logging can be attributed to the construction of Government canals is receiving most careful attention.

WATER RATES ON MAINA.

186. **Sardar Narain Singh :** Is it a fact that apart from the water rate on cotton, water rates are charged on *Maina*, a spontaneous growth which crops up with cotton and which requires no irrigation?

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.

PANSAL NAVISES.

187. **Sardar Narain Singh :** Has Government received any complaint to the effect that Pansal Navises give great trouble to the cultivators and extort money from the latter by unfair means?

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.

GOVERNMENT POSSESSION OF DURBAR SAHIB, ETC.

188. **Sardar Tara Singh :** Is it a fact that the Government contemplates taking possession of Durbar Sahib, Akal Takht and Guru-ka-Langar?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : There is no truth in this story.

BAN ON LETTERS, ETC., ADDRESSED TO THE MANAGER OR EDITOR OF THE AKALI AND THE AKALI-TE-PARDESI.

189. **Sardar Tara Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that the letters, money orders and all other postal articles addressed to the Manager or Editor of the

Sardar Tara Singh.]

Akali and the *Akali-te-Pardesi* are not being delivered to them from 25th October 1923? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the authority under which this action has been taken?

(b) Is it also a fact that these letters, money orders and other postal articles are not even returned to their original senders? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The attention of the member is invited to the answer to Council Question No. 13,* asked by Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.

Sardar Tara Singh : The answer to part (b) of my question is not covered by the answer to question No. 13.* The reply to that question should be given definitely.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : It is not desirable to give any information on this subject.

RESULT OF ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON FOREST BOARD.

Mr. President : As a result of the counting of the votes cast in the election held on Saturday, the 1st of March 1924, the following members have been duly elected to represent the Council on the Forest Board :—

Lala Mohan Lal.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.

Sardar Randhir Singh.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION.

THE COURT FEES (PUNJAB AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to introduce the Court fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill. In doing so, I will, if I may, give one explanation about a remark that is contained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill. It is stated there that the Governor in Council, with the advice of the Finance Committee, considers that it is desirable to raise the rate of valuation of land paying revenue for the purpose of the Court Fees Act. This is rather misleading. What actually happened was that the Standing Finance Committee of the former Council advised that this Bill should be introduced for the purpose of bridging the gap between revenue and expenditure. But the Standing Finance Committee of the present Council did not support the proposal.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

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

Mr. C. M. King,

Sardar Randhir Singh,

Malik Feroz Khan Noon,

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath,

Mr. Miles Irving,

A member to be nominated by the Honourable the President,

Mr. J. Coldstream, and

the Mover,

and that the Council direct the Select Committee to submit its report by the 11th March 1924.

Mr. President : The President's nominee is Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Thank you, Sir. This Bill, I should explain, is one of the measures which were recommended by the Standing Finance Committee of the former Council as a means of bridging the gap between revenue and expenditure. It was decided by Government to act upon the advice of the Standing Finance Committee and a Bill was accordingly published in September 1923 and was introduced in October 1923. It was then fully explained by Sir Reginald Mant who moved its reference to a Select Committee, but the House did not accept the proposal. The Bill was again published in January 1924 in order that it may be introduced into the present Council. It is therefore evident that the matter has been before the public for a considerable time and every one has had an opportunity of knowing and understanding precisely what the proposal is. But before dealing with this particular Bill whose object as also the object of the other money Bills is to assist the Government in bridging the gap between revenue and expenditure, I should take the liberty of giving a short sketch of the financial situation of the province.

Honourable members have learnt from the speech with which I introduced the Budget that we succeeded in obtaining what I may term a temporary equilibrium between revenue and expenditure in the current year. But that temporary equilibrium was obtained because the year was a particularly favourable one, so that we received considerably more than we expected to receive. It was also obtained by certain drastic reductions and postponement of expenditure which cannot be regarded as representing the conditions of the normal financial state of the province. There is, as I have frequently explained to the old Council and as I have explained to the present Council too, in my speech introducing the Budget, what must be termed a normal recurring deficit in the finances of this province. That normal recurring deficit is due to the post-war change in the value of the money with the consequent rise in salaries, wages of labour and cost of stores and materials. Faced by a normal deficit of this character Government has had recourse to more expedients than one. In the first place there is the expedient of retrenchment. As to that, you have before you a note written by my friend and colleague Mr. Miles Irving which was laid together with the Budget speech on the desk of every member present together with its Urdu translation. In the note he has explained in a lucid and complete manner precisely what we have done and what are the limitations upon the application of this particular form of remedy. In the second place, comes the reduction of the contribution which the province under the existing arrangements has to make to the finances of the Central Government. As to that I have no doubt the honourable members have seen that very interesting announcement which was made by the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett in his speech introducing the Indian Budget. It has been made clear that it has been left to the Assembly to decide whether it will maintain the salt tax at a figure which will enable the Government of India to make certain reductions in the provincial contributions. We do not yet know what the Assembly will do. We trust that our Punjab members of the Assembly will press upon the Assembly the importance of arriving at such a decision as would make it possible for the Government of India to carry out its project of reducing the provincial contributions. If we should be so fortunate as to obtain from the Assembly a decision which we hope for, then we may look with confidence for a reduction of 38 lakhs

The Hon. Sir John Maynard.]

in our provincial contribution during the coming year. The next expedient is the one of taxation. I should like the House to understand that none of these things by itself is going to suffice to meet all our difficulties. We have, as a matter of fact, to do the best we can with all the three in order to fill up the gap between revenue and expenditure. For that reason we have again brought forward these proposals for taxation which were recommended by the Standing Finance Committee of the late Council, and which were rejected by the late Council.

I want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that our proposals have been framed with great care with the object of distributing the burden of extra taxation as far as possible over all interests. We have arranged that one Bill should touch the agriculturists, the second to touch the inhabitants of towns, while the third should be a special type of tax on luxury in the form of a tax on motor vehicles.

Now, Sir, I am perfectly well aware that when I bring these proposals before the House there is one question which is present in the minds of everyone. Everyone is thinking this: if we pass these money Bills, does Government intend to make a general enhancement of the water rate on canals? That is a question which everybody has in his mind and I want to answer that question as definitely as I can. Since undertakings of this kind have to be worded very carefully and because one must not mislead either oneself or anybody else by delivering such undertakings orally, I have written down what I have to say. With the permission of the Chair, I shall read it. Sir, these are the undertakings:

First.—If the Government of India remit 38 lakhs of the provincial contribution for next year and if the Council passes the three money Bills without reduction of the rates proposed therein in the present session, there will be no general enhancement of water rate to be levied in the year 1924-25.

That is the first undertaking. The second undertaking is this: If the three money Bills are passed and if at some future time Government finds it necessary to make a general enhancement of water rate, Government will at the time of making that enhancement or in the first session of the Council held after making it introduce into the Council Bills repealing these three money Bills. (Hear, hear).

I now proceed, Sir, to the discussion of the principles of the first of the three money Bills, that is, the Bill which has been devised to touch the agriculturists. The history of this matter of the valuation of agricultural land, revenue-paying land for the purpose of court fees is very briefly this. In the first place the stamp duty on suits affecting the revenue-paying land was based on the assumption that land was worth only five times the land revenue. There was a time—the honourable members will realise, it was a very long time ago—when the value of agricultural land was really only five times the land revenue. That was actually the condition shortly after the annexation.

But the blessings of settled and orderly rule and the blessings of a limited revenue demand, without the addition of any of those irregular or unforeseen additions which occurred in the days of the preceding administrations, soon altered the proportion between land revenue and the actual value. The value became enormously more than five times the land revenue. In 1918, there was legislation to bring the valuation a little less remote from the

actual value of the land and at that time the proportion of five times the land revenue was raised to ten times. This ten times the land revenue was still only a very inadequate valuation by comparison with the actual value of the land which stood in the year 1918 after the war at 171 times the land revenue. Since 1918, there has been a further rise in value. In the year 1921-1922, the value of land was 292 times the land revenue and in the latest year for which we have complete figures, it was 228 times the land revenue. That is the latest figure of the value of the land as compared with land revenue. But the law takes the valuation for the purpose of court fees to be only 10 times the land revenue. While the value stands at this figure, that is, 228 times the land revenue, I want the House to realise that the court fees duty bears a proportion to the actual value of agricultural land which is less than 8 annas per hundred rupees. Even after the valuation has been doubled, if the Council accepts the proposal to double it, the court-fees charge on agricultural land will be less than one per cent. of its actual value.

Mr. President: The question is—

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

Mr. C. M. King,

Sardar Randhir Singh,

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon,

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath,

Mr. Miles Irving,

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir,

Mr. J. Coldstream, and

The Mover;

and that the Council direct the Select Committee to submit its report by the 11th March 1924."

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban]: Sir, as has been explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons and as has been argued by the Honourable the Finance Member to-day, the reason why this Bill has been introduced in this Council and why we have been called upon to give our sanction is that in view of the financial stringency it is necessary to explore all possible means of increasing revenue and the Governor in Council consequently, with the advice of the Finance Committee, considers that it is desirable to raise the rate of valuation of land paying revenue for the purpose of the Court Fees Act. In the year 1922 when the Court Fees Amendment Bill was introduced the Honourable Finance Member while making a speech remarked as follows: "The Bill does not propose any change in the basis of the valuation of the revenue-paying land, although it is as low as 10 times the land revenue." To-day we have been asked to increase the rate from 10 times to 20 times. God knows whether after a year we shall be again called upon to raise it twice or four times. The question is whether there is any necessity at this time to raise any taxation or not. I beg to say, Sir, that besides this means of taxing the people there are other means by which we can fill up the gap between the revenue and the expenditure. The other two means which have been referred to by the Honourable the Finance Member are reduction and retrenchment. The only means that I would request the members of this House to adopt is that we should reduce the expenditure which we will be called upon to sanction within a few days. There is a

[Lala Bodh Raj]

small gap that we have to fill up. The question is whether this gap can be filled up by making a reduction in the expenditure or not, and if so, we need not adopt this means of raising the taxation.

Now, I would warn the members of the House who will be appealed to later on in the interest of agriculturists. Last time too they were warned that if they did not pass this Bill and another Bill, the Court Fees (Amendment) Bill and the Stamp (Amendment) Bill, they would have to face a greater evil. At that time they were led by this impression to give their consent to the passing of these two Bills.....

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : No statement of any kind was ever made.

Lala Bodh Raj : At least such a statement was made in the course of arguments by certain honourable members of this House.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Reference, Sir, reference.

Lala Bodh Raj : Sir, I have not got the Council Debates with me just now, but I have got the exact words of the honourable member. He said, "If the members of this House do not consent to the passing of these Bills, we shall have to face a greater evil." And I assure them, Sir, that that evil has not been avoided and that evil is facing them now. As it has been argued by the Honourable the Finance Member the Bill which is before us now touches the poor agriculturist. The argument that has been advanced is that these agriculturists should be called upon to pay heavy taxation because the value of land has increased. When the value of land was calculated to be about five times the land revenue, there was no necessity of increasing the taxation. In the year 1918 the value, as has been said, was about 170 times the land revenue. Even then no necessity was felt. Last year when the Court Fees Bill was introduced, the value was more than 200 times the land revenue. Even then no necessity was felt. I do not see any reason why this necessity has been felt now. There was a larger gap last year than there is now. Then an undertaking has been given to this House that water rates will not be enhanced during the year and that undertaking is conditional. Whether we are satisfied or not, and whether water rates are enhanced or not are not the questions before us. The question is whether we should at this time tax the poor agriculturists or not. The poor people of this country get about Rs. 3 per month per head and still we should call upon those people to pay a heavy taxation for the administration of justice. I admit that people are called upon to pay for the administration of justice, but the limits should be reasonable. I am sorry to say that that limit has been transgressed; the maximum limit has been transgressed and the only alternative left to us is that we should make reduction in the expenditure. It may be argued that we cannot safely make any reduction in the expenditure. I would then appeal to this House that if with the present rate of taxation and with the present means of taxation we are not in a position to administer justice, I think it would be better that we should stop administering justice. There is a cry outside the Council, there is a grievance of the poor that instead of justice being administered it is being sold in the present law courts, and if we raise taxation I think they will be justified in saying again that this is a fact. I for one would be very glad to raise taxation to any amount so that all the doors of justice in the present law courts should be closed but I have to see whether in the present circumstances and in view of the

present conditions of the Province we should raise the taxation or not. I think that it is in the interest of the poor that they should not be taxed. If the members of this House agree to the argument that because the value of land has increased we should tax them, then I would appeal to the members to revise the taxation in other forms which are being levied to-day. If the House is not prepared to revise taxation in other directions, I do not see why this increase in taxation should be sanctioned. This Bill will affect the poor agriculturist. The next Bill (the Punjab Stamp Amendment Bill) will affect the poor residents of the town. There is a third Bill, the Motor Vehicles Bill. . . .

Mr. President : The honourable member should confine himself to the present Bill.

Lala Bodh Raj : Sir, all the three Bills were referred to in the arguments of the Finance Member and we have to refer to them. . . .

Mr. President : You haven't got to.

Lala Bodh Raj : The question is whether this Bill affects the poor or the rich. If it affected the rich, I would gladly give my consent to the passing of the Bill (hear, hear). I may give my consent to such a Bill in order that the administration may be carried on, if it cannot be carried on otherwise. If the administration can be carried on otherwise, there is no reason why the poor or the rich of this Province should be taxed.

Sir, the members of this House will remember that the income-tax was levied at the time of the Afghan War for only one year. Can any member say that that income-tax was ever repealed and the people of this Province had been saved from the payment of income-tax? The income-tax is still levied and will be levied for years to come, and I think the same thing will happen with regard to the present undertaking. Some circumstances or other will crop up and the Government will justify by saying that fresh circumstances have arisen and that they see no reason why the Acts should be repealed. I think the members of this House should be very careful before they refer the Bill to the Select Committee, for once they refer it to the Select Committee their hands will be tied down. For this reason, I beg to oppose this Bill being referred to the Select Committee.

3 P.M.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar [East and West Central Towns (Muham-madan), Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, the Bill brought forward before the House aims at the enhancement of the Court-fees for the sake of filling up the gap between revenue and expenditure. Is there no other method to carry out this end? I am not opposing the Bill having in view the question of the poor and the wealthy but I differ on principle. My opposition is simply because the Bill proposes to levy tax on people who come to seek justice, in other words it is a tax to be imposed on justice itself. There are no such means of income existing in any of the civilized countries of the world. In order to equalise the income and expenditure the Government can resort to further retrenchment rather than go on imposing taxes on the poor indigent people of the province. Leaving aside this point, the income derived from the Administration of Justice is actually more than the expenditure on the same, so in this way if the proposed tax be imposed on the people it would mean a *tax on justice*. The chief argument given in favour of this Bill is the present increase in the

[M. Mazhar Ali Azhar.]

value of land. This argument is also misleading. Had this been the case why should the makers of law have ordained that in suits relating to land the value of land for purposes of jurisdiction must be considered thirty times its land revenue. In the present miserable plight of the zamindars we ought to try our best to cut down their expenditure as far as possible. The rate of Court-fees has recently been increased and a similar increase has also been made in the value of stamps in order to raise the revenue of the province.

Another argument put forward by the Honourable Finance Member is that if a small reduction be made in the salt-tax, the Punjab contribution to the Government of India amounting to 38 lakhs of rupees will be saved and so we ought to beseech the Punjab representatives of the Legislative Assembly to support the new Salt Bill in the Assembly. This is also an enigma.

Mr. President : The argument does not appear to be quite relevant. It is quite outside the point.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar (continued): I mean to say, Sir, that twice the question was raised in the Assembly and twice it was rejected. Now there are only two alternatives before us either to try for a small reduction in the salt-tax or to agree to the Bill. We can agree neither to the one nor to the other.

Another point I like to bring to your notice Sir, is that if the Council once accepts the Bill it is possible that it may remain in force for years to come on the pretext that the Government cannot do without it. The only way to meet the expenditure in my opinion is to make all possible reductions in expenditure itself. For these reasons I strongly oppose the Bill.

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan [South-East Towns (Muhammadian), Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, before I proceed with the subject under debate I would request the Honourable Finance Member to explain what he means by general enhancement of water rate whether it means uniform enhancement of water rates all over the Province or partial enhancement within certain limits.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The honourable member wants to know whether it would be possible under the terms of my undertaking to make a general enhancement on one canal, say the Lower Bari Doab Canal, without making arrangements for the refusal of the three money Bills. The answer to that is that it would not be possible without breach of my undertaking to make any such enhancement as it would mean a general enhancement even though it may be over one particular canal and not on all (Hear, hear).

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan (continued) : Am I to understand, Sir, that in the face of this assurance Government will be justified in enhancing the water-rate on the Lower Bari Doab Canal and one or two other canals?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No.

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan (continued in Urdu) : Now to deal with the Bill itself, the Honourable Finance Member has remarked that the expenditure has exceeded the income, and that the postponement of expenditure even cannot make good the deficit owing to dearness of labour and rise in the prices of food stuffs, and that reduction has reached its maximum ; but it is not so and there is a further possibility of reduction which shows that taxation is not the only way to get out of this difficult position.

Mr. President : The honourable member is traversing on the question of retrenchment. That argument has already been dealt with.

Rana Feroz-ud-Din Khan (continued in Urdu) : Another reason given by the Honourable Mover is the recent revision in pay; but as the conditions of the country when the pay was increased no longer exist the scale of pay may again be revised. Taking it for granted that expenses have increased, and that there are very few sources of income at the disposal of the Government, still in order to cope with the present situation, there is absolutely no justification in increasing the land revenue or the court fees as it directly affects the poverty-stricken community of the province. Maulvi Mazhar Ali has alluded to the fact that expenditure is not more than the income derived from the administration of justice. To elucidate this I want to put before the House the figures of the last four years. In 1923-24 an income of Rs. 64,38,000 was derived from the sale of non-judicial stamps and administration of justice and for 1924-25 the figures are 66 lakhs and nine lakhs, respectively, raising the total income to 75 lakhs of rupees. The expenditure is estimated at about 50 lakhs, thus giving 25 lakhs as a net profit. To spend this profit for purposes other than justice or on other departments is an instance that cannot be found in any of the civilized countries of the world. My second point is this that further taxation will adversely tell upon the poor community of the province. Thirdly, it has been put forward that the value of land has risen very high, that is, 228 times its revenue, but this fact is quite inconsistent with the prevailing discontent and sufferings of the zamindars. The zamindars have also to defray charges of ploughing and cultivation and nobody is taking them into consideration.

Mr. President : The honourable member is going off the point. It is very far fetched.

Rana Feroz-ud-din Khan (continued in Urdu) : All right, Sir, I want to give a concrete example of the effect that the Bill would produce after its acceptance. Sixty years ago a land, which was assessed at Rs. 20, was valued at Rs. 100 and for the purposes of Court-fees Rs. 7-8-0 were chargeable. Since then two settlements have been made and the land revenue has been doubled and fixed at Rs. 40 as the value of the land has gone to Rs. 400. Had the land-owner sued in 1922 he would have paid Rs. 30 as Court-fee and in 1923 the Court-fee would have been Rs. 45. After the acceptance of this Bill the Court-fee of the same land would be Rs. 90. It shows that it is a question of 12 times the original Court-fee. The zamindars, who are entangled in various difficulties, do not approach the Court of their own accord but to seek justice. It would require them to procure Rs. 90 instead of Rs. 7-8-0 and thus they will not be able to escape the oppression of the powerful. Law grinds the poor, and rich men rule the law. Exactly this is the case here. The object of the law is to protect the poor but not to strengthen the cause of the powerful. The Honourable Finance Member has remarked that equality must be observed in taxation and I agree to it. There is a vast difference between suits relating to land and suits of money. The deficit in the Budget for the next year amounts to 64 lakhs and if the Punjab Government contribution to the Government of India amounting to 38 lakhs be saved by making a small reduction in salt-tax a deficit of ten or twelve lakhs would remain to be met with—which is inconsiderable. An assurance has been given that if this Bill is accepted, the water-rate will not be enhanced. The water-rate affects a few districts, while the Bill affects the

[Rana Feroz-ud-din Khan.]

whole Province. In short, any tax for the improvement of the country may be desirable, I therefore oppose the present Bill.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) (Urdu): Sir, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the House on the most welcome spirit of cooperation exhibited by the honourable members on the opposite benches. The honourable member who spoke on this motion has told us that he is actuated by the noble desire of helping the Province out of the present difficult financial situation and would have supported the motion if the incidence of this taxation were not on the poor. It is gratifying that the spirit exhibited is one of conscientious rational criticism of each proposal on its own merits, and not one of opposition and obstruction for their own sakes. I am really glad to find that the Bill introduced is not being opposed simply because it has been moved by a Government member, but because in the opinion of certain members either more funds are not needed or the measure in question is not the most suitable one for the purpose. What has delighted me above all is the outspoken statement of one of the speakers opposing the Bill that if a measure had been introduced taxing the rich alone, he would have been the first person to give his consent to such a measure. Well and good. I appreciate such a spirit and I congratulate the House on it.

Now I proceed to examine how far the present Bill is justified? In this connection I would refer the House to the speech of the Honourable Sir John Maynard which he delivered only the other day while presenting the Budget. It makes more than clear that there yet remains a great deficit in the Budget. The expenditure side is much heavier than that of the income.

The question now naturally arises whether we have exhausted all means of cutting down the expenditure. Is it not possible to reduce the expenditure so as to bring it down to the level of our income? I admit that there are still some such possibilities and, as the Honourable the Finance Member also remarked, the time is not far off when further retrenchment and consequently further savings would be effected. But, Sir, the demand will be more than extravagant if we asked at this stage when the next financial year begins only after a month that we should effect some cuts immediately. We cannot ask those who are in Government service at such a short notice, that they should either accept lower salaries or make room for others. If we could do that still we would have to compensate them. It will be injustice pure and simple if we are compelled to resort to such a course. And as such it does not behove the honourable members to oppose the Bill on this ground.

It has been argued that the proposed tax will be a further tax on those who come to seek justice. Quite so and if the members had confined themselves to stating this much and no further, I would have really sympathised with them. But the difficulty arises when it is said that the burden will ultimately fall on the zamindars, who are already hard-pressed. I would like to enquire of the members pleading the cause of the zamindars whether they could tell me who is to be taxed and how if not the zamindars? Can they suggest any other remedy by which it may be possible to meet the requirements? Supposing to-day a serious situation crops up and 20 lakhs of rupees are required by Government to cope with it, I would ask where is this money to come from? Government will of necessity run to explore the different sources of its income.

Now land revenue is the main source of Government income, and an increase therein means imposing additional tax on the zamindars in general

and the opposition to such a measure is bound to be stronger, than to the present Bill.

The next source of income on which Government can rely is Irrigation. And if it is proposed to enhance the rate of Abiana, there will be few who will not strongly oppose such a proposal. I notice that the honourable member who spoke before me stated that he would prefer the rate of Abiana to be raised to this Bill, but I presume in making this statement he is voicing the feelings of his constituency, an Urban one.

The third source of revenue on which Government can depend is the Excise. I do not think any of the honourable members opposite will advise the Government to develop the Excise Department as a source of revenue.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : May I ask, Sir, whether the Honourable Minister is not trespassing upon forbidden grounds in delicately imputing motives?

Mr. President : What is your point of order?

Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : My point of order is that the Honourable Minister should confine himself to the subject. He should not make excursions into various points which have nothing to do with the subject.

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni : Sir, no one said anything about Excise.

Mr. President : The honourable member is not confined to answering what has been said before, but I did not quite catch what the honourable member said.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (continued) : Sir, it is obvious to the meanest intelligence that what I am trying to place before the Council is that there are four or five sources of revenue. The point is whether these four or five sources are more objectionable than this one and is not this one the least objectionable of all?

Mr. President : The honourable member is simply pursuing the argument that the court-fee is the least objectionable. In my opinion he is perfectly in order.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (continued) (Urdu) : I do not quite understand why my honourable friend has grown so touchy. I was explaining, Sir, that the responsible and reliable leaders of the country have always been protesting against the Excise Department being converted into a source of revenue.

Now it remains to be seen whether we are to raise the value of "stamps" and that is the subject matter of another Bill.

But if we are not allowed to add to the taxation in any of the above departments, are we to tax Education and Hospitals? I may tell you, Sir that on our recently reducing the limit of income for first grade fee from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 2,000 a good many questions have since been received protesting against this enhancement.

Then it comes to this that we cannot raise taxes in any of the departments, however great and pressing may be the need for it. (Some voices) We should rather effect reduction in expenditure.

Mr. President : Order, order. Honourable members must allow the speaker to continue his speech.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (continued) (Urdu) : It is, Sir, I believe more difficult to make a good connected speech, than to follow it, and I am surprised that some members have interposed with the point of retrenchment, though this was the very point I took up first.

I will next proceed to point out how far the allegation that the Government is selling justice is erroneous. It has been stated that the income from the sale of stamps and court-fees is nearly 9 lakhs of rupees, while the expenditure is only 5 lakhs, and that there is a saving of about 4 lakhs of rupees. But in making this statement the honourable member forgot or perhaps did not know that the maintenance of Police Force and Jails have also to be taken into account, and if this is done, and the expenditure on them included the argument will break down at once, for, over and above the income from this department more than a crore of rupees is spent from other sources of income. It appears that the expenditure on the Administration of Justice, including Police and Jails, amounts to double the income. One thing more and lastly, if the present Bill and the other two are passed, only a sum of 20 lakhs of rupees will have to be paid, but if the Abiana is enhanced we will be required to pay about 75 lakhs of rupees, which will be the heavier burden of the two, 20 lakhs or 75 lakhs, one does not require very great knowledge to decide for himself.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali [Gujrat East (Muhammadan), Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, in view of so many speeches having already been delivered, I will not detain the members for any length of time in dealing with the subject. I would first of all point out that the taxation that is proposed to be levied is not meant to be hoarded but to be spent, and the fact that the money is being demanded in face of this opposition shows the indispensable need for it. I admit that the zamindars are in a miserable plight and any further taxation will heavily tell upon them, but we cannot help it. The Honourable Minister for Education has made it sufficiently clear that it is not possible to tax other Departments without experiencing greater difficulty and stronger opposition and I do not think it necessary to discuss it again. There is no doubt about it that we will be termed patriots and well-wishers of the public outside this Council and will gain notoriety too if we make it a point to reject all Government demands, but we ought to keep in view side by side that it is our duty to keep the Government machinery moving. One of the speakers, while opposing the Bill, has said that the *abiana* may be increased as it will be a burden only on a portion of the zamindars. (Some voices : No one said that).

Chaudhri Fazl Ali (continued) (Urdu) : I do not see any logic in this point that the burden may be allowed to fall on a few and that it should not be shared by all. Why should not a tax be imposed on those who get justice in return and why should those poor zamindars be taxed who seldom have recourse to courts and are peacefully leading their lives at home? I am particularly opposed to the views expressed by some of the honourable members that we should place no reliance in the undertaking given by the Government that the Bill will be repealed if necessary. With these few words I request the House to give their support to this Bill.

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram [South-East Rohtak (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I am not one of those members who feel it their duty to oppose all Government measures, nor do I desire to be among those who support every Government measure irrespective of its merits nor do I like

such a policy. We should distinguish between good and bad. In the speeches made about the question under discussion, I find a few things which require some discussion before I pass on to oppose the motion.

The Honourable the Minister for Education has stated that every tax ultimately comes out of the agriculturists' pockets. It is true with certain limitations, for there are a few taxes which directly or indirectly never have any effect upon agriculturists.

It is stated in the Budget that the Forest Department will be spending 70 per cent. of the income. But why should it be so if the Department be managed a little more efficiently and economically; I am sure, any private concern, if given the lease of the Forest, will spend less than 30 per cent. on it, and make heaps of money. There is much scope for retrenchment in this Department. Excise Department is another instance of official prodigality. It is generally stated that this should not be made an earning Department. But those who say so mean to close this Department for good, but as long as this Department exists, there is every justification for increasing the tax to the point of prohibition. Therefore, there is much scope for an increase of income in these two Departments.

There is another thing which might create some misapprehension in our agriculturist friends' mind. They say that with the rejection of these Bills the water rates in the Province will have to be enhanced to the value of 75 lakhs. But, Sir, I enquire, why is it not possible to increase it only up to the limit of 22 lakhs.

But even if we have the awkward choice of either enhancing the water rate or the court-fees, I submit, Sir, the dictates of wisdom are that we should prefer the lesser evil of bearing the increase in the water rate. We know, any increase in the water rate can only have its ultimate effect on the agriculturists who profit by the canals. No penny of the increased tax will come out of the agriculturists in the areas uncommanded by canal irrigation. Therefore, any such increase can affect only those who can afford to pay. Moreover, if it is absolutely unavoidable to increase the rate, this should be done only to the extent of balancing the Budget, and in the least obnoxious item.

Regarding the undertaking mentioned by the Honourable the Finance Member, it is better that we should realise its true bearings. Hedged in by a number of "ifs" it is almost meaningless. First they talk about the possibility of Legislative Assembly decreasing the salt tax, and then there is that ambiguous statement about the general enhancement. I would like to explain what I think of the term general enhancement. They do not mean that areas irrigated by a few of the canals will be separated for an increased taxation, but it is possible that they mean to increase the rate for certain kinds of produce. Then, there is another "if" regarding the possibility of the repeals of these three Acts in the case of a necessity to increase water rate. I would like to know why the Bills should be repealed when the water rate which comes out of agriculturists' pockets is to be increased.

I now come to the reasons for which this Bill should be rejected. The Honourable the Minister for Education has already admitted that the major portion of the revenue of the Province is contributed by the agriculturists and owners of land. I enquire, therefore, if there is any room for taxing an already over-taxed community. Land has been taxed for generations. At every occasion, at transfer, mortgage, sale or gift, something has to be paid by the zamindar. Then there is the land revenue which

[R. S. Chandhri Chotu Ram.]

even the owner of an inch of agricultural land has to pay. Then there are local and water rates. I, therefore, submit, Sir, that land cannot ordinarily be classed with them. Court-fees are not paid only in a single court. You have to pay it in the sub-court, the second court and third court till you reach the High Court. Therefore to assert that the stamp fee is charged only on ten times the revenue is not a correct estimate. In other provinces they charge court-fee on five times the revenue only. In United Provinces, till 1912, I know the court-fee was only on five times the revenue. But can it be said with any justification that the lands in the Punjab are in any way better than those in the United Provinces? Why then should our Province pay court-fee on twenty times the revenue.

4 P.M.

Sufficient stress has already been laid on the need of retrenchment and economy, and I do not want to repeat more than saying that every step should be taken to reduce the expenditure in the various Departments of the Government. A very recent example of extravagance is the building of a new hostel for the local Government College, on which eight lakhs of rupees have been spent. Similar examples may be found in various other Departments. Therefore too much stress cannot be laid on the need for economy.

There is another thing which requires a little mention. In the courts where an Indian officer takes down the proceedings of a case in English, there is always a Reader who takes down at the same time in Urdu as well. This is an unnecessary expense, and can be done away with.

Under the conditions when there is room for economy, any motion for further taxation should not be countenanced at all. I, therefore, beg to oppose the Bill.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari [Non-official (nominated)] (Urdu): Sir, I do not want to repeat the arguments advanced for and against the Bill. I have listened to all the debate, and I am reminded of a story which applies most appropriately to the present case. A group of men had a fish and they wanted to find out its weight. But though they had scales and weights they made guesses each of them, but none did actually weigh the fish in the scales. The same is the case with the present discussion.

Unmindful of the advisability or inadvisability of passing the Bills or not, I like to know if it is not premature to have any discussion on it. I do not doubt that the Government really requires money to meet their expenses, and that we should meet all legitimate expenditure by legitimate means, but we have yet to see what will be the expenditure. Those days are near when we shall be in a position to form any opinion. Then and then only we will be able to remove our doubts and misgivings. It would, therefore, have been quite proper if the Bills had been presented a week later.

The members of this Council first, ought to know the necessity for these Bills and find out exactly where they stand, so that they may explain the possibilities of reduction. We should await the decision of the Assembly on which depends our consideration of the question of contribution. We are, on the other hand, binding ourselves before knowing fully how we stand. I hope, the Honourable the Finance Member will realise my point.

Mr. President : I think I had better explain that the honourable member's argument is a little weak for this reason. The Council will at a later stage have two different opportunities on which they can reconsider their decision. The first opportunity is when the motion is made that the report of the Select Committee be taken into consideration. If the Council chooses to throw out that motion, the Bill dies. Again at the time of passing, the Council still has an opportunity of reconsidering its decision. The argument that we had better wait until we see what happens in the Budget and in the Assembly seems to be a little weak. The point is that apart from that, isn't it advisable to get on with the Bill? You can take all these matters into consideration when they have developed.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari : Sir, with due deference to the chair, I beg to say that all I had to say was that this discussion was in a way premature, and if I have ever advanced any reasons it was with the object of impressing upon the House that the discussion should be disallowed. I am really a new comer and stranger to this House, but my own experience in this world is that if we silently accept the introduction of this Bill we will be binding ourselves to a great extent to the principle of the Bill. If I have in any way transgressed the limits which have been just now put before me by the chair, I certainly bow to the chair, but at the same time I beg to say that so far as my arguments were concerned, my conscience dictated that they were right and that they were strong.

Chaudhri Saadullah Khan [Jullundur (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, the Bill that is before the House is based upon wrong principles. First it goes against the principle of equality in taxation. The rate of court-fees in the whole of India is the same everywhere, and then while it is uniform for every person in this very province, it is proposed to increase it from 16 times the value of the revenue to 20 times for agriculturists.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : May I explain, Sir, that that is a serious misunderstanding?

Chaudhri Saadullah Khan (continued) (Urdu) : The Court-fee in all the provinces is the same and the principle on which this Bill is based is the same, and there is hardly any difference at all anywhere, and where there is any difference it is due to fixed and unfixed land revenue.

If this Bill is passed we will have to pay as much court-fee in the very first court as we had to pay in all the other courts up to the High Court taken together. We will have to pay 22 per cent. in the very first court.

In the Temple Report about the settlement of Jullundur District the author felt it a very remarkable thing to mention, at a little length, the fact that 232 cases were tried in British Courts in a period of 4 years.

But by the passing of this Act, the courts will have to be closed and the nationalist idea of boycotting the courts will succeed. Moreover, this will have a bad effect upon the public in general. I, therefore, oppose it.

Mr. President : I think we have had enough of discussion on the main motion. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh,** do you intend to move your amendment*?

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : No, Sir, I do not intend to move my amendment, but I want to say something about the resolution.

Mr. President : **Sardar Tara Singh,** do you intend to move your amendment*?

* "That the Court-Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by 1st May 1924."

Sardar Tara Singh: No, Sir.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) (Urdu): Sir, I have to make a few remarks in reply to what was said by Chaudhri Chhotu Ram, about the administration of the Forest Department. It may be possible to a certain extent to cut down expenses of the Forest Department by leasing out forests to some private concern, perhaps otherwise forest income may be increased by pushing on sales. But the increase of income from forests depends upon the sale of timber. As long as there is a slump in the timber trade the income of this Department cannot increase with the same rapidity as most of us would have it. Every effort is being made to increase the income by employing scientific methods of extraction such as ropeways, tramways and slides, and also by exploring markets abroad, and I may assure the House that these will reduce our expenditure to a great extent. Besides the question of the export of timber to foreign countries; we have Resin Factory at Jallo, and the question of the possibility of starting a Match Factory in the Province is also receiving attention and these may add to the income of the Department.

The second way suggested for the increase of its income is that of leasing it out. I admit that it can result in a temporary increase in the income, but the concern will make such a merciless use of the Forest that in a few years the Forest will be gone, and this will be a great economic loss to the Province and future generations will not bless us for this.

It has to be remembered that our canals depend upon water of the Punjab rivers and these on their turn depend upon rain on the hills where the greater portion of our Forest Estate lies, so the unmethodical and indiscriminate cutting of our forests will affect rainfall and incidently the supplies in our canals, and though the policy of leasing out of our forests may result in a temporary increase in our revenues, the loss to the future generations will be immense and out of all proportion to the paltry increase in the present income. Therefore this cutting down of trees for sale has to be carried on according to a considered policy of action. We have in the Forest Department carefully worked-out working plans and our cuttings are regularized in accordance therewith. We produce more when there is a greater demand in the market, but in times of decreased consumption we have to stop cutting so as not to flood the market.

For these reasons, Sir, we cannot consider the question of leasing out our Forest Estates.

Sardar Narain Singh: Sir, I want to ask for some information. There are certain districts where the assessment is fluctuating, and according to 100 Punjab Record, 1919, for purposes of court-fees the value of the suit is taken at fifteen times the net profits of the previous year. What will be the fate of those districts if this Act is passed?

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz: This Act does not touch them at all.

Mr. President then turned to the Honourable Sir John Maynard for a reply.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I don't think it is necessary for me to answer the question inasmuch as it has been answered by my honourable friend opposite.

Then Sardar Narain Singh rose to speak.

Mr. President : Do you wish to speak ?

Sardar Narain Singh : Yes, Sir.

Mr. President : I can't allow you to speak now. You caught my eye by saying that you wished to ask for some information. Otherwise you would not have caught my eye, and so I cannot allow you to speak.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, the question has already been discussed to a considerable extent and *prima facie* nearly all the points have been dilated upon. But I wish to acquaint the House with two different stand-points, and thereby I think I shall be able to throw some light on such aspects of the Bill as will show that the passing of this Bill will not be advisable, and that therefore this Bill should not be allowed. Moreover, when the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee have not been carried into effect, the Government wishes for raising the money through taxation should not be approved. Is there any right of Government to tax poor zamindars when they do not pay any heed to the extravagant expenditure incurred in the Administration ? Previously it has been discussed in this House that Government should not embark on the policy of spending money mercilessly in appointing special counsels for certain cases. I mean the Akali cases which are being tried.

Mr. President : Order, order. How do you connect this argument with the question before the House ?

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh (continued in Urdu) : Sir, the Honourable the Minister for Education has stated that the measures of retrenchment could not be fulfilled before 1st April. In that case I would like to urge that there is no necessity for passing this Bill at this moment, as the whole of the expenditure provided for in the Budget is not to be incurred on the 1st of April 1924. The Honourable the Minister has also tried to refute the argument, advanced by Rana Feroz-ud-Din, in respect of the income accrued from the Administration of Justice. Rana Sahib stated that Justice already gets more income, and the Honourable Mian Sahib has said that it includes Police and Jail, and these Departments serve the public cause a great deal. But I submit, Sir, that public funds are ruthlessly spent in the upkeep of these Departments for repressing the aspirations of the people and throttling their legitimate demands. It does not therefore show that the expenditure on justice itself is double its income. There is another argument put forward by the Honourable the Minister for Education that it is better to have 20 lakhs from taxation than to get 75 lakhs through water-rate. Sir, it is not essential to raise money to the extent of 75 lakhs. It can and should be lessened to 10 lakhs, if that is the amount required by Government. In my opinion it would be a fairer procedure to raise taxation by enhancing water-rate, because only those people will be compelled to pay for it whose lands would be benefitted by the irrigation facilities.

Mr. President : Order, order. Three of the four arguments have been already thoroughly threshed out. The only new thing brought in is about the Police. You are really repeating the arguments used by previous speakers. That will be of no use to Council.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Very well, Sir, I won't repeat. I was only putting them from a different point of view (continued in Urdu) : As I am not permitted to discuss it further I shall proceed to another point.

[Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.]

It has been said that this Bill puts an equal burden in the rural and urban elements of the population, and for this reason the House should not reject it. I shall warn the rural members that this is a misleading piece of argument, and that they should not submit themselves to taxation simply because of the satisfaction to see the urban population being taxed. They should not be deluded. This fair distribution is altogether erroneous. We will have to see the sum total of taxation. This fair distribution can only be fair when the rural area is equally benefitted by the returns. The zamindars already pay a lion's share of taxes. At present each and every zamindar, however small his holding may be, pays something out of his pocket while most of the non-zamindars do not pay a farthing even. Instead of redressing any of the long-standing grievances of the zamindars, the Government is adding one more to them. Sir, we see that the taxes are paid by the zamindars and the benefits are reaped by the urban population. The major portion of the expenditure on beneficent departments such as Education, etc., is incurred for the benefit of the urban population. The higher appointments in public services have all along been reserved for them, and the zamindars have been getting practically nothing in this direction. In short, so long as the rural area does not receive its legitimate share in the beneficent departments and the existing taxation is not fairly distributed the arguments of fair distribution of the present tax amounting to a small sum of 20 lakhs does not hold water. I have already said, and I shall like to say it once more emphatically, that when the Government does not observe economy in certain branches of the administration we should not extend our helping hand to Government in raising further taxation.

Mr. V. F. Gray: I move, Sir,

"That the question be now put."

Mr. President: The question is—

"That the question be now put."

The motion was lost.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz [Lahore (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu): I think, Sir, that some of the members of this House are labouring under a misconception. They consider that if the Bill is passed they will be saved from an enhancement of water-rate. The Honourable the Finance Member has not made any promise in respect thereto.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Sir, the honourable member was not present when I gave my distinct explanation.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz (Urdu): Sir, I have not misunderstood the Honourable Finance Member. I simply say that the Honourable Finance Member has not given any definite promise as to water-rate.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: May I rise to make an explanation, Sir. The honourable member was not in the House when I made a statement most carefully worded which I put in writing. The honourable member, therefore, is not in a position to inform the House what I said or what I did not say? Everybody in the House except the honourable member knows what those undertakings were.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz (Urdu): Sir, this I understand that the Honourable Finance Member has not made any promise, but he has stated that if the Bill is passed water-rate will not be enhanced in the year 1924-25, and if it is enhanced the Bill will be repealed. What I beg to say

Sir, is that we are opposed to both the Bill and the enhanced water-rate. But if it is stated that in case the Bill is passed the water-rate will not be enhanced, we would be placed in a position of choosing one evil out of the two. My point is that this Bill should not be mixed with water-rate. We should discuss only the merits and demerits of the present Bill. At present there are two ways of levying court-fees. In some districts there is a fixed assessment of land revenue, others have a fluctuating system in accordance with the nature of the crops, i.e., the court-fees is levied at 15 times the annual rent derived from the land as defined in clause 17 (c) of the Court-fees Act. The Bill does not affect the latter districts. It is only applicable to those districts which are permanently assessed. These districts are eastern districts of the Punjab, such as Ambala, Hoshiarpur, Gurdaspur, Amritsar and Lahore where there is a permanent assessment. There the zamindars have small holdings. The average is not greater than 6 acres per head. The value of the land is very low, and the zamindars are very poor. There are no canal facilities. I submit, Sir, that when there are small holdings and the people are poor and their income is short, Government is not justified to put an additional burden of tax on their shoulders.

The Honourable the Finance Member has adduced an argument that the value of land has risen 228 times the Land Revenue, but I can confidently say that the present land value is only 150 times not 228 times as stated by the Honourable the Finance Member. The argument is a fictitious one. Although the land value has risen to some extent, but as to the income one cannot estimate it to be an improved one.

Sir, we should take advantage of the natural instinct of the zamindars. They happen to be a quarrelsome lot. A zamindar will fight over a piece of land, which does not produce more than 25 rupees per mensem, and spend hundreds of rupees because he thinks it to be his ancestral property which he should not part with under any circumstances. We should not calculate the land value for the purposes of taxation, but we should keep in view the profit which it returns, and that profit will in no case exceed the sum of Rs. 10 per acre. In view of this and the poor plight of the helpless zamindars, Sir, this Bill should not be passed. Moreover, it cannot be definitely estimated that the Bill will only yield 12 lakhs; it may even bring more than 15 lakhs, and in that respect it is likely to affect litigation to a great extent. I am a lawyer, and there are other lawyers who are present in the House, and who can very well endorse my remarks, that this Bill will create a marked decrease in the number of cases, as it has been experienced with reference to the Stamp Act. We should impose such taxes which might be of a fixed and permanent nature and which should not oppress zamindars. A good deal of arguments have been brought forward before the House against the present Bill and I need not enter into further details except that we should wait for the Budget. We are sure to get 38 lakhs from the Government of India, and we still find that a reduction of 26 lakhs can be effected in the Budget. Why has it been assumed that the Budget expenditure cannot be curtailed? I suggest that a mere reduction in the Travelling Allowances and some other departments will bring more than 25 lakhs. As the Honourable the Finance Member has not held out any particular promise as to the enhancement of water-rate, we are obliged to oppose the present Bill.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din [Sialkot (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, the question before the House is a difficult one and in

[Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.]

view of the facts stated and arguments advanced by the various speakers, no definite opinion can be formed at this stage. The Honourable Finance Member has sought the leave of the House to refer the Bill to a Select Committee. According to the well-established Parliamentary practice when a Council refers a Bill to a Select Committee, it is taken to have accepted the principle of the Bill. Instances, however, may be cited where Bills have been thrown out after reference to Select Committees. No Council is bound to pass a Bill simply because it accepts the principle of the measure by reference to a Select Committee. I would, therefore, request the members of this House to give leave to introduce the Bill, and, if necessary, to throw it out at a later stage when it comes back to the House with the report of the Select Committee. I think we should wait till the last day of the Session and see whether in the meantime we can make any cuts in the Budget. By that time the question of salt tax will be decided by the Assembly, and we will be in a position to know where and how we stand financially. After the promised reduction of 38 lakhs, in our contribution to the Central Government is made, and after we have retrenched our own Budget, we shall know definitely how much more we shall require to balance our Budget. It is at that stage that we will be able to know exactly whether we will require 25 lakhs or more or less than that amount. In my opinion, therefore, it is premature to form any decisive opinion and act upon it today.

Whether we double the court-fees or whether we enhance the *abiana*, in either case we shall be guilty of the charge of increasing taxation. But what can't be cured must be endured. If fresh taxation is absolutely necessary and unavoidable, we shall have to impose it. The only question for decision in that case would be which of the two forms of taxation should be preferred. I, for one, will choose the lesser evil and have the court-fees rather than occupiers' rate. The latter, if imposed, will bring in a revenue of 75 lakhs and possibly more, while the former, *viz.*, the court-fees, are estimated to bring in only 12 lakhs. Out of these two evils, I would naturally choose the lesser and not the greater. I would rather see the people of my provinces pay 12 lakhs than pay the big amount of 75 lakhs.

One or two speakers have referred to court-fees payable in suits relating to lands subject to fluctuating assessment. With what object have they done so, I cannot say. But no speaker has touched the question of court-fees payable in suits relating to urban property. The Honourable Finance Member has told us that the average price of the agricultural land in the Province is 228 times the permanently assessed land revenue. Whether this average is correct I cannot say. But even if the price of land be taken to be 50 times the land revenue, even then it will not be too much to fix 20 times of the land revenue as value of a land suit for the purposes of court-fees. In the case of land subject to fluctuating assessment, court-fees have to be paid on 15 times the net annual profits of the land; while in the case of urban immoveable property court-fee has to be paid on the full market value of the property. As compared with the two last mentioned classes of property, the permanently assessed land will be much better treated even if the value for purposes of court-fees is raised from 10 to 20 times of the land revenue. I will try to explain my meaning by a concrete example.

In a suit for possession of a house worth Rs. 1,000 the plaintiff is to pay court-fee on the full market value, *viz.*, Rs. 1,000. Now, take one acre of land not assessed permanently and another acre of land assessed permanently to land revenue. If the net annual profit per acre be taken to be Rs. 20

in the case of the former and Rs. 5 be taken as land revenue in the case of the latter, the value for purposes of court-fees will *ex hypothesi* be as follows :—

(a) in the case of land subject to fluctuating assessment, $15 \times 20 = 300$;

(b) in the case of land permanently assessed, $5 \times 20 = 100$.

This illustration, I am sure, will make it clear that even if the Bill were to become law, the litigants about permanently assessed lands will have to pay much less as court-fee than litigants about lands subject to fluctuating assessment, or the house property. It is hardly necessary to mention that in case of money suits court-fee has to be paid upon the whole amount in dispute.

As the Bill in question is a Finance Bill, I think this Council will be justified to limit its operation for one year and to repeal the Act, if necessary, in March 1925.

Mr. President: Order. Order. The honourable member is introducing a totally new principle into the Bill which is out of order.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din (continued in Urdu): The Honourable Finance Member has given a definite undertaking that the *abiana* rates will not be enhanced during the current and the next years, provided the Bill in question is passed by the Council in the present session without altering the proposed rates. He has further stated that if Government decides to enhance water rate before the end of 1925, he will introduce a repealing Bill in the next following session of the Council and have the court-fees, which are now proposed to be enhanced, reduced as soon as possible. Some members of the House appear to doubt that this undertaking will be kept. I do not hold a brief for the Government member, and do not, therefore, wish to act as an advocate for him. I am sure he can and will defend himself. But I must observe that all promises made in this world by Government, public or private bodies, or individuals are subject to modifications and alterations according to circumstances. No one can be expected to remain unaffected by the change of circumstances. All human beings are creatures of circumstances, and must change with the change of circumstances. To allay, however, the doubts of my sceptic colleagues, I would suggest the insertion of a provision in the Bill itself to the effect that *abiana* shall not be enhanced for 2 years, and that in the case of enhancement the Act shall automatically cease to have operation.

Mr. President: I think the honourable member is introducing a new principle into the Bill. He is practically suggesting an amendment, and if that amendment is accepted a new Bill will have to be brought up. He is practically asking for the destruction of the Bill.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din (continued in Urdu): Sir, with due deference to the chair, I beg to point out that I was simply suggesting that the undertaking given by the Honourable Finance Member should be given a legal form to inspire confidence.

One speaker has argued in this House that while the enhancement of court-fees shall affect the agriculturists of the whole Province the enhancement of *abiana* shall affect only a limited number of them. I beg to point out, Sir, that this argument is not only hollow but misleading. While the court-fees Act will actually affect only those zamindars who will be com-

[K. B. Chaudhri Shabab-ud-Din.]

pelled to have resort to Courts, the enhancement of *abiana* rates shall affect the millions of peasants in the Province. In other words, the number of persons to be possibly affected by the Court-fees Act is infinitesimally small as compared with the millions of people who shall have to pay the enhanced occupier's rate.

For these reasons, Sir, I strongly support the motion that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, and that this Council may pass or throw it out at the end of this session in the light of retrenchments which may be effected in its Budget and the reduction, if any, that may be made in our Provincial contribution to the Government of India.

Sardar Narain Singh [Rawalpindi Division and Gujranwala (Sikh) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, the Honourable Finance Member has, in his eloquent speech, impressed upon the House that the expenditure is greater than income, and that if a court-fee of Re. 1 be enforced instead of annas 8, this temporary gap can be filled up. I do not propose to take more time of the Council in discussing the Bill at a great length, but I would throw light on some important points. Can the present deficit be made up through some other measure? I would submit that there are still many other ways of curtailing expenditure. The expenditure of courts can easily be cut down by one half. We should cut down our expenditure as far as possible, so that a complete balance of expenditure is achieved. We have not tried all the means as yet, and I can certainly say that the present expenditure can easily be brought under further reduction. It has been stated that the value of the land has risen. I am afraid I have not grasped that argument. The Honourable Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia, has to-day stated in reply to my question that 6,970 acres of land in the Gujranwala district has been laid waste owing to water-logging, but, I, being an inhabitant of that district, can safely state that several villages have been destroyed on account of water-logging.

Mr. President : What has this to do with the argument? I see no relevancy at all in it.

Sardar Narain Singh : I want to show to the House that the value of the land has not actually increased. It is rather decreasing.

Mr. President : That particular plot of land may have deteriorated for some particular reason, but that hardly applies to all land.

Sardar Narain Singh : That would be one piece of argument applying to many districts. (Continued in Urdu) Sir, I beg to say that the produce of land does not yield more net revenue. If the income has risen the expenditure is still greater than that. Zamindars have to pay several expenses other than the court-fees. In 1918 the court-fees were charged at 5 times land-revenue then it became 10 times and afterwards 10½ times. Now it is proposed that the fees should be doubled which means that in six years it has increased six times larger than before. The litigants have also to spend more money in other respects such as Talhana, etc. In addition to this there are other expenditures which I do not deem fit to explain here. In short the expenditure of a case has risen cent. per cent.

Mr. President : The honourable member should avoid repeating arguments used by other members over and over again. I have heard this argument from several members.

Sardar Narain Singh : I think the expenses of litigants were not discussed by any member.

Mr. President : Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram raised this very argument. Besides other members have used it.

Sardar Narain Singh : Then I will drop this point. (Continued in Urdu) Sir, zamindars are unable to bear this additional burden of taxation. There is another question which has not been touched upon by anyone in this House, and that is with regard to the principle of equality. Sir, the income-tax is collected only when the income exceeds Rs. 2,000, but the zamindar who has got only one marla of land has to pay. This is a more act of injustice and for this reason it should not be passed. If a life-tenant sells a certain piece of land unlawfully the owner cannot emancipate it without spending a lot of money that exceeds the real value, and in certain cases he is deprived of the land because he cannot afford the court-fees. It is highly atrocious.

Lala Bodh Raj : 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.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I should like in the first place to say how very pleased I have been to listen to so many well-informed and well-reasoned speeches on the subject. I should have liked, I confess, to find a few more of these excellent speeches made on my own side, but I am one of those persons who can appreciate a good argument even if it is delivered by an opponent. I should therefore like to begin by congratulating the House on what I should call on the whole the high level of the speeches. (Hear, hear).

Now, Sir, in the first place I want to deal very briefly with the suggestion put forward by my friend, Sir Gopal Das, who said, why should we hurry with this matter, why should not this Bill stand over till we know precisely what the Assembly is going to do? The truth of the matter is this : It takes sometime to put a Bill of this kind through all its various stages, it takes some little time for the Select Committee to examine it, and it takes some little time for the report of the Select Committee to be brought before the House and considered; and if we do not proceed at once with the present preliminary stage of this Bill we should find that towards the end of the session, that is, towards the end of March, that we have not yet been able to pass it into law. The object of the Government in pressing this Bill at this early stage is that the preliminaries, such as the reference to the Select Committee, the presentation of the report of the Select Committee and such like things may be got through before the end of the session; and the reason why we are so anxious to get all these things through before the end of the session is that we wish to have the benefit of the new taxation for a full year instead of a fraction of it. If this Bill were not dealt with during the present session, the result will be that it will stand over probably until next July or August when we may reasonably anticipate the next session of the Council will be held. That is the reason, Sir, for my pressing through this Bill. Even if there had been before the House a proposal to postpone consideration of the question, I should still feel bound to urge that the matter should be dealt with to-day. As regards the power of the House to ultimately reject the Bill after seeing

[The Honourable Sir John Maynard.]

what the Assembly decides and after seeing how our own Budget turns out, I may assure the House that it will be perfectly open to it to take that course.

Now, Sir, I am going to say a word or two about the undertaking which I gave to the House in the speech in which I moved this motion. I am not going to repeat the words, because it is always a danger to repeat an undertaking of that kind orally, lest any mistake should occur which may give a misleading impression. I am convinced everybody understood the principle of what I was saying. The reason why I put the matter in the form in which I did was this. I felt that everybody was saying to himself, why should we pass these money Bills when the Government is going to enhance the water rate also? I wish to deal with that particular difficulty, and therefore it was that I gave my second undertaking which distinctly says, if Government does find itself compelled to adopt a general enhancement of the water rate, it will then give the House immediately an opportunity of repealing the Bills. That I hope was quite sufficiently definite.

Now, Sir, I turn to an argument which was put forward by my friend, Sardar Narain Singh. I understood him to say that it is the duty of the Government whatever happens to keep its expenses within its revenue. I quite accept what my friend says. But it is subject to the condition that the standard of value of money remains unchanged. There must be many members of this House who are aware that we cannot depend in any way upon the standard of value being permanent. We have two very shocking examples of countries where money has fallen to a mere fraction of its former value. Without asking you to follow into the consideration of the causes of those two particular examples I will only remind you that even in France, which has not suffered to the same extent as some other European countries, the value of money is now only one-fourth of what it was before. Supposing we should find that the value of our money had fallen to one-fourth or one-third of what it was before, is it not perfectly obvious that it would be necessary to save our servants from starvation, and in order to do that we should enhance their pay? Would it not be necessary that we should pay more for labour? Would it not be necessary to pay more for the goods and tools and plant. The position in the Punjab is similar, but fortunately it is not so bad as to have reduced the value of money to only one-fourth of what it was before. As a matter of fact, our money is worth probably something between one-half and two-thirds of what it was before. Therefore when honourable members say that it is necessary for the Government always to keep the expenditure within the limits of its revenues, they must not overlook the fact that when the value of the money changes, then a special condition arises, and it is necessary to take more as well as to give more.

The next point, Sir, is this. There was a suggestion made by some member at an early stage of the discussion that some sort of promise had been given on a former occasion that if certain Bills were passed, there will be no enhancement of water rate. Sir, I looked up that particular reference concerned, and I find in the first place that that statement was not made by any of the official members. It was not made by any member, who was responsible to the House. It was made by a non-official member, and even then it was not made in the form in which it was represented to this House. What the non-official member said was, if you do not agree to

these Bills, then you will have to meet the increased occupiers' rate. He did not say, if you do agree to this Court-fees Bill you won't have to agree to the increase of occupiers' rent. It is, of course, quite impossible for Government to hold themselves bound by everything which may fall from the lips of a non-official member in such a case.

I am not going into the question whether the expenses on justice are exactly equal to the amount which the income from court-fees brings to us or whether it is even a reasonable suggestion that the Departments of Government should be in this way divided into a sort of water-tight compartments each self-sufficing. I will only say this much, namely, that if we are to adopt this principle that the income of each separate Department of Government must necessarily be equal to its expenditure and that the expenditure must necessarily be equal to the income, what would be the case with such a department as education in which, by the very nature of things, the income is of a very limited character. If we were to make each department self-existent in a sort of water-tight compartment and dependent upon its own receipts, then it is obvious that some of the beneficent departments will suffer very seriously. I now come to what I confess, appears to me to be a point which not a single speaker had touched upon until towards the close of the debate my honourable friend Mr. Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din drew attention to it. It is this. The question which this House has before it when it is dealing with this particular proposal of increasing the valuation of certain classes of land for the purpose of court-fees is really this: Is the agriculturist who happens to be so fortunate as to be charged with a fixed land revenue to be allowed to claim permanently the privilege of paying very much less than another who happens to have to pay a fluctuating land revenue? Is that a reasonable condition on which to insist? Secondly, is it reasonable that an agriculturist when he happens to bring a suit regarding property should pay at a rate which is infinitely smaller than the rate at which the owner of another property in an urban area would have to pay? If the valuation is maintained at its present scale of only 10 times the land revenue for the land paying a fixed land revenue, then it is infinitely less than the charge which is levied in similar conditions upon the owner of agricultural land who happens to be charged with fluctuating land revenue, and in a yet greater degree is it less than what is paid by the owner of a house property. That is not a reasonable condition of things. I am of course well aware that some of my honourable friends have questioned the figures which have been produced to show that at the present time the average value of revenue-paying land is 228 times the land revenue. But, Sir, I listened in vain for anything like sound reason for the doubt which they expressed. These figures are taken from a close and complete record of all the actual transactions of sale throughout the province. No mere imagination which an honourable member may form in his own mind of what is on the whole probable or of what fits in with his own personal experience can possibly give us the same accurate basis which the record of the actual transactions gives us. Two hundred and twenty eight times the land revenue is average value of land in the latest year for which we have a complete record. That rate is arrived at by the method which I have described. That is to say, by taking each transaction and by working out the average from the total of transactions in all districts and throughout the Province. Of course it is only the average rate, but no method which we can possibly adopt can give us a more accurate estimate than this gives us. But, if we suppose for the moment, for the sake of argument that the true value of land is not 228 times the

[The Honourable Sir John Maynard.]

land revenue as our statistics show us, supposing it is 150 times the land revenue as suggested by some of the honourable members, then the present rate at which an owner of agricultural land paying fixed revenue pays for the purpose of court-fees is 12 annas per one hundred rupees on the actual value. If we double it, it is Rs. 1-8-0 per one hundred rupees. These are the actual rates in proportion to the value of the land which an agriculturist, who is so fortunate as to be charged with fixed revenue, is actually paying and will be required to pay if our proposal should be accepted. I must apologise to the House for having taken so long a time, but I wish to mention one more point. It has been said that if our proposals were accepted, in other words, if we ask an agriculturist whose land is charged with fixed land revenue to pay something more nearly approaching to what the agriculturist who pays a fluctuating land revenue is charged, if this should occur, then justice will be denied to the poor man. That is the argument which some of my honourable friends made much of. The particular point which I wish to make is this. This argument about the poor man and the denial of justice in courts is put forward as it appears to me by the same gentlemen who desire to minimise recourse to courts and who at one time at all events prepared to take measures in order to dissuade the people from going to the courts. (Hear, hear). It does not seem to me very logical or very consistent that those gentlemen who so strenuously deprecate the habit of litigation and recourse to courts constituted by the Government should also take exception to a measure which should tend in the direction of reducing litigation.

Mr. President: I had better say a few words regarding the result of this motion being passed. Ordinarily when a motion for taking a Bill into consideration or for sending it to a Select Committee is accepted by the House, the result is undoubtedly that the House accepts and endorses the principle of the Bill, and it cannot at a later stage change that principle. The Select Committee can limit the principle of the Bill, but it cannot go beyond that principle. The House, however, is not irrevocably bound by the decision come to at this stage. When the Bill comes back from the Select Committee a new stage commences, and that is when under Article 83 the Member-in-charge of the Bill moves that the report of the Select Committee be taken into consideration. It is always open to the House then, if they are so minded, to reject the Bill at that stage. Again there is the passing stage. Yet a third opportunity is then given to the House to reconsider their decision, and the various stages of the Bill can in fact be looked at in the light of one motion which is not finally completed until the Bill has safely passed the last stage. I do not want the House to be under the impression that by accepting the principle they are irrevocably bound to pass the Bill. That is not the case. Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din raised a point regarding the time limit. As I said just now the Select Committee can limit the principle of the Bill, they cannot extend it. But I do not think the importation of a new principle altogether, such as the question of the duration of the Bill, is permissible. I do not say that that is the final ruling. I do not think I have ever come across a case where that has been suggested, but it does seem to me that it is a totally novel principle which is beyond the powers of the Select Committee to introduce.

The question is—

“That the Court-fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following :—

Mr. O. M. King,

Sardar Bandhir Singh,
 Malik Firoz Khan, Noon,
 Diwan Pahadur Raja Narendra Nath,
 Mr. Miles Irving,
 Khan Bahadur Sheikh Abdul Qadir,
 Mr. J. Coldstream, and
 The Mover;

and that the Council direct the Select Committee to submit its report by the 11th March 1924."

The Council then divided; Ayes 38, Noes 34.

AYES—38.

Mr. W. P. Sangster,
 Lient.-Col. E. L. Ward,
 Mr. E. R. Abbott,
 Mr. C. M. King,
 Mr. A. D. Blascheck,
 Mr. E. A. Scott,
 Sir George Anderson,
 The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chaudhri
 Lal Chand,
 The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian
 Fazl-i-Husain,
 The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar
 Sundar Singh, Majithia,
 The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard,
 Mr. A. Latifi,
 Mr. Miles Irving,
 Mr. D. J. Boyd,
 Mr. H. D. Craik,
 Dr. C. A. Owen,
 Lient.-Col. D. M. Davidson,
 Mr. J. Coldstream,
 Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-
 ud-Din.

Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr
 Shah,
 Chaudhri Ali Afkar,
 Sardar Jowahir Singh,
 Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah,
 Sayad Hussain Shah,
 Shaikh Faiz Muhammad,
 Khan Bahadur Sardar Jamal Khan,
 Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan,
 Lient. Sardar Sikandar Hayat
 Khan,
 Malik Khan Muhammad Khan,
 M. Haibat Khan,
 Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali,
 Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad,
 Chaudhri Nur Din,
 Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali
 Khan,
 Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das Bhandari,
 Sardar Randhir Singh,
 Mr. V. F. Grey,
 Mr. E. Maya Das.

NOES—34.

Chaudhri Saadullah Khan,
 Chaudhri Najib-ud-Din Khan,
 Sardar Narain Singh,
 Sardar Jodh Singh,
 Sardar Tara Singh,
 Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz,
 Sardar Bakhtawar Singh,
 Sardar Gurbakhs Singh,
 M. Mazhar Ali, Azhar,
 Chaudhri Afzal Haq,
 Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan,
 Sardar Mohinder Singh,
 Sardar Buta Singh,
 Captain Mumtaz Muhammad
 Khan, Tiwana,
 Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan,
 Pandit Nanak Chand,
 Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni,
 Lala Sham Lal,
 Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin,
 Lala Bodd Raj,
 Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram,
 Lala Banke Raj,
 Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri,
 Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar,
 Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai,
 Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram,
 Raizada Bhagat Ram,
 Diwan Narinjan Das,
 Chaudhri Dali Chand,
 Rao Pohap Singh,
 Lala Mohan Lal,
 Chaudhri Ram Singh,
 Chaudhri Kesar Singh.

The motion was carried.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, I should like to go on with the other motions on the agenda, if possible.

O.P.M.

(At this stage some members stood up and desired that the Council should adjourn).

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : May I point out, Sir, that if the House were to adjourn now and not continue to sit, it will be necessary to fix some additional day this week for Government business.

Mr. President : Will members who object to continuing the sitting please rise ?

(About half the members present rose.)

Mr. President : There is such a large body of opinion in favour of adjournment. I fear I cannot go against their wishes.

The Council accordingly adjourned till two o'clock on Wednesday, the 5th March 1924.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

2ND SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, the 5th March, 1924.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ALLEGED DESECRATION OF DARBAR SAHIB, AMRITSAR.

190. **Sardar Tara Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. Jeffreys with other officers and policemen went into Darbar Sahib, Amritsar, in uniform, armed with pistol and guns, without putting off their socks and washing their feet and forced ingress into Akal Takht on 7th January 1924?

(b) Has Government received any indication to the effect that this action has deeply wounded the religious feelings of the Sikh community, it being absolutely prohibited by their religion?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to take some suitable action against the officers concerned and issue necessary instructions to all the departments to refrain from such action in future?

(d) Is the Government aware that previous to 7th January 1924 the Sikh accused surrendered themselves for arrest on the requisition of the police without putting the police to any necessity to enter the Darbar Sahib?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for deviating this time from that line of action which was working so satisfactorily?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : On the 7th of January, 1924, the Superintendent of Police, Amritsar, acting under the orders of the Punjab Government, entered the precincts of the Darbar Sahib at Amritsar with a force of Police after the removal of all boots and shoes, in order to effect the arrest of certain members of the Association which had been proclaimed by Government as unlawful, who were holding a meeting in the upper storey of the Sri Akal Takht. The Police encountered resistance from a large crowd of Akali Sewadars, and were roughly handled. Although it would have been possible for the Police, some of whom were armed with muskets, to have forced an entry into the precincts of the Akal Takht, this course would necessarily have been accompanied by bloodshed, and the authorities accordingly deliberately decided not to enter the Akal Takht, and invited the persons whose arrest was desired to surrender themselves. This they eventually did.

(b) Government is aware that attempts have been made by the extremist section of the Sikh Press to represent this incident in this light.

(c) The officers in question acted under the instructions of Government and no action against them is contemplated. It is not considered necessary to issue any special instructions.

(d) Government is aware that on certain occasions Sikh accused persons have surrendered themselves for arrest. It is also aware that on many occasions accused persons of this community have absconded to evade arrest, and there is reason to believe that a considerable number of those who attended the meeting on the 7th of January did succeed in evading arrest.

(e) This part of the question does not arise.

Sardar Tara Singh : Sir, is it a fact that the Superintendent of Police and other police officers went into the *Darbar Sahib* with socks on and without washing their feet?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : They only took off their boots and shoes and went through other formalities.

Sardar Tara Singh : I want to know whether they put off their socks or not?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I must have notice of the question.

Sardar Tara Singh : The question is there in clause (a), that is without putting off their socks and washing their feet. My honourable friend does not require any notice of the question.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I have no further information to give than what is contained in the answer, unless I have notice of the question.

Sardar Tara Singh : Will the honourable member give the names of persons who absconded when they were asked to surrender for arrest?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No, Sir.

AKALIS ARRESTED AND CHALLANED IN FERROZPORE DISTRICT FOR GIVING TEA TO AKALI JATHAS.

191. **Sardar Tara Singh :** Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the names of *Akalis* arrested and challaned in Ferozepore District from 1st October 1923 to 5th February 1924, for giving tea to *Akali Jathas* and supplying fuel for *Gurdwara langar*;
- (b) the names of *Akalis* arrested and challaned in Ferozepore District from 1st October 1923 to 5th February 1924, for organising *Dewans* and collecting rations for the people attending them and collecting rations for the *langar* of *Gurdwara Muktasar Sahib*?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Government does not consider it in the public interest to give the names of the persons referred to in the question.

Sardar Tara Singh : Were the persons in fact arrested?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Whom do you refer to?

Sardar Tara Singh : *Akalis*, Sir?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I have no doubt that some *Akalis* were arrested.

PROHIBITION OF OFFERINGS TO THE LANGAR OF GURDWARA MUKTASAR SAHIB.

192. **Sardar Tara Singh :** Is it a fact that donors were prevented from offering grain, fuel and *ghes* to the *langar* of *Gurdwara Muktasar Sahib* on or about *Mela Maghi*, that is, 13th January 1924? If so, under what authority were they so prevented?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No.

HOUSE-SEARCH OF KISHAN SINGH, JAT OF SAMALSAR.

193. **Sardar Tara Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that the house of one Kishan Singh, Jat, of Samalsar, Thana Baghapurana, District Ferozepore, was searched on or about 19th December 1923?

(b) Is it also a fact that the search was made on the report of an informer that the said Kishan Singh was harbouring *Akalis* and was in possession of arms, guns, pistols and bombs? If so, was anything incriminating found during the search?

(c) If the answer to the first part of (b) is in the affirmative and to the second in the negative, will the Government be pleased to take legal action against the informer? 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.

REGISTRATION OF BETROTHALS.

194. **Sardar Tara Singh :** Is it a fact that registers are maintained for the purposes of registration of marriages? If so, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of issuing instructions for maintaining similar registers for purposes of registration of betrothals as well?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) A system of voluntary registration of marriages is in force wholly or in part in twenty districts of the Punjab. It is principally confined to Muslim marriages, but in some districts marriages are registered by members of other communities also.

(b) Government are not at present prepared to make any system of registration compulsory, but would consider the suggestion of the honourable member should any District Board press for its adoption.

PUNITIVE POLICE IN MOGA TAHSIL.

195. **Sardar Tara Singh :** Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) if it is a fact that punitive police has been posted at Rammonwala Kalan, Ramnuwala Harohoka, Ramnuwala Kumedan, Gholia Kalan, Gholia Khurd, Manuke, Roda, Bara Ghar, Langeana Purana and Lande in Moga Tahsil of Ferozepore;
- (b) the offences against person or property committed in each of the above villages in the years 1921, 1922 and 1923, respectively;
- (c) the nature of the offences committed which necessitated the posting of punitive police;
- (d) the special reasons which led to the posting of punitive police in each of the above-mentioned villages;
- (e) whether the posting of the punitive police in the above-mentioned villages is chiefly due to the holding of political meetings there;
- (f) whether it is a fact that by the posting of the police, the innocent inhabitants suffer equally with the actual offenders;
- (g) the strength of the police maintained in each of the above-mentioned villages;

[Sardar Tara Singh.]

- (b) the amount of money which will be levied from each of the above-mentioned villages to defray the cost of maintaining the police;
- (c) whether the Government or its officers have received representations from any of the above-mentioned villages, praying for the withdrawal of the punitive police;
- (d) whether they are prepared to consider the advisability of withdrawing the order imposing the punitive police in all or some of the villages mentioned above?

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 PROVINCIAL POLICE SERVICE.

196. Sardar Tara Singh: Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the number and names of Police officers of the Subordinate Service who have been promoted to the Provincial Police Service in the years 1921, 1922, 1923 and how many of them were Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs and Christians;
- (b) the rules or principles regulating the promotion to the Provincial Service?

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.

ZAMINDAR COMPOUNDERS AND VACCINATORS IN THE CIVIL DISPENSARIES OF THE MIANWALI DISTRICT.

197. Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan: Will the Government be pleased to give the total number of zamindars—

- (a) recruited as vaccinators;
- (b) recruited as compounders in the Civil Dispensaries of the Mianwali District during the last five years?

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

- (a) Five.
- (b) One.

MUHAMMADAN CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF THE CIVIL SURGEON, MIANWALI.

198. Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan: Is it a fact that since the last fifteen years not a single Muhammadan has been entertained as a clerk in the office of the Civil Surgeon, Mianwali?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: No. Four Muslim clerks have been entertained during the last fifteen years.

COMPENSATION TO TAHSILDARS FOR REGISTRATION WORK.

199. Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of the Sub-Registrars' offices that have been closed during the past six months, the work being transferred to the Tahsil Officers?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total monthly number of deeds registered by the Tahsildars (both mortgage and sale-deeds) since the registration work has been transferred to them?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state if there is any proposal to compensate the Tahsildars for this extra work?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken by them to reduce the Sadr Registration establishment in those districts where Sub-Registrars' offices have been closed as above?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Only one office of Sub-Registrar (Garh Maharaja) has been closed during the last six months.

(b) As the Sub-Registrar has been away for several years, the Tahsildar has done the registration work. The average number of deeds registered monthly in 1923 has been 11.

(c) No.

(d) None.

ARMS LICENSE FEE AND TITLE-HOLDERS.

200. Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan: Will Government be pleased to state the total number of title-holders on whom titles were conferred after 1920 and who have been exempted from the payment of license fee (arms) under the revised Arms Rules?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: Under the revised Arms Rules every Maharaja, Raja, or Nawab whose title has been conferred or recognized by Government, every Peer, Baronet, Knight Bachelor, and Knight of any Order established by the Crown, and the Khans of Teri and Phulera in the North-West Frontier Province are exempted from the necessity of taking out licenses for the possession of arms. No other title-holders on whom titles were conferred after 1920 have been exempted from the payment of license fees under the revised Arms Rules.

FIELD KANUNGOS.

201. Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan: Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent settlement at Bhakkar no Field Kanungo candidates from the district have been given chance to work in the settlement operations? If so, why?

(b) whether it is a fact that the scheme by which Field Kanungo candidates of the various districts in the Province whose names are on the supplementary list are posted to districts to which they do not belong is comparatively expensive;

(c) what is the total amount of travelling allowance paid to Field Kanungos posted to Sehikhupura, Gujranwala, Campbellpur and Bhakkar in connection with the settlement operations in those districts, for journeys to join their appointments or return from there;

(d) what was the number of Field Kanungo candidates available for settlement work in each of the above districts at the time of the commencement of the settlement operations;

[Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.]

(c) how many of the available candidates have been posted in their own districts ;

(d) what is the number of Field Kanungos posted to the above settlements ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Enquiries are being made from the local authorities concerned, and a reply will be supplied later.

HINDU MONOPOLY IN THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE AT RAWALPINDI.

202. Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan : Is it a fact that there is a monopoly of Hindu clerks in the General Branch of the Commissioner's Office at Rawalpindi ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to take necessary steps to recruit Muhammadan clerks in future ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

203. Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan : (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a comparative statement of Rawalpindi Division showing the population of each district, the total number of Government and aided High Schools and the names of the districts backward in education ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of opening more Government High Schools in the districts where they are badly needed ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain :

(a) The necessary information is laid on the table. Attock and Mianwali Districts are backward in education.

(b) This question is under consideration.

Names of Districts.	Population.	Number of Government High Schools.	Number of aided High Schools.
1. Rawalpindi	569,224	1	11
2. Gujrat	824,046	1	5
3. Shahpur	719,918	3	5
4. Jhelum	477,068	2	3
5. Attock	512,247	3	...
6. Mianwali	358,205	1	1

AGRICULTURAL LAND AND THE INDUS.

204. Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan : (a) Is it a fact that large portions of agricultural land in the bed of the Indus remain under water for the greater part of the year ?

(b) That the river action is depriving many agricultural families of their estates gradually ?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to take steps to grant lands in canal colonies to the above-mentioned zamindars ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) and (b) Yes.

(c) Government is not prepared to allot land to all those who have suffered loss in this way. Allotments have formerly been made only in a few cases of extreme hardship, and such cases, if any, will receive due consideration at the hands of Government.

SECOND CLASS COLLEGES IN THE PROVINCE.

205. Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan : Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether they have framed any programme of opening new second class colleges in the Province ? If so, is Mianwali included in it ;

(b) when a college of the above class will be opened at Mianwali ;

(c) whether it is a fact that Mianwali District is backward in education, especially in college education ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) No complete programme has yet been prepared.

(b) This, therefore, does not arise.

(c) Yes.

HEAD CONSTABLE AND SUB-INSPECTOR CANDIDATES ADMITTED TO PHILLAUR TRAINING SCHOOL.

206. Sardar Tara Singh : Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Police Head Constable and Sub-Inspector candidates who were admitted to Phillaur Training School in 1921, 1922 and 1923, and the proportion of Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs amongst them, respectively, according to each District ;

(b) whether the Government recruits these candidates on communal basis or some other consideration prevails as well ?

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF WORK AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE MINISTERS AND THE SECRETARIES OF THE DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS.

207. Sardar Tara Singh : Will the Government be pleased to publish in the *Punjab Gazette* the present distribution of work among the members of the Executive Council, the Ministers and the Secretaries of different departments ?

Mr. H. D. Craik : The honourable member is referred to the answer given to question No. 2085* put on the 17th November 1922 in the Punjab Legislative Council.

ENCROACHMENT ON THE VILLAGE PATHS.

208. Sardar Tara Singh : (a) Is it a fact that it frequently happens that paths shown from one village to another in the Revenue papers are encroached upon and so narrowed as to make traffic difficult?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to issue instructions to Revenue Officers to arrange for the removal of such encroachments and keep the paths intact according to Revenue papers?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : As regards the first part of the question Government has no information. Provision for such a contingency should it arise is made in section 150 of Act XVII of 1887.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT CORRUPTION.

209. Sardar Tara Singh : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) The number of complaints received by it or by its subordinate officers about corruption in the year 1923 and the steps taken for their investigation and the results of such investigation?

(b) Has the Criminal Intelligence Department detected any cases of corruption in the said year and if so, with what results?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) It is not clear whether this question refers to complaints lodged before judicial Courts : or to specific accusations against individuals made on the executive side : or to both. The honourable member is requested to make his question clearer. The number of general complaints of a non-specific character about corruption is of course large ; but there is no means of obtaining a statistical record of them.

(b) The detection of cases of corruption is not the duty of the Criminal Investigation Department except in cases specially entrusted to it by the orders of Government. No case of corruption was entrusted to the C.I.D. in 1923.

THE GOJRA MUNICIPALITY.

210. Sardar Tara Singh : Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) the total population of the Gojra Municipality, giving separately the number of Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs ;

(b) the total yearly income of the Gojra Municipality, giving separately the amounts contributed by the Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs ;

(c) the total number of the Municipal Commissioners of the Gojra Municipality, giving separately the strength of elected, nominated and *ex-officio* members ;

(d) the principle governing the allotment of elected and nominated seats in the said Municipality ;

- (e) the reasons for giving separate and special electorate to Muhammadans and not to Hindus or Sikhs ;
- (f) the present number of Hindu, Sikh and Muhammadan elected and nominated members, respectively, of the said Municipality.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) The population of Gojra according to the census of 1921 is as follows :—

Hindus	...	...	3,638
Muhammadans	...	...	2,495
Sikhs	...	...	710
Others	...	...	779

(b) Please see the reply to part (c) of Council Question No. 115.*

(c) The total number of members at present is six, all nominated non-officials. Under the new constitution the strength of the Committee will be seven, of whom there will be three Hindus, Sikhs and others, two Muslims and two nominated.

(d) Please see paragraph 12 of the Note on the reconstitution of the Municipal Committees and District Boards of the Punjab, a copy of which is laid on the table.†

(e) Please see the reply to part (c) of Council Question No. 115.*

(f) At the present moment (under the old constitution) the Committee consists of 2 Hindus, 3 Muslims, and 1 Sikh—all nominated.

SIKH REPRESENTATION ON THE GOJRA MUNICIPALITY.

211. Sardar Tara Singh : Is it a fact that the present distribution of wards in the Gojra Municipality is such that not even a single Sikh can be returned as a member of the Municipal Committee? If so, will the Government be pleased to allot separate seats for the Hindus and the Sikhs or to so redistribute the wards as to ensure a fair representation of these two communities?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The constitution of the Gojra Municipal Committee is not such that not a single Sikh can be returned as a member. Sikhs are eligible for election in the non-Muslim wards.

The Sikh population amounts to only 710 with an estimated voting strength of 77 as against a Hindu population of 3,638 and a Muslim population of 2,495 with voting strengths of 455 and 480, respectively.

In view of these statistics it is not clear what the honourable member wishes to suggest.

JAGIRDARS OF BAHIA ILAQA AND PAYMENT OF NEHRI PARTA.

212. Sardar Tara Singh : Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Jagirdars of Bahia Ilaqa in District Ferozepore are in receipt of Re. 0-13-3 per rupee of the land revenue as Jagirs ;

[Sardar Tara Singh.]

- (b) whether it is also a fact that at the time of the last settlement in 1911-1912 Jagirdars were asked to pay *Nakhi parta*. If so, what are the grounds for levying this *parta* and what are the principles and rules governing its assessment ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that a *parta* was executed between these Jagirdars and the Government ? If so, whether it is a fact that the conditions of this *parta* prohibit the Government from levying this *parta* ;
- (d) whether they will be pleased to consider the advisability of discontinuing this assessment ;
- (e) whether it is also a fact that the said Jagirdars have several times applied for a copy of this *parta* ? If so, has it been supplied to them ? If not, what are the reasons for its refusal ;
- (f) whether they will be pleased to issue instructions to the officers concerned to supply a copy in future on payment of legal dues ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia : Local enquiries are being made, and the answer will be communicated later.

GRANT-IN-AID TO RURAL SCHOOLS.

213. Sardar Tara Singh : Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the principle of distribution of grant-in-aid to Schools in each Division ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that rural people are more backward in education than the urban people, and if so, whether the Government will be pleased to encourage education among the farmers by giving speedy recognition and generous grant-in-aid to schools in rural areas ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) The member's attention is invited to circular No. 13070-G., dated the 6th November, 1923, a copy of which is laid on the table.

(b) Yes. The suggestion will be duly considered.

C. M. No. 13070-G., dated 6th November 1923.

From—G. ANDERSON, Esq., C.I.E., M.A., Under-Secretary to Government, Punjab,
To—The Divisional Inspectors of Schools and the Chief Inspectress of Schools, Punjab:

I am directed to address you on the subject of the secondary system of education in general, and of grants-in-aid to secondary schools in particular.

2. I would first refer you to C. M. No. 11012-G. dated the 10th August, 1922, in which the general policy of the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) was outlined in regard to Government high schools. The main objects of that circular were to effect a better distribution of these schools throughout the province, and to ensure economical efficiency in their working. General rules were laid down in regard to the minimum amount of teaching work expected from each member of the staff ; a policy of concentration in the matter of special classes was defined ; suggestions for a better and more economical utilisation of the classroom and other accommodation were offered ; the abolition of primary departments, except in very special circumstances, was urged ; and the regulation regarding the size of classes was made less rigid to meet emergencies which might arise by a sudden and considerable influx in the number of pupils in a class. More economical

building plans have also been drawn up with the result that the estimates for a high school building have been reduced by over Rs. 50,000; and I am to take this opportunity of requesting you to discuss with the authorities of private schools any question regarding the construction or extension of school buildings and to place before them the recent plans and suggestions of this Department. Economy rather than a rigid adherence to standard plans should be emphasised in future. Lastly, in C. M. No. 12053-A of the 6th October 1923, orders were passed in regard to a more economical and systematic allotment of contingencies, to the regulation that expenditure on prizes should be met in future by private subscriptions, to restrictions in the number of menial servants employed in schools, to a reduced expenditure on libraries and periodicals, and to a rigid scrutiny of indents for equipment.

3. The Minister desires me to thank you for your ready and helpful co-operation with him in these efforts to place all Government institutions on a firm and economical basis. It is difficult to analyse in figures the effect of these economies as many of them have been used to provide for the largely increased enrolment in such schools and for other educational developments. It is significant, however, that though the enrolment in *all* secondary schools during the past year has been increased by 38,561 pupils, that is, by 18.6 *per cent.*, the expenditure has only increased by 7.8 *per cent.*, and it is anticipated that the full measure of the economies has not yet been reached. The new arrangements proposed in C. M. No. 12053-A of the 6th October 1923, will effect further economies; in Government institutions alone, of Rs. 7,000 on contingencies, Rs. 5,000 on servants and menials, Rs. 4,175 on prizes, and Rs. 1,875 on libraries and periodicals.

4. A far more difficult problem, however, is presented by the review of the whole secondary system throughout the province. The attention of Government (Ministry of Education) has been devoted to this important matter for the last twelve months; and the experience of the Inspector of Training Institutions has been utilised for this purpose. A general survey of the present position has been made; returns have been called for and statistics collated; and a useful and instructive series of maps has been prepared. In these labours inspecting officers have rendered most valuable assistance. Finally, the present situation was discussed generally at the Inspectors' Conference held in April last, when it was agreed that the distribution of secondary schools, through lack of guidance and policy in the past, is both uneconomical and inequitable.

5. This distribution is uneconomical in the unnecessary, and therefore extravagant, multiplication of schools in many urban centres, while it is inequitable in the encouragement, financial and other, which has been given to advanced and comparatively wealthy areas of the central Punjab to the exclusion of the legitimate and pressing claims of the more backward and poorer districts, chiefly in outlying frontier areas. The consolidated statements (accompanying this circular) which have now been completed prove conclusively that these opinions are fully justified, and point to the urgent necessity of a revised orientation of policy which shall have as its objective the removal of these inequalities by the provision, as far as possible, of facilities in areas which are inadequately served at present.

6. Some further indication of the inequality of distribution is given by the fact that, whereas in some districts the multiplication of high schools has resulted in a proportion of one high school for every 40,000 or 50,000 of the population, in other districts there is only one such school to over

[The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain.]

200,000 people; and in one district to a population of nearly 400,000. At the top of the scale, Rawalpindi District has a high school to 43,786 of the population; Ambala to 56,789; and Gujranwala to 56,871. At the other end of the scale, Kangra has one high school to 338,032 people; Montgomery has one to 237,928; and Gurgaon has one to 227,334.

7. Much might be said regarding the practice in the past which has contributed to the creation of the present situation, but a review of past history would not serve any useful purpose in the discussion at this stage. At best, it shows a keen desire on the part of Government to encourage and to assist private enterprise in education; and a most laudable and generous enthusiasm for education among certain (and those usually the more prosperous) sections of the community. The Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) still adheres to its desire to share the burden of secondary education with private enterprise; and it is hoped that private effort will continue to play its part in this great task. But the obvious fact should be recognised that the removal of the grave inequalities referred to in previous paragraphs must be given a primary place in any scheme or programme devised for the expansion of secondary education which is financed from public funds. Such a scheme it is intended to formulate; and the first point for determination is the principle on which the necessary provision may be made in the inadequately provided areas so as to bring them up to the level of the more fortunate areas.

8. It is found that the average distribution of high schools for the province gives one such institution to about 100,000 of the population. Some districts, as has already been pointed out, have a much more generous provision. There are, on the other hand, others in which the average provision is in defect. To remove this defect it will be necessary to frame a programme for the establishment of between thirty and forty high schools. The completion of this programme should be the goal of the next five years' achievement.

9. The means by which this programme of expansion can best be carried out has been fully considered. The problem is not without its difficulties, both on account of the financial stringency and also of the haphazard methods of expanding secondary education in the past, which it is the aim of the measures now under consideration to remove. Available funds are altogether inadequate to the establishment of so large a number of high schools in a single year, especially when the even more urgent necessity of maintaining the present expansion of vernacular education is taken into consideration; nor, indeed, is the establishment of new schools the most appropriate or the most economical method of putting that policy into practice. The buildings alone of thirty new high schools would entail the altogether prohibitive expenditure of more than twenty lakhs of rupees.

10. The provision of so large a number of new Government high schools, is therefore, out of the question; and recourse must be made to other means. In the first place, in most districts there are anglo-vernacular middle schools maintained by local bodies; and in all districts there are vernacular middle schools under similar management, with or without English as an optional subject. It should, therefore, be possible, within the space of five years, to provide in all districts a certain number of the high schools which are required by means of a gradual and systematic process of extending the activities of schools already in existence. Thus, high classes could be added to suitably located anglo-vernacular middle schools; and in the case of

such schools situated in the districts numbered 16—28 of Appendix B., of this circular, applications for grants-in-aid to high schools maintained by local bodies will be favourably entertained (funds permitting) as a special case and solely for the purpose of carrying out this programme. Again, as a preliminary measure, a vernacular school, with optional English classes, could be converted into an Anglo-vernacular middle school with a view to the subsequent addition of high classes in accordance with the terms laid down in paragraph 11 of C. M. No. 6374-G., dated 18th April 1922. Another means of carrying out this programme will be the co-operation of private enterprise.

11. You are therefore requested, bearing these principles in mind, to select the localities in which the provision of high schools up to the limit and in the manner indicated above would effect the most favourable distribution, and to suggest, after considering their buildings and general efficiency, which schools should be marked for promotion to the high standard during the next five years; that is, from 1924-25 to 1929-30. This survey should include an estimate of the cost which would be involved by the addition of necessary classrooms and teachers in each case. It will also be necessary to keep in view the fact that the more economical the proposals the better chance they will have of being carried out. It is expected also that a certain proportion of the capital cost of extensions to the buildings will be met by private subscriptions. Having made the survey, it will be necessary for you to distribute your proposals in the form of a programme over five years. As it is proposed to make a definite allotment annually for this purpose, the distribution over the period should be on the basis of an approximately equal expenditure in each of the five years. It would be convenient if you could forward your proposals as soon as possible as it will be necessary, on their receipt, to construct a programme on a provincial basis so as to keep within the budget provision allotted for this purpose.

12. It is possible also that, even in the more favoured districts numbered 1—15 of Appendix B, of this circular, there are tahsils which are inadequately supplied with secondary schools. It has already been suggested that the Government High School in such a district might be removed to that tahsil in which the need of such a school is urgent. In the same way, it might be feasible thus to transfer a secondary school maintained by a district board. For example, the Ferozepore District Board has recently decided to transfer its high school at Moga (where there are, in addition to the District Board school, three high schools maintained by private bodies) to another locality in the district where such a school is far more urgently required.

13. In addition to the inequality in the distribution of secondary schools between the several areas of the province, there is the further inequality in the distribution of grants-in-aid between the several communities, as is shown by the following statistics which are based on the figures of 1921-22:—

	<i>Hindus.</i>	<i>Muham- mudans.</i>	<i>Sikhs.</i>	<i>Christians.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Ambala	55,245	15,800	8,698	20,887	1,00,580
Jullundar	52,396	13,741	30,943	27,237	1,23,367
Lahore	97,418	61,954	88,169	1,17,324	3,64,780
Rawalpindi	46,220	37,015	60,039	40,258	1,83,527
Multan	35,387	30,419	17,078	250	83,029
Total	2,86,561	1,59,929	2,04,942	2,05,901	8,56,833

[The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

14. In this connection, it will be necessary to make a clearer distinction between recognition and admission to the grant-in-aid list than has been done in the past. The granting of recognition should depend mainly upon the academic status of the school. Thus, in forwarding applications for recognition, you are requested to base your recommendations very largely on your opinion as to whether or not the school in question is fitted to undertake the work for which application is made. (An important exception to this general rule would be the case of a school whose main objective is that of unwholesome competition.) In submitting an application from a recognised school for admission to the grant-in-aid list, however, the main objectives in making your recommendations should be the discouragement of unhealthy competition and the promotion of a fairer distribution between the several communities and the several areas of the province. Special attention should be paid to the needs of the very backward communities; and the Minister desires me, in this connection, to express his keen appreciation of the laudable and self-sacrificing endeavours of the Meo community to establish a high school at Nuh in the Gurgaon District.

15. Special steps may have to be taken in regard to certain towns in which the large number of recognised schools is out of all proportion to the population of that town and of its vicinity. It is obviously unfair, in such cases, that one or more schools should be favoured by admission to the grant-in-aid list, while other schools are not only excluded from that list but also, in the terms of the previous paragraph, will have to await assistance until the needs of more backward areas and communities have been met. Moreover, with the present restrictions in budget allotments, it will probably be found necessary to ration secondary education in the matter of grants-in-aid as has been done in the case of vernacular education. In the event of this action being found necessary, you will be informed of the amount of money which will be available for distribution in grant-in-aid to secondary anglo-vernacular schools in your division, and which should not be exceeded in making your recommendations for these grants at the close of the touring season. It has therefore been decided to include in the revised addition of the Code (which will shortly be published) the following regulations which are intended to allocate the measure of Government assistance to approved schools within a given area in proportion to the educational needs of that area :—

"Government reserves to itself the right to allocate (as in the case of grants for vernacular education) to divisions, districts or other areas the maximum amount of money available in a given year for distribution as grants among secondary anglo-vernacular schools. This allocation having been made, the distribution or redistribution of grants amongst schools receiving grant-in-aid in the division, district or other area will take into account the claims of backward areas and communities and the proportion of the several communities, relatively to the total population."

"Government further reserves to itself the right to determine the number of schools in an area which shall receive grant-in-aid in order to meet the needs of anglo-vernacular education within that area, and to assess and apportion grant-in-aid among the schools in the area accordingly."

You are therefore requested to forward to this Department, along with your grant-in-aid statements, next year and in subsequent years, such proposals as you may consider necessary in this connection.

16. What is perhaps the most difficult aspect of this problem is now reached in this discussion, the financial consideration. And it is therefore pertinent, at the outset, to refer to the inequality of distribution of public

money between the several branches of educational activity. Out of (roughly) Rs. 66 lakhs allotted to school education Rs. 24 lakhs or nearly three-eighths are devoted to secondary education.

17. It is therefore neither possible nor equitable, in view of the more pressing needs of vernacular education to distribute large additional sums towards the expansion and improvement of secondary education. During the past few years, it has been customary to include in the Budget each year an additional sum of rupees one lakh to meet the enhanced grants to schools on the grant-in-aid list in accordance with the regulations of the Code and to grants-in-aid incurred by the admission of new schools to that list. But the assessment of grants in 1922-23 showed that as much as Rs. 1,25,000 were required during the current year; and this, in spite of the fact that very few schools have been added to the grant-in-aid list. In view of the serious financial stringency and, still more, in view of the more pressing needs for the expansion and improvement of the vernacular system, the Punjab Government is unable to hold out any prospect of including any large additional sum during the next five years. On the other hand, it will be necessary to make financial provision for the carrying out of the programme defined in previous paragraphs of this circular.

18. The only solution of this vexed problem, therefore, will be a better and a more equitable distribution of the existing allotment. In consequence, a revision of the Code is indicated. I am therefore instructed now to explain the directions in which such revision has been decided.

(a) *Grade of fees.*—A change in the regulations determining the grades of fees to be charged in secondary schools was made in January, 1921. Prior to that date, pupils whose parents were in receipt of a monthly income of Rs. 150 or more were required to pay the fees of grade A, and those whose monthly income was less than Rs. 150 the fees of grade B, and the effect of the change of regulation was to raise the rate of salary dividing the two grades from Rs. 150 to Rs. 300. With the recent fall in the cost of living it is believed that the need for this concession is no longer urgent; and it has therefore been decided that the rate of salary dividing the two grades shall be Rs. 2,000 per annum. The children of parents in receipt of an annual income of Rs. 2,000 or more will, therefore, as from January 1st next pay the fees of grade A, and those whose income is less than that sum the fees of grade B.

Boarding house fees in Government schools will be similarly graded. Pupils paying tuition fees of grade A will pay one rupee per month as boarding house fee, and those paying tuition fees of grade B eight annas per month.

(b) *Contingencies, menials, etc.*—It has been explained in paragraph 2 that a certain degree of standardisation has been laid down in connection with the organisation and expenditure of Government high schools. The principles underlying this revision should be borne in mind and strictly applied in scrutinising the expenditure of aided schools for the purpose of assessment of grant.

(c) *Staff.*—Staff grants are paid at the rate of one-third of the salary of approved teachers. In estimating the value of the services of teachers for purposes of grant-in-aid, Inspectors will be careful to see that salaries and increments are not in excess of the ordinary market rate, but they will be at liberty, as in the past, to make reasonable allowance for teachers who work in a philanthropic spirit. There are, however, cases in which, in view of the progress which has been made of late years, a modification of past practice

[The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

is called for. Grants have heretofore been admissible on account of untrained graduates for three years from the date of joining the staff of a recognised school. This practice has led to abuses, and moreover, it is probable that, in the near future, the need for the recognition of the untrained graduate will be greatly reduced. It has, therefore, been decided that for the future grants will only be admissible on account of such teachers for a period of two years from the date of first joining the staff of a recognised school after graduation.

Similarly, a modification has been made in the regulation regarding grants for 'title-holders' of the University on account of teaching oriental languages. A title-holder will not in future be eligible for a certificate and therefore for staff grant until after a teaching probation of two years instead of three months as formerly.

A further revision has reference to the staff grant admissible on account of a principal and a headmaster where both are employed in the same school. The time has now arrived when the headmaster is fully competent to carry out his duties without the paid assistance of a manager or principal. Staff grant will, therefore, in future be paid on one and not two such controlling officers. In assessing grant, the two salaries will be combined, and an amount allowed equivalent to that ordinarily obtaining for the services of a head teacher in schools which employ only one controlling officer.

(d) *Rent*.—The practice in the past in assessing grant on account of school buildings has been to allow one item for rent and another for repairs. In future, these two items will be combined into one, and when the inspector has determined the amount to be allowed as rent, the sum thus allowed will include repairs. The assessment of rent will be determined in future on the basis of the educational value of the building and the maximum amount to be allowed will be, as in the past, Rs. 200 per mensem. It will be permissible also for inspectors to allow rent for that part of a building which is educationally efficient and to disallow it for rooms which are unsatisfactory. When rent is assessed on this basis, the maximum to be allowed for each approved room will not exceed Rs. 8 per mensem for each approved and necessary room.

(e) *Grading of Schools*.—The existing Code rules require an Inspector to grade a school for purposes of assessing grants either as 'satisfactory' or as fairly satisfactory, schools of the lower grade receiving 75 per cent. of the full rates of grant laid down in the Code. This method of classification does not admit of sufficient elasticity; it does not reward the really excellent school nor does it assist the inspector in his desire to stimulate increased effort in the less efficient schools. The Code rule has therefore been modified and will now read:—

"For the purpose of awarding grant, a school shall be classified as either (a) excellent, or (b) satisfactory, or (c) fairly satisfactory; and in classifying a school the inspector shall take into consideration the discipline and tone as well as the instruction and general efficiency of that school. The full rate of grant shall only be awarded when the school in all its departments is classified as excellent; a school or department classified as fairly satisfactory shall be awarded 75 per cent. of the full rate; and a school or department classified as satisfactory between 75 and 90 per cent. of the full rates. A rate below 75 per cent. shall only be awarded when the retention of the school on the grants-in-aid list is in question."

The revised regulations, as indicated in (b), (c), (d) and (e) of this paragraph will take effect at once; and inspecting officers are requested to make assessments of grant accordingly during the forthcoming cold weather.

12. The Minister hopes that, by the means discussed in this circular provision will be made for a more equitable and a more economical expansion of secondary education throughout the province. The matter is one of vital importance. With an ill-devised secondary system, the University must inevitably suffer; and if the University suffers not only will higher education fail to flourish, but the efficiency of secondary teaching must inevitably also suffer. The Minister has therefore striven to cause as little dislocation of existing arrangements as possible, and has tried rather to adapt the existing system to new conditions and to increased requirements. He therefore reckons on the co-operation of all concerned in the work that is before the province.

[Honourable Khan Bahadar Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

Appendix A.

Average annual grant to a secondary school for boys.

Province	1916-17	1921-22
	Rs.	Rs.
Madras	1,805	2,177
Bombay	2,324	3,594
Bengal	591	756
United Provinces	3,616	6,698
Punjab	3,270	4,407
Bihar and Orissa	886	1,195
Burma	778	1,367
Central Provinces and Berar	1,751	2,173
Assam	697	957
North-West Frontier Province	3,219	3,664
Minor Administrations	3,493	3,922
India	1,081	1,761

Appendix B.

District	Population.	No. of High Schools.	Average population per High School.	REMARKS.
1. Rawalpindi	559,224	13	43,786	
2. Ambala	631,474	12	52,789	
3. Gajrawala	625,581	11	57,871	
4. Jullundur	822,344	12	68,528	
5. Lahore	1,161,336	16	72,583	
6. Shahpur	712,918	10	71,291	
7. Sialkot	987,323	12	73,943	
8. Jhelum	477,068	6	79,511	
9. Ludhiana	867,322	7	81,046	
10. Hoshiarpur	927,419	11	84,311	
11. Ferozepore	1,098,348	12	91,529	
12. Gujrat	824,040	6	91,580	
13. Amritsar	928,974	10	92,897	
14. Gurdaspur	652,192	9	94,888	
15. Lyallpur	978,466	9	108,829	
16. Jhang	870,559	5	114,112	
17. Dera Ghazi Khan	469,042	4	117,260	
18. Karnal	626,723	7	118,389	
19. Abohar	512,247	4	128,062	
20. Rohtak	772,372	6	128,728	
21. Multan	890,264	6	148,377	
22. Sheikhupura	523,156	3	174,378	
23. Mianwali	358,205	2	179,102	
24. Muzaffargarh	568,476	3	189,492	
25. Hissar	616,810	4	204,202	
26. Gurgaon	622,063	3	207,354	
27. Montgomery	712,780	3	237,526	
28. Kangra	766,066	3	255,355	
29. Simla		2		

[Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

Appendix C.

District.	Tahsil.	Population.	No. of High Schools.	No. of A.V. Middle Schools.	No. of Vernacular Middle Schools.		No. of Lower Middle Schools.	No. of Primary Schools.
					With English.	Without English.		
Hissar	Hissar ...	136,272	2	...	1	3	7	46
	Hansi ...	177,043	...	1	1	2	7	44
	Bhiwani ...	123,015	1	...	1	3	4	32
	Fatehabad ...	195,301	...	...	1	...	6	24
	Sirsa ...	131,679	1	...	1	3	5	43
Rohtak	Rohtak ...	200,939	5	...	1	...	4	54
	Sonepat ...	182,176	1	1	1	...	4	63
	Jhajjar ...	213,863	1	2	3	1	7	66
	Gohana ...	175,291	...	1	1	1	2	36
Gurgaon	Gurgaon ...	111,330	1	...	1	...	3	39
	Firozpur-Jhirka ...	93,235	...	...	2	...	2	12
	Nuh ...	112,119	1	...	...	2	...	27
	Palwal ...	131,760	1	...	...	2	1	34
	Bewari ...	147,250	1	...	...	1	2	53
	Bahadurgarh ...	80,603	...	...	2	...	2	23
Karnal	Karnal ...	233,607	1	...	...	2	6	44
	Panipat ...	173,796	2	1	...	1	3	39
	Kaithal ...	275,722	3	1	...	...	4	35
	Thanesar ...	146,301	1	...	3	1	4	26
Ambala	Ambala ...	137,926	7	1	...	1	2	34
	Kharar ...	142,884	2	3	...	3	2	45
	Jagadhri ...	123,701	1	...	...	2	1	23
	Narsingh ...	107,793	1	2	1	1	1	30
	Repar ...	116,155	1	1	1	...	2	29
Simla	Simla ...	35,003	2	1	...	...	4	9
	Kot Khai ...	10,334	...	...	1	...	1	3

District.	Tehsil.	Population.	No. of High Schools.	No. of A.V. Middle Schools.	No. of VER- NACULAR MID- DLR SCHOOLS.		No. of Lower Middle Schools.	No. of Primary Schools.
					With En- glish.	Without English.		
Kangra	Kangra	118,874	3	...	1	...	1	29
	Dehra	124,638	...	...	1	1	5	38
	Nurpur	95,470	1	1	...	1	2	23
	Palampur	137,052	2	1	1	1	1	44
	Hamirpur	158,504	...	...	2	1	5	46
	Kulu	122,027	...	...	1	1	3	32
Hoshiarpur...	Hoshiarpur	247,196	5	2	2	1	6	71
	Dasuya	215,600	3	2	...	3	3	52
	Garbhshankar	282,772	2	3	...	2	9	59
	Una	281,851	2	2	...	2	5	78
Jullundur	Jullundur	289,396	3	3	...	3	5	53
	Nawanshahr	177,692	2	...	2	1	1	49
	Phillaur	164,806	2	...	2	2	4	36
	Nakodar	190,650	...	3	1	4	3	40
Ludhiana	Ludhiana	235,953	6	1	1	5	5	53
	Jagraon	164,553	1	...	1	1	3	45
	Samrala	117,116	1	2	1	1	3	30
	Ferozepore	221,737	6	2	1	3	3	59
Ferozepore	Zira	166,873	2	...	...	3	5	39
	Moga	209,153	4	4	2	5	1	72
	Muktesar	209,645	2	...	1	1	1	39
	Fazilka	290,935	1	2	...	1	3	52
Lahore	Lahore	515,813	13	1	2	1	11	46
	Channian	295,509	1	...	1	3	5	56
	Kasur	320,214	2	...	2	1	7	57
Amritsar	Amritsar	450,760	3	6	4	2	4	83
	Tarn Taran	294,455	2	5	3	2	4	58
	Ajvala	184,149	...	1	1	4	5	48

[Honourable Khwā Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

District.	Tahsil.	Population.	No. of High Schools.	No. of A.V. Middle Schools.	No. of Vernacular Middle Schools.		No. of Lower Middle Schools.	No. of Primary Schools.
					With English.	Without English.		
Gurdaspur	Gurdaspur	284,148	1	3	...	3	1	93
	Batala	275,696	9	1	2	1	2	81
	Pathankot	129,502	...	1	...	1	1	38
	Shakargarh	212,849	...	3	3	3	3	69
Sialkot	Sialkot	229,962	7	2	...	2	2	53
	Pasrur	195,111	1	3	...	...	3	60
	Narowal	212,627	2	2	...	4	4	59
	Daska	203,767	2	3	1	1	2	69
Gujranwala	Gujranwala	394,667	7	...	1	1	2	76
	Wazirabad	146,248	3	...	...	4	4	36
	Hafizabad	132,766	1	1	1	...	1	31
Sheikhupura	Sheikhupura	266,774	3	5	7	1	12	96
	Nachans Sahib	155,781	...	...	2	...	12	50
	Shahdara	132,343	...	...	1	3	11	66
Gujrat	Gujrat	295,551	7	3	2	1	6	54
	Kharian	250,201	1	1	1	1	6	46
	Phalla	278,294	1	...	3	...	4	56
Shahpur	Shahpur	137,899	5	2	...	1	5	42
	Khushab	166,718	1	3	2	2	3	27
	Bhalwal	220,951	2	2	...	3	2	45
	Sargodha	192,950	3	1	...	2	3	61
Jhelum	Jhelum	173,122	1	4	4	1	14	50
	Pind Dadan Khan	143,338	2	...	4	...	7	49
	Chakwal	160,608	3	4	2	1	3	62
Rawalpindi	Rawalpindi	262,656	7	1	1	2	5	41
	Gujar Khan	143,337	4	2	1	1	5	43
	Murre	60,969	...	1	...	2	2	23
	Kabuta	96,762	2	2	1	1	3	34

District.	Tahsil.	Population.	No. of High Schools.	No. of A. V. Middle Schools.	No. of Vernacular Middle Schools.		No. of Lower Middle Schools.	No. of Primary Schools.
					With English.	Without English.		
Attock	Attock	173,472	2	...	2	1	1	33
	Pindigheb	120,087	1	3	1	...	6	35
	Talagang	108,501	1	...	...	2	6	32
	Fatehjang	110,177	...	...	3	1	5	33
Mianwali	Mianwali	147,553	2	...	...	4	9	69
	Bhakkar	147,131	...	1	...	2	3	54
	Ira Kbel	68,531	...	1	1	1	...	31
Montgomery	Montgomery	232,878	2	...	...	1	16	44
	Pakpattan	141,417	1	...	...	2	6	19
	Dipalpur	200,978	...	1	...	2	11	23
	Okara	143,716	...	2	...	3	3	24
Lyallpur	Lyallpur	244,730	3	5	1	4	8	100
	Samundri	224,786	...	1	1	3	15	77
	Jaranwala	177,239	1	2	1	...	11	93
	Toba Tek Singh	233,523	2	3	...	5	12	105
Jhang	Jhang	233,570	3	1	1	2	19	47
	Chiniot	211,128	2	2	...	3	10	30
	Shorkot	123,801	...	1	...	3	12	31
	Multan	243,335	4	1	...	3	1	42
Multan	Shujabad	132,091	1	1	...	3	1	37
	Lodhran	125,353	1	...	...	1	4	24
	Khanewal	127,131	...	1	...	1	1	33
	Mailsi	113,927	...	...	...	1	...	18
	Kabirwala	143,377	...	...	...	3	3	51
	Muzaffargarh	178,578	1	...	1	1	7	43
Muzaffargarh	Alipur	146,711	...	1	...	3	2	21
	Leiah	134,711	2	1	1	1	5	35
	Kot Adn	108,970	...	1	...	1	5	26
	Dera Ghazi Khan	220,547	3	...	...	9	7	53
Dera Ghazi Khan	Sangarh	84,759	...	...	1	1	9	33
	Rajapur	104,038	...	1	...	2	3	23
	Jampur	65,493	1	...	...	2	3	22

SHARE OF SIKHS IN SUBORDINATE AND PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.

214. Sardar Tara Singh : Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of Inspectors, District Inspectors and Assistant District Inspectors of Schools in the Punjab on 31st December, 1923, giving separately the strength of Hindus, Sikhs and Muhammadans ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Government has allotted one-fourth share to Sikhs both in the Subordinate and Provincial Educational Services ;
- (c) If so, is their present strength equal to their allotted share ? If not, what steps has the Government taken to achieve this object ?
- (d) If the answer to the latter part of (c) be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to take some immediate action to complete their quota ?

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

(a) The total number of Inspectors, District Inspectors and Assistant District Inspectors of Schools on 31st December, 1923, is stated below with the number separately for each community :—

Names of Communities.	Inspectors of Schools in the I. E. S.	District Inspectors in P. E. S.	District Inspectors in S. E. S.	Assistant District Inspectors in the S. E. S.
Europeans ..	2	...	...	...
Indian Christians...	...	1	...	1
Hindus ...	1	8	2	27
Muhammadans ...	1	10	4	40
Sikhs ...	1	3	3	15

- (b) No.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Government is doing its best to encourage all communities.

ASSISTANT DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

215. Sardar Tara Singh : Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the number and names of persons according to each community, viz., Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs, who have been appointed as Assistant District Inspectors of Schools either directly or by promotion from 1st October, 1922, to 31st December, 1923 ;
- (b) the grade and pay of each of them at the time of appointment and on 31st December, 1923 ;
- (c) who and how many of them have been confirmed and on what dates ;

- (d) whether it is a fact that some of those who were appointed later have been given or promoted to higher grade and higher pay and earlier confirmation than those who were appointed earlier? If so, what are the grounds for such action?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a-c) The requisite information is embodied in the statement laid on the table.

- (d) The answer is in the negative.

[Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

Statement showing the appointments of Assistant District Inspectors of Schools from 1st October, 1922, to 31st December, 1923, showing their grades and pay at the time of appointment as Assistant District Inspectors of Schools and on 31st December, 1923.

No.	Names of officers.	Grade at the time of appointment as Assistant District Inspectors of Schools.	Pay at the time of appointment as Assistant District Inspectors of Schools.	Grade held on 31st December 1923.	Pay on 31st December 1923.	Remarks.
HINDU.						
1	Lala Madho Das	210-10-250	210 per mensem	200-10-250	210 per mensem	Already permanent. Transferred from the teaching to the inspecting line. Still officiating.
2	Pandit Mohraj Narain	110-5-135	135 "	110-5-135	135 "	
3	Chandhri Jhandu Lal	110-5-135	110 "	110-5-135	110 "	
4	Lala Dharm Chand	110-5-135 (offg.)	110 "	110-5-135 (offg.)	110 "	
MUHAMMADAN.						
1	M. Muhammed Ayub Khan	140-10-190	160 per mensem	140-10-190	170 per mensem	Already permanent. Transferred from teaching to inspecting line.
2	M. Muhammed Abdullah	110-5-135	120 "	110-5-135	120 "	Transferred from teaching to inspecting line (on probation).
3	M. Rashid Ahmad	140-5-185	120 "	110-5-135	120 "	
4	Syed Khurshid Hasan	110-5-135	110 "	110-5-135	110 "	

6.	M. Chaban Khan.	110-5-135	110	110-5-135	110	Transferred on promotion from teaching to inspecting line (on probation). Self officiating.
7.	Sheikh Niaz Ahmed	110-5-135 (offg.)	110	110-5-135 (offg.)	110	Since reverted to his substantive post in the teaching line.
8.	Mulla Akbar Noor	110-5-135 (offg.)	110	110-5-135 (offg.)	110	Since reverted to his substantive post in the teaching line.
Srinagar						
1.	Bhat Bader Singh	140-10-165	130 per month	140-10-140	130 per month	Transferred from teaching to inspecting line (on probation).
2.	Bhat Harnam Singh	110-5-135	135	110-5-135	135	Transferred on promotion from teaching to inspecting line. Commenced on 1st February 1933.
3.	Bhat Chandra Singh	80-4-100	84	80-4-100	83	Already permanent. Transferred from teaching to inspecting line.
4.	Bhat Pal Singh	110-5-135 (offg.)	110	110-5-135 (offg.)	110	Self officiating.
5.	Bhat Lala Singh	110-5-135 (offg.)	110	110-5-135 (offg.)	110	Since reverted to his substantive post in the teaching line.

RASH MOTOR DRIVING AND THE DEATH OF PRITAM SINGH.

216. **Sardar Tara Singh :** Is it a fact that a boy named Pritam Singh was run over by a car driven by Mr. Green of Cox and Co., Srinagar Branch, near Gujar Khan Police Station, on or about 24th January, 1924? If so, is the case being investigated and what stage has it reached? Has Mr. Green been arrested?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The facts of the case are given in the letter of the Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi, No. 1347-G., dated 13th February, 1924, of which a copy is appended to this reply. Mr. Green was not driving the car at the time of the accident and the Governor in Council is satisfied that neither Mr. Green nor the driver was to blame.

No. 1347-G., dated the 13th February, 1924.

From—The Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi,

To—The Home Secretary to Government, Punjab.

In compliance with your endorsement No. 3503-Police, dated 2nd February, 1924, I have the honour to forward copies of Mr. Green's statements dated 25th January, 1924, the report, dated 26th January, 1924, by Mr. Powis, Deputy Superintendent of Police, and of my order, dated 26th January, 1924.

2. The motor car of Mr. Green was going slowly through Gujar Khan on 24th January, 1924, about 5 p.m. when a Sikh boy ran out from behind a steam roller into the car. At the time of the accident the car appears to have been travelling at not over 10 miles an hour.

3. Mr. Green at once took the boy in his car to the Gujar Khan hospital and then went on to the Thana where the Sikhs, some of whom were *Akalis*, gave him much trouble, till Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan, M.L.C., stood surety for him and gave him tea. Mr. Green was not able to get away from Gujar Khan till 9 p.m.

4. It was not Mr. Green but his driver, Sheo Ram, who was actually driving. Sheo Ram was blameless in the matter and the police sent the case up for cancellation.

5. At my request Resaldar Pensioner Sardar Washdeo Singh, Honorary Magistrate, Gujar Khan, went from Rawalpindi to Gujar Khan on 26th January and on his return told me that the father of the boy said he did not wish to prosecute as it was the boy's fault.

6. I can only imagine that the telegram now under reference is the work of the *Akalis* of Gujar Khan, but I received a judicial complaint on 7th February, 1924, which I sent to Resaldar Pensioner Sardar Washdeo Singh for enquiry and report under Section 202, Criminal Procedure Code.

Mr. N. L. GREEN, Manager, Lloyds Bank, Srinagar—44, on solemn affirmation.

YESTERDAY, 24th January, 1924, about 5 p.m., I reported to the Police-Thana Gujar Khan that an Indian Sikh boy had run into my motor car from behind a steam roller, and that I had taken him to Gujar Khan hospital.

In addition to that report I wish to add that my car was at the time of

I believe I said 15 at the thana, but as the car was being checked at the time it was probably going at only 10 miles per hour or less at the actual moment of collision.

Read over and admitted correct.

(Sd.) J. A. FERGUSON,

Deputy Commissioner.

Dated 25th January, 1924.

(Sd.) N. L. GREEN.

The Sikhs some of whom had black pagris at the thana gave me so much trouble that the police official at the thana actually apologised to me for the trouble caused to me. I was kept there for 5 hours, security was demanded and personal bail of Rs. 500 by the police official, which ultimately Khan Sahib Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan, Honorary Magistrate and Member Legislative Council, kindly furnished.

I wrote exhibit A to the Tahsildar, I think about 8 P.M. I got his reply before 9 P.M. I was given no chance of dinner.

I was going from Srinagar to Jhelum on duty. I shall be in Jhelum for four or five days, and then Lahore or Srinagar. I consider the Sikh boy wholly to blame for the accident.

Read over correct.

(Sd.) J. A. FERGUSON,

District Magistrate and Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi.

The 25th January, 1924.

(Sd.) N. L. GREEN.

Head Constable Allah Ditta of Gujar Khan Police Station has to-day brought the papers in connection with the case. The two Sikh *Akalis* witnesses, Saranukh Singh and Mobarik Singh, state that Mr. Green was driving his car, and that the boy, Pritam Singh, aged about 8 years, was recklessly run over by the accused. On the other hand, Nadar and Kamar Din, independent witnesses, who were admittedly present on the spot, state that Mr. Green was driving to the left, but the boys, who were three or four in number, attempted to cross the road and run to the other side, and that Mr. Green then turned to the right side in order to save the deceased, but the latter persisted in his attempt, and was run over. If Mr. Green had fully turned to the right, the other two or three boys would have been killed. He was, in fact, between "*Scylla and Charybdis*" and did his duty admirably. He is not to blame at all.

We are sending the cases up for cancellation as the affair is a pure accident.

Mr. Green may be discharged from his bond and the case cancelled.

The *Akalis* put him to inconvenience, but the police showed their regret to him for the same.

The *Akalis* are now blaming the police for being partial.

The local police have so far not been able to ascertain definitely whether Mr. Green or his driver was driving the car at the time of the accident.

(Sd.) H. POWIS,

Deputy Superintendent of Police.

Dated 26th January, 1924.

[Honourable Sir John Maynard.]

ORDER.

I cancel the case. Risaldar Pensioner Sardar Washdeo Singh, Honorary Magistrate, has seen the father of the boy who is ready to drop the case "If Mr. Green does not bring a case against him." The father of the boy does not wish compensation.

J. A. FERGUSON,

The 26th January, 1924.

District Magistrate, Rawalpindi.

LOCAL RATE OF PARGANA BHAROLI.

217. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram: (a) Is it a fact that the local rate of Pargana Bharoli, Tahsil Simla, has been recently increased to one anna per rupee per annum on the land revenue?

(b) Has Government received any representation from the residents of the said pargana to the effect that they are unable to pay the local rate?

(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to abolish and cancel the said local rate?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No. The income of this Board is not even yet sufficient to meet its expenditure.

GRANT-IN-AID TO HINDU A.-S. MIDDLE SCHOOL, SADHAURA.

218. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram: (a) Is it a fact that the Hindu A.-S. Middle School, Sadhaura, District Ambala, has not been awarded grant-in-aid?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for the delay in giving the grant-in-aid and take early steps to give the aid?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The Hindu A.-S. Middle School, Sadhaura, District Ambala, has been awarded a grant-in-aid for the year 1923-24.

EXPOSURE OF BEEF IN THANESAR.

219. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram: Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that on the last *Bakr Id* day some Muhammadans of Thanesar, District Karnal, brought beef in the town which was exposed to public gaze;

(b) whether this action of the Muhammadans was in contravention of the orders of the Government, prohibiting cow-killing and bringing exposed beef in the sacred town of the Hindus;

(c) if so, what action the Government has taken or proposes to take against the offenders?

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.

RESOLUTIONS.

RESOLUTION RE. THE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE CLAIMS OF MONEY-LENDERS AGAINST CULTIVATORS—(continued).

Mr. President : The Council will now continue the discussion of Sayad Muhammad Husain's resolution.

Pandit Nanak Chand (Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan), Rural) : Sir, I had not the benefit of hearing Sayad Muhammad Husain as regards his motion but I think that the resolution which he seeks this Council to pass is really unnecessary. The resolution says:—

“This Council recommends to the Government that a Committee of three be appointed to tour the villages in the South-Western Punjab to examine the claims of money-lenders against cultivators when the parties agree to this course and to arrive at sums which they are actually able to pay within a reasonable time, such Committee to consist of (a) a judge with insolvency powers, (b) a representative of cultivators and (c) a representative of bankers.”

Sir, the resolution, it seems to me, is based upon the ignorance of the Law of Arbitration. There is the Law of Arbitration which is appended to the Civil Procedure Code, 2nd schedule, which distinctly lays down that if there is any dispute regarding any matter it can be referred to arbitrators. Now the matter may be pending before a court, even in that case it can be referred to an arbitrator or even if it is not pending before a court the parties can come to an agreement and then apply to the court to make it a rule of the court. It seems to me that on this point there is ample provision in the law and there is absolutely no necessity why another remedy of similar nature and of doubtful utility should be made available in this case.

Then as regards insolvency, there is the Law of Insolvency about which there are specific rules of law and if anybody wants to apply to become insolvent there is the remedy open to him. On the other hand, it seems to me that this resolution is absolutely vague and indefinite and impracticable. It is vague and indefinite and impracticable in this way. The resolution says that Government is to appoint a judge with insolvency powers, a representative of cultivators and a representative of bankers. How are these cultivators and bankers to choose their representatives? Are they to assemble in a meeting somewhere and decide that such and such a person is their representative, or is there any other method by which these people are to elect or choose the representatives? The resolution says nothing about the matter at all. Then as regards the judge with insolvency powers, is that judge to be nominated by Government or is he to be nominated by the Council? The resolution on this point is also silent. Now the other thing is, is the Government to select a representative of cultivators and a representative of bankers? The resolution is absolutely silent, on that point also. If the representatives of cultivators and bankers are to be selected by Government, they would be no representatives at all. The representatives if they are to represent cultivators and bankers must be elected in a meeting held for that purpose by cultivators and bankers, that is what we understand by representation. There is no mention here in this resolution whether these representatives are to be elected or to be nominated by Government. Then again the resolution says: “to tour the villages in the South-Western Punjab.” Has this committee of enquiry to make a sort of roving tour in those districts, not in any other districts? And why are those special districts to be favoured, if it is a favour at all, with a committee of this kind? Why make a law for a particular part

[Pandit Nanak Chand.]

of the Province and not for the other part? My submission is that on these grounds it seems to me that the resolution is absolutely vague and indefinite and it cannot be carried into practice.

Then the honourable mover thinks that if this resolution is carried, it will lead to justice. It will not lead to justice as my learned friend seems to think because under the Code of Civil Procedure if an arbitrator takes bribes or misconducts himself, it is open to the court to set aside the decision of the arbitrator, but under this resolution there seems to be no remedy open to the man who is adversely affected and who can prove to the satisfaction of the judges that the decision arrived at has been arrived at on account of corrupt practices. On that ground also, I would respectfully submit to the Council that this would really promote injustice. If the idea is to save time, my submission is that it would not do so. It is laid down in the resolution that these three people are to sit down and begin to take evidence in order to make an enquiry. What is to be the procedure to be adopted by these people? On this ground and various other grounds which would suggest themselves to other members, my submission is that this resolution will not achieve the object which my friend has in view. On the other hand, it would lead to corruption, it would lead to undue influence, it would lead to injustice which my learned friend as much desires to do away with as I myself. On these grounds, I would oppose this resolution.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari (Non-official, Nominated) : Sir, I beg to say that the resolution moved by the honourable member is most injudicious and unreasonable. I should, however, thank him that he has been kind enough to confine the application of this resolution only to one portion of the Province. To my mind it appears that it is nothing but the thin end of the wedge. If this resolution is adopted, then another resolution is to be moved to make it applicable to the whole Province. This is only a test resolution. What I beg to say is that if such resolutions are to be moved, why not once for all move a resolution that transactions between the money-lenders and the agriculturists are void as opposed to public policy or avoidable on the will of the agriculturists. What I want to say is that perhaps the honourable member has not taken into consideration another fact. If an insolvency judge with his lieutenants is to go from village to village what will be the result? The result will be that the money-lenders will not have to come to courts and thereby our income is going to be reduced to a great extent and possibly there will be much opposition to the Bill which is going again to be moved by the Finance Member. Will that not be the result of it? But apart from that, I beg to ask why the honourable mover wants an insolvency judge, why not an ordinary judge? The object is that the committee should go from one village to another, with a certificate of discharge in their hands to be given to the people who need it in their own homes. That is the reason why an insolvency judge is preferred. Moreover, I want to know whether the honourable mover before moving this resolution has ascertained and I think it is the duty of each and every one of us before putting questions that we should satisfy ourselves as to its practicability and what is the data on which we proceed. To my mind it appears that a good deal of time is taken up in asking questions and getting answers, which could be obtained in our own homes by a little reference. We, therefore, should have some material before a resolution is moved in the House. I want to know how many money-lenders would be willing. Is the

honourable mover in a position to say how many bankers are willing to adopt this course? If he has not done that, I think he should have done it, before moving the resolution. Moreover, I beg to say that willingness on the part of the banker possibly might be due to many most objectionable things. Further I contend that this resolution is one which ought not to be adopted as it is absolutely injudicious as I have said above and shown it to be.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, I oppose the resolution. Unlike Mr. Nanak Chand, I had the advantage of hearing the honourable mover (Sayad Muhammad Husain) putting forward his argument in favour of the resolution, but like Mr. Nanak Chand I am quite unable to understand from his argument why this resolution has been brought forward at all, or what good the honourable mover expects to do by means of this committee which he asks the House to recommend the Government to appoint. I will not repeat the arguments used by Mr. Nanak Chand as to the difficulty of constituting such a committee. I will pass at once to the question of the time which the committee will take to conclude its labours if appointed. My friend Sayad Muhammad Husain wishes that it should visit all the villages in the South-Western Panjab. If it visits all the villages, I presume it will take at least three days for each village. I do not see how a committee of the kind suggested in the resolution can possibly come to a decision on the matters that may be referred to them in any village within less than three days. Assuming, then, that all the villages are visited and taking into account the time taken for travelling, the committee which the honourable mover desires will take at least 19,000 days or roughly 51 years to complete its labours. I do not know whether the honourable mover realises that fact. Further if such a committee is appointed, it will cost roughly about Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000 a month, because the honourable mover insists upon a judge with insolvency powers who will have to be paid over Rs. 2,000. Then we have to pay travelling allowance to the banker representative and to the rural representative. Altogether this will come to three or four thousand rupees. Assuming that the Committee concludes its labours within fifty-one years which is the least period that the Committee will take, the total cost of such a Committee would be in the neighbourhood of thirty lakhs. Sir, I am pointing out these facts in order to show that the honourable mover has not gone thoroughly into the resolution before presenting it to the House and asking us to vote in favour of it.

Sir, the honourable mover in his speech on the resolution gave a description of the state of affairs in that part of the province which he desires the Committee should tour. That description is not altogether inaccurate. There is a good deal of excessive indebtedness, not only in the South-Western Panjab but in other parts of the province also and this must cause concern in the mind of any one who contemplates it. If any remedy can be found to remove that excessive indebtedness, I am sure that every member of this House will be in favour of it. But my contention is that the honourable mover has not shown us how the Committee which he proposes to appoint is going to be the means of reducing excessive indebtedness.

I suggest to him that it is not by means of these Committees that any great good will result. As Settlement Officer and as Deputy Commissioner it has been my privilege very often to mediate between debtors and money-lenders, and I have after a good deal of discussion enabled them to come to some arrangement with each other. I think that probably was at the back

[Mr. C. M. King.]

of the honourable mover's mind, namely, that the Committee which he desires should be appointed should act in a similar way, get the creditor and the debtor together and act as a sort of go-between and induce the creditor to reduce a certain portion of the excessive debt and induce the debtor to agree to pay within a reasonable time such amount of the debt as he could pay. If that assumption is correct, I can only say that a better way, as it seems to me, to attain this result is by increasing our efforts at co-operation. If we increase the number of Co-operative Society Inspectors and if we spread the net of co-operation over the province, we will be able to explain to debtors and creditors the way in which they can come to an agreement with each other and we can do this without bringing any pressure to bear upon either party and without using any undue influence. Instead of spending large sums of money on a Committee such as is suggested, I think—I am speaking for myself alone—the best remedy is to increase the number of Co-operative Inspectors and Co-operative Societies.

I think this suggestion was also made by Sardar Narain Singh and Sardar Tara Singh. That, Sir, is one method by which the situation can be eased.

Sir, there is also another point to be considered. Although we know that there is a great deal of agricultural indebtedness we are by no means clear as to the causes of such indebtedness. The first thing that we ought to do is to discover why indebtedness exists. Until we ascertain the causes of agricultural indebtedness it is impossible for us to apply a proper remedy. Such nostrums as are proposed in this resolution are actually harmful instead of being useful if they are applied when they ought not to be applied. In this connection I will point out that we have in this province a board of economic enquiry which has been lately founded, perhaps about three years ago, and which is now developing and doing very useful work in making such enquiries in various villages. In time it will extend its enquiries throughout the province, into the causes of agricultural indebtedness. It is only after we have considered the various results that will be arrived at by this board that we can come to any definite conclusion as to the proper remedy to apply.

These, then, Sir, are the reasons why I oppose the resolution, namely, first the resolution is vague, secondly it is expensive, thirdly it will lead to no useful result and lastly we have already another means by which we can attain the object which I believe to be the object which the honourable mover has got in view.

Malik Firoz Khan Noon [Shahpur East (Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, with regard to this resolution we have got to bear two facts in mind. The first is the object which the mover of the resolution desires to achieve and the second is the means by which he intends to achieve it. As far as the object of this resolution is concerned I am entirely in sympathy with him. There is not the least doubt that the agricultural population of this province is heavily in debt and that the rates of interest prevailing in this province are so high that the ordinary agriculturist is being crushed under its weight. The present law does not give the agriculturists any relief. And the village population is practically uneducated and is unable to realise the effects of the contract it may enter into with the money-lenders. They are entirely unable to read and write Urdu and least of all to read or write Hindi which is generally the language of the money-lenders. So it goes without saying that the majority of the agriculturists who enter into contract with the money-lenders do not understand what is being written in the account books. The law too does not

give them any relief in this respect. Thus for instance, if an ignorant man enters into a contract, that document is sufficient to seal his doom, no matter whether that document is forged or not.

(A voice : There is section 92 A.) I am coming to that. The law as it stands now is this. Under section 92 of the Evidence Act if the terms of a contract are reduced to writing, then no other evidence can be adduced to vary the terms of the contract. Thus if a contract between the *bania* and an agriculturist is written on a stamp paper and if that stamped paper is produced in a court of law then the whole onus of proof is thrown on the agriculturist to prove that he did not agree to the terms contained in the document. (Cries of no, no.)

Well, Sir, I have studied that point and I stick to it. That is where the law places an agriculturist. If the agriculturist says :—I have never agreed to these terms, the law says ; bring me some witness to show that you did not agree to it. Where is the poor agriculturist to go and get a witness ? There was present only the *doniya* when the agriculturist signed the bond. If the rate of interest is too high, all that the law says is that the debtor should bring witnesses to prove that he did not agree to that rate. The burden of proof is thrown on the poor agriculturist with the result that it is impossible for him to get out of the contract. Sir, the Government realised the difficulties and in order to cope with that danger they brought about the passing of an Act, called the Usurious Loans Act of 1918. In that Act, somehow or other some people succeeded in introducing a very vague term, that was the word 'excessive'.

Mr. President : I think we do not want a disquisition on the law. No doubt it is all relevant, but it is a little bit off the point.

Malik Firoz Khan Noon : What I wish to say is this. Is there any need for a committee of the nature proposed by the honourable mover of this resolution ? If the agriculturist really needs any help, what is to be the nature of the remedy ?—These are the arguments which I wish to bring forward in order to achieve my object. That law was passed in 1918 and it applies to all contracts entered into after 1918. Where a court considers that the rate of interest agreed upon between two parties is excessive, it has got the power to interfere under the Act. That is a law which can really be useful to the agriculturist. The main object as far as the honourable mover is concerned and as far as anybody else is concerned, is that in this province if a man borrows any sum of money, he must repay it. The only concern which the public has is as regards the rate of interest when it is very heavy. It is imperative that some means must be adopted to reduce the rate of interest. The law that was passed in 1918 has practically never been used by any of the courts in this province. It will be interesting if the honourable member in charge of the Judicial Department will call for statistics to show in how many cases, since the passing of the Act in 1918, the judicial authorities in this province have interfered with the rate of interest and cut it down when they found it excessive. I personally think that there will be only very few cases where courts have interfered with the rate of interest. As far as the ordinary law is concerned, if the agriculturist says that the rate of interest is very heavy, the burden of proving that it is an unconscionable bargain is thrown on to him. I can show from the law reports that in some of the cases the courts have allowed 20, 30, 40 and even 150 per cent. interest. That is what is being done in the courts of justice and this is how the ordinary agriculturist is being treated.

[Malik Firoz Khan Noon.]

It is high time that the Government took some action to protect the agriculturist from this heavy and excessive rate of interest that is being charged in the villages.

Now the ordinary villager goes to a *baniya* to borrow money. The *baniya* says, he will charge only *one anna* in the rupee per mensem. The villager is never able to realise the consequences of such a bargain. He cannot calculate what an anna in the rupee means. He does not know that the rate of interest comes to 12 annas in the rupee per annum which means 75 per cent. per annum. Honourable members of this House can easily realise the heavy burden that is thrown on the villager who borrows from a *baniya*.

Mr. President : I must ask the honourable member to cut this argument as short as possible. He must not dilate upon it; he should be able to make his point in a few sentences.

Malik Firoz Khan Noon (continued) : I will try to be as short as possible, but I am afraid I may not be able to come up to your expectations.

So far as the resolution is concerned, I do not think there can be anybody in this House or outside it who will disagree with the honourable mover. There is great need for some sort of relief being given to the agriculturist to protect him from the high rate of interest charged in the villages. It is necessary that in the case of a contract between an illiterate agriculturist and a money-lender, the burden of proving that the transaction is unconscionable should not be thrown on the poor agriculturist. It is also necessary that provision should be made in the Usurious Loans Act defining that the rate of interest beyond a certain limit should be considered excessive. At present the term 'excessive' has not been defined in the Act. I think for that very reason the courts have never interfered with the rate of interest till now.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni [Punjab University] : On a point of order, Sir. The honourable member is proposing to introduce certain changes in the present Usurious Loans Act. The resolution before the House does not contemplate any such changes.

Mr. President : It is not in the resolution. The honourable member is trying to explain that the agriculturist is in a difficult position and so some remedy is necessary. I suppose he will get on to the resolution some time.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon (continued) : My only object in arguing in that way is to show that unless a change is effected in the Usurious Loans Act defining the word 'excessive', we cannot get any relief in courts. Now with regard to the means by which my honourable friend wants to bring about that result, it seems to me that the resolution as worded cannot help us. I am afraid that the honourable mover not being a lawyer was at a disadvantage in drafting the resolution. Perhaps if he had consulted some other honourable members, better means could have been devised to achieve his object (Hear, hear). With regard to this resolution, he says : a committee should be appointed consisting of (a) a judge with insolvency powers, (b) a representative of cultivators and (c) a representative of bankers. The only law under which any action can be taken by the Government is under the Provincial Insolvency Act of 1920. Under that Act a local Government has the power to invest a District Judge or a Sessions Judge of a district with those insolvency powers. If the Government want, they can invest any other judge under a District Judge to exercise the insolvency

powers. When a gentleman has been invested with these powers, it is open to either of the parties, the creditor or the debtor, to go and apply for declaring the debtor an insolvent. If the Act justifies a court to declare a debtor an insolvent it can do so, otherwise, it cannot. A committee consisting of three persons—a judge with insolvency powers, a representative of cultivators and a representative of bankers is quite useless. A committee like that can have no powers and can exercise no functions under the law unless the Council passes an Act beforehand giving them the required authority. The only law under which they can have authority at present is the Insolvency Act and that Act can only empower one person to exercise the functions and not three persons. Therefore even if we pass this resolution it will be illegal for the Government to constitute such a committee. Even if such a committee is appointed, they will have no powers under the existing Act. As far as the single judge with insolvency powers is concerned we have to see whether he can be of any use or not. The honourable mover of this resolution makes it voluntary for the parties to go to the committee for a decision of their dispute. That is to say, only if the parties agree to take their case before this committee, it can decide, otherwise it cannot. That is exactly the law to-day. If both parties agree one of them can go to the judge to declare the debtor an insolvent or better still they can bring about a compromise outside the court. One other point with regard to this resolution is that it is impracticable to give effect to it. It will not give the relief that we all desire for the agriculturist. As a matter of fact, I will request the honourable mover to withdraw the resolution so that we all may put our heads together and try to find out a better means to get out of the difficulty. We can adopt some other measure to reduce the excessive rate of interest that is at present charged by the money-lenders.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, I expected this antagonism from the money-lending representatives of this Council. . . .

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das Bhandari [Non-official—Nominated] : I am not one of the money-lenders, Sir.

Sayad Muhammad Husain (Urdu) : The antagonism to this resolution from the representatives of the money-lending class is natural but when it emanated from a Financial Commissioner to whose predecessors especially Mr. Thorborn we attribute our salvation, it broke my heart. Sir, the honourable Financial Commissioner thinks that it will take a long time and the cost will be prohibitive, that it will be vague, expensive and useless. Sir, with all respect to what he said, I differ from him. It will not be costly inasmuch as it will reduce the burden on the judiciary by the decrease of litigation. It is not vague because it expressly aims at the removal of indebtedness. It is not useless because it will improve the economic growth of the province. This, Sir, is not a new idea. Similar commissions have been constituted to uplift the agricultural population in Denmark, in the United States of America, in Germany, France and other countries.

Mr. President : Has that anything to do with the objections raised ? It would have been more appropriate in the first speech when moving the resolution. I do not think you can refer to it in your reply.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : This is how I connect it. I want to point out what is done in other countries for the relief of the agriculturist.

[Sayad Muhammad Husain.]

I was just about to quote an authority as to what has been done in other countries.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Sir, he might also quote the definition of a ' zamindar.'

Sayad Muhammad Husain (Urdu) : I will come to that later on. The Government of Denmark constituted a commission for higher and expensive objects than the mere removal of indebtedness. They also enacted a law under which a candidate for a small farm has to satisfy the local commission that he is sober and industrious and has a sufficient knowledge of farming and he has to produce one-tenth of the purchase money. The commission then finds him a farm from 3 to 16 acres advancing nine-tenths of the purchase money for the land and the stock. No payment need be made for the first five years, but after that the holder pays 3 per cent. interest on the money advanced and one per cent. sinking fund for repayment of the loan. Since 1899 the State has provided between £11 millions and £16 millions a year to finance such loans. (*Vide Agricultural Progress in Western India by J. Kealings, C.I.E., page 10.*)

Mr. President : Order, Order. This is not a reply.

Sayad Muhammad Husain (Urdu) : I will come to that presently, Sir.

Mr. President : The honourable member should reply to the arguments that have been brought against the resolution. His right of reply does not give him an opportunity for a second speech.

Sayad Muhammad Husain (Urdu) : Sir, the same author observes that Germany appreciates politically and socially the value of a strong and prosperous peasantry. Further on in page 29, the author observes that there is no mention of any crushing load of debt in America. If, Sir, all the other civilised countries have accomplished wonders by uplifting their peasantry, why should the Punjab lag behind? My honourable friend Sir Gopal Das Bhandari rightly observed that it is introducing the thin end of the wedge if this measure is adopted in the South-West Punjab, for it can be easily extended to the other parts of the province. My intention is also the same. If this experiment proves successful in the South-West Punjab, this can with advantage be introduced into the other parts of the province. He thinks that with the decrease in litigation the court-fee revenue will suffer. Sir, it will be an auspicious day for the province when the court-fee revenue and the excise revenue are reduced to their minimum. As regards the fear of my honourable friend Malik Firoz Khan Noon that the committee will serve no useful purpose, he being comparatively young is not aware of what arbitration can do in settling money disputes. The necessity for arbitration courts was keenly felt by the co-operative department, but they were discontinued by an unsympathetic Minister for Agriculture notwithstanding the useful work done by them. I hope the present zamindar Minister for Agriculture will soon revive them. Sir, before concluding I will refer to a talk which I had with my honourable friend Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni. He told me that if a crore of rupees was forthcoming he would impress on the money-lenders of the South-West Punjab the necessity to come to terms.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : On a point of order, Sir. The honourable member has mentioned my name. Is he in order in referring to me when I have no opportunity to speak?

Mr. President : I do not think he has said anything very dreadful.

Sayad Muhammad Husain (Urdu) : In consequence I approached the Registrar, Mr. Strickland, who notwithstanding he was ill gave me the necessary verbal information for which act of kindness my thanks are due to him. He told me verbally that he could disburse a crore of rupees if Government supplied the money and the necessary staff. The staff should consist of one Registrar, four Inspectors and twenty Sub-Inspectors and the necessary establishment. My request is that Government should raise a loan of one crore of rupees and place the same at the disposal of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and supply the necessary *Am'a*. Then it will be evident to every one what the proposed committee has done and can do.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I am not going to make a speech, I am only going to say that I differ from my enthusiastic friend, Sayad Muhammad Husain. We all sympathise with the objects which he has in view, but I am afraid that as to the methods of getting rid of the evil there is on his part just a little temporary aberration. Mr. King said that it would be rather a lengthy business if this committee were to visit every corner of the South-Western Punjab and every village in order to do what Sayad Muhammad Husain proposes that it should do. He thinks it will take 51 years. When I think of this committee for ever marching, on week days and Sundays, in hot weather and cold, among the *tibbis* and the *ihots* and the *jhuggis* of that somewhat inhospitable region, I am reminded of the history of the Hebrew nation which at one time owing to certain faults in its conduct was condemned to spend 40 years in the wilderness. (Laughter.)

Mr. President : The resolution proposed runs.—

"This Council recommends to the Government that a committee of three be appointed to tour the villages in the South-Western Punjab to examine the claims of money lenders against cultivators when the parties agree to this course and to arrive at some which they are actually able to pay within a reasonable time, such committee to consist of (a) a Judge with insolvency powers, (b) a representative of cultivators, and (c) a representative of bankers."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The Council then divided : Ayes 35, Noes 22.

AYES 35.

Mr. E. A. Scott.
Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
Dr. C. A. Owen.
Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr Shah.
Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
Mir Maqbool Mahmood.
Sardar Jowahir Singh.
Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
Khan Bahadur Sardar Jamal Khan.
Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
Chaudhri Najib-ud-Din Khan.
M. Haibat Khan.
Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.

Chaudhri Nur Din.
Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan.
Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Sardar Bakhtawar Singh.
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
M. Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Sardar Partab Singh.
Captain Mumtaz Muhammad Khan,
Tiwana.
Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan.
Sayad Muhammad Husain.
Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Chaudhri Duli Chand.
Rao Pohar Singh.

NOES 22.

Lieut.-Col. E. L. Ward.
 Mr. E. R. Abbott.
 Mr. C. M. King.
 Mr. Miles Irving.
 Lieut.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
 Sardar Narnin Singh.
 Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das Bhandari.
 Pandit Nanak Chand.
 Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
 Lala Sham Lal.
 Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.

Lala Bodh Baj.
 Bai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
 Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
 Lala Diwan Chand.
 Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
 Rai Bahadur Lala Dhaupat Rai.
 Diwan Narinjan Das.
 Lala Mohan Lal.
 Chaudhri Ram Singh.
 Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
 Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was carried.

RESOLUTION RE EXEMPTION OF SWORD FROM THE OPERATIONS OF THE ARMS ACT.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq [Hoshiarpur-*cum*-Ludhiana Rural] (Urdu) : Sir with your permission, I beg to move the following resolution :—

"This Council recommends to the Government to recommend to the Government of India that they may take early steps to exempt the sword from the operation in the Punjab of the Arms Act with regard to all the restrictions contained therein."

Sir, I think it my duty to say at the very outset, that this resolution has the good of the Indian nation in view and I hope that people of all shades of opinion, whether Hindus or Muslims, will agree to the beneficent object of the resolution.

The history of the human race shows that sword has ever been the pride of every nation. No doubt there have been revolutions in the world, and the nations that were rulers to-day were the governed the next day, but history can show no instance where the rulers disarmed their subjects. For the first time in the history of the world, in 1857, due to the distrust and discord between Indians and our rulers, our sword was wrested out of our hands. But the history of the subsequent times amply shows that Indians in general and Punjabis in particular with their faithful and ungrudging service to the British Crown more than atoned for the past. But where other provinces have been allowed the use of sword, the Punjab which served the Government most zealously during the recent war has not been favoured with this concession.

The consequence of this injustice was that a martial community in the province feeling that Government was not prepared to concede to them their religious right of using *kirpan* or sword which they had sacrificed for some time in consideration of the feelings of the Government, decided to make sacrifices for the recovery of the lost right. They, then ignoring the susceptibilities of the Government, advised their young men to wear *kirpan* or sword at all cost.

No body can doubt that there are a thousand other ways of man-slaughter but no nation has ever excluded the sword from the list of arms and have always included it as an item of their uniform. Why, then should the Punjabis who by virtue of their birth and nature are soldiers be deprived of this ancestral right of wearing *kirpan* and following the footsteps of their forefathers?

You must be aware, Sir, that this quarrel about *kirpan* or sword has created an unnatural state of affairs in the province and while on the one hand a community as a whole is bent upon securing the right of wearing *kirpan* or sword, the Government on the other hand is trying their best to deprive them of it.

Mr. President : How is the *kirpan* question relevant ?

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : I am talking of the reasons why *kirpan* or sword should be exempted from the operation of the Arms Act. The number of arrests for *kirpan* is going up and there is an increasing unrest in the province.

If you, Sir, look carefully into the causes of the unrest due to non-co-operation in the Punjab, you would find that prosecution in connection with the *kirpan* was the chief cause and if we want to restore peace in the province, it would be but fit to pass the resolution. This will help in removing all the grievances between the Government and the Sikhs.

In the past whenever it was asked that *kirpan* or sword should be exempted, it was advanced that such an action will lead to bloodshed and breach of peace. But, now, after an experience of the past five years about a martial community who did not in a single case make an improper use of *kirpan* or sword it is safe to expect that those to whom this privilege may be extended would not falsify these expectations. Hundreds of thousands of Akalis have passed before my eyes armed with *kirpans*, and though they had to face very many times most trying moments, they have not touched their weapon even ; and I am confident that Muslims and Hindus would not behave any worse in case they are allowed to keep sword.

I do not mean to say much about the subject at this stage, but I am sure that all the members of this House whether, Hindu, Muhammadans, Sikhs or Christians will support my resolution. This exemption should be made experimentally with a view to make the use and possession of every other arm free. This will help us in being men and soldiers in the real sense of the word.

The latter portion of the resolution requires that not only all restrictions regarding the possession of sword be removed, but all restrictions as to its manufacture and sale be also removed. Otherwise matters will not improve, for the same community, again will resist any such restriction.

I, therefore, hope that Government will express their opinion at the outset so that we may know their standpoint.

Mr. President : The resolution proposed runs thus :

This Council recommends to the Government to recommend to the Government of India that they may take early steps to exempt the sword from the operation in the Punjab of the Arms Act with regard to all the restrictions contained therein.

The question is that that resolution be adopted :

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh (Urban)] : Sir, I wish to add only a few words to the speech of my honourable friend who moved the resolution. The Punjab has been termed the " sword arm " of India, but it is very unfortunate that while the whole of India has got freedom to keep swords, the inhabitants of this province alone should be debarred from keeping swords without licence. In olden times, there may have been valid reasons for prohibiting the carrying of this weapon or its manufacture. But now, Sir, with the improvement in the

[Sardar Jodh Singh.]

implements of war, I do not think there is any danger to any Government from a crowd of people who are simply carrying swords. My honourable friend has laid great stress on the sufferings of the Sikhs. They have undergone various difficulties to gain freedom for the carrying of this weapon which they consider to be their religious symbol. If the freedom to carry swords is extended to all the communities in the Punjab, the Sikhs will be very glad. They do not seek for any special privilege for themselves; they will be glad to share this privilege along with others. As I have already said, the Sikhs will have no objection if this privilege is extended to all. I think it is very late in the day now to restrict the carrying of this weapon. I hope the Government will gladly accede to the request of the honourable mover and find a way out of its present difficulties with the Sikhs.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, for the good Government of a country, it is highly essential that both its Civil and Military administrations be good and just. Whenever, it has been claimed by Indian patriots that Indians are fit for self-Government and they should be allowed to rule themselves, it has been advanced as an argument against their ability that in the case of the British withdrawing from India they are not fit to protect the country from internal or external danger. But Sir, if we are not well up in the art of war, we should be given the necessary training. But the method adopted for the Indianisation of the armies is very slow and tardy. In addition to this it is necessary that we should know the use of arms in our self-defence. Many people lose their senses at the very shock of a gun report. Sir, when such is the case, how can they defend their homes against external aggression. For this reason, too, we should be initiated into the use of firearms as early as possible.

Supposing for instance that the British Government has to face another war like the one we have just had, will it not be more useful to have men as recruits who already know enough of the art of war?

Then there comes the question of their misuse. I do not deny there will be a few cases of misuse, but we can learn to care for our responsibilities only when we have to bear them and if on the other hand, we are never allowed to possess arms, it is natural that when we get them for the first time we will make an indiscriminate use like an overjoyed child who gets a long desired toy.

Again, our experience of the last four or five years should drive out all misapprehensions about any misuse of arms. In the Guru-ka-Bagh affair 5,915 men were arrested, but is there anybody here who can say that a single one out of them made any objectionable use of his *kirpan* or sword? If, then, in a province there is such a community of men who by their self-restraint even in the most trying moments can show that they never make any unauthorised use of the only arm they are allowed to possess, it is safe to expect a similar behaviour from the rest, and in the case of any rare instances of misuse, it is permissible to ignore that.

Therefore, to remove the grievances of the people it would be a relief to the present tension, to exempt the sword from the operations of the Arms Act. I support the resolution.

Lala Buchi Ram, Sahni [Punjab University] (Urdu) : Sir, after what has fallen from the lips of the speakers who have preceded me it is necessary for me only to put forward two or three facts in support of the

resolution. In the first place, it is worth remembering that while the Sikh religion requires the members of that community to go about with the *kirpan* or the swords on their person, what the resolution wants is that all persons should have the right to possess it for purposes of self-defence. The people, some of whom it is said, tremble at the sight of the sword have the right to possess the sword, but not the Punjabis who don't wink at the sight of the sword.

Another point which I should like the House to take into consideration is that the adoption of this resolution will give a substantial stimulus to the manufacture of all sharp-edged articles such as knives, scissors, *peshgahs* as also to the art of making steel of a good quality. It is doubtless known to the honourable members of this House that India used to make very good steel. The famous Damascus blades were made with Indian steel. An excellent kind of steel was made in India and partly exported to other countries. The secret of making good steel has been lost and whatever knowledge or skill is left is possessed by a few families. The question is one of great importance to the industrial advancement of one useful branch of industry.

Sardar Bakhtawar Singh [Hoshiarpur and Kangra (Sikh) Rural] (Urdu) : This resolution, though simple, is an important one. The honourable mover has already explained at some length the advantages of this resolution. The one thing, I have to say is that, perhaps, Government will be quoting examples in which misuse has been made of *kirpan*. But from my personal knowledge, I can say that it is the *batmashees* who do such things and in order to shift the blame to the *Akalis* leave something like *kirpan*, etc. But even if there have been a few cases in such a big province we should not pay much heed to it. I, therefore, vote for the resolution.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar [Kangra-cum-Gurdaspur (Muhammadan)—Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, the argument advanced in favour of the exemption of sword from the Arms Act that with sword we shall be more fitted for self-defence against internal and external aggression in the event of the British Government withdrawing themselves, is not sound and I differ from it. But I agree with the argument of self-defence. I know of a case in which only a few days back thieves wanted to break into the house of a villager who with his wife was sleeping inside. The noise woke the owner who asked his wife to hide herself and himself going up on to the roof called his brother from the adjoining house. In the meantime the thieves broke in the window. But when the first of them tried to step in the owner of the house so belaboured the thief with his *lathi* that he fell down unconscious. In the meantime his brother had come out with his dog who fought with the thieves and drove them out.

But, Sir, if the villager had had any weapon, he would not have had so much difficulty in driving away or arresting the thieves. If the Government is prepared to make such arrangements as to save life and property from the clutches of notorious thieves and dacoits, so much the better. Otherwise the public may be allowed to devise means of their own to achieve that object.

Sayad Muhammad Hussain [Montgomery (Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, I see no reason why this resolution should not be accepted by Government. Under the present circumstances when Government is in possession of so many strong weapons like Henri Martini rifles

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Sir, the honourable member is repeating what has already been said before by another member.

Sayad Muhammad Husain (continued) : Then, Sir, many of the Indian gentry think it dignifying to possess a sword. They cannot have one, if they cannot get a license for the same. One good result of this resolution being accepted will be to revive an industry which has gone into decay, as has already been stated by Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni. The sword industry has suffered a good deal. At the time of the Great War Government ordered *lohars* of the Sialkot District to make swords for Government. Several thousands of swords were prepared with a better finish than that given by European countries. The result was that the industry revived. People made money and the economic condition of several thousands of *lohars* improved. Then there is no political danger whatsoever, when already one province is exempted from the operation of the Arms Act

Mr. President : The honourable member must try and not repeat an argument which has already been made.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : Sir, one community is already exempted from the religious point of view. There is no reason why the others should not be. With these few words I support the resolution.

Khan Bahadur Syed Mehdi Shah [Non-official Nominated] (Urdu) : Sir, in the last Council I myself gave notice to move this resolution. Simply a few moments thinking will show that the resolution is not injurious but useful to the interests of the Government. There is absolutely no danger for the prestige of the Government. When one community enjoys a concession why should the others be deprived of it? Therefore I support the resolution.

4 P.M.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) : Sir, in dealing with this resolution which has been moved by my friend Chaudhri Afzal-Haq, I will have to give this House a very brief history of the case as it stands up to this time. When I was in the Imperial Legislative Council as a representative of the Punjab, a resolution was moved by Mr. (now Sir) Surendranath Bannerjee for the removal of certain restrictions imposed on the Indians in the matter of the use of arms or for imposing those restrictions on Europeans. As a result of that resolution a committee was appointed to go into the matter and the question was thoroughly discussed. The Government of India of that time referred the matter to Local Governments also for their opinion. The Local Government at that time consulted their officers and the opinions expressed at that time were, as I will presently point out, not very favourable to the exemption of the sword from the provisions of the Arms Act. The then Government member opposed the exemption of the Punjab from the rules that were in force at that time. Afterwards another resolution was moved in the Legislative Assembly by Baba Ujagar Singh, Bedi, if I am not wrong, as a result of which another official committee was appointed to consider the modifications of the Arms Rules. That Committee in their report said : " Enquiry should be made from the Punjab, Burma, North-West Frontier Province and Delhi whether the retention of these provinces in column 1 is really required, and whether the power given in column 3 is not sufficient to meet all reasonable requirements." My friend, the mover of this resolution in

RESOLUTION RE EXEMPTION OF THE SWORD FROM THE OPERATION OF THE 347
ARMS ACT.

his speech said that the restriction against the sword was only in this province and not in other provinces. But from the extract which I have just read it will be clear that Burma, the North-West Frontier Province and Delhi also are not exempt from the provisions of the Arms Rules.

With your permission, Sir, I will make a very brief reference to one of the opinions that were received at that time. When the local Government consulted its officers, one of them (I will not mention his name) said: "Any such change as is suggested would be in the highest degree dangerous. The Jats of the Manjha tract are, as it is, very prone to violent crime..." (A voice: Even now, Sir?). Well I am talking about the opinion that was then given. "It is difficult to say to what extremes they might go if the law permitted them to go about armed with *chhavis*. The same remarks apply to the other weapons with which (if the need for licensing were withdrawn) most men would undoubtedly arm themselves. It will be remembered that the sight of means to do ill-deeds makes ill-deeds done." Further he says, "our people are different from people in other provinces". That, Sir, is the opinion that was expressed by the officers at the time when this reference was made to them. After the rules were framed the question was again discussed by an official committee in which the consensus of opinion was against the removal of restrictions against the arms.

I think, Sir, in reply to the questions put in this Council on the same subject the answer given by the Government member was that "in the interests of public peace this Government is not in favour of exemption". Since then, Sir, events have happened in this province, events which have been unfortunate from many points of view. I refer, Sir, to the riots in Multan, the riots in Amritsar, and the feelings between the different communities that existed and continue to exist at the present moment. It may be asked, when these feelings and these outbursts exist, will it be wise to remove these restrictions on the sword? I am glad to find that certain of my friends have said that my community has not shown any tendency to misuse the exemption of *kirpan* from the Arms Act which they enjoy. But from this it should not be inferred that other communities also will follow suit. I should be very glad if they do, and a state of affairs is brought about in this country which will make the people of different communities live together amicably with one another and the ill-feelings which mar this province are removed altogether. But there are risks in exempting the sword from the operation of the Arms Act as there are advantages. One has to weigh both the advantages and the disadvantages and come to a final decision. The Government on its part has, soon after the resolution was tabled, called for the opinions of its officers and until and unless those opinions are received it cannot come to a definite conclusion. The Government also desires to benefit by the discussions in this House on the subject. Honourable members must also remember that the final exemption of the sword from the Arms Act rests with the Government of India and if, after deep consideration, this House decides to pass this resolution, the local Government can only make a recommendation. I therefore leave the matter for the House to decide, and in doing so I should like to inform the House that the Government will remain neutral. The official members will be permitted to vote as they please.

Sardar Jodh Singh: 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. President : Chaudhri Afzal Haq, do you wish to reply ?

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : No Sir.

Mr. President : The resolution moved runs thus :—

"This Council recommends to the Government to recommend to the Government of India that they may take early steps to exempt the sword from the operation in the Punjab of the Arms Act with regard to all the restrictions contained therein."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried.

RESOLUTION RE REMOVAL OF THE LAWRENCE STATUE FROM ITS PRESENT SITE ON THE MALL AT LAHORE.

The following resolution standing in the name of Sardar Sangat Singh was not moved :—

"That this Council recommends to the Government that immediate steps should be taken to remove the Lawrence Statue from its present site on the Mall at Lahore.

RESOLUTION RE IMPROVEMENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AGRICULTURISTS IN THE PROVINCE.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood [Amritsar (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) :
Sir, I beg to move the following resolution :—

"This Council recommends to the Government the appointment of a Committee with non-official majority to advise what steps the Government may reasonably take to improve the present economic and social conditions of the Agriculturists of this province."

Sir, the zamindars of the province form two-thirds of the total population. The facts show that the annual average income of a zamindar ranges between Rs. 40 and Rs. 60 while an average expenditure on feeding and clothing alone of a Punjab prisoner is Rs. 92. It shows that about one-half of the population of this province cannot afford even the miserable standard of feeding and clothing of prisoners. Consequently it is quite obvious that the zamindars specially require the immediate help and consideration of both the Government and the public. It is admittedly true that land and the average produce of the zamindar are decreasing day by day. Moreover the zamindars are crying under the heavy burden of loans and at the same time the means of living have become so dear that it is quite difficult for an ordinary zamindar to pass his days of life. Owing to these circumstances the death rate has considerably increased. It is gratifying that the Government is prepared to do everything reasonable for the betterment of the zamindars but I feel there is still much to be done in this connection ; for a few Co-operative Societies or Dairy Farms would not solve our rural problem. There should be a definite programme before the Government for the purpose. Wherever in Europe or America the zamindars have made any real progress you would see the reform started with a definite programme set up.

by a committee of the type I am asking. Accordingly I would request you to form a committee of some sort. I do not want to take your time any longer for I know it is the last day for non-official business, hence I propose my resolution.

Mr. President : The resolution proposed runs thus :—

"This Council recommends to the Government the appointment of a committee, with non-official majority, to advise what steps the Government may reasonably take to improve the present economic and social conditions of the agriculturists of this province."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Minister for Agriculture) (Urdu) : Sir, I want to make clear what position the Government holds in this matter. The Government is as much interested in the welfare of the agriculturists as any member of this Council. The honourable mover has advised us to make a special programme to improve the economic and social conditions of the agriculturists of this province. I am glad to inform him that this matter is receiving consideration already and in Government review of the annual report on the Department of Agriculture a 5 years' programme has been mentioned to be under contemplation of Government. Government is quite prepared to help and sympathise with the poor agriculturists by every means it can afford but every thing depends upon money. Owing to the financial stringency the Department of Agriculture and the co-operation have suffered and have not been able to do as much as we wish. But I assure the House that we are trying our best to improve the economic conditions of the agriculturists. Before I took charge of my office I held the same view as expressed by the honourable mover in his speech, but within two months I came to know that the Government has always been doing everything in its power to improve the status of the zamindars. As for the proposed committee I submit that a few days ago at the time of the appointment of the Forest Board it was remarked that a rival machinery must not be started if there is one already working satisfactorily. I hold the same view about this committee. There is already an Economic Board enquiring into the conditions of the urban and rural populations of the province. A valuable addition has been made to books on rural economy. One of these books is in my hands. The House as well as the honourable mover can see it and form an opinion about the useful work the Board is doing. There is again a Board of Agriculture in existence. I admit this Board could not hold as many meetings as it ought to have held during the last 3 years. It has now been reconstituted and the honourable mover is also one of its members. The President of the Board (the Financial Commissioner, Development), will allow the question being put before the Board if the honourable member so desires. The question really concerns the Board rather than the Council. Under these circumstances it is not advisable to incur expenditure by the appointment of a new committee for the object in view. Therefore I would request the honourable mover to lay his resolution before the Board of Agriculture and I assure him that the Board will consider his recommendations carefully. The Board will be within its rights if it makes any enquiry as suggested by the honourable mover. For the reasons given Government is not prepared to accept the resolution.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : I beg leave to withdraw my resolution.

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

RESOLUTION RE THE RATE OF GRANT TO AIDED SCHOOLS.

Chaudhri Duli Chand [Karnal (Non-Muhammadan) Rural]
(Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That this Council recommends to the Government that the rate of grant to aided schools per pupil reckoned on the average attendance be as follows :—

		ANGLO-VERNAICULAR.		VERNAICULAR.	
		Agricul- tural.	Non-Agri- cultural.	Agricul- tural.	Non-Agri- cultural.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A.—In the Lower Primary Department	...	4	2	4	2
B.—In the Upper Primary Department	...	8	4	8	4
C.—In the Middle Department	...	20	10	12	6
D.—In the High Department	...	32	16	...	...

According to the rules at present in force the grant per pupil in average attendance is as follows :—

	Rs.
A.—Lower Primary Department	...
B.—Upper Primary Department	...
C.—Middle Department	...
D.—High Department	...

It is interesting to note that these rules do not provide any facilities for the classes, which are backward in education, in preference to those which are already advanced in this direction.

I may point out at the outset that if my resolution is adopted, Government will not be required to sanction more money than is already being spent, and with all that it will bring relief to agriculturists who are so backward in education. When preferential treatment is accorded to them, they will naturally flock to the schools and it will not be long before the desired end will have been achieved. My point of view is that the equality in grants that is being practised now-a-days will fail to attract the backward classes and this is why I advocate the introduction of a system by which preference would be given to agriculturists over those who have gone ahead of them in the race of education.

I do not say that the grants given to the non-agricultural students be necessarily reduced in the interests of agricultural students and if the Government can afford to pay more money, I would propose that the grants to non-agriculturists be allowed to remain as they are, but the grants be increased in the case of agricultural students. But if more money is not forthcoming I would insist on the increase in the grants to agricultural

students even if the other class would suffer thereby. The agricultural class has already suffered a good deal under the existing rules and it would be injustice pure and simple if they continue to suffer for an unlimited period.

Next I should be misunderstood I may say that I do not mean by my resolution that the system of preference should remain in vogue for ever. But what I mean is that preference should be given to backward classes only so long as it is quite necessary and no longer. When we have found that the agriculturists do not stand in need of any incentive, we may withdraw this concession at once.

Before I proceed to show how far the agricultural classes are backward in education, I think it necessary to inform the House that the number at present of students belonging to the agricultural class is very small and therefore the grants increased for them are not likely to bring about any results that might disturb the financial position of the Education Department. So the honourable members need not entertain any fear on that score.

If some of the honourable members have read the last census report they must have found out that the number of literate men belonging to the agricultural class is 2 per cent. while that of the other classes is 18 per cent. There is an odd difference of 16 per cent. And if we are really anxious to bring about equilibrium in the proportion of literate men of different classes we must pass the resolution that I have had the honour to move. Now if it is contended that the agricultural classes have no right to get the preferential treatment, I would, in reply, say, that it is these classes that are paying the major portion of taxes; and, if it is so, why should the other classes gain at the expense of agriculturists? The Honourable Minister for Education has recently issued a circular and I admit and it is intended to encourage the agricultural classes to take to education. But I must point out that it does not and cannot fully serve the purpose. Besides there are certain things in this circular which provide a scope of securing grants by dishonest means. This circular makes it possible that a school may admit a number of students who belong to backward communities and thereby secure grants although its promoters are rich people. Another defect in this circular is that a community which is sufficiently advanced in education, but has no school of its own can open a school and apply for grant-in-aid on the ground that it has no other school which it can claim as its own. No doubt it has no other school of its own, but its members are already advanced in education. It will not be possible to find out in the case of every application as to what is the actual state of affairs. The result will be that those who do not actually want help, will get it and those who actually want it will suffer.

I realise that there was one defect in my resolution inasmuch as it asked for a sufficient amount of grants. It was possible that according to my resolution some institutions would have made money by the receipt of grants, but that defect has been removed by the amendment proposed by my honourable friend Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazal Ali and in the circumstances I hope that my resolution will receive support from all.

Mr. President : The resolution proposed runs :

"This Council recommends to the Government that the rate of grant to aided schools per pupil reckoned on the average attendance be as follows :—

	ANGLO-VEGETARIAN.		VEGETARIAN.	
	Agricultural.	Non-agricultural.	Agricultural.	Non-agricultural.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A.—In the Lower Primary Department ...	4	2	4	2
B.—In the Upper Primary Department ...	8	4	8	4
C.—In the Middle Department ...	20	10	12	6
D.—In the High Department ...	32	16	...	...

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

Sardar Jodh Singh [(Sikh) Urban] : Sir, before moving my amendment to this resolution I want to make a few observations on it. I do not think there is anybody in the House who will deny the formula that the pace of educating the communities that are backward should be accelerated. My friend in moving the resolution has made certain mis-statements. He said that the schools in which there is a majority of non-agriculturists, گزارش کی زیادتی سے بددھرمی کا شکار ہو رہے ہیں He forgets that there is a rule of the department to the effect that a school cannot get grant-in-aid more than three-fourths of the net expenditure and the net expenditure means approved expenditure minus the income from fees. Therefore there is not a single school in this Province that can get more grant according to the present rules than three-fourths of its net expenditure. In the first place, I have been for six years Headmaster of a school which may be called a zamindar school. I was a Headmaster at Lyallpur and from my personal experience I can say that I always earned more grant than I ever got on the basis of the existing figures even. The grant earned does not benefit any school in any way, and if you increase the rates merely the grant earned will be increased and then again that condition will come in so that the school will not be able to get more than three-fourths of the net expenditure. My friend has given no figures. All his discussion is hypothetical. I had hoped to obtain figures from the Education Department, but unfortunately that department did not table these figures, otherwise I would have shown that supposing he takes his own Jat High School or any school with a large number of agriculturists as was the case in my own school at Lyallpur, and if the number of agriculturists is more than half, that would not benefit any school to the extent of even a pie, because they

would earn more grant than they now earn and they would not get more than they now get. Therefore in the first place this resolution as it stands will not benefit the so-called agricultural schools. Again there is a difficulty about what sort of school we shall call the agricultural school. A *bania* may open a school and get Jat boys, and he will be benefitted by this grant-in-aid. There are several other ways of inducing the agricultural communities to take to education. Then my friend has yet to prove that they have not made up the leeway during the past five years. In the same Education Report to which he referred, I have read that the number of scholars of a backward community, I mean the Muhammadans, has increased by something like double, and as my friend knows that community is composed mostly of agriculturists. Again the Sikh community contains a large majority of agriculturists, but even if I admit that they are backward, this is not the proposal that will benefit them. I think the provision of scholarships for them or a remission in the rate of fees for the agriculturists will be a surer method of bringing them to school. Again he has given some more wrong figures in giving the number of the educated from the Census Report. He forgets that in those statistics are included the adults as well, people of 50 and above are also included in them. He has not taken into consideration the rapid strides of progress that this community to which he is particularly referring has made during the last five or ten years. It would have been better had he got from the Education Department the present statistics which unfortunately I could not get and which the Director of Public Instruction had promised to me and to him in a private meeting the other day.

I will make one more remark in passing. Yesterday also you were kind enough to order a member not to repeat the word "*gharib Zamindar*" too often, and this morning also I have been hearing the woes of the agriculturists, but how is it that other classes are not allowed the privilege of sharing their financial burdens. The castes that are already declared agriculturists do not like that other castes may be declared agriculturists and share the burdens under which they are groaning now. That is the riddle of the whole situation.

Again, Sir, it is a false notion to say that they are bearing the whole burden. It may be that the coffers of the Panjab Government are filled by the agriculturists, but other communities also are paying taxes, though it may be that these go to fill the coffers of the Government of India.

It is very amusing to me to hear that while the money-lenders are cursed for charging exorbitant rates from the cultivators the landlords that take away half the produce get off scot-free. The economic questions are so much confused in this Council that I am at a loss to decide what to say and what not to say on this subject. (A voice : Say on). One day if I get an occasion I will clear the whole position. Sir, I want to help backward classes. I may declare that I am a socialist in my principles. I want to help the labouring classes, whether they are Hindus, Muhammadans or Sikhs. Because agriculture is the only industry of this province for the present I want to better the condition of workers engaged in it. But I must say that this resolution does not show that the mover of the resolution has taken pains to study the subject and collect statistics. My amendment suggests that the rate of grants to schools should be as at present and the grants on account of agricultural students be increased by 25 per cent. Therefore, Sir, I move my amendment.

[Sardar Jodh Singh.]

That the following *be substituted* for the original resolution :—

" This Council recommends to the Government that the rate of grant to aided schools per pupil reckoned on the average attendance be as follows :—

	ANGLO-VERNAICULAR.		VERNAICULAR.	
	Agricultural.	Non-Agricultural.	Agricultural.	Non-Agricultural.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A.—In the Lower Primary Department	4	2	4	2
B.—In the Upper Primary Department	8	8	8	4
C.—In the Middle Department	20	16	12	8
D.—In the High Department	32	24	...	...

Mr. President : Resolution under consideration, amendment moved :—

That the following *be substituted* for the original resolution :—

" This Council recommends to the Government that the rate of grant to aided schools per pupil reckoned on the average attendance be as follows :—

	ANGLO-VERNAICULAR.		VERNAICULAR.	
	Agricultural.	Non-Agricultural.	Agricultural.	Non-Agricultural.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A.—In the Lower Primary Department	4	2	4	2
B.—In the Upper Primary Department	8	8	8	4
C.—In the Middle Department	20	16	12	8
D.—In the High Department	32	24	...	...

Sir George Anderson (Director of Public Instruction) : Sir, I shall take only a few minutes of the time of the Council to make a few general remarks on the suggestions made by my friends Chaudhri Duli Chand and Sardar Jodh Singh. I expect that this Council, at any rate the Honourable the Finance Member and the Finance Secretary, will agree with me that all proposals of this nature should be examined with very great thoroughness from the financial aspect. Unfortunately, the information that is so necessary to assist the Council in arriving at a right conclusion and decision on this very complicated question is not available. It would be a little ungenerous, it would be a little unfair for me to urge that the mover of the resolution and the mover of the amendment should have presented all the details of their proposals for the consideration of this Council. I also submit that it would be equally unfair and equally ungenerous if they urged that, within the very limited time available, the Education Department should have obtained this information. However, we have taken the first step in finding out the exact number of agriculturists and non-agriculturists which will help us in arriving at a decision. I have been considering the amendment which has been moved by Sardar Jodh Singh. I am inclined to think that if this amendment is accepted it will entail an additional expenditure by Government of about twenty per cent.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Not a pie practically, Sir.

Sir George Anderson: I may be right or I may be wrong. But I estimate that it will increase expenditure of Government by about twenty per cent. under this head. At present, we give grants to aided schools whether private schools or schools maintained by local bodies to the extent of fifteen lakhs. Therefore, if my estimate is correct, the acceptance of the amendment will involve an additional expenditure of three lakhs to Government.

First of all, I would ask where is this sum of money to come from? In the next place, if these three lakhs are available, is this the most urgent requirement on which to spend this amount? The present position of education in this Province is serious enough in all conscience. Last year, the increase in the enrolment of students was about 150,000; and in the triennium which will come to a close on the last day of this month, we hope to have an increase in enrolment of over 300,000 pupils. It has been a matter of very great difficulty with our limited means to accommodate so large an addition of pupils. I hope and trust that this rate of progress will be maintained in the future. Therefore, it will be a matter of increasing difficulty for us to accommodate this ever-increasing number of pupils with the very limited increase in expenditure. I submit, therefore, that it is necessary to examine these proposals with far more care and far greater accuracy than is possible for us to do within the limited time at our disposal.

There is one further matter that I should like to urge in connection with the remarks which have just fallen from Sardar Jodh Singh. I quite agree with him that it is desirable to encourage the boys and girls of backward areas and of backward communities. But I am constrained to think that it would be much better to give relief directly to the poor by means of scholarships or stipends than to assist them indirectly by granting more liberal grants to schools which may or may not have a majority of such students. Therefore I suggest to my friends, Sardar Jodh Singh and Chaudhri Duli Chand, that if they will withdraw the amendment and the resolution, I should be most happy to undertake on behalf of the Education Department to collect and collate all the necessary information and place it before the Standing Education Committee of this Council for its consideration and decision.

Sardar Jodh Singh: In view of the assurance of the Director of Public Instruction I beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Chaudhri Duli Chand: I also beg leave to withdraw the resolution, Sir.

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

RESOLUTION RE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OF GRANTS-IN-AID TO AIDED SCHOOLS.

The following resolution standing in the name of Chaudhri Fazl Ali was not moved:—

"That this Council recommends to the Government that grants-in-aid to aided schools be substantially increased".

**RESOLUTION RE RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUNJAB
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

The following resolution standing in the name of Chaudhri Nur Din was not moved :—

"That this Council recommends to the Government that residential quarters with two meeting rooms be built in Lahore as soon as possible for the use of the members of the Punjab Legislative Council".

RESOLUTION RE REMOVAL OF LIQUOR SHOPS BEYOND MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban]:
Sir, I beg to move :—

"That this Council recommends to the Government to eliminate sources of danger to the moral tone of society by (a) removing beyond the municipal boundaries all liquor shops already located in the various towns; (b) removing to the headquarters of the tahsil and to locate in or near the tahsil compound all liquor shops already located in the various villages."

Sir, I would draw the attention of the members of this House to the Administration Report of 1919-20 and particularly to the following words appearing in the report: "Continuous increase of consumption during the recent years appears to the Lieutenant-Governor to call for some more drastic measures than those hitherto applied. An efficient check on the rising tendency to increased consumption is required." During the year 1919-20 the consumption of the country-made foreign liquor increased five-fold.

In 1911-12, the consumption of liquor was about 13,542 gallons, while in the year 1919-20 the consumption was about 88,593 gallons. While at the same time there was no decrease in the consumption of imported liquor, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the steps which the Government has been taking now and then to reduce the consumption of liquor. The drastic or the restrictive measures which the Government has been taking till now are not sufficient to cope with the evil of drink. As honourable members of this House are aware, drink is not a necessity but merely a luxury. Besides, I am sure that no honourable member of this House will say that his religion allows him to use liquor. Islam goes to the length of saying that if a drop of liquor falls on a piece of cloth, that cloth cannot be used by a Muhammadan. When such are the dictates of our religion I do not understand why there is a regular and continuous increase in the consumption of liquor in this country. The measures which have been adopted to restrict the consumption of liquor are the following :—

(1) Conversion of 'on' liquor shops into 'off' liquor shops in order to avoid rowdyism. (2) The closed and sealed bottle system in order to avoid loitering near the shops. (3) Prohibition of the sale of liquor in the fairs. (4) The system of fixing maximum issue. (5) The reduction in the number of shops. (6) The increased duty and heavy surcharges on liquor. In spite of all these measures, there is still an increase in the consumption. There is imperative necessity for the adoption of more stringent measures in order to prevent this evil. The remedy that I suggest is the only one that this House can recommend or that we can adopt for removing the evil. In spite of the temperance associations and in spite of all the efforts on the part of social reforms, the drink evil is on the increase. From the increase in the number of temperance associations we come to the conclusion that this evil has not decreased. It is a clear indication of the fact that this evil habit is increasing. Last year this House was pleased to pass

a Local Option Act whereby authority is given to the municipalities and district boards to pass a resolution if they like and close the liquor shops within their limits. But there is a limit prescribed by that Option Act. A municipal committee cannot pass a resolution to remove all the liquor shops within a municipal area. In that Act, there is a restriction that if the municipality wants to pass such a resolution, it can do so and thus reduce the liquor shops to the minimum limit of one-third. Besides, municipalities and district boards are indeed very slow to take steps on their own initiative. Hence I felt the necessity of bringing this resolution before this Council. We need not wait and see if each and every municipality passes a resolution to that effect. We have to see whether this step is advisable or not. If the House is satisfied that this step should be adopted, it should be given effect to at once. The Government is also anxious that the people should be reformed by the efforts of social reformers. I do not see any reason why the Government here should not take further steps in this direction like other independent countries. The other countries have passed prohibition laws, and I wish that such laws should be passed by this House. The only objection that can possibly be raised against my proposal is that this will tend to illicit distillation of liquor. I do not think this can be a plausible excuse for the Government not taking steps to pass prohibition measures and to remove the drink evil. There is the Indian Penal Code which is full of sections which provide punishment for the offenders. If the Government finds that illicit distillation is going on in any part of the country, it is perfectly at liberty to mete out exemplary punishment to the offenders. The mere fact that the excise staff is not able to combat the evil of illicit distillation should not stand in the way of Government adopting the measures suggested by me for the abolition of drink evil. The Government is the custodian of the morality of the people, and as such it is incumbent on it to take steps to safeguard the interests of the people. The figures which I have quoted from the Administration Report show that there has been a continuous increase in the consumption of liquor for the past several years. The report for the year 1922-23 says that the amount of licit liquor consumed is now a little more than one-third of the quantity consumed in the year 1919-20. This conclusively shows that in spite of restrictions, there has been a continuous increase in the consumption, and besides there has also been an increase in the excise revenue. The Government cannot see with any complacency either the increase in the consumption or the increase in the excise revenue. If the Government wants to combat the evil of illicit distillation, they can, if necessary, strengthen the excise staff. (Hear, hear). Thus the Government can do some good to the people by checking their drink habits.

Another objection which may be raised is that those who have a legitimate desire to drink will have to travel a long distance before they can have alcohol. This evil habit is prevalent either among the higher or among the lower strata of society. If it is taken as a luxury, I think those who want it can very well afford to travel some distance and get liquor. But the poor people of the country who have nothing to eat and who cannot maintain themselves or their children, I want such people to be saved from this evil habit. If the shops are within their easy reach they are tempted to purchase liquor. I do not think any honourable member of this House or for that matter even the Government will come forward and justify the location of the liquor shops within easy reach of the poor or even of the rich. Our past experience shows that by the closing of shops or by adopting

[Lala Bodh Raj.]

stringent measures, there has been no illicit distillation or illicit consumption of liquor. As an instance, I may cite Amritsar where the shops were removed outside the city. There is another instance, namely, Tarn Taran, which has won an unenviable reputation in this direction. There was a large number of convictions in that place, and the Government had to stop the convictions simply by closing the liquor shops at the time of the monthly fairs, and the results have shown, that with the closing of the shops, illicit distillation did not follow as a natural consequence. I would appeal to honourable members not to wait for action being taken by temperance associations in this matter. The House should recommend the taking of direct action by closing all the shops so that the evil may be removed. If prohibition laws cannot be enacted, I suggest that this evil can be removed in the towns by ordering the shops to be located outside the municipal limits and in the villages, beyond easy reach of the people. They can be located in the tahsil compound. With these few words, I commend the resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. President : The resolution proposed runs thus :—

"This Council recommends to the Government to eliminate sources of danger to the moral tone of society by (a) removing beyond the municipal boundaries all liquor shops already located in the various towns, (b) removing to the headquarters of the tahsil and to locate in or near the tahsil compound all liquor shops already located in the various villages."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, who can say that the aim of the honourable mover is not a good one in moving this resolution? Had the resolution been to the effect that all excise revenue should be put an end to, as was done by Emperor Jehangir who did not allow this sort of impure revenue to come into the Treasury I would have supported it, but, Sir, the resolution is not properly worded and so it cannot effect the removal of this evil of drink. Had he aimed at passing a law declaring the habit of drinking as a crime.....

Mr. President : The honourable member should refer to what the honourable mover did propose. He should not refer to what he did not propose.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : Sir, the resolution does not aim at that. It does not go so far. Sir, if the resolution were to be split into two parts, I would have no hesitation in supporting the first part of the resolution, because I think it may be instrumental in removing the evil of drink. But in the second part the honourable mover aims at all liquor shops in villages to be centred in tahsils. I think this will do a great deal of damage. In tahsils people come from all the surrounding villages. They are simple people not addicted to drinking and some of them are not educated, and when once they come in contact with drunkards they get into temptation and take to drinking. So as regards the second part of the resolution which says that liquor shops should be removed from the various villages and located in the tahsils, I for one would not support. If the honourable mover is willing to do away with the second part, then I will whole-heartedly support the first part of his resolution. He must think and think very carefully whether any useful purpose will be served by the second part of his resolution. We must have the tahsils free from all sorts of temptations. Sir, the honourable mover is fully aware that in jails the authorities do not

allow habitual offenders to mix freely with those who are quite young and who have committed their first offence, because by coming in contact with habitual offenders they are liable to catch the contagion from them. When that is the case inside the jail, I think outside the jail too we should try to see that the simple village people do not come in contact with the dirty lot of tahsils. So, Sir, if the resolution stands in its present form, I would not like to associate myself with it, but if the second part is eliminated, I give my whole-hearted support to it.

Chaudhri Duli Chand [Karnal (Non-Muhammadian) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, the resolution moved by the Honourable Lala Bodh Raj, if split up into two different parts, advocates in the first place the removal of all liquor shops already located in the various towns beyond the municipal boundaries. In the second place, the resolution in question requires us to centre all the liquor shops already located in the various villages at the tahsil head-quarters.

Now in most of the districts the head-quarters of one tahsil or the other are located in the city, and I would cite Sonapat as a concrete example of that type. If the liquor shops in the various villages are to be removed and centred at the head-quarters of the tahsil as the second part of the resolution would have us do, it would mean that we will be opening shops just in the centre of the city and within the municipal limits which is quite against the intention conveyed in the first part of the resolution.

And if to meet the wishes of the honourable mover the head-quarters of different tahsils located within the municipal limits will first of all be removed beyond the municipal limits and then the liquor shops in the various villages will be centred at the head-quarters, I think the money spent in making this experiment will be too much and will be incommensurate with the useful purpose it will serve.

Now I take the first part of the resolution. In my opinion the removing of liquor shops in the towns beyond the municipal limits will also do little good. It will rather encourage the evil of drinking. The reason is obvious. Those who have been tempted to take to drinking, but have not actually drunk because they are afraid of being noticed by some one, the liquor shop being located in the town, will get opportunities for which they were anxiously awaiting if these liquor shops be removed beyond municipal limits. These beginners will at once run to these shops without any danger of detection by any of their relatives and friends. I would like, Sir, to bring another point in this connection to the notice of the House. I think when a man is drunk it is easier and consequently safer for him to reach home if the liquor shop is in the town; but if the shops are removed beyond the municipal limits cases will not be few where in the state of drunkenness many will have lost their way home, which might ultimately result in loss of some lives.

I forgot to mention that the centering of liquor shops at the head-quarters of a tahsil is objectionable from another point of view. At present the District Boards have got power to order the removal of liquor shops near the headquarters if it is considered desirable, and I may tell you that some of the District Boards have already taken such a step. But if the resolution before us is passed, the District Boards will be left with no other option than to retain the liquor shop. Besides there is another danger in centering the shops at the headquarters. We know that every Lambardar, Zaildar, Sufedposh, litigants and many others have to go very often where the headquarters of their tahsil are located, and if on every occasion they find people drinking, it will not be long when they too will be tempted to contract

[Chaudhri Duli Chand.]

this bad habit. The lambardars who already save very little from what they get as *Pashotra* would find a nearer way to destruction if the present resolution is passed. With these remarks I oppose the resolution.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadian) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, the resolution moved by my honourable friend is so worded that I cannot but oppose it. There are two parts of the resolution and one contradicts the other. If the resolution had been couched in some better form, I should have given my support to it.

I oppose this resolution for other reasons too. This resolution intends to remove the liquor shops already in the towns beyond the municipal limits and perhaps locate them near the villages right and left of the town, meaning thereby that it is intended to shift the evil of drink to the villages. I, a representative of villagers, cannot bear to see them exposed to such a danger.

My next point is that, if the liquor shops in various villages are centred at the headquarters of the tahsil the inspecting staff of the Excise Department will not have to tour the villages so often as they now do and the result will be that illicit distillation will increase. Therefore I oppose the resolution.

Diwan Narinjan Das [Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Division North (Non-Muhammadian) Rural]: Sir, I admit that the resolution is not very happily worded, but after all the resolution is not a piece of legislation and it is not therefore necessary to throw it out if it is not properly worded. The intention of the honourable mover is quite clear. The first part says that all the shops situated in the towns should be removed outside the municipal limits. If some difficulty arises with regard to the second part, that must be fully covered by the first part if it is passed. A difficulty has been suggested by my friend on my right (Chaudhri Duli Chand). My solution of that difficulty is that the operation of the second part does not arise as the first part is already there. The fact that the removal of these shops beyond the municipal limits will affect the villages does not in my humble opinion carry any weight. By locating these shops outside the municipal limits it does not follow that the shopkeepers will remove very far from towns, because they cannot possibly expect any sale on a very large scale in the villages. All that they will do is to locate their shops within a safe distance from the municipal limits. Their natural object will be to invite some persons of the towns who may be able to take all the trouble to go that distance and have their drink. My submission is that if this resolution is passed, the difficulty suggested will not arise.

The reason why the honourable mover of the resolution advised such shops being located in the tahsils is not that he is in any way asking the House to commit itself to a policy of having so many shops in the tahsil compound. The intention of the honourable mover appears to be merely to carry out this scheme as a first step towards the goal which Sayad Muhammad Hussain pointed out. The object was to take this as the first step towards abolishing all liquor shops. There is also another object to be gained by this proposal. There will be a better supervision. My friend to my right (Chaudhri Duli Chand) pointed out that if the shops remained within municipal areas, people will think twice before going to the shops so that they may not be noticed by other persons. That is exactly the position which the honourable mover seems to have taken up when he advocated

these shops being located in the tahsil compounds. The tahsil compound is a place which is daily frequented by hundreds of persons and in a country like India where drinking is considered not merely a luxury but a sin, it will require a good deal of courage for those villagers or for the townsmen to go and patronise those shops when they are located in tahsil compounds. Mostly these persons go unnoticed and when these shops are brought to tahsil compound they will have to think twice before making their appearance before a lot of persons for patronising the shops. I therefore appeal to the House to pass this resolution in spite of its defective wording. If this is passed, the House will be able to convey to the whole province the necessity of putting an end or at any rate to the necessity of reducing the consumption of liquor in this province. This resolution will be most beneficial to the village folk as well as to the townfolk. I therefore hope the House will support this resolution.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : The honourable move of this resolution has stated that his object in moving this resolution is to eliminate the sources of danger to the moral tone of society. However, my honourable friend, Mr. Narinjan Das, who supported the honourable mover, pointed out that the object of this resolution was like that of the framers of the Government of India Act which was to obtain dominion rule by stages. The object of this resolution is to obtain prohibition by stages. The first stage proposed is the removal of liquor shops beyond the municipal areas and their concentration in rural areas. That is the first stage towards total prohibition. The honourable mover of this resolution at various parts of his speech laid great stress—I am trying to follow his speech as closely as I can—on the fact that in spite of all the efforts of the Government, there has been an increase in the consumption of liquor. I hope I am not misinterpreting the honourable member, but certainly that was the impression that I derived from his speech, namely, that there was a continuous increase in the consumption of liquor. I may read to the House the actual figures of consumption for the last four years. In 1919-1920, 5.45 lakhs of gallons were consumed in the province. In 1920-1921, 5.14 lakhs of gallons were consumed and in 1921-1922, 3.01 lakhs of gallons and lastly in 1922-1923, 1.18 lakhs of gallons were consumed. (Hear, hear). This is what my honourable friend calls a continuous increase in the consumption of liquor. If the honourable member has made a mistake—as I hope I have shown him to have made—in a statement of fact like that, is it not possible that he has made a mistake with regard to the other facts that he has stated? He has stated for example that there is no danger of increase in illicit distillation and the consumption of illicit liquor. Well Sir, all the statistics at our disposal show that side by side with this reduction in the consumption of licit liquor, there has been a great increase in the consumption of illicit liquor and the reason therefor is obvious. We have now restricted the sale of liquor to such an extent and we have also increased its price to such an extent that the habitual consumer of liquor who insists on getting it no matter at what cost has recourse to either illicit distillation or buys it from an illicit distiller. The records for the last year and the year before show that illicit distillation has increased, I will not say beyond all bounds, but certainly it has gone beyond the power of the existing staff to control. That is the position to which we have now reached and if any further reduction in the consumption of illicit liquor is contemplated, I must tell the House fully and frankly that they must face an enormous increase in the excise staff in order to put down illicit distil-

Mr. C. M. King.]

lation and illicit sale. The honourable mover of the resolution has stated that that is a matter of small importance. He said : By all means have an increased staff and spend money on the increased excise staff, but only stop illicit distillation with all the power at your command. Sir, I hope that when the time comes for the Honourable Minister for Agriculture to move his demand for excise, that that statement of the honourable mover will be remembered, and that he will vote for the slight increase in the excise staff which we are now asking.

Sir, it seems to me that there is a considerable misapprehension as to what will be the effect in removing the shops outside the municipal limits. The idea in the mind of the honourable mover seems to be that the removal of the shops from the city will create a new heaven and a new earth. He seems to think there will be no drink and no liquor and that people will all be moral and law-abiding. I do not know whether the honourable mover of this resolution is aware that in most of our big cities, Lahore, Amritsar, Rawalpindi and Multan liquor is sold in retail shops in sealed bottles. The intention is that liquor should not be consumed on the premises. My honourable friend has admitted that fact but he has not given the Government any credit for their motives which have prompted them to insist on this provision, namely, that liquor is to be sold in sealed bottle. But he has admitted that liquor is sold in sealed bottles. If you sell liquor in sealed bottles, you at once make it portable. It is almost as easy to buy a bottle of liquor within the limit of Lahore city as it is to go outside, a mile or two beyond the boundary and buy the liquor and bring it back again here. But there is a great danger, namely, that the man because he has to go out very often to get liquor will find it very inconvenient to do so and to avoid this difficulty he will overstock himself and he will bring back more liquor than he ought to. I do not know whether the honourable mover has contemplated that aspect of his proposal, namely, the possibility that a man having to get liquor from an inconvenient place and not being able to get it regularly twice a week, decides to get it only once a week but gets twice as much as he would ordinarily get. I think the result will be not quite what the honourable member desires. The honourable mover said that no bad result will follow if instead of selling liquor within the town, you sell it outside. Similar action was taken in Amritsar and in Tarn Taran and the honourable member said that there was no increase in illicit distillation in these places. I can assure the House that that statement is entirely wrong. It is as wrong as the statement which was made to the effect that there has been a continuous increase in consumption. I know something about the removal of the liquor shops outside Amritsar town because it was done in my time when I was Deputy Commissioner there. I know something about the removal outside Tarn Taran because that was also done when I was Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar. The immediate result was undoubtedly a fall in the excise revenue but there was no appreciable fall in the consumption. The fall in revenue was due to the increased price of liquor and due to the increased Excise duty. Nothing was due to the removal of the shops outside the city as far as we can judge. In Tarn Taran there has been a very great increase in illicit distillation which we found almost impossible to suppress. In the city of Amritsar, it is only the other day that I got a report of illicit distillation on fairly large scale actually within the limits of the city. I hope, Sir, that is an object lesson. I myself caused those liquor shops to be removed outside the city and I thought that in a big city like Amritsar there was no likelihood of illicit

distillation. But that hope was ill-founded. There has been illicit distillation in the city of Amritsar itself. Perhaps it may be said that illicit distillation was only intended for the person who did it and not on a commercial scale to be sold to other persons but that is not so. I sympathise with the honourable mover in his desires to remove all temptations to drink, but I feel that it will be extremely unwise on the part of this House to adopt the resolution suggested now. There is just one point more which I wish to mention to this House. This Council has already passed the Local Option Act. That Act gives very large powers to municipalities. Why should we force the hands of the municipalities now before we see what they are going to do with the powers that we have committed to them now. That is the question that I wish to put definitely before the House. By this resolution we are prejudging the case because we suppose that municipalities will not use the powers which have been committed to them and that they will not take steps to prevent the use of alcohol. Why should we not trust the municipalities which are after all the nearest approach to the representatives of the people, to take proper action under the powers vested in them?

Pandit Nanak Chand: I move that the question be now put.

Mr. President: It is only a few minutes to six o'clock and as no other member wishes to speak it is not necessary to put the closure motion: but the mover and member-in-charge have yet to reply. Is there any objection to continuing beyond six o'clock.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The mover and the Minister might waive their right of reply.

Lala Bodh Raj: I shall take only two minutes for my reply.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand: I shall not take long.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] (Urdu): Sir, the objections raised by some of the honourable members who spoke before the Financial Commissioner, have already been replied to by my honourable friend Diwan Narinjan Das. I have got up simply to remove the misunderstanding that has been created by the interpretation of the second part of my resolution. My resolution does not say that the liquor shops be necessarily located in the tahsil compound, but it clearly states that these shops may be located near the tahsil compound in cases where the headquarters are situated within the municipal limits. I never intended that all the liquor shops in the various villages be centred in the town so as to save one class of people at the cost of others.

I admit that district boards have got some powers to close the shops and at some places, they have utilised these powers, but these powers are limited and I wish their limitations be removed once for all and these District Boards be allowed to reduce the number of shops to the minimum. I quite appreciate the tact employed by the Honourable Financial Commissioner in making reference to the figures of the last four years because they served his purpose all right, but he did not care to take into consideration the figures of the last fifteen years preceding the year 1919, because he was conscious that in these years there has been a continuous increase in the consumption of liquor, in spite of the many efforts made by Government to check this evil. And even if there has been any decrease in the consumption of liquor during the last four years, it is not because the Government adopted some stricter measures to combat the evil, but because the non-co-operators did much to put a stop to this bad habit.

[Lala Bodh Raj.]

What I wished in moving this resolution and what I believe, the province wants is that the consumption of liquor should be brought down to the minimum limit and to achieve this object, we should adopt all reasonable measures that we can possibly adopt.

It has been argued that illicit distillation will increase. In reply I would ask the honourable members who entertain such fears, that they should read the histories of other countries. They will find that in the presence of prohibition measures adopted by them to put an end to the increasing evil of drinking, they have been taking proper measures to stop illicit distillation. I see no reason why this country, which claims to have taught morality to other countries, would have recourse to illicit distillation.

Mr. President: The honourable member has already had twice the two minutes he asked for.

Lala Bodh Raj: I will therefore appeal to the House that they should, keeping in view the welfare of the general public, give their hearty support to my resolution.

Mr. O. M. King: Sir, I understood that you would close the meeting at 6 o'clock.

Mr. President: If you had objected to it at the proper time, I would have considered your objection.

Mr. C. M. King: Sir, I object to the continuance of the debate after 6 o'clock.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Sir, I also object.

Mr. President: I am very sorry, but I did rise and asked if there was any objection.

Mr. C. M. King: I understood the object was to enable the mover to reply but not to continue the debates.

Mr. President: I understood that the Honourable the Minister in charge was willing to reply and I took that to mean that we should dispose of the whole thing. Perhaps I was not very distinct in what I said, but that was the idea. If I had had no intention of disposing of this item of business, of course I would have adjourned at once. But I will now take the sense of the House. I am entirely in the hands of the House.

Mr. President: Will members who object to continuing the sitting please rise?

(Only the members on the Government benches stood up).

Mr. President: Then we shall continue the sitting till this matter is disposed of, as there is not a majority in favour of the opposite course.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand [Minister for Agriculture], (Urdu): Sir, ample light has been thrown on the matter. So far as the question of evil is concerned the Government has full sympathy with the spirit of the resolution but as to the remedy no practical suggestion has been made. This resolution is quite impracticable. I may inform the House that a circular has been issued by the Government that in future the licenses for the sale of liquor in the densely populated areas, theatres and cinemas will be issued by the Financial Commissioner himself and hence it has become rather difficult to obtain a license. The great difficulty which the Government feels in this matter is

this that if the liquor shops be closed beyond the specified limit people would resort to illicit distillation and for this there would be absolutely no remedy except that the Inspecting staff may greatly be increased. With these words, Sir, I would request the House to reject the resolution.

Mr. President : The resolution proposed runs :

" This Council recommends to the Government to eliminate sources of danger to the moral tone of society by (a) removing beyond the municipal boundaries all liquor shops already located in the various towns ; (b) removing to the headquarters of the tahsil and to locate in or near the tahsil compound all liquor shops already located in the various villages."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The Council then divided : Ayes 15, Noes 35.

AYES 15.

Sardar Narain Singh.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Sardar Gurbaksh Singh.
M. Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Pandit Nanak Chand.
Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Lala Sham Lal.
Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
Diwan Narinjan Das.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.

NOES 35.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Lieut.-Col. E. L. Ward.
Mr. E. R. Abbott.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
Mr. E. A. Scott.
Sir George Anderson.
Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand.
The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.
The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
Mr. A. Latifi.
Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
Lieut.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
Mr. J. Coldstream.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.
Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr Shah.
Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
Sardar Jowahir Singh.
Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
Subedar Major Farman Ali Khan.
Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
Chaudhri Nur Din.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Sayad Muhammad Hussain.
Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhota Ram.
Chaudhri Duli Chand.
Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was lost.

The Council then adjourned till 10 o'clock on Thursday, the 6th March 1924.

1955-1956

...

...

...

PRINTED BY

THE SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNMENT PRINTING, PUNJAB.

365 PLC-425-13-5-24-SGPP Lahore.

...

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

2ND SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 6th March 1924.

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

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION.

THE PUNJAB STAMP (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to introduce the Punjab Stamp (Amendment) Bill.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

“ That the Punjab Stamp (Amendment) Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following :—

Mr. E. B. Abbott,

Sayad Muhammad Husain,

Sardar Jodh Singh,

Pandit Nanak Chand,

Mr. Miles Irving,

a member to be nominated by the Honourable the President,

Mr. J. Coldstream and

The Mover ;

and that the Council direct the Select Committee to submit its report by the 11th March 1924.”

Mr. President : The President's nominee is Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Thank you, Sir. The Punjab Stamp (Amendment) Bill was published in the Gazette in September 1923, and it was again published in January 1924. So it has been for some time before the public. It is not necessary for me to-day to repeat the statement of the financial position in support of this proposed piece of legislation. I have only to remind the House that the intention was to spread certain new taxation as equitably as possible over all interests. This particular Bill was designed to place a certain portion of the additional taxation upon the urban population. The proposal is to double the stamp duty upon conveyances of immoveable property in municipalities and cantonments. I think it will not be necessary for me to say that if there is to be more taxation it is equitable that the urban population should bear its share of it. As regards the amount which is anticipated from the operation of this new Bill, it is calculated to be approximately five lakhs of rupees a year. As regards the rate at which this impost is to be levied, I may say that roughly speaking the existing rate is $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and according to the new proposals it will be 3 per cent. As regards the method of taxation, the advantages of this proposal are that the increased stamp duty costs nothing to collect and it is an easy method of paying taxation. I have nothing more to say, Sir, in proposing the reference of this Bill to the Select Committee.

Mr. President : The question is—

“That the Punjab Stamp (Amendment) Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following :—

Mr. E. R. Abbott,

Sayad Muhammad Hussain,

Sardar Jodh Singh,

Pandit Nanak Chand,

Mr. Miles Irving,

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir,

Mr. J. Coldstream and

The Mover ;

and that the Council direct the Select Committee to submit its report by the 11th March 1924.”

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh, Urban] : Sir, I rise to oppose the motion of the Honourable the Finance Member. I know the fate of my opposition, because out of the 71 elected members only 12 are representatives of urban areas. Though belonging to a village I am a representative of an urban constituency and I have got some reasons which may appeal to the members of the House here. In the first place, Sir, I read on page 6 of the memorandum supplied along with the Budget for 1924-25 the following : “It was expected when the amendments to the Stamp Act were passed early in 1928 that they would produce over 30 lakhs of additional revenue, but as a matter of fact a comparison with the accounts for 1922-23 (in which this new taxation had a part for three months) shows the effect to be represented by 10 or 12 lakhs. Whether this is merely a temporary set-back or whether we have really reached the limit of probable taxation in this direction cannot be at present prophesied.” Sir, when the Finance Department itself is in doubt whether we have reached the limit of taxation in this direction, I do not see why they should increase the taxation still further. They expected some 30 lakhs from this new taxation but they have not got that amount.

The second consideration why I oppose this Bill is the one which has been mentioned by the Honourable the Finance Member himself. He said that this taxation was designed to distribute evenly the burden of new taxation. May I point out, Sir, that the taxation proposed for the rural people is already being shared by the urban people also. The Court-fee is based on the market value and not on the land revenue for a certain number of years. So the taxation which is now proposed for the rural areas is not merely being borne by the urban people but is being borne in a much greater proportion. The highest valuation now proposed is twenty times the land revenue which the Finance Member himself said the other day did not come to the level of the market value or the land in rural areas. In the case of urban areas that Court-fee is already being paid on the market price. So, Sir, I would suggest that this new taxation is not equitable in view of the fact that a new taxation has already been proposed to be imposed on the rural people. On these two grounds, Sir, I beg to oppose the motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Punjab University) : I also oppose the motion not because it is against the interests of a particular class of people but because the limit of taxation has been already reached. As the House will remember, I opposed the other motion also, namely, that for the en-

hancement of the Court-fees. This cry of rural and urban interests we must all join together to deprecate. I believe that the interests of one part are not separable from the interests of another part of the country. (Hear, hear.) I oppose the present motion for the same reason which was advanced against the other motion by some members of this House, namely, that the Bill is premature. We must first discuss the budget, we must first see how we stand and whether it is possible to cut down expenditure to the limit of the amount that we are likely to get from passing these three Bills. Sir, it is all very well for honourable members to say, as the honourable Mr. Gray remarked the other day, that India is the most solvent country in the world. He would have been nearer the truth if he had said India was bearing a greater burden of taxation than perhaps most parts of the world, considering not the amount of taxation, but considering the capacity of the people to bear taxation.

Sir, no one can deny that India is the poorest country in the world and that it is one that is sorely tried. Only the other day, one honourable member of this House pointed out with great justice that the average income of the bulk of the people of this province was in the neighbourhood of Rs. 40. Well, Sir, even a prisoner in jail costs Government something like Rs. 90 odd a year. The average income for the whole of India has been estimated from time to time at Rs. 30, 40 or more. Although these figures are likely to vary from time to time, due chiefly to the change in the value of the rupee, the fact is undenied and undeniable that the average income does not provide even a living wage to the people of this country.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Question.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I know that the Honourable the Finance Member will question a proposition like this. But, Sir, it has not been questioned in a place higher up. The Honourable the Finance Member perhaps wants that this statement should be substantiated. I can later on discuss this in detail. But I would like....

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : I rise to a point of order, Sir. Is this relevant to the question of increasing the stamp duty?

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I was giving reasons for not imposing any further taxes on the people. The people in India generally and the people of this province in particular are already heavily taxed; they do not get even a living wage and they are too poor to bear any further burden. Well, Sir, I will pass on. It has to be seen what cuts we can propose in the budget. I believe, Sir, with a more economical system of finance—I am casting no reflection on the Honourable the Finance Member—it is possible to do away with further taxation in this province and perhaps in other provinces also. With a more economic system of finance than what is at present in vogue in this province, it is possible to cut down expenditure to a limit which will make it unnecessary for us to impose any further taxation. There is another reason why I say this Bill is unnecessary and premature. We have yet to see what the Government of India does with regard to the provincial contribution. We know that money is coming to us. . . .

Malik Firoz Khan Noon : Question.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I know that the money is coming to us. I will tell you the reason why money is coming. So far as the Legislative

[Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.]

Assembly is concerned, it will have nothing to do with the matter. The Assembly is going to refuse the supplies as every self-respecting body of representatives of the people is bound to do, if only as an answer.....

Mr. President: How is this relevant to the Bill under discussion? The honourable member will have plenty of other opportunities to speak on that subject.

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni: We too would like to throw out the supplies. I do not conceal it from this House now. But that is a different question. I believe, Sir, I am not telling anything new to the honourable members. At the present time there is a general tendency all over the country to balance the budget. There is a lurking fear in the minds of the people—it is not for me to say with what justice or justification—that all this is being done to strengthen the hands of the Lee Commission and to provide funds in anticipation of their recommendations.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I rise to a point of order, Sir. How is this relevant to the question at issue?

Mr. President: It is very far-fetched. I have already called the honourable member to order. He should confine himself more directly to the subject under discussion.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: Sir, no valid reason has been given for this additional taxation. The sole reason that the Honourable Finance Member urges is that Government wants to make both ends meet, not by cutting down expenditure but by imposing fresh taxation. I do not know whether I will be called to order again if I say that when the proper time arrives, I will point out the various directions in which cuts can be made. But I will not enter into that part of the subject at the present moment. I believe that cuts can easily be effected to a very large extent without disturbing in the slightest degree the finances of the province, without touching the salaries of the staff and without in any way disturbing the present arrangements, expensive as they might be in our opinion. It is possible to make cuts substantial enough to cover the little amount that is likely to accrue from this Bill as well as from the Bill which was adopted the other day and the Bill which is going to be introduced later on in the day. With these few words, I beg to oppose the motion.

Malik Firoz Khan Noon [Shahpur East (Muhammadian) Rural]: Sir, a great deal has been said about the poverty of the people of this country but I fail to see how that can be made relevant to a discussion on the Stamp Bill. We have to bear in mind the distinction between Court-fees and stamp duty that has got to be paid on certain transfers. My honourable friend Sardar Jodh Singh was comparing the Court-fees to be paid on rural lands with the stamp duty that has got to be paid on transfers in towns.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh Urban]: Sir, I simply said, Sir, that the taxation proposed for the rural people is already being shared by the urban people also.

Malik Firoz Khan Noon: It has to be borne in mind that Court-fee has to be paid by a person who goes to court and files a suit for declaration of his title to a property or for recovery of possession of some property. Sometimes you see that a person is entitled to get a large piece of land but he has not the money to pay the Court-fees and go to court. If

you raise the Court-fee in such a case, you will be virtually denying justice to the person who is entitled to the possession of the land. The present bill contemplates the levy of stamp duty on transfers of property in urban areas. If any man wishes to sell his land in a town, he has to pay stamp duty for the transfer of his property. In England there is an Act, called 'The Unearned Increment Act'. If a man buys a piece of land and wants to sell the same after two or three years simply because the price of land has gone up he must be asked to pay stamp duty on such a sale. The extra price that he gets by such a transfer of property is called the 'unearned increment' and this is heavily taxed in England. There is no reason why such a course should not be adopted in this country. The speculator in the town buys a certain property to-day and sells it to-morrow when he sees that the price of the same has risen. The huge profit that the speculator gets thereby should be taxed. This principle should apply to the inhabitants of rural as well as urban areas. No distinction should be made between the two. As far as this bill is concerned, it aims at taxing the people who are speculating. It is the rich and not the poor that will be affected by this Bill. I therefore think that this bill should give the least amount of worry to my honourable friends on the opposite benches.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : [Multan Division (Non-Muham-
madan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, the opposition to the Bill is of no avail, for it will be adopted without fail. However I would express my views as regards the proposed increase in stamp duty. The Honourable Finance Member has previously given a temptation to the zamindars stating that the water rates will not be enhanced and thus won them over to his side. Now the same temptation will not certainly move the members representing urban areas in favour of the Bill. Malik Firoz Khan Noon has remarked that the rich should not go scot free when the poor agriculturists are taxed heavily. In reply to this I would inform the gentleman that cost on stamps on transfer of property is equally borne by both the buyer and the seller whether they are rich or poor, thus his argument of rich and poor does not apply to the subject before the House.

Sir, the stamp duty has already been increased from 1 per cent. to 1½ per cent. and now it is being proposed to raise the same to 3 per cent. which would amount to *Zoolum* on the part of the Government. The Bill will certainly tend to increase the prevailing dissatisfaction among the urban population. Moreover it is thought that the burden of the proposed increase in stamp duty will be borne by the urban population alone, but it is incorrect for in the long run it will prove an equal burden over the whole population of the province. I am at a loss to understand why the Government resorts to such a taxation when it has got so many other means to increase the revenues of the province, such as Forests where no satisfactory reduction in expenditure has hitherto been effected. This Department can be worked with profit if the Government only care to do so. In conclusion I would appeal to the mercy of the zamindar members to throw out this Bill.

Chaudhri Duli Chand : [Karnal (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, to avoid all this clamouring and opposition it would have been much better if no fresh taxation had been imposed either on the rural population or on the people in the urban areas. But the difficulty is that money is to be provided some how or other for the maintenance of Police, for the administration of justice, for hospitals and education and the like and to make

[Chandhri Duli Chand.]

both ends meet taxes must needs be levied. Now when it is found that we cannot but impose further taxes, we must keep in view that all classes equally share the burden. We must see that no class suffers more than the other. As far as my knowledge goes nearly all the villagers are contributing more or less to the public treasury.

(Some voices : Not all the villagers.) If you care to have the statements prepared, you will find that my statement is based on facts.

But in the case of urban population not more than ten out of hundred are paying the taxes. Besides the burden of local rates, water rates and so many other rates is already heavily weighing upon the villagers and any fresh taxation on them will be out of all proportion to their capacity to bear them.

I admit that the Municipal rates are being charged from the towns people, but perhaps they do not realise that the money so raised is spent to safeguard their interests. But on the other hand there are so many villages which, inspite of the fact that they pay so much do not get anything to console them. There are not a few villages where there are no schools, no dispensaries and nothing of this sort although they are paying their share of taxation. I, therefore, submit, Sir, that the rural population should not be taxed any further. The taxes might be levied on the urban population who are paying so little and getting so much.

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. President : The question is—

“ That the Punjab Stamp (Amendment) Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following :—

Mr. E. R. Abbott,

Sayed Muhammad Husain,

Sardar Jodh Singh,

Pandit Nanak Chand,

Mr. Miles Irving,

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir, and

The Honourable Sir John Maynard ;

and that the Council direct the Select Committee to submit its report by the 11th March 1924.”

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION BILL.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir I beg to introduce the Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following :—

Mr. D. J. Boyd,
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din,
Mr. V. F. Gray,
Raizada Bhagat Ram,
Mr. Miles Irving,
A member to be appointed by the President,
Mr. J. Coldstream and
The Mover ;

and that the Council direct the Select Committee to submit its report by the 11th March 1924."

Mr. President : The President's nominee is Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Thank you, Sir.

This, Sir, is one of the bills recommended by the Standing Committee on Finance last year. It was one of the measures which the Standing Finance Committee of this House in the previous Council recommended in order to assist in bridging the gulf between revenue and expenditure. It was published in the Gazette in September 1923, and it was again published in the Gazette in January, 1924. So it has been for some considerable time before the public. The Bill follows generally the provisions of a similar Act in the United Provinces and the schedule of the Bill incorporates the rates which are in force in the United Provinces. So we have the example of a neighbouring province to justify us in passing this piece of legislation.

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni : Are the rates the same ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Yes, they are identical. There is a certain amount of existing taxation on motor vehicles in the Punjab almost entirely of an Imperial kind, that is to say, it goes to the pockets of the Government of India and is not received by the Government of the Punjab. There is, as everybody knows, a substantial import duty on motor vehicles, then there is a tax on motor spirit which, I understand, is about to be reduced from 6 annas per gallon to 4½ annas per gallon. Then there are certain imposts on registration and drivers' licenses. Notwithstanding this it is felt that in order to spread equitably the burden of the new taxation over all interests, it is only right that the comparatively well-to-do who are in a position to keep motor cycles or motor vehicles should bear their part of the burden and it is for that reason that this Bill forms one of that trio which is being put before the Council.

Mr. President : The question is :

"That the Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following :—

Mr. D. J. Boyd,
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din,
Mr. V. F. Gray,
Raizada Bhagat Ram,
Mr. Miles Irving,
Shaikh Abdul Qadir,
Mr. J. Coldstream, and
The Honourable Sir John Maynard ;

and that the Council direct the Select Committee to submit its report by the 11th March 1924."

Mr. V. F. Gray (Punjab Chamber of Commerce and Trades Association Commerce) : Mr. President, I regret I am obliged to oppose the Bill before us, at least as it now stands and especially so far as it affects commercial transport.

That referring to private motors, in view of the urgent necessity for the Government to obtain greater income, I would agree to, provided the taxes were reduced by 50 per cent. It is right that motor owners should contribute something to provincial revenue, but even if the taxes before us are reduced 50 per cent. to private owners, this becomes a very heavy form of taxation, remembering that private motor owners have already paid a 30 per cent. tax on importation of their car and pay heavy recurring expenses charged by the Central Government in the form of excise duty on petrol, which although a reduction of $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas is proposed in the Central Budget, still remains a heavy tax, and again in the import tax on tyres, etc.

Has the Honourable Mover realized what this 20 per cent. means? It actually means the equivalent of an annual tax on an ordinary car of Rs. 200 to Rs. 250 which I think must be acknowledged is a very heavy tax, without the additional one before us. I will explain how I arrive at my figure. Take a Ford car costing Rs. 2,500 or so, the tax of 30 per cent. = Rs. 750 and the life of the car about 3 years = Rs. 250 per year. If you are the happy owner of a more expensive car, the price will be more, and the import tax more, but then the life of the car will be longer, and I still think my figure of Rs. 200 to Rs. 250 as a yearly tax fairly accurate.

We must remember that today the motor car is not a luxury. If I thought there was any suggestion of this in the proposal, I would ask Government why they give motor car allowance to so many of their officials and help towards buying cars. I think we must all agree that motors for many of us have become absolute necessities, and in no country is this truer than in India. I might argue here at some length from the point of view of the car driver. The tax, we are told, will hit the wealthy man only. It probably will result in less cars on the road which means unemployment to the poor car driver and cleaner, by no means wealthy men. However, my chief concern is the commercial motor, speaking as I am on behalf of Commerce.

Now as regards motors used for commercial purposes most of the arguments already used apply.

Motor Transport Companies pay 15 per cent. import duty plus excise on petrol and recurring costs on tyres. There is here no question of luxury or even taxing well-to-do people as the Honourable the Finance Member said of this tax in his very able and interesting Budget speech.

If the honourable mover of the Bill would reduce these taxes on all Transport Companies by 75 per cent., I would accept the same, but as it stands it will cripple the industry beyond recovery and I must emphatically protest against it.

The Bill before us seems to follow the lines of that recently passed by a sister province, the United Provinces. Would it not be advisable to await the result of the Act in that province after 12 months and to see how many fresh licenses are issued against the number the previous year. You will find a very big drop, as from what I have seen myself and from what I hear the result has been to drive almost all motor transport off the United Provinces roads.

Motor transport is more backward in the Punjab than in the United Provinces and any proposed taxation should be very light in the case of transport concerns plying for the convenience of the public, either transporting goods or passengers, *you don't want to drive them off the roads*. The increase of country transport is one of the greatest factors in the development of the country, the benefits accruing indirectly to Government revenue and directly to the people of India by improving road communication are untold.

Every modern country is alive to the necessity of encouraging mechanical transport to work as feeders to the great railway communications of a country and surely the Punjab with its vast area is in very urgent need of this development, and in my opinion it would be very ill advised for Government to place any obstacles in the way of the development of motor transport. It would be undoubtedly to their ultimate gain to subsidize in some way, certainly to give encouragement to, rather than discouragement to, an industry of such untold benefit to the country and its people.

So far as I am aware, there is practically no taxation on other modes of transport, and if the argument is that those who own motor vehicles can well afford to be taxed, then this argument may apply to the private owners only, but it does not apply to transport companies and to those using vehicles solely for trade and industry.

Again Motor transport is already heavily taxed in the Punjab; in addition to the original registration fee (Police) of Rs. 15 per vehicle there is an annual tax for Road Certificates for vehicles plying for hire of Rs. 10 for light and Rs. 40 for heavy vehicles per vehicle per year. And further if a company operates its service in the Punjab on hill roads, it has to obtain special driving licenses for its drivers at a fee of Rs. 5 per license per district, this means operating in more than one district, Rs. 10 or Rs. 15 per driver per annum.

Another big fact to be remembered in taxing transport companies which run regular services is that they have to possess a number of vehicles as spare for emergencies. One company I know of has 24 vehicles, and the average number on the roads only amount to 17 in the summer months and 10 in the winter months, and yet on the Bill before us they must pay this proposed extraordinary heavy taxation for the year on the 24 cars and yet only half this number are on the roads producing revenue for them.

The proposed Bill is purely for revenue and I understand three lakhs of rupees is the amount expected this first year. Surely for this small sum to be realized from a comparatively small community it is not worth while attempting to drive all transport facilities off the roads at a time when, industrially the Punjab is waking up.....

Mr. President : I should like to point out that the rule is that members reading their speeches are allowed only five minutes.

Mr. V. F. Gray : I thought we were allowed fifteen minutes.

Mr. President : Quite true, but the honourable member appears to be reading his speech and the rule of the House is to give only five minutes for written speeches. I will however give you two minutes more.

Mr. V. F. Gray : I must apologise, Sir. But I must point out that I am speaking from the point of view of the commercial people and wish to place their views before the House accurately as there is no one else in the House representing their interests.

Mr. President : I quite realize that. That is why I will give you two minutes more.

Mr. V. F. Gray : Thank you, Sir. I hope this House will agree with me, any one representing industry must see how unwise the tax is from their point of view, still more so must all zamindars realize the advantages they will lose if motor transport is driven off the roads. As the railways become the main artery giving life to the country, opening it up, raising the value of land, making it easier for produce to be marketed, so is motor transport the smaller veins running still further into previously undeveloped districts, opening up and giving comfort and wealth to all land-owners and land dwellers. The Bill before us wants to throttle all this, for what, a paltry three lakhs of rupees, or so far as transport companies are concerned, half this amount.

Sir, much as I wish to balance the Budget, essential as I know that to be, this is not the way. The policy is too shortsighted. The Honourable Member this morning is in the happy position of having an assured Government majority so I appeal to him to either withdraw the Bill or to allow the Select Committee to drastically reduce the proposed taxes.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das Bhandari (Non-official, nominated) : Sir, I wish to say one word with regard to this motion. I am not against raising of money to meet the requirements of the Government. What I wish to point out, Sir, is this that motor cars break the roads of cities, and municipal committees are also searching for money for the purpose of repairing the roads. Would it not be better to allow small sums out of this revenue to the municipal committees so that they may be able to provide funds for repairing their roads? After all when the municipal committees are not able to find sufficient funds to meet their needs they have to look to the Government for assistance. I will therefore suggest that the members who are to work in the Select Committee will kindly see that the income from this source is divided half and half between the Government and the municipal committees.

Lala Mohan Lal [North-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] : Sir, I rise to make a few observations on this Bill. I am sure that the members on the Government side will vote on our side when the voting comes, because it affects them also. I want to give the House a few figures to show how much the Punjab is contributing already by way of taxation on motor vehicles. From the figures that I have been able to collect all that I can say is that the Punjab is contributing 20 lakhs of rupees towards the revenue, either to the Government of India or to municipalities. I will explain this point more clearly. For the purpose of argument, I will take that there are about 4,200 motor cars in the Punjab which have to pay tax. There are about 2,000 motor cycles. Let us now see how much tax we are paying on these motor vehicles in the Punjab. The import duty on motor vehicles at present is 30 per cent. We have to pay excise duty on petrol at the rate of six annas per gallon. I understand that the Government of India propose to reduce it to four annas and six pies. Then comes the tariff on petrol at eight annas per gallon. Then comes the import duty that we have to pay on tyres and other accessories. This comes to 30 per cent. In some towns we have to pay octroi to municipalities for importing these goods. That tax forms about 5 or 6 per cent. Again, when motor cars or cycles are kept within municipal limits we have to pay municipal taxes, which in some municipalities is Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 per month. Then we have to pay

to the Inspector-General of Police a registration fee of Rs. 16 per motor car and Rs. 4 per cycle. We have also to pay a license fee of Rs. 2 per annum for our motor drivers. Assuming therefore that a motor-car costs on an average Rs. 4,200, and assuming that the cars carry us about 12 miles per day—(A voice : why not a hundred ?) I am taking the average only. It may probably be more. I am only taking a very moderate estimate. The petrol consumption is one gallon per 18 miles. It requires two new tubes and tyres per year which will cost about Rs. 300 and the other accessories and parts will cost about Rs. 100 a year. The taxes then according to my calculation will be—

			Rs.
Import duty on Rs. 4,200 at 30 per cent	...	...	1,260.
Registration fee	...	...	16
			<hr/>
Total	...	...	1,276
			<hr/>

Assuming that the average life of a car to be six years, it comes to Rs. 2-2-1 per day.

Take now the consumption of petrol. It comes to about Rs. 104 per year. Adding this to the import duty on tyres and accessories, driving license, wheel tax, etc., the total figure comes to Rs. 430.

In the case of motor-cycles, assuming the average cost to be Rs. 900 and that it runs about 4,000 miles per annum and that it runs at 60 miles per gallon of petrol, and that the average life of a cycle is six years, and providing for renewal of tyres and tubes, the average cost comes to Rs. 101.

According to those figures, I beg to submit to the House that those who own motor-cars and motor-cycles are contributing 20 lakhs by way of taxation. As has been said by my honourable friend, Mr. Gray, motor-cars are not a luxury in the Punjab, but they are an absolute necessity for the development of trade in this province. For these reasons, I think this tax should not be imposed.

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni (Punjab University) : I just want to say a few words. My honourable friend, Mr. Gray, has made such a good case on the commercial side that it is hardly necessary for me to say anything further. My one reason in opposing this motion is to wean the Government away from the habit of frequently coming to the House whenever they want more money. The Government too often comes to the House with taxation bills. One other point which I wish to mention is this. In the earlier years of the War, the Government of India got a severe rebuke from the Home Government for not having developed the motor vehicle transport to the extent they ought to have done. The result was that when India was practically cut off from Europe, it could not supply the Government with enough transport for the purpose of carrying on the operations of war in Mesopotamia. I read a discussion on this subject in 1916-1917. The Government of India received a severe rebuke from the Government at home. It will be a very sad day if we discouraged the opening up of the country, and if we did not provide quick and rapid transport for emergency,

[Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.]

if such an occasion should again arise. Apart from this we should not allow the Government to impose further taxes on the people. For these reasons I oppose the motion.

Chaudhri Duli Chand [Karnal (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I am glad to see that the majority of the members of this Council in spite of their being owners of motor vehicles welcome the present Bill. For several days I have been thinking that no opposition will be offered to this Bill, and, if there will be any, it will certainly come from official side. Contrary to my expectation the members whom I thought to be the zealous supporters of the Bill are opposing it. Motor vehicles are only kept by high officials and millionaires, and I think they must be taxed and the poor zamindars should not be subjected to fresh taxation. There is another class of men who drive motor vehicles on hire and derive a good income thereby. They, too, must contribute something to the revenues of the Province. As a matter of principle, a tax may be levied on things injurious to the public health so that the public may be compelled to give up their use. Lastly, last I would say that if these taxes are to be divided at all as proposed by Sir Gopal Das Bhandari, they should be divided not only between the Government and municipalities, but the district boards also should share them.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain [Minister for Education] (Urdu): There is no doubt about it, Sir, that the Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill introduced to-day is, if passed, going to impose further tax on a class of people who are already contributing a large share to fill the Government coffers. It is also true that the Bill will levy tax on motor lorries, and might incidentally affect the poor classes too. But the gap between the expenditure and the income is to be bridged, and I see no forceful reason why the Bill should not be passed. I for one give my hearty support to the Bill, never mind if I happen to possess a motor-car. I realise my responsibilities, and I do not shirk them. By giving my support to the Bill I mean to show that we are not anxious simply to tax others, but are prepared to support, rather welcome, a tax, of course a reasonable one, even if it clashes with our personal interests.

It will not be out of place to mention that a similar Bill was passed last year by the United Provinces Council, and it would be well if we too pass this Bill and do not lag behind our neighbours.

In the end I might appeal to the better judgment of the members and warn them not to be led away by those who have made it a point to oppose every demand by Government whatever its merits may be.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh Urban): 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 question is—

“That the Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following:—

Mr. D. J. Boyd,

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din,

Mr. V. F. Gray,

Raizada Bhagat Ram,

Mr. Miles Irving,

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdal Qadir,

Mr. J. Coldstream, and

The Honourable Sir John Maynard ;

and that the Council direct the Select Committee to submit its report by the 11th March 1924."

The motion was carried.

RESOLUTION RE RAISING A LOAN FOR IRRIGATION WORKS.

Mr. Miles Irving (Finance Secretary) : Sir, I rise to move :—

"That this Council recommends to Government to raise during the year 1924-25 a loan of Rs. 1,50,00,000 for the purpose of providing funds for the construction of Irrigation Works—Capital expenditure—and other productive projects approved by the Council."

While this resolution is being moved, I think the Council will be interested to know how the Province stands with regard to the public debt. On the 1st of March 1921, the Punjab assumed as a provincial debt the sum of 21.87 crores. That was the whole of the debt previously incurred on productive canal projects. On this we paid interest at 3.8 per cent. on 27½ lakhs and at 5½ per cent. on the remainder. Then in the year 1921-22, we began with an accumulated revenue balance of nearly 2 crores. We spent all that in 1921-22 and ended with an overdraft of one crore. In 1922-23, we incurred another overdraft of 132 lakhs. During the current year as we have not yet spent the whole of the amount raised by the Punjab Loan, we closed with a balance on all accounts of 113 lakhs, which we may for the moment regard as reducing our post-reform debt to the Government of India to 1.14 crores on which we are paying interest at 6½ per cent. Finally, we borrowed in the Punjab Loan 1.92 crores at 6½ per cent., thus the total public debt of the Punjab is—

3½ per cent.	...	21.87 lakhs.
5½ "	...	45 "
6½ "	...	1.92 crores.
6½ "	...	1.14 "

On the credit side of the account we have one crore of balances, which was surrendered in the past and which bears interest at 3½ per cent. We have therefore a total public debt of about 24 crores, of which all but 1½ crores are productive debt. That on the whole is an extraordinarily sound financial position. Obviously if we were drawing up a balance sheet we should take the value of these canals which ought to represent all but about 1½ crores of the public debt.

Now coming to the purpose for which we wish to borrow this money, honourable members will see in the budget of the coming year that we expect to spend about 315 lakhs of capital expenditure. I do not think I

[Mr. Miles Irving.]

need go into the distinction between capital and revenue expenditure although it has been recently introduced into the Punjab accounts. The distinction is a very important one. I fancy there is an idea in some quarters that we borrowed money last year in order to bridge the gulf between our revenue income and our revenue expenditure. Such is not the case as I shall explain later on, the Punjab Loan was raised entirely for capital purposes.

I now turn to our capital expenditure. It is 315 lakhs as I said before, and by far the greatest portion of this is 191 lakhs on the Sutlej Valley Project. Then there are 61 lakhs on Civil Works. Of this 43 lakhs are really connected with the Sutlej Valley Project; they are communications in the area commanded by that canal. The work will not be carried out by the Canal engineers, but by the Buildings and Roads Branch. Out of 61 lakhs on Civil Works we are providing a certain amount of works of a non-productive character (about 13 lakhs) and we are providing 4 lakhs in order to fulfil our promise to the Simla Municipality to give them electric water-works. Then we come to 35 lakhs for the Mandi Hydro-Electric Project. That will come before the Council in its ordinary place in the Budget. It has not yet been fully examined, but it is being examined by experts in London. If it is approved by this Council after being approved by our experts, we will have in it a very big scheme indeed, providing electric power between Delhi on the one side and Lyallpur on the other. Then there are 25 lakhs, the ordinary provision for loans. This gives us the whole of the capital expenditure of 315 lakhs. On the other hand, we carry forward 118 lakhs, expect to receive 39 lakhs from sales of land and 13 on the loan account. This gives us 170 lakhs on the credit side against expenditure of 315 lakhs, leaving 145 to be made good. For this purpose we wish to raise a loan of 150 lakhs which will leave us a small sum on the right side.

I now turn to the method in which we propose to raise this loan in the open market. But before I do so the House will probably like to hear some details about the Punjab Loan that was floated last year. In August, 1922, this Council approved of certain expenditure of one crore on irrigation and other objects being met by loan. Government after taking further advice decided to earmark the proceeds of the loan entirely for irrigation and after obtaining the approval of the Government of India notice was given on the 11th August last that an issue of 6½ per cent. ten-year Bonds would be opened from the 1st September to the 15th October, subject to closure as soon as we got nearly one crore. The loan was opened on the 1st of September. Before 9 o'clock that evening I received telegrams which assured me that it had been oversubscribed to the extent of nearly double. Therefore steps were taken to close the loan and not open it on the following day. An examination of the subscriptions received indicates that of it the most part were made by banks. Investments from the small investor were not however at all discouraging. It is true that 121 lakhs of the issue were taken up in denominations of Rs. 25,000 and over and 25 lakhs in denominations of Rs. 10,000. Subscriptions taken in denominations of Rs. 5,000 and under amounted to Rs. 45 lakhs. It is also interesting to note that out of the total money paid in, 183 lakhs were tendered by cheque and only 9 lakhs by cash or notes. The agriculturists tendered 5 lakhs as far as they could be distinguished. As affirming the confidence of the financial world in the financial position of the Punjab the success of the loan is beyond dispute, and has I hear roused interest in the City of London. It cannot be said that this

success was due to the terms being unduly generous, for had this been the case the issue would have undoubtedly gone to a premium. As a matter of fact its last quotation on the Calcutta Exchange shows it only a fraction of 1 per cent. above its par value. It is an indication of the estimation in which the Punjab is regarded, but we should not conceal from ourselves the fact that it has only achieved part of the success we hoped for as regards getting money from the boards of the thrifty agriculturists. But this apparent failure is due to the very success of the loan, and lies in the fact that the agriculturist is slow to move. The countryman in the Punjab, as elsewhere, does not like to be hurried. He does not understand a loan being opened at 10 A.M. and closed at 3 P.M. the same day. Doubtless had the loan remained open for six weeks he would towards the end of the time after consulting all his friends, have come to the conclusion that he should invest in it. This closing of a loan within a few hours is quite incomprehensible to him. In order to encourage the habit of investment we propose to make an allowance for this habit of mind, and to arrange to keep the loan open for a longer period, and in order to encourage the small investor allotment will be made proportionately to the tender with the exception that those who tender for small amounts will be allotted in full. It may, however, be said, it is perfectly true that this $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. is a fairly good market price, but at the same time it is also true that we should have got this money from the Government of India at 6 per cent. What are we getting for this extra quarter per cent.? There are good reasons for that. One is to build up our own capital resources. Just at present the Government of India seems to have an almost unlimited money market. At present they seem to get all the money they want. They can borrow money readily, and will lend to us readily. But we do not know how long this state of affairs will go on. We do not want to be dependent on them. So the first thing we have tried and to a certain extent attained by raising this loan is the participation of the people of the Province in the development of their own country, so that the next time when we are in need of money we shall not have to go to any foreign market, Bombay, or Calcutta or Cawnpur. We shall be able to raise all the money we want in our Province. That of course is not the case at present. We will have in not a very distant future great schemes for the development of the Province which will require capital. We may not from time to time know where to turn to lay our hands upon it unless we develop the habit in our own people of investing in the development of the Punjab. We have not succeeded in this object to a very great extent in our first loan but we have laid a foundation. Then there is an additional reason. We have, I think, to some extent attained the establishment of a somewhat more independent position with regard to the Government of India. Our position towards the Central Government is different when we can say that we are capable of raising the capital we require than when we have to go to them for all our needs. Now that we have shown that we can do this I think our position is materially stronger. After all we are all sons of the same parent and the more we let the old man know that we can more or less stand on our own feet the better our relations are likely to be. (Hear, hear.) I have no further remarks on the subject to make and I desire to move the motion standing in my name.

Mr. President : Resolution moved runs :

"This Council recommends to Government to raise during the year 1924-25 a loan of Rs. 1,50,00,000 for the purpose of providing funds for the construction of Irrigation Works—Capital expenditure—and other productive projects approved by the Council."

[Mr. President.]

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Panjab University) : Sir, from the few remarks that I am going to make, I do not wish it to be understood that I am opposed to the raising of a loan. The only question before us is whether the present is the time for raising a loan of this kind. In the first place, I should like to say a word or two with regard to the loan which was raised only a short time ago and to which both the Honourable the Finance Member and the Financial Secretary have referred in their speeches. I am referring, Sir, to the loan of Rs. 1.92 lakhs which was raised only a few months back. Sir the question which has occurred to me in going over this arises out of certain remarks which the Finance Member made in the course of his speech. A loan of a crore of rupees was called for, but before a few hours passed they found that an amount twice as much as their requirements had been subscribed. Instead of limiting their demands to a crore of rupees, they jumped at nearly two crores and there is the money lying idle.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : No.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I am coming to that. If two crores of rupees were not wanted, there is no reason why a loan of two crores should have been accepted. It is all very well to tell the world that our credit stands higher now, but I think it is like the man who wants to show himself to be a rich man and who wants to keep at his credit in the bank a large sum of money, but which sum of money is not his own, but is borrowed money. Government is paying 5½ lakhs of rupees on this excess loan which was not wanted and which was taken simply in order, I suppose, to have the gratification of telling the world that they had a credit in the money market of the world.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No.

Mr. President : The honourable member must not impute motives.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : That is an obvious thing, Sir. I would be the last person to impute motives to the Honourable the Finance Member. Sir, as the question of imputing motives has been raised, you will perhaps allow me to say that of the men in the whole official world whom I have known, I do not know of one whom I hold in greater esteem and greater regard for the uprightness of his methods of work and honourable dealings than I know and have believed the Honourable Member for Finance to be. (Hear, hear.) I would be the last person to say one word with regard to his motives.

One word more, Sir. I see from the figures placed before us that there is nothing to show that these additional 92 lakhs were invested in any useful scheme. It was certainly not spent in paying back the advances from the Government of India. It might very well have been paid back.

Another important question is this : Is this the time when the country is just beginning to recover, when the country is trying to develop industries, I do not mean any Government schemes, when small capitalists are trying to launch industrial enterprises, that Government should float loans ? The whole of the loan comes from the banks, which means that the banks are so much the poorer and less able to finance private enterprise. I put it to the House, is this the time when Government should attract money away when it is most badly required for useful schemes of industrial development by small capitalists ? After all, the money that is raised by Government

by way of loan will go out of the country in the shape of the price of machinery and other articles imported for these Government projects. I do not mean to oppose the Finance Member, but I want him to consider the matters which I have put before him. The question mainly is, is this the time to raise the loan? (A voice: Yes.) Is this the time to launch big schemes like this and draw off all the money available in the country to the great detriment of private enterprise?

Lala Sham Lal [Hiasar (Non-Muhammadian), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, with your permission, Sir, I would draw the attention of the House to the speech delivered just now by Professor Ruchi Ram, who has objected that it is not the proper time to raise such loans. I hold the same views.

In addition to the reasons advanced by Professor Ruchi Ram and in continuation of his speech I would like to say further that the whole country from one end to the other is clamouring for responsible self-government in India in these days. Important speeches are also being made in this matter in England and in the British Parliament. The general tone of the speeches thus made here and outside is that responsible government should be established in India soon.

Now if self-government is coming to India soon, which nobody is denying, would it be wise for this House to burden the Government with fresh liabilities by raising loans so that it may be difficult for that coming government to cope with?

It may not be out of place here to point out that the Indian National Congress at their session at Gaya have decided to repudiate all liabilities to public debts that are to be raised after December 1922.

For these reasons I oppose the motion.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali [Gujrat East (Muhammadian), Urban] (Urdu): Sir, I rise to expose the fallacy in the argument advanced by the honourable member Lala Sham Lal. He has said that we should raise no loans and create no more liabilities until responsible government is established. In my opinion it would have been better if he had moved a resolution proposing to postpone all Government work till we had secured Swarajya and especially such works which required money to complete them.

The honourable member believes, and perhaps honestly, that by raising the proposed loan the Government is going to make the task of the responsible government which he expects to be established in the near future, heavy and burdensome. I may tell the honourable member that his belief is erroneous. The reasons are obvious.

In the first place those who will subscribe towards this loan will get interest along with their money.

In the second place the loan will serve a most useful purpose for all communities. It is intended to be spent in the extension of irrigation, which on its completion, is expected to yield so many thousand maunds of wheat and other eatables. This produce will not benefit the zamindars alone, but the general public also, as they will be able to get wheat at cheaper rates. Government too will stand to gain as the lands irrigated are sure to bring a good amount of revenue.

The honourable member need not entertain fears that the Province will come under a heavy burden if the proposed loan is raised; on the other hand it will be much better off. And when this loan is expected to benefit the subject as well as the Government I see no reason why it should be opposed.

[K. B. Chaudhri Fazl Ali.]

The principle that every item moved by Government should meet with opposition from us, is not a sound one and I, for one, loathe it.

It has been further argued that the Indian National Congress is not in favour of any liabilities to be created. So it may be; but when we are going to be benefited by the proposed loan, I do not know why we should attach any importance to the decision of the Congress.

After what I have said I am sure that all will support the motion.

Sardar Jodh Singh: 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. Miles Irving (Finance Secretary): The honourable member opposite (Lala Ruchi Ram) has observed that he did not impute motives. He has already in the course of the day's debate suggested that the new taxation has been proposed in order to strengthen the hands of the Lee Commission. And now he suggests that we allowed the loan to be oversubscribed because we were vainglorious.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: Sir, I said that that was a widespread lurking fear in the minds of the public, and I think the Honourable the Finance Secretary cannot deny it.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Yes, Sir, I deny that. (Laughter.)

Mr. Miles Irving (continued): The second motive was that the loan was oversubscribed, because we were vainglorious. He has obviously intended the remark for me because the honourable member has admitted his appreciation of Sir John Maynard's character. I suppose I must be the hooded familiar.

I shall now turn to the actual criticisms that have been made. I would first like to dispel the idea that this money is lying somewhere idle. I doubt if there is so much money in hard cash in the banks or in the Government treasuries. It goes into the balances of the Government of India who are our bankers.

As for the suggestion that this is not the time for raising this loan, may I ask whether the Sutlej Valley Project should be stopped until the time when responsible government is established? I think we will be doing a piece of service to the responsible government when it is established if we present them with a perfectly good canal. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. President: Resolution moved—

“That this Council recommends to Government to raise during the year 1924-25 a loan of Rs. 1,50,00,000 for the purpose of providing funds for the construction of Irrigation Works—Capital expenditure—and other productive projects approved by the Council.”

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried.

GOVERNMENT'S DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE GRANT.

Mr. President: The Council will now resume the discussion on the supplementary demand for 'Administration of Justice'.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh—Urban]: I rise to a point of order, Sir. The other day when we were discussing this demand my honourable friend, Mr. Narinjan Das, raised the point that details of the expenditure were not placed before the House. If details were furnished, amendments could be moved with respect to particular items. Now, Sir, I submit that details have not been furnished to the House and we have no time to move amendments. I therefore request you, Sir, to order the Honourable the Finance Member to furnish details to the House and to adjourn the discussion for two days so that we may consider and move amendments to the grant.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): I object to the postponement, Sir. The other day, it was understood that particulars should be given not outside the House but inside the Council. We are prepared to make the statement now.

Sardar Jodh Singh: Even if the information is furnished to us now we have no time to give notice of amendments.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: It is only a continuation of the former day's discussion. I do not understand what the honourable member means.

Mr. President: As far as I recollect, the motion the other day was that the discussion should be postponed for a few days in order to allow the Honourable the Finance Member to give details. I do not think anything was said about giving details outside the House, but we will look up the proceedings and decide. As regards the other points, this is merely a continuation of the discussion which we had the other day. The honourable member knew that this discussion would come on in a few days and it was open to him to have taken his chance and sent in his amendment saying that he wanted to reduce item so and so by one rupee or two rupees. This would have safeguarded all possibilities. If he has not done so, I am afraid it is his own fault.

Diwan Narinjan Dass [Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Division (Non-Muhammadan), Rural]: The other day I mentioned that full information was not forthcoming and therefore I wanted an adjournment of the discussion.

(Mr. President here read the debate of the 25th February.)

Mr. President: Is there any objection to the postponement of this grant?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: That means, Sir, fixing another day for the Government business.

Mr. President: Could it not come on the last day? The 24th of this month is already allotted for Government business.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: It is not safe for us to assume that our business on that day will be got through in time to finish this particular item also. If I may say so, this grant is an extremely simple one. The House will see that there are about a dozen public prosecutors and it can be easily seen what kind of work is being done. I do not think there is any real difficulty in the matter to warrant a postponement.

Mr. President: Does the honourable member (Sardar Jodh Singh) press his point of order?

Sardar Jodh Singh: In certain cases, the expenditure is excessive and in certain other cases it is necessary. The House may not be inclined

[Sardar Jodh Singh.]

to reject the whole demand. If details had been given in time, I might convince the House that particular items may be reduced.

Mr. President : There does seem to be some misunderstanding. The item which was objected to by the honourable member (Mr. Narinjan Das) was Rs. 24,000 for special public prosecutors' fees. If further time is not given, then this difficulty may arise, namely, that those who wish to reduce that particular item will have to argue to reject the whole demand amounting in all to Rs. 36,000 ; whereas they may really wish to reject the demand of Rs. 24,000 only. It seems to me that it would be more difficult for them to get the House to reject the whole amount than to reject the Rs. 24,000. At the same time I should say that honourable members could undoubtedly have sent in their amendments. As a matter of fact, one was received, but it was too late. In view of the fact that it is so difficult to find further time for the discussion of this grant, I think the debate must go on now.

Mr. J. Coldstream (Legal Remembrancer) : Sir, it is very much regretted that the information before the House on the 25th February was not sufficient to enable the honourable members of this Council to understand clearly the financial position as regards public prosecutors in the Punjab. Had I anticipated so keen an interest on the part of the House in the expenditure of this department, I would have given the information in more detail. I hope the information that I will now give will satisfy those who object to this item of Rs. 24,000 which is, I understand, the only item objected to. The Government grant for the salaries of special public prosecutors for the year was Rs. 1,55,200. In addition to this a sum of Rs. 75,000 was allotted for the Senior Counsel in the Akali case now being tried in Amritsar. That was a special grant and it has not been lumped in with the rest of the grant for the purpose of our account. Out of this sum of Rs. 1,55,200 we have to meet not only the expenditure on salaries of special public prosecutors, but also certain minor expenses. For instance, fees payable to Government pleaders in Land Acquisition cases, fees payable to counsels engaged by court to defend poor accused in sessions cases, and the grant of bonus in special cases where the rules allow such grants, for example as travelling allowances to persons who are not in the regular service of Government.

I understand that the House wishes to know where these trials are going on for which special public prosecutors have been appointed. I gather that is the sense of the question that was put on the last day. I will go into details if the House allows me to do so. When the grant was made ten such cases were going on, there are now nine.

We have the Babbar Akali case that is being tried in Lahore. There is a special public prosecutor appointed for the case on Rs. 2,100 a month. In that case there are 96 accused and witnesses for the prosecution are understood to be about 500. We do not know how many defence witnesses there will be.

Another case is the case known as the Forged Notes Case. In that case there are 22 accused and about 300 witnesses and there will possibly be about 17 accused committed to Sessions.

Another case is the Lahore Dacoities Case. In that case I cannot tell you the number of accused as I have not got the exact figures. There are

650 prosecution witnesses. The public prosecutor gets Rs. 1,300 per month.

Then there are the Amritsar cases known as the Hindu-Muslim Riot cases. In these cases there are 148 accused. The prosecuting counsel gets Rs. 1,500 per month.

In Ferozepore were being tried a number of Dacoity cases. The special public prosecutor was getting Rs. 1,260 a month. Those cases have just been finished.

Another set of cases is known as the Mughalpura Dacoity and Railway Fraud cases. The special public prosecutor draws Rs. 1,000 a month. There are well over 1,000 witnesses and 144 accused.

Several cases in the Sialkot Gang case are about to finish very shortly. The public prosecutor gets Rs. 1,000. In those cases there are over 60 accused and over 500 witnesses.

Then we come to the case at Amritsar, the Akali Leaders' case. In that the special public prosecutor engaged as junior to Mr. Bevan Petman is getting Rs. 2,600 per month. Considering the magnitude of the work and the importance of the case, I do not think that this is an excessive fee.

There are a series of dacoity cases at Gujranwala. Here the public prosecutor is not so fortunate. He is getting Rs. 500 per mensem. There are over 50 accused and more than a thousand witnesses for the prosecution.

This will show the kind of work that is being done by the special public prosecutors. I revert to the financial position.

On the 31st of January our balance out of Rs. 1,55,200 was Rs. 6,520, our expenditure having amounted to Rs. 1,48,680. We were spending at the rate of about Rs. 15,000 a month. For two months we wanted Rs. 30,000. We asked for a supplementary grant of Rs. 24,000 accordingly, which was met by reappropriation. It is no doubt deplorable that so much precious money has to be expended in bringing offenders to justice, but I can assure the House that the Law Department is not an extravagant luxury. I do not want to quote a mass of statistics, but as evidence of the real necessity for expenditure upon criminal prosecutions in the Punjab I need cite only one fact which has been mentioned on various public occasions, for instance by His Excellency the Viceroy in opening the new buildings of the High Court last year. This is that there are on the average more convicts under sentence of death at one time in the Punjab than in all the provinces of Bengal, Madras, Bombay, Bihar and Orissa and Assam put together.

Well, Sir, I can assure the House that every item of expenditure is scrupulously controlled and money is not being thrown away. On the contrary we are I think apt to err on the side of parsimony, so that the advocacy on the defence side in this Province is often far abler than and, in serious cases, far more generously paid for than that on the prosecution side. We who sit in this House may realise that the only motive which prompts the members of this Council to examine with such care as they are now showing the expenditure on the Law Department is none other than a pure and admirable desire for strict economy, but I need hardly remind the honourable members how sadly their actions are apt to be misinterpreted outside. I hope that now that it has heard the true facts the House will withdraw its opposition, if there is opposition and not allow the idea to gain ground outside the House that its motive is not to effect economy but to express a sympathy with crime and disapproval of the efforts of the

[Mr. J. Coldstream.]

executive to maintain law and order throughout the land. I ask the members of the House, representatives as they are of the law-abiding section of the community, to pass this small grant without further discussion.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh—Urban) : Sir, I have listened with great attention to the speech of the Legal Remembrancer. Sir, he has assured us that he is economising his expenditure very much, but the figures given to us by the Honourable the Finance Member in answer to a question put by Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai the other day revealed just the opposite state of affairs. I have made rough calculations from the data supplied to us the other day and I find that from the 13th October to 31st December, one single case called the Akali Leaders' Case which is being tried at Amritsar has been costing us between Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 28,000 a month.

Mr. President : I do not think that that case comes into the discussion. As I understand, I could not hear quite distinctly, but I understand that none of the expenditure, which is being incurred in that case, is being charged to this grant.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The Assistant to Mr. Bewan Petman is being charged to this grant.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, there is one more reason why I can discuss the whole expenditure and that is that there are no ledger entries for the particular cases. We grant a lump sum for all prosecutors. We were told that this case was costing us Rs. 18,000 a month.

Mr. President : You say that that case is costing Rs. 18,000, but the Legal Remembrancer has just told you as regards this grant that it is only costing you Rs. 2,000. The House has already sanctioned the expenditure on Mr. Bewan Petman, and I cannot allow that discussion to be re-opened. You can discuss the Rs. 2,000 a month that is going to his Assistant but not the total expenditure because that is a separate matter and has already been decided.

Sardar Jodh Singh : If you see the figures you will find that a separate account has not been maintained. The amount already allotted in the budget, namely, Rs. 75,000, has been spent on this case at Rs. 25,000 a month. I submit, Sir, that there are no separate accounts kept in the ledger and the honourable member is simply avoiding my remarks and says he has included only Rs. 2,000. As a matter of fact, that single case has taken up the whole amount and the necessity of a separate grant has only arisen because Rs. 75,000 has been taken up by that case already.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No, Sir.

Mr. President : Do you mean to imply that this Akali Leaders' Case has taken up so much money out of the original grant for public prosecutors and the general fund has been so much depleted that it is now necessary, quite apart from the full grant of Rs. 75,000 for that particular case, to come to the House again?

Sardar Jodh Singh : Yes, Sir.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No, Sir, that is not the position. The sum which has already been earmarked for the payment of the senior counsel in that case is more than sufficient to pay all his charges up to the end of the year.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, at the time of the grant we were told that a sum was earmarked for the special counsel. Therefore it is no argument

that it was earmarked for the senior counsel. What I am aiming at is that that case should be conducted much more cheaply.

Mr. President : I cannot allow you to discuss that case any further. You cannot go back on what the Council has decided. You can only argue whether these two thousand rupees is necessary or not.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Very well, Sir. I don't want to argue anything on that subject any more. I will simply say that if a highly paid public prosecutor had been employed it would have cost only Rs. 1,200 a month and thus the expenses in this case could have been reduced by Rs. 1,300 a month.

Mr. President : The honourable member is again discussing the same question. I have ruled him out of order and I will now ask him to obey my ruling.

Sardar Jodh Singh : I am not discussing the subject. I am only showing that a saving of Rs. 1,300 could have been effected.

Mr. President : You are discussing.

Sardar Jodh Singh : I won't refer to it again, Sir. I only want the House to support me in this that the only way of teaching economy to this department is to refuse the whole grant.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I would like to say one word, if I may, about the remark that the only way to teach economy to this department was to reject the whole grant. The honourable member has either forgotten or he never knew that at the present moment a committee is sitting for the purpose of advising the Government in the matter of fees to public prosecutors. We have no desire to pay more than the market value, but lawyers are very expensive in spite of all that we may do to bargain with them and sometimes we have to pay them more than we should like to pay. The committee is investigating as to the proper scale of pay for public prosecutors and if it is found that it is possible to get public prosecutors for less pay, we shall try to engage them at that charge. And if we cannot get them we shall have recourse to those numerous and capable lawyers who are actually members of this Council.

Sayad Muhammad Hussain [Montgomery (Muhammadan), Rural] : Sir, I want to make one observation at this stage. It is not a political reason that is behind the opposition, it is an economic consideration. It is immaterial to the public as to who conducts this case. All that I wish to press on the attention of the House is this that some move should be made to introduce a cheap machinery for conducting these cases. For the ultimate incidence of these charges is on the poor tax-payer and therefore some method must be devised by which the charges of public prosecutors may be reduced to a minimum.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das Bhandari (Non-official nominated) : I have to say one word, Sir, on the subject of cheap machinery which it has been suggested should be introduced. The honourable member seems to have overlooked the fact that if we employ cheap machinery the result will be a failure, and there will be a mere waste of money. If we want that a case should be successfully conducted we must engage a good lawyer and we must pay him sufficiently so that he may work well. This point we must keep in view. If we grudge money for these purposes the result will be a failure. (Hear, hear.)

Pandit Nanak Chand : 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. 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 Administration of Justice".

The Council then divided Ayes 29 ; Noes 15.

AYES 29.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Lt.-Col. E. L. Ward.
Mr. E. R. Abbott.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
Mr. E. A. Scott.
Sir George Anderson.
Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
The Honourable Rao Bahadur
Chaudhri Lal Chand.
The Honourable Khan Bahadur
Mian Fazl-i-Hussain.
The Honourable Sardar Bahadur
Sardar Sunder Singh, Majithia.
The Honourable Sir John Maynard.
Mr. A. Latifi.
Mr. Miles Irving.

Mr. D. J. Boyd.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
Dr. C. A. Owen.
Lt.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
Mr. J. Coldstream.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-
ud-Din.
Sardar Jowahir Singh.
Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
Khan Bahadur Sardar Jamal Khan.
Chaudhri Najib-ud-Din Khan.
M. Haibat Khan.
Chaudhri Nur Din.
Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das,
Bhandari.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Mr. E. Maya Das.

NOES 15.

Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
M. Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Rana Firoz-ud-Din.
Sardar Harchand Singh.
Sardar Partab Singh.
Sayad Muhammad Hussain.
The motion was carried.

Pandit Nanak Chand.
Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Lala Sham Lal.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Diwan Narinjan Das.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.

TIME-LIMIT FOR SPEECHES ON THE BUDGET.

Mr. President : Before adjourning the House, I should like to say a few words about the discussion this afternoon. Honourable members are probably aware that unless the President lays down a time-limit for speeches under article 122, a member can speak on the Budget as long as he likes. I calculate that after allowing, say, 20 minutes for the Honourable Finance Member to make his reply, we will have about 3½ hours for discussion. That gives 210 minutes and if each honourable member speaks for 10 minutes on an average that will allow only 21 members to speak. I would suggest that during the interval before we meet again, members of groups should consult and select representative speakers, so that those speakers may have the chance of developing their arguments without interruption from the Chair. Otherwise, if I find that there are a great number of speakers, I shall be forced to impose a time-limit of probably ten minutes which I think in the case of some members may be undesirable as hampering them in developing their points.

The Council then adjourned for lunch till two of the clock.

The Council reassembled at the Council Chamber at two of the clock.
Mr. President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ADMISSION OF BOYS TO THE 9TH CLASS OF RECOGNISED ANGLO-VERNAICULAR
HIGH SCHOOLS.

220. Pandit Nanak Chand : (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the Punjab Education Department Circular issued early in April 1923 on the subject of the admission of boys to the 9th class of recognised Anglo-Vernacular High Schools?

(b) Is it a fact that according to the terms of this circular it has been prescribed that from 1st March 1924 students who have studied previously in an unrecognised school or have not attended school at all will not be admitted to the 9th class of a recognised school, unless they submit, as a qualification for admission, a certificate of having passed the Vernacular Final Examination with English as an elective subject?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table any documents in the form of representations by Headmasters of recognised Anglo-Vernacular High Schools praying for the introduction of this new rule enforcing an examination?

(d) Has Government received any protests from both Muslim and Non-Muslim Educational bodies against the introduction of this new rule on various grounds one of which is that the scheme of the Vernacular Final Examination is different from the syllabus of studies in most of the unrecognised schools?

(e) Will Government consider the advisability of withdrawing the circular referred to in (a) above, or, failing this, of withholding it for 2 years?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : As this matter has already been discussed at considerable length in the Council, it is unnecessary to answer this question.

MONEY LENDERS AS HONORARY MAGISTRATES.

221. Chaudhri Duli Chand : (a) Will Government be pleased to state *Tahsilwar* the number of Hindu Honorary Magistrates in the Karnal District?

(b) How many of them in each tahsil belong to agricultural classes?

(c) Is it a fact that most of them belong to the money-lending classes?

(d) Is it a fact that the Committee appointed to report on the future appointment of Honorary Magistrates were unanimously of opinion that no money-lender should be made an Honorary Magistrate?

(e) Is it also a fact that the Zamindar Association of the Karnal District has made a representation to the Deputy Commissioner to the effect that the appointment of money-lenders as Honorary Magistrates to the entire exclusion of the persons of agricultural classes is prejudicial to the interests of the agriculturists of the Karnal District?

(f) Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of not reappointing Honorary Magistrates of money-lending classes in the Karnal District and also of terminating their present appointments as soon as possible?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : (a) The number of Hindu and Sikh Magistrates at present by Tahsils is as follows :—

	Hindus.	Sikhs.	Total Hindus and Sikhs:
Tahsil Panipat (town) ...	2	...	2
Tahsil Thanesar (Shahabad town) ...	1	1	2
Tahsil Karnal (Shamgarh) ..	...	1	1
Tahsil Kaithal ...	...	...	...
Total ...	3	2	5

(b) The two Sikh Magistrates are Jats by caste and agriculturists.

(c) The Hindu members are Mahajans and belong to the money-lending classes, but their jurisdiction is confined mainly to towns where the majority of Hindu inhabitants are non-agriculturists.

(d) Yes.

(e) The answer is in the negative.

(f) The period of tenure of their appointments by Honorary Magistrates is fixed by a definite rule. On expiry of the period the advisability of renewing the appointment or otherwise is always considered by Government.

GRADES OF SALARIES.

222. Chaudhri Duli Chand : (a) With reference to the Punjab Government Notification No. 13242, dated 20th April 1922, postponing the consideration of raising the emoluments of Zaildars, etc., will Government be pleased to state if the grades of salaries have been raised in any Government department since the acceptance of this advice? If so, did not the question of financial stringency apply to those departments also?

(b) How long will this postponement last?

(c) Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of referring this question again to the Land Revenue Committee with the addition of three other non-official members?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) There has been no general revision of grades in any department since 1922; nor any at all except to fill up omissions in the general revision of 1920-21.

(b) Government cannot say.

(c) In view of the facts given in the answer to the first part of the question Government do not think that any useful purpose would be served by adopting the suggestion in the last part.

REDUCTIONS IN THE PUNJAB CIVIL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

223. Lala Mohan Lal : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if any reduction has been made in the number of officers of the Military Department (I.M.S. and I.M.D.) kept as a reserve in the Punjab Civil Medical Department?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Punjab Government has applied to the Secretary of State for India for sanction to such reduction? If not, will it do so?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) No.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

REMOVAL OF LALA TARA CHAND FOR ABSTENTION FROM THE MEETINGS OF THE AMBALA MUNICIPALITY.

224. Lala Mohan Lal : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of the Municipal Commissioners in the Punjab together with their names who were sentenced to imprisonment for more than three months under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, Seditious Meetings Act, sections 107, 108, and 110 and Sections 153-A, 124-A, Indian Penal Code ?

(b) In the case of how many Municipal Commissioners so convicted was action taken by the Government under section 16 (1) (c) of the Punjab Municipal Act and was Lala Tara Chand, B.A., Vakil, of Ambala City, one of them ?

(c) If the reply to the latter part of question (b) be in the affirmative

(i) Is it a fact that sundry other members of the Committee have during the years 1921, 1922, 1923, absented themselves for more than three consecutive months and that their names have not been removed;

(ii) what were the reasons given in Lala Tara Chand's case ; and

(iii) if the reply to (ii) is that the reason given was that he deliberately courted imprisonment and thus as a result of his own action had to absent himself from meetings for three consecutive months then, will Government be pleased to state whether there is anything either in the judgment of the convicting Magistrate or in any statement of Lala Tara Chand to indicate such deliberate courting of imprisonment ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) to (c) Perhaps the honourable member is not aware that the matter relating to Lala Tara Chand is *sub-judice*, and it is not advisable to go into its details here.

MUSALMANS IN THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE IN THE PUNJAB.

225. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din: Will Government be pleased to state the number of Indians in the I.M.S. employed in the Punjab on 1st January 1921 and on 1st February 1924, respectively, and the number of *Mussalmans* amongst them ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : On the 1st January 1921 there were two Indian Medical Service Officers in the Punjab one of whom was a Muslim, and on the 1st February 1924, there were 11 such officers of whom one was a Muslim.

MUSLIM ASSISTANT SURGEONS IN THE PROVINCIAL CADRE.

226. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din: Will Government be pleased to state the number of permanent Assistant Surgeons in the provincial cadre on 1st January 1921 and on 1st February 1924, and the percentage of *Muslims* among them on these dates ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The number of permanent Assistant Surgeons on the 1st January 1921 was 93 of whom 22 or 23.65 per cent. were Muslims and on the 1st February 1924 the number was 146 of whom 30 or 20.55 per cent. were Muslims.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE IMPERIAL, PROVINCIAL AND SUBORDINATE
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

227. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : With reference to the answer to question No. 2630* put in the Council on the 22nd October 1923, will Government please bring the information up to 1st February 1924 and place it on the table?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain : The requisite statement is laid on the table.

(a) *Indian Educational Service.*

Name of Community.	Number of posts held on 1st January 1921.	Number of posts held on 1st September 1923.	Number of posts held on 1st February 1924.
Hindus	3	6	6
Muhammadans	1	3	3
Sikhs	1	1	1
Christians	21	22	22

(b) *Punjab Educational Service.*

Hindus	40	39	39
Muhammadans	20	24	23
Sikhs	8	9	10
Christians	4	5	5

Subordinate Educational service (Anglo-Vernacular and Clerical and Vernacular Sections).

(c) *Rs. 200—10—250 Grade.*

Hindus	19	15	15
Musalmanas	7	9	10
Sikhs	3	5	4
Christians	2	1	1

(d) *Rs. 140—10—190 Grade.*

Hindus	56	50	50
Musalmanas	19	32	32
Sikhs	4	9	10
Christians	...	1	1

(e) *Rs. 110—5—135 Grade.*

Hindus	63	76	78
Musalmanas	53	59	60
Sikhs	16	24	23
Christians	3	2	2

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE PROVINCIAL CADRE OF FORESTS, IRRIGATION,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND SUB-JUDGES.

228. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : Will Government be pleased to state—

(i) how many appointments were made in the provincial cadre of

(1) Forests ;

- (2) Irrigation ;
 (3) Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings); and
 (4) Munsifs, now called Sub-Judges;

between 1st January 1921 and 1st February 1924, and

- (ii) how many of them were given to *Musalmans* ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :
 I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be commu-
 nicated to the honourable member when ready.

ADMISSION OF HINDU JATS TO THE MUGHALPURA TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

229. Chaudhri Duli Chand : (a) Will Government be pleased to
 state how many candidates from the Ambala Division were admitted to
 the Mughalpura Technical College this year ?

- (b) Is it a fact that not one of them is a Hindu Jat—

- (c) If so, will Government be pleased to make provisions for the
 admission of some Hindu Jats as early as possible ?

- (ii) If not, how many of them are Hindu Jats ?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : (a) One
 student was admitted from the Ambala Division.

- (b) Not one of them is a Hindu Jat: —

- (c) Admission to this College under present orders is to be by
 competition, but Government is prepared to consider the
 suggestion of the honourable member, if the present
 method is not found satisfactory.

- (ii) The question does not arise.

MONEY SPENT ANNUALLY ON EACH STUDENT OF THE VETERINARY AND MEDICAL
 COLLEGES.

230. Chaudhri Duli Chand : Will the Government be pleased to
 state—

- (a) how much money was spent annually on each student of the
 Veterinary and Medical Colleges during the last five years ;

- (b) what was the pre-war expenditure during the years 1913 and
 1914 ?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : (a) The
 expenditure on these colleges during the last five years works out per student
 as follows :—

		Veterinary College.	Medical College.
		Rs.	Rs.
1918-19	...	372	489
1919-20	...	343	491
1920-21	...	425	699
1921-22	...	761	635
1922-23	...	1,140	853
(b) 1913-14	...	76,515	1,33,972
1914-15	...	85,304	1,20,591

DUTY ALLOWANCE TO ASSISTANT SURGEONS EMPLOYED AS MEDICAL INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

231. Diwan Narinjan Das : (i) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact—

(a) that some Assistant Surgeons are employed as Medical Inspectors of Schools in the Punjab ;

(b) that they used to receive Rs. 50 monthly as duty allowance in addition to their pay as Assistant Surgeons ;

(c) that the said allowance has not been paid to them since about 1921 ?

(iv) Will the Government be pleased to state under what rule or authority the said allowance was discontinued ?

(v) Is the Government prepared to pay this allowance now, if not, why ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (i) (a) The appointments are in abeyance for the present.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(ii) and (iii) when the scale of pay of Civil Assistant Surgeons was revised in 1921, the allowance was objected to by the Audit Officer and the question whether it should be continued or not is under consideration.

LEASES OF LAND IN THE PUNJAB COLONIES.

232. Rai Sahib Chandhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for each of the Punjab Colonies the following particulars :—

(a) The total number of squares or rectangles of land ;

(b) The total number of squares or rectangles of land leased out for a definite term of years and the year when these leases expire ;

(c) The total number of (1) culturable and (2) unculturable squares or rectangles of land still at the disposal of the Government ;

(d) The total number of squares or rectangles of land held as (1) full proprietors, (2) occupancy tenants, (3) non-occupancy tenants, or (4) lease holders by Zamindar Muhammadans, non-Zamindar Muhammadans, Zamindar Sikhs, non-Zamindar Sikhs, Zamindar Hindus, non-Zamindar Hindus and others, respectively ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia : The work of preparing such a statement would be immense and the information collected would be out of date before it could be compiled. Government is not prepared to attempt to collect the information.

LAND ALLOTTED TO HINDU JATS OF THE AMBALA DIVISION IN THE PUNJAB COLONIES.

233. Rai Sahib Chandhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Government be pleased to state the number of squares or rectangles granted to the inhabitants of the Ambala Division in each of the Punjab Colonies, specifying the number of squares or rectangles allotted to Hindu Jats ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia: An attempt will be made to collect this information for the information of the honourable member.

ZAMINDARS IN THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

234. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

- (a) the total number of appointments made in the cadre of Extra Assistant Commissioners, Munsiffs or Sub-Judges, Tahsildars, Naib-Tahsildars, Deputy Superintendents of Police, Inspectors of Police, Sub-Inspectors of Police, Zilladars, Provincial Educational Service and Jailors since the publication of the Government Resolution setting forth the percentage of posts to be given to Zamindars in the various departments and the number of these appointments actually given to Zamindars?
- (b) A similar statement giving the same particulars in respect of the three years preceding the date of publication of the said resolution?

Mr. H. D. Craik : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

HINDU JATS IN THE CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PUNJAB SECRETARIAT.

235. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Hindu Jats employed in the clerical establishment of the Punjab Secretariat?

Mr. H. D. Craik : There is no Hindu Jat employed in the clerical establishment of the Punjab Civil Secretariat.

EMPLOYMENT OF HINDU JATS IN THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

236. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of appointments made in the cadre of Munsiffs or Sub-Judges, Extra Assistant Commissioners, Tahsildars, Naib-Tahsildars, Deputy Superintendents of Police (whether direct or promoted), Inspectors of Police (whether direct or promoted), Sub-Inspectors of Police, Zilladars, Jailors (direct or promoted), Assistant Registrars, Co-operative Inspectors (direct or promoted) and Provincial Educational Service since the publication of the Government Resolution in respect of the desirability of the increased employment of Jats and the number of these appointments actually given to Hindu Jats?

Mr. H. D. Craik : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

HINDU JATS SENT TO DEHRA DUN FOREST COLLEGE FOR TRAINING AS EXTRA ASSISTANT CONSERVATORS, ETC.

237. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of persons sent by the Punjab Government to the Dehra Dun Forest College for training as Extra Assistant Conservators or Forest Rangers during the last five years and the number of Hindu Jats among them?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : In the five years ending the 31st January 1924, 12 candidates for the post of Extra Assistant Conservators of Forests and 84 candidates for the post of Forest Rangers were sent to the Forest College at Dabra Dun for training. None of them were Hindu Jats.

**HINDU JATS ADMITTED TO CENTRAL TRAINING COLLEGE AND
MEDICAL COLLEGE, LAHORE, ETC.**

238. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Hindu Jats admitted to the Central Training College, Medical College at Lahore, Veterinary College, Medical School at Amritsar, and the Agricultural College at Lyallpur during the last three years ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The number of Hindu Jats admitted to the Central Training College, Veterinary College, Medical School at Amritsar and Agricultural College at Lyallpur during the last three years was :—

Central Training College	...	...	...	4
Punjab Veterinary College	...	...	...	4
Medical School at Amritsar	...	...	...	5
Agricultural College at Lyallpur	...	...	...	11

Figures are not available as regards the King Edward Medical College as Hindu Students are not required to state whether they are Jats or not.

PAUCITY OF HINDU JATS IN THE ENGINEERING COLLEGE, MUGHALPURA.

239. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of students admitted to the Engineering College at Mughalpur from the Ambala Division as also the number of Hindu Jats ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a paucity of Hindu Jats in the College. If so, will Government be pleased to take special steps for increasing the number of Hindu Jats in the said institution ?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : The honourable member is referred to the reply given to Council Question No. 229* on same subject.

**ANNUAL EXPENDITURE INCURRED PER STUDENT IN THE VETERINARY
COLLEGE, LAHORE AND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, LYALLPUR.**

240. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of annual expenditure incurred per student by the Government in the Veterinary College, Lahore, and the Agricultural College, Lyallpur, in 1913-14, and the same during each of the last five years.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : The staff employed at the Agricultural College is very largely engaged on Research work ; and it is only possible to assume the amount debitable to teaching on

the basis of figures given annually to the Director of Public Instruction the cost of the college works out per student as follows :—

1913-14	...	...	...	...	2,073
1918-19	...	...	...	...	467
1919-20	...	...	...	...	430
1920-21	...	...	...	...	683
1921-22	...	...	...	...	729
1922-23	...	...	...	...	893

But on examination of the figures it appears that too small a share has been debited to Research. The figures for the Veterinary College will be given in the reply to question 230.*

STATE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE STUDY OF HIGHER AGRICULTURE OR VETERINARY SCIENCE.

241. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will Government be pleased to state whether there are any State Scholarships available to Punjab students for the study of higher Agriculture or Veterinary sciences in foreign countries? If not, will the Government be pleased to institute such scholarships?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : There is one State Scholarship tenable by a Punjab student for the study of higher education in Agriculture in Europe, America, Africa, Australia or Japan. There are scholarships granted by the Government of India to enable young men to visit the United Kingdom with the object of gaining a Veterinary Diploma and thereby rendering themselves eligible for appointment to the Imperial Branch of the Indian Civil Veterinary Department. Three of these are held at present by Punjab students.

GOVERNMENT AID GRANTED TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

242. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of money granted to educational institutions by way of Government aid during the last five years in each of the five Divisions of the Punjab?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

* Vide page 395 ante.

[Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

Statement showing the amount of Government grant (maintenance) given to the educational institutions for Indians during the last five years.

Divisions.	1923-24.		1921-22.		1920-21.		1919-20.		1918-19.	
	District Board and municipal institutions.	Aided institutions.	District Board and municipal institutions.	Aided institutions.	District Board and municipal institutions.	Aided institutions.	District Board and municipal institutions.	Aided institutions.	District Board and municipal institutions.	Aided institutions.
Ambala ...	Rs. 4,33,303	Rs. 1,27,394	Rs. 4,43,167	Rs. 1,12,007	Rs. 3,64,789	Rs. 78,410	Rs. 2,99,328	Rs. 77,032	Rs. 2,41,513	Rs. 64,636
Jalandhar ...	5,45,467	1,85,409	5,16,435	1,99,813	4,31,889	1,48,422	3,84,914	1,35,842	2,82,792	1,19,815
Lahore ...	6,95,924	7,12,033	6,02,404	5,57,374	4,81,829	4,83,911	3,51,590	4,23,363	3,31,632	3,99,062
Multan ...	6,27,979	1,01,617	5,27,363	82,310	3,95,798	69,577	3,57,722	56,965	2,57,630	59,098
Rawalpindi ...	3,72,841	2,31,478	5,73,808	2,15,057	4,14,752	1,47,047	3,48,117	1,97,267	2,53,350	1,24,987

GRANT-IN-AID TO THE ARYA SCHOOL, ROHTAK.

243. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the application of the Arya School, Rohtak, for grant-in-aid was rejected;
- (b) whether the attention of the Education Department has been drawn to the fact that this school has a number of boys belonging to the depressed classes on its rolls;
- (c) whether the Ambala Division is not drawing less money than its due share by way of grant;
- (d) whether they will be pleased to place the said school on the list of aided schools with effect from the next financial year?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Yes, as the school did not satisfy all the conditions of grant.

(b) No.

(c) Every effort is being made to make an equitable distribution of money for such grants between the several divisions.

(d) In the existing financial stringency, no such guarantee can be given.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN SONEPAT MUNICIPALITY.

244. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the population and voting strength of Hindus and Muhammadans respectively in the Sonapat Town of the Rohtak District;
- (b) whether the proportion of the Hindu and Muhammadan members on the Municipal Committee has been altered recently;
- (c) whether the Government is prepared to restore the old proportion? If not, will the Government be pleased to state the data on which the alteration is based?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Population :—

Muslims	...	...	...	6,575
Hindus and others	...	...	...	6,370
Sikhs	...	...	...	36

Voting Strength of each community—

Muslims	...	...	...	732
Hindus and others	...	...	...	703
Sikh	...	...	...	1

(b) No.

(c) Does not therefore arise.

PROCESSIONS AND MUSIC BEFORE MOSQUES IN SONEPAT.

245. Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan : Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a strong feeling in Sonapat, Rohtak District, over the question of processions and music before mosques;

[Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.]

- (b) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn in this connection to a communication published in "The Muslim Outlook," Lahore, dated 19th January 1924 on page 7, under the heading "Muslims in Ambala Division";
- (c) whether it is a fact that the District authorities have never allowed music within 25 paces of mosques, and a prohibition clause to this effect has invariably been inserted in the licenses granted for processions during the last 22 years;
- (d) whether there is any proposal under consideration to revise the existing arrangements? If so, what are the lines suggested and on what grounds?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (a) High tension existed between the Hindus and the Muhammadans over the question of the *Ram Lila* procession at Sonapat in October last. Government understands, however, that it has recently abated.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. A condition forbidding the playing of music before mosques has been inserted in all the licenses issued since 1916.

(d) No. The second part of the question therefore does not arise.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ASSESSMENT AND LAND REVENUE POLICY.

246. Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan: With reference to item 19 of Punjab Government notification No. 25851 of 22nd October 1921, will Government be pleased to state when the report of the Committee on Assessment and Land Revenue Policy may be expected?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: The report is being laid on the table of the House.*

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN CHUNIAN MUNICIPALITY.

247. Bai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: (i) Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether communal representation has been introduced in the constitution of the Chunian Municipal Committee? If not, why not;
- (b) the voting strength of each community in this municipality;
- (c) the population of each community in this municipality.

(ii) Is it a fact that the distribution of seats among the various communities, according to the formulae applied generally to determine the proportion of seats for the various communities, would be different from that which would result according to the constitution proposed by Government?

(iii) Is it a fact that the proposed constitution of wards in the Chunian Municipality has been determined in order to provide a majority of seats for Muhammadans?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (i) (a) No, because the conditions given in paragraph 5 of the Note on the reconstitution of the Municipal Committees and the District Boards of the Punjab (a copy of which has already been supplied to the honourable member) do not exist.

*Vide the appendix on page 441.

(b) Muslims	...	...	...	576
Hindus and others	...	...	...	544
Sikhs	...	...	...	55
(c) Muslims	...	...	...	4,544
Hindus and others	...	...	...	2,874
Sikhs	...	...	...	55
(ii) } No.				
(iii) }				

LALA TAHL RAM CHANDANA.

248. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the services of one Lala Tahl Ram, Chandana, B.A., B.T., lately a teacher in the Government School, Kahror, Multan District, have recently been dispensed with in violation of the principles laid down in Government Servants' Conduct Rules, by showing his appointment as probationary;
- (b) how has this taken place when he was a permanent Government servant as shown in the Education Department register corrected up to April 1923,—vide entry No. 133 on page 68 in the Anglo-Vernacular Section?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) No ; Government has been unable to find in the Government Servants' Conduct Rules any principle which has been violated by the action taken in the case of Lala Tahl Ram. The latter was appointed on probation from the 1st April 1921 and was not confirmed.

(b) All teachers taken over with schools provincialised during the last few years were still on probation and Lala Tahl Ram was in this category. The fact was not specifically noted in the list against the names of particular individuals, as the Register of the Education Department is drawn up for office use, and is not officially published.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Am I to understand that this register is not a reliable document?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : It is a reliable document for the use for which it is prepared.

ENHANCEMENT OF SENTENCES OF BHAI MOHAN SINGH, ETC.

249. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Is it a fact that Bhai Mohan Singh, Bhai Ranjodh Singh and Bhai Bishan Singh, aged 13, 16 and 11, respectively, undergoing their sentences in Ferozepore Jail, have been transferred to the Delhi Reformatory School, and that their sentences have been enhanced by 5, 8 and 7 years, respectively? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for taking such drastic action in the matter and take steps to remit the sentences so awarded?

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.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, while thanking the Honourable the Finance Member and the Finance Secretary for the trouble they have taken to prepare this lengthy budget, I regret I cannot congratulate them on this deficit budget. The reason for these troubles is that the fiscal control of the province is not in the hands of this Council. We will have to put a constitutional struggle for getting the fiscal control into our hands as was done by all self-governing dominions of the Empire. If the House will go with me back to 1859 they will see that Canada had to put up a very great struggle in order to secure control over their fiscal policy. The then Finance Minister of Canada after giving a rebuke to the Colonial Secretary said that "self-Government would be utterly annihilated if the views of the Imperial Government were to be preferred to those of the people of Canada. It is therefore the duty of the present Government distinctly to affirm the right of the Canadian Legislature to adjust the taxation of the people in the way they deem best even if it should unfortunately happen to meet with the disapproval of the Imperial Majesty". Sir, here too we will have to fight by constitutional method to get control and to adjust taxation of the province in a manner which the people best like.

The *abiana* question has now begun to frighten the people. They are afraid that the *abiana* already imposed may grow beyond the taxable capacity of the people and beyond anything that has been imposed in any other province of the country. Sir, the net return on capital outlay on the various canals as given in the Irrigation Administration Report is as follows:—

Western Jumna Canal	...	...	11.27 per cent.
Sirhind Canal	...	...	12.63 "
Upper Bari Doab Canal	...	...	17.31 "
Lower Bari Doab Canal	...	...	15.68 "
Upper Chenab Canal	...	...	8.99 "
Lower Chenab Canal	...	...	44.33 "
Upper Jhelum Canal	...	...	0.25 "
Lower Jhelum Canal	...	...	19.16 "
Upper Sutlej Canal	...	...	15.64 "
Sidhnai Canal	...	...	17.65 "
Indus Inundation Canals	...	...	8.64 "

Sir, compare these figures with those of other provinces. I take Bombay for which I have got figures now:—

Kadwa Canal	...	...	1.42 per cent.
Krishna Canal	...	...	1.65 "
Jamda Canal	...	...	Nil.
Ekrak Canal	...	...	6.94 per cent.
Mutha Canal	...	...	2.20 "
Gokak Canal	...	...	4.28 "
Nira Left Bank Canal	...	...	1.40 "
Godavari Canals	...	...	.18 "

Sir, I had a talk with the Superintending Engineer of the Behar Presidency and he told me,—I have authority to quote him—he told me that the *abiana* which the Behar Government is levying upon the rice crops with four times the delta come to about half the charge that we give to our rice crops. With all the *abiana* that we are paying, with all the consequential water-logging the Government is not still satisfied. Sir, this *abiana* question has been threatening the whole rural population for many years past, and we are afraid that it may any day overwhelm us. I want to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that any fresh taxation in this direction will be the last straw to break the camel's neck.

Now, Sir, the taxation, which has been proposed is opposed to all canons of taxation in every civilised country. It has been well observed by a great economist that now is the time for the equal distribution of wealth. The days of production are past. Here, Sir, it is not equal distribution. The taxation is not equally distributed. If you will allow me, Sir, I can prove it. Who suffer by the present court-fees Act and the Stamp Act? It is the poor who have not got money to go to law courts. The present court-fees and the Stamp duty are the heaviest that we have in this province. I can tell you, Sir, that in the Calcutta High Court the court-fees are much less. But here it is high in the case of the rich as in the case of the poor. If the poor cannot afford to pay the High Court fees, justice will be denied to him in the High Court.

It may be said that these people may go to courts under *muftisee* Law. But can you tell me, Sir, how many have succeeded in *muftisee* courts? The greatest sin in this world is to be poor.

It is said that this taxation is proposed in order to meet the deficit. I shall explain how this deficit has been arrived at. There are two points to be considered. First the revenue has been under-estimated. I have got my reasons for thinking so.

Mr. President: Order, order. The honourable member has had nearly ten minutes. I hope he will have consideration for the claims of other speakers. I have not so far imposed any time limit, but the honourable member has nearly taken ten minutes, and I hope he will not go on far too long.

Sayad Muhammad Husain: We have come to an understanding on this matter, and it is on this understanding that I am proceeding.

Now, Sir, as regards the under-estimate of revenue, I must point out that the worst year when this deficit first appeared was in 1921-22. The deficit on account of the bad season and want of rains was over fifty lakhs. In the next year the season was favourable and the income was two crores ninety-eight lakhs. This included the arrears of revenue collected during the year. In the next year 1923-24 we got a further increase and the income practically rose to three crores and twenty lakhs, whereas during the coming year the revenue has been under-estimated at eighty-six lakhs, and thus there is a deficit of forty lakhs. We may be pretty sure that the next season at least, the *rabî* season will be a bumper one, much better in many respects than the last season.

Again, Sir, we may expect a larger revenue as the result of the resettlements that are going on. There has been considerable enhancement in the last settlement, and so more revenue will be realised in the present years.

[Sayed Muhammad Husain.]

(A voice: Hope so). When the Sutlej Canal is completed we will get crores of rupees and the revenue must consequently increase.

Side by side with that the activities of the Canal Department will increase. If the Canal Department in this single year shows an increase in the revenue to the extent of 30 lakhs without spending an extra pie surely the increase on the revenue side will also be very great next year. This is one example that I want to offer. Here is a Department which is paying annually more and more, the income therefrom is increasing by leaps and bounds. The increase in one year alone amounts to 30 lakhs, and yet they have got their expenditure well within bounds. They have not allowed it to increase. I think that is an example worthy of being followed by the other Departments.

Now, I can tell how the income of the Government can be increased. It is always an unsolvable problem to me that while the Government of India is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the military duties in India yet this province is running the whole of the Sargodha Colony at a dead loss. If these lands are sold to settlers at one hundred rupees per acre, that money can be utilised in repaying the debt we have already incurred.

Take another example. There are certain farms in my own district of Montgomery and they are practically lying waste. There is one farm consisting of about 800 acres of land given away on the condition that fruit trees are planted thereon. Some fine grape creepers were planted there, but all of them have withered away on account of the neglect of the lessee. If that most valuable land could be disposed of at the rate of Rs. 25,000 per square, it would bring about 15 lakhs to this Government. I can cite another example. This is called the Oat Hay Farm run by the Government of India. This comprises 28,000 acres of the best land near Okara. I do not want to cast any reflection on the Government of India. The Government of India are now utilising this land for growing oats and hay, and they pay nothing to the Punjab Government. If this valuable piece of land is leased out or sold by the Punjab Government, the income that would accrue out of the leasing or sale which is now going to fill the coffers of the Government of India would greatly increase our revenue and our income. I want to arm the Honourable the Finance Member to put up our case before the Government of India on as strong a footing as he can possibly do. We expect from our Honourable Finance Member much more than what the Honourable Finance Member for Bengal is doing for his province which by the way is paying nothing to the Government of India. When the contribution that this province is called on to pay is so hard—I should say the hardest next to Madras—we are not allowed to appropriate the normal income, the income that is ours by right.

There is another fruit farm, named Marmalade, for producing jam in which no fruit trees are planted. I do not know to whom this is leased out. I do not want to cast any aspersions on the gentleman to whom it is leased out because I do not know him. If the legitimate income of the province is not allowed to waste in ways such as the above, it would have to a certain extent relieved the general tax-payer from his burden. If all these sources of income had been explored, I am fully convinced that this Government would not be forced to levy extra taxation. Coming to retrenchment, if the Government were to give effect to the recommendations of the minority report of the Retrenchment Committee which with your permission, Sir, I am going to lay before the House, I think there would

be no deficit at all; on the other hand there would be a surplus. For the sake of argument if we consider that the season is very bad now, surely in the course of two or three years there will be a phenomenal surplus throughout the province, leaving aside the steps that have been taken in pursuance of the policy of retrenchment. I do not want to minimise the efforts of Government, yet I say much more is needed. In certain branches if retrenchment had been effected, lakhs of rupees could have been saved by other methods without in the least touching one department or the other. It was at first thought that the amalgamation of the canal and revenue patwari would not work well. The experiment was tried in Western Jumna, and it has proved eminently successful. When this has succeeded on the Western Jumna so well, there is no reason why it should not succeed in other places.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) : I am not quite sure whether that statement is correct.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : The experiment has proved a success on the Western Jumna.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Let us hope so.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : This is not my view. This is the view of experts like Sir Frank Popham Young.

It has also been stated that the activities of the Public Works Department, Roads and Buildings, are very limited and they are practically remaining idle. Some officers are given leave and sent away. If the recommendations of the Sly Committee had been given effect to—I am not talking of the minority report which is a most retrograde step, but I am talking of the majority report—it would have gone a great way towards the attainment of provincial autonomy and would have effected considerable saving. If there was any time when the recommendations of the Sly Committee could have been given effect to, it was now when the Sutlej Valley Project was under construction. Personally I can say that there is very little difference between the Public Works Department, Roads and Buildings and the work turned out by Irrigation Engineers. I think the Chief Engineer will bear me out when I say that the work is of an identical nature. The skill is there, and everything that is required is there. Both can do the same sort of work. Had these two departments been amalgamated, we need not have asked the engineer to go and sit idle at home. Sufficient work will be available for all the hands. If the departments had been amalgamated, there would have been a net saving to the province to the extent of the salary that is now paid to the Public Work Department staff for the construction of roads. While there is already one department engaged in the construction of the Sutlej Valley Project, we are proposing to employ another department, the Public Work Department, for constructing roads and buildings. The idea is no doubt good. I perfectly agree that we should prepare the road beforehand. So far as this is concerned, some of the eminent men, men like Sir Ganga Ram and Mr. Abbott, differ. In the face of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, money is wasted like anything. What is the necessity for employing a different officer when the same work could have been done by the Irrigation Department? The Irrigation Department was there on the spot, and they were constructing the canals,

[Sayad Muhammad Husain.]

and they could very easily have been asked to construct the roads as well. No doubt if two men perform the same work, they will do it better than a single man. But the question is who will pay for the extra man? The country is unable to bear any further taxation. It is high time that the expenditure is brought down to the irreducible minimum.

Similarly there is scope for retrenchment in other places. The other day I had a discussion with a Superintendent of Jails. I was discussing how far we can make the Jail Department an economically paying one. The Superintendent is a very experienced official, and he told me that if the different kinds of prisoners were employed on the same sort of work to which each prisoner was accustomed, then the Department would improve economically. The agriculturist class of prisoners should be employed in agriculture; the weaving class of prisoners should be employed in weaving and so on. If a large portion of land is placed at the disposal of the Jail Department, I think there will be a great enhancement in the income from that Department. This was what I gathered from my discussion with the Superintendent of Jail, Montgomery.

There are other departments which can also be run on a commercial basis, such as the Forest Department. I think all heads of departments must try to run their departments on a commercial basis. As regards the Police Department and the other departments, I perfectly agree with the Honourable the Finance Member that not a single pie more must be paid to maintain them than what is really needed. Our view point is quite different. Of course the Honourable Finance Member who is in charge of the department is the best judge. But we outsiders can also say to a certain extent that the burden is so heavy that if the Government continues to levy any further taxation, the net result will be that one kind of agitation will be put down giving room for another which will take quite a different shape. How long are the Government going to take the money from the people? The law of diminishing returns applies to taxation also. My submission is that as much reduction as is possible should be made in this Department.

Coming next to the beneficent Departments, I am very sorry to say that very little money has been allotted to be spent on them, in fact much less than what is actually needed. It has been conclusively proved that the Co-operative Societies are a real blessing to the people at large, and that they have done a good deal to relieve the wretched and miserable condition of the zamindars. The total estimate under this head was 29½ lakhs; out of this if we take away 14 lakhs that is devoted to industries pure and simple, the balance left is very small. I am not going to puzzle the House with figures, but I will simply point out that other countries provide substantial sums in their budgets for the co-operative department. The other countries spend crores of rupees by way of giving loans to the tenants. For instance, I may point out to the House that in Germany 97 per cent. of the peasants are now holders of land. What is the condition here? Here the land is going away from the agriculturists. The poverty of the peasantry in the Panjab compels them to part with their lands. It would be worth while for the Government to appoint a commission to purchase these lands and parcel them out to the poor peasantry. The Government have already got considerable area of land at their disposal, and they can easily entrust the task of distribution of the lands

to a land commission. The best commission for this purpose will be the co-operative societies. The money can be recovered from the peasants in easy instalments. If it is really intended to increase the prosperity of the country, the best way to do so is to uplift the peasantry. No country can be prosperous if its peasantry is uneducated, or if the peasantry is powerless. The other countries of the world have done much to elevate their peasantry, and why should the Punjab lag behind in this respect. The same economic problem prevails here as there are in other countries.

Then, Sir, I come to education. Without belittling the efforts of the Honourable the Minister for Education and that of Sir George Anderson, I should say that they have not done to the extent that was needed. Still our masses are illiterate. Primary education is still very backward, and secondary education is also in the same backward state. We all require higher education to the same extent as is made available in other civilised countries of the world. I will therefore draw the attention of the Education Department to the fact that nothing can satisfy us so long as our masses, and the peasantry especially, are in a backward state. We cannot tolerate this state of affairs, and we must impress on the Government the imperative necessity for taking all possible steps to diffuse education among the masses.

As regards public health and medical department I wish to make one or two observations. Our population is being decimated rapidly. Scourges after scourges are visiting the cities and villages. Malaria and plague are taking a heavy toll of mortality. These dire diseases are causing great havoc in rural as well as urban areas, and the people are suffering from want of proper medical aid. I would draw the attention of my honourable friend, Colonel Forster, to the fact that from the time the public health department was separated from medical department....."

Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. H. Forster: (Director of Public Health): The departments were made separate in 1868.

Sayad Muhammad Husain: "Medical aid is not forthcoming at least in my district. That is not only my opinion, but it is the opinion of the Deputy Commissioner of my district."

Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. H. Forster: The public health department does not render medical aid.

Mr. President: The honourable member has had 30 minutes. I must ask him to bring his arguments to a close. He must have consideration for other members of the House who wish to speak.

Sayad Muhammad Husain: "I will now sum up." My story is long, but my time is short. Sir, I am not satisfied and the province is not satisfied with the budget. There is no deficit in our opinion, and even if there is any, it should not be made up by taxation but by retrenchment.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood [Amritsar (Muhammadian) Rural]: Sir, the spectacle of the Honourable the Finance Member struggling against adversity cannot fail to command our respectful sympathy. But, Sir, he is a splendid pilot. Between Monster and Whirlpool he has launched his ship—Budget—as he calls it—very well indeed. And he has blessed it with a speech, which will easily rank amongst the best of its kind. I congratulate him on it, and also on balancing the last year's budget. It shows that in the turbulent waters of State finance he is a great expert. I am a mere layman there. But, Sir, even great men and experts have admitted

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

their mistakes sometimes. This fact alone encourages me to offer a few remarks on the Budget, not as destructive criticism but, in the spirit of what I would have done if I had to steer my honourable friend's ship, provided I could avoid getting sea-sick.

Sir, we are confronted with a deficit budget of about 44 lakhs, inspite of the proposed new taxation of 20 lakhs. This is a serious situation, and it tempts one to cry out with Annie Bronte 'The thirsty river drinks its store, and bears it rolling to the shore, but still the ocean craves for more.'

There are obviously three ways of dealing with this deficit—(1) by retrenchment of expenditure; (2) by increasing the revenue; (3) by raising a loan. The Honourable the Finance Member seems to have tried all of these. But, he will forgive me when I say, that I have complaints against his method of application of each one of these remedies.

I will take retrenchment first, and I feel that the whole House will join me in welcoming the retrenchment of 50 lakhs from the budget of 1922-23 to the present one. But, Sir, angels are jealous, and they made the Honourable the Finance Member to apply his axe most where it should have been applied the least and *vice versa*.

I regret that the Honourable the Finance Member has given more to those who bath more already, and less to those who needed most. His comparisons of our position with that of other provinces to show that they are doing the same will not help him. The legislatures of those provinces are also protesting. And to say that their rates and disbursements of expenditure justify our's sounds like 'two evils make one good.'

Take for instance the departments grouped under Civil Administration which consume over 34.5 per cent. of our expenditure (General Administration 12.2 per cent., Justice 6 per cent., Jails 3.3 per cent., Police 13 per cent., etc.) Most of this (practically 30 per cent. of total expenditure), we are told, is spent for the maintenance of law and order. Add to this our contribution to the Government of India (16 per cent. of our expenditure), the greater part of which is obviously spent under Military expenditure for the upkeep of peace. In short about 40 per cent. of our expenditure is spent annually on preserving law and order, and yet we are asked for an increase of 10 lakhs under this head for the current year. I admit that the maintenance of law and order is the primary function of every civilized Government, and as such it deserves the support of every law-abiding citizen. But, Sir, there is a limit to everything, and the interests of law and order are no exception to it. And that limit, I submit, has already been reached in this province. In fact if we continued to give security to the tax-payers at this rate of expenditure, we will make them secure only to starve. That would sound like the Doctor's report that 'the operation was successful but the patient died.' Moreover, retrenchment under this head is conditioned by policy. And a careful consideration of the problem from this point of view may prove useful. The amalgamation of the Imperial and Provincial Services into a common cadre for fresh recruitment, where deserving candidates need not necessarily start from the lowest grade, is another avenue worth exploring. Then there is the Forest Department. People wonder what logic impels the Government to sell sleepers of timber at low rates and then to buy them back for State buildings at higher rates. Why not reserve these logs first for public buildings?

I now come to the expenditure on beneficent or Nation Building Departments. It is gratifying to read of an increased grant of 4½ lakhs to education and 2½ lakhs to agriculture, but the decrease of 2½ lakhs in the Medical is sad indeed. In spite of this increase these departments collectively get only 21 per cent. of the total expenditure (Education 12 per cent., Medical 4 per cent., Public Health 1.2 per cent., Agriculture 3 per cent., Industries 7 per cent.). I should like to see these grants materially increased. The illiteracy of the 90 per cent. of our people demand it. The high death-rate of the province and the recurrence of epidemics cry for it. The poverty of the Agriculturists, the low yields of their crops, and the low standard of their living suggest it. Technical education, itinerant lectures, cottage industries, and the co-operative movement—the only hope of a stricken peasantry—are starved through lack of funds. And yet we are helpless. Under the rules we cannot initiate or vote an increased grant for any department in the course of the budget discussion. This is, perhaps, the worst limitation on our powers under the present constitution. Its abolition should come forth with through a revision of our rules. It may take sometime for Lord Olivier (the New Secretary of State) to make up his mind as to the exact form in which he would like to consult the Indian Nationalists on the constitutional issue of India. Let us hope he will not be too late. In the meantime I trust Sir Malcolm Hailey, whose appointment as Governor of this Province I take this opportunity of welcoming, will give us his proposed committee to remove such defects in the working of the Government of India Act, 1919.

Then there is our contribution to the Government of India which takes away 16 per cent. of our expenditure. This, I submit, in spite of the Honourable Finance Member's defence of it, is beyond our capacity to pay. It must be reduced. I say this in no provincial spirit. But the wrong done to us by the Meston Committee must be righted. The Finance Minister of the Government of India has suggested the possibility of a reduction of about 40 lakhs in our contribution. I beg the Honourable the Finance Member to avail of this opportunity, and to fight for it. And once he makes up his mind to do so we know he is indomitable.

Next I come to the second remedy of increasing revenue proposed by the Honourable the Finance Member. And my protest is that he has directed his lance towards those parts of the community which have already bled white. He seems to be fond of taxing the poor agriculturists. His proposed taxation falls mainly on them. His contemplated increase of canal rates—about which he gave us a masterly promise which promised nothing—affects them solely. This I submit, Sir, is rather unfair. The agriculturists are the poorest class in this Province, and relative to their resources they contribute most to the State revenues. The average annual income per head of the agriculturists of this Province is calculated at Rs. 40 to 60, while feeding and clothing alone of a prisoner in the Punjab Jails costs over Rs. 92 yearly. There is therefore no margin for taxation here so long as their economic conditions are not improved. Take next their contribution to the State Exchequer. Our revenue is principally derived from Land Revenue, Excise, Stamps, Forest, Registration and Canal rates. Of these the Land Revenue (which has nearly doubled in the last 20 years) and canal rates (which together constitute about 70 per cent. of our main revenue) come exclusively from the agriculturists. The excise revenue again is contributed mainly by

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

them; so also is the Forest revenue. Under Stamps and Registration they contribute their fair share possibly more than their share, as the bulk of our litigation is about small sums. It is, therefore, Sir, my imperative duty to inform the Honourable the Finance Member that it is neither fair nor expedient to exact more from this ill-fed, ill-clad, and already over-taxed community.

Lastly, I come to the question of loan. We have to budget for an increase of 12 lakhs this year for interest on our increasing debt. Now, Sir, part of this debt is productive; and so far as that is concerned I have only to convey to the Honourable the Finance Member the strong feeling in the country that these debts are productive more to the Members of the Department than to the State. I hope this impression is not well founded, but it is universal, and a committee to advise steps for stricter supervision over these works may go a long way to clear it. Then there is the unproductive loan of over 14 lakhs for building purposes. Against this, Sir, I record my strong protest. Raising of such an unproductive loan in the present circumstances of our province, I submit, with due deference to the Honourable the Finance Member, defies all canons of sound finance. It burdens us with a debt which does not yield even its interest, and thus commits us to a further recurring debt when we are already struggling against a chronic deficit. Moreover, pucca and spacious buildings are nice things to have and may be necessary sometimes, but,

S. P. M.

Sir, it is suicidal to undertake fresh expenditure on them, when we can barely make the two ends meet. These matters can be postponed, and, I submit, should be postponed. To ask us to undertake them at once as otherwise the Public Works Department staff will not be sufficiently employed in the course of the year is to remind us of another injury. Why engage more on the permanent staff than we need? For this I would suggest Inter-departmental employment of extra staff. Spare hands of one department like Public Works Department should be transferred.

So far Sir, I have pleaded for a reduction of taxation and an increase of grant to the beneficent Departments. It is fair that I should suggest wherefrom do I expect to raise necessary funds for carrying out my proposals. I have five suggestions. Time limit permits of a bare hinting of them. I am prepared to offer a detailed scheme about them later if the Honourable the Finance Member is prepared to take it up:—

1. My proposed Bill for the registration of money-lenders should bring us 15 to 20 lakhs a year.
2. The Government of India takes away the profits of our railways but we have to pay about 7 lakhs yearly for Railway Police. That should come from the Government of India.
3. A reduction of at least 50 lakhs must be secured from our annual contribution to the Government of India. They should also pay us the cost of carrying out some of their policies which have burdened us with extra expenditure. We should also get from them the lion's share of the wind-fall of war indemnity as we deserve it.
4. The total indebtedness of our agriculturists is calculated at about 60 crores. For this they pay 12 crores interest yearly, which gives an average rate of about 20 per cent. A substantial increase of the Co-operative Department and a bold scheme of State Composition of Debts as done in Ireland would save 3 crores annually to the agriculturists and 3 crores to the Government. It is no Utopia. It has worked elsewhere. It can work here.

5. We have million acres of Government culturable waste land. They can be reclaimed as they did in Belgium. A disposal of Public Lands Act like what they have in America should offer as an experiment portion of this land on easy terms to cultivators who are prepared to reclaim it. I should combine with it the condition of co-operative farming on improved agricultural lines as has recently been undertaken on the ex-soldiers' grant farms in England.

Thus shall we make possible the making of a new Punjab which will offer its best to India so that India may be better fitted to give and take from the cultural pool of a common humanity.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz (Lahore (Mudammanan) Rural) : Sir, I offer my heartiest congratulations to the Honourable Finance Member for the lucid way and fearless and frank manner in which he has brought forward the financial statement of the year 1924-25. The Honourable the Finance Member and his able and industrious Finance Secretary must have been working very hard in order to prepare the budget, and we fully acknowledge and appreciate their services with sincere thanks and gratitude. It is quite clear that the Honourable Sir John Maynard the Captain of the good ship Budget, and his Lieutenant Mr. Miles Irving, have fully resolved to steer their steamer clear of the six-headed monster of the administrative departments and of the whirlpool Council's opposition. The monster is no doubt showing his teeth and barking very furiously, but it does not mean to bite. (Laughter). The whirlpool of the Council's opposition may heave underneath like the horse that knows its rider, but it is more or less powerful to engulf the mighty steamer of the Finance Department. Therefore the noble Captain, the gallant Lieutenant and the good ship can cross the narrow strait without much fear singing 'Our ship is swift and strong; our falcon scarcely can fly more merrily along.'

The financial position of the province, however, is extremely serious, and has given the gravest alarm to the tax-payer. Despite the fact that we have referred the three Bills to Select Committees and despite the fact that the Government of India will in all probability reduce our contribution by 38 lakhs, I am afraid we are brought face to face with a basic deficit, as pointed out by the Finance Secretary, of many lakhs. Further, almost all the nation-building schemes such as the scheme for the introduction of free and compulsory primary education, the scheme for the improvement of sanitation, the scheme for the development of industries, cannot be taken up in hand for want of funds. Again almost all the important resolutions which were passed by this Council have not been given effect to for reasons well-known to the Government. (Hear, hear). For instance, a resolution which was passed by this Council for the separation of the Judicial from the Executive functions has not been given effect to, in spite of the fact that the Honourable Finance Member admits that crime has been markedly less than the preceding year, and that political discontent has decreased. In these circumstances the Swarajists and the Nationalists may well argue that these blessed reforms have not given us anything but additional taxation.

With your permission, Sir, I now desire to make a few observations on the income and expenditure of our province. The five principal items of revenue are Land Revenue, Irrigation, Excise, Forests and Stamps.

The Revenue Department has done exceedingly well this year. It has given us 39 lakhs more than we anticipated. Special thanks are therefore

[Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.]

due to my esteemed friend the Honourable Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia, and the Honourable Mr. King for realising more revenue and recovering back big arrears. We have budgetted for 1924-25 under this head two crores and eighty-six lakhs instead of three crores and twenty lakhs, the revised figure for the current year, because we are told that we should not count upon any bumper season and because the arrears have to a very large extent been already realised. In this matter I beg leave to differ. In my opinion we are almost sure to realise 15 or 20 lakhs more than your present estimate, unless our hopes are frustrated by some unforeseen events.

I will now pass on to Irrigation. All praise is due to the Irrigation Department, and I do pay a tribute of praise to the Honourable Sardar Sahib and to my esteemed friend Honourable Mr. Sangster, who have done all that they could do for the benefit of the Department as well as for the province. I have had the honour of sitting on the Canal Committee for the last 31 years, and I can confidently say that the working of the Department under the wise guidance of the Sardar Sahib and Mr. Sangster has been very satisfactory. All controversial subjects were fully discussed before the Committee with the greatest frankness, and the decisions arrived at were acceptable. It is gratifying to know that the Irrigation Department is going to give us 30 lakhs more than the actuals of 1922-23 and 25 lakhs more than the budget of the current year and 13 lakhs more than the revised figures. I rejoice to see that the Punjab loan was over-subscribed within a few hours. This is due to the fact that we are going to complete our Sutlej Valley Project as soon as possible and we intend to take the Thal Project in hand in October 1925. As long as we have some irrigation project in hand and the Crown waste lands to sell, our credit is sure to rise. I, however, want to sound a note of warning to the Government. We are entering upon a very serious competition and rivalry with the Bombay Government who desire to profit at our expense. They have been lodging protest after protest against our Irrigation projects in the Punjab. Therefore always beware of Bombay Government.

I now come to the Excise Department. This is a money making department, but we must continue, though I am very sorry to say so, we must continue to shower our blessings on the heads of Bhangis and Shirabis, because they come to our help in the hour of need. There is practically no change in the income and expenditure of this department. It is a great pity that we cannot close up all the liquor shops even within a few years, because our financial conditions do not permit us to do so.

I now come to the Forest Department. This is a quasi-commercial department. I do not know why some of the members are particularly against this department. It has now given us an undertaking that expenditure on revenue account would not exceed 70 per cent. of the income. I think that the expenditure should be reduced to 60 per cent. on the income as is the case in other provinces. In Bengal the percentage of expenditure to income is 59 per cent., in the Central Provinces it is 56 per cent., in the United Provinces it is 65 per cent. It has given me some consolation to note that the Forest Department is going to give us Rs. 12,79,000 for the ensuing year.

The receipt from stamps have been very disappointing, because stamps have yielded only 12 lakhs instead of 30 lakhs for which we budgetted for the current year.

I now come, Sir, to the spending departments, the Education Department and the Police. Education is certainly spreading through the efforts of the Honourable Minister for Education and Sir George Anderson. But the demand of the Province has not been fulfilled. The public is very anxious that we must introduce free and compulsory primary education within the province as soon as possible. In my opinion illiteracy is the root cause of all evils. We must fight against the forces of darkness and the demon of ignorance, otherwise there is no hope. I am not one of those who want progress in education but do not want to resort to taxation for this purpose. I must candidly confess that we must have free and compulsory primary education even if on that account we have to resort to fresh taxation. I have been urging this point before the Finance Committee and the Finance Department but no one seems to pay any attention to my proposals. I always suggested that if you resort to additional taxation, for goodness sake give three-fourths for free and compulsory primary education, so that we may satisfy the demand of the people.

With regard to Police I do not know why the expenditure cannot be cut down. We are told by the Honourable the Finance Member that there is unrest amongst a certain section of the community. Undoubtedly he means, the Sikhs are quite excited and the Sikh situation is no doubt very serious. It has clearly taken a very serious turn now. I pointed out when Government proposed to introduce Gurdwara Bill that it was absolutely futile and unjust and unfair to inflict on the Sikhs a Gurdwara Act which was not acceptable to them. I said then that the Act would be a dead letter and my prophesy has come true. We must all of us unite to help the Sikhs. They must be given a Gurdwara Act in a form which will be acceptable to them without infringing the rights of third party. The tragic occurrences in Jaito have perturbed the public mind not only in this province but throughout India. I submit, Sir, that nothing short of an impartial and independent inquiry can satisfy the Sikhs and the public. I ask the Government to order an enquiry into this matter.

Said I not that in these evil times we were brought face to face with a heavy and distressing budget? Then what are the remedies to meet it? The only remedy suggested by the Honourable the Finance Member and the Finance Secretary is additional taxation. Is there no limit, Sir, for fresh taxation? I say plainly that the people have become sulky and I request the Government not to resort to fresh taxation. On no account you should raise additional money by executive orders without the assent of the Council. The extremists in the province will simply rejoice if they could drive back the Government on purely bureaucratic methods. The Honourable Finance Member intends to raise the water rates. He is not contemplating the enhancement this year, but there is an idea in his mind to increase the rates next year. I do not know why the water rate should be increased. By this you will be hitting the poorest men in the province. The Government is already realising an average of 12 per cent. on all the present system of all canals. If Government demands full value for the water supplied, then the peasant proprietors have a right to demand full for their labour and gain. Why, Sir, are we asking the hardest money-lender to cut down exorbitant rate of interest. The court can reduce the rate of interest if it is more than 12 per cent. Surely the Government ought to be more generous than the money-lenders. In no case

[Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.]

the Government should claim more than 12 per cent. for the water supplied from the canals, and this the Government is already realising.

I tell you, Sir, that the peasant proprietors and the tenants-at-will are getting sulky and I see a spirit of revolt growing in them. I do not sympathise with the big landlords, but I have very great sympathy for the poor peasant proprietors. Surely it cannot be expected that they will adhere to false traditions and impossible loyalties for any length of time. I tell you not to kill your golden goose? The peasant is the only man who has stuck to the Government through thick and thin, through storm and snow. He will stick to the Government if he is treated kindly and generously. The political situation in the province is critical? The public is demanding full responsible government in the provinces but the Government is not willing to yield an inch. The Secretary of State has practically refused to appoint even a Royal Commission to go into the question of further instalment of reforms. Instead of strengthening the backs of those who believe in constitutional agitation, the Government is cutting the ground underneath the feet of the liberals. By the imposition of additional taxation the Government is only justifying the cry of the extremists that the reforms are a mere snare and a sham and they are simply to raise money to be spent by the executive authorities. I appeal to the Government to realise the position of the elected members of this Council who owe a duty to their constituency. Think you, Sir, that I could justify my presence in this Council for a day if I were to say that Government can enhance water rates by an executive order under some moth-eaten rules in the District of Lahore which I have the honour to represent? My district is very poor and the holdings are very small. I beg you to view the matter seriously. There are thoughtless extremists in the country who would like to wreck the reforms. There are also thoughtless officials who advocate no advance in the reforms. Between these two sets of extremists the position of the moderates and the constitutionalists has become very awkward indeed and all hopes of reason and justice must be given up for the time being. This is indeed a very sad situation.

Now, Sir, I come to the point of retrenchment. I think there is still room for retrenchment in all the departments. One thing I cannot understand is this. The income of other provinces like the Central Provinces, the Bihar and Orissa is much less than ours and yet they have cut down their expenditure enormously. The income of Bengal is just the same as ours and yet they have made drastic cuts in their expenditure. Our retrenchment committee recommended only a cut of 37½ lakhs and even this has not been accepted by the Government. The committee recommended that the travelling allowances should be cut down by 33 per cent., but unfortunately that too was not acceptable to the Government. The Finance Department promised to cut it down by 25 per cent. but it has not been done so far. Surely it is high time that the rates are cut down and retrenchment is effected in this direction. In my opinion there is enough room for further retrenchment. We can certainly retrench the expenses by some 40 or 50 lakhs.

We also must insist on the Government of India to reduce our provincial contribution. We must go to the Government of India with folded hands and tell them that our province was treated most unjustly by the Meston Committee. The Meston Committee erroneously thought that we had

surplus revenue in our hands. It was not surplus but our capital, the sale proceeds of the Crown lands. We had then about 2 crores in hand. One crore was surrendered by the then Governor to the Government of India because the Punjab Government has always been generous. It never believes in the story of a profligate son. We are only getting $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on this sum and the other crore that was left was soon swallowed up. Well, Sir, Bengal and Bihar and Orissa are not paying anything at all. Bombay is only paying $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Why should this province pay 18 per cent. on income? Our legitimate share comes only to $\frac{1}{10}$ th per cent. We should again ask the Government of India to reduce our contribution at least by fifty lakhs.

Sir, I have given expression to these thoughts in the hope that they will produce some effect. In vain I looked through the speech of the Honourable Sir John Maynard to find a single word of hope and progress. The only solution of the vexing problems of revenue and expenditure is that full responsible Government in the provinces should be established without further delay. With these remarks, Sir, I beg to resume my seat.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh Urban) : Sir, I join with the Honourable the Finance Member in appreciating the hard work which his able assistants have done to present to us the budget in a very lucid and readable form. I also congratulate the Finance Department not on the prosperity budget but on the attempt to make us swallow the bitter pill more easily. I am sorry I cannot accept the dictum of the department that they have presented to us a more favourable statement of accounts than that of last year and that they have reduced the deficit to 44 lakhs after taking into account the 20 lakhs that may be collected from the new taxation. If the unproductive capital expenditure of 14 lakhs to which my honourable friend has hinted already had not been shunted down to the capital account, the deficit would have really been 78 lakhs.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : 58 lakhs, Sir.

Sardar Jodh Singh : I am keeping out of the account the new taxes. These figures are a more clear index of the economy and retrenchment of the Finance Department than of their professions to the contrary. I have searched for the causes of this deficit. To one of them allusion has already been made, namely, the Meston award. I am sorry to say, Sir, that our Finance Department have never made a bold stand against it. I was just reading the other day the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member for Bengal, which by the way has been paying nothing to the Government of India for the last three years. These words occur in that speech—

“We have already retrenched our expenditure to our utmost limit. We have imposed taxation on our people and what is the result? If the contribution of 68 lakhs to the Central Government is again forced upon us, it will swallow up the bulk of the proceeds of our continuous efforts to reduce expenditure and to increase the revenue. We should again be faced with a deficit and have nothing for development. Such a contingency is wholly unacceptable to us and shall fight it to the utmost.”

The Honourable the Finance Member for the Punjab instead of making a bold stand against it is really trying to prove in the memorandum that we

[Sardar Jodh Singh]

will be the gainer by this award. I shall read the very words of the Honourable the Finance Member. He says:

Two instances, one unavoidable and one avoidable have converted this improvement of 102 lakhs into a normal deficit of a crore to a crore and a quarter. The first of these influences was the omission to separate in the accounts capital from revenue receipts. A deceptive appearance of prosperity was given to the Punjab finances by the large proceeds of the sale of land in the irrigated colonies. It misled outside experts in their enquiry into the financial capabilities of the Province . . .

In spite of this admission, instead of making a bold stand the Honourable the Finance Member is consoling us to accept the inevitable. When Bengal found herself in the same difficulty, she put up a bold fight with the result that the Government of India remitted their contribution altogether. When we find ourselves in the same difficulty, we are not given a pie free; on the other hand we have to pay interest at 6½ per cent. on the last advance made to us by the Government of India. Then, Sir, comes the question of taxation to balance our budget. My honourable friends have spoken much about the taxation and I need not dwell any more upon it. The only three possible sources of taxation on which the Finance Department can lay its hand are court fees, stamps and water rates. About stamps, the department itself says that by the last increase, it has not realized the expected 31 lakhs. It doubts whether the utmost limit of taxation has not been reached under this head. But in spite of this, the department comes with a proposal to double that tax in certain parts of the province. As regards the water rates, I think every honourable member of this House who has been in this Council from the commencement of this session and who has listened to the long tale of woes of the zamindars will be very cruel if he still gives consent to the increase in water rates. As for me, I will never give my consent to any such tax. I cannot agree with the Honourable Minister for Education in his statement the other day that if Government want money, the House should give it. I will give my consent to a tax when it is proved that the people who are to bear the burden can bear it and that by a comparison with the other provinces our taxes are lower. Then, Sir, the question remains how to balance the budget? Firstly I have said that we must fight against the iniquitous impost of the Government of India. They are committed to a policy of gradually reducing and finally entirely doing away with these contributions after a certain number of years and if instead of raising fresh taxation we persist in our demand we are sure to get a big slice from that source.

As to retrenchment our memo. informs us that an impartial Committee was appointed and the recommendations of this Committee are to be carried out. This is a further remedy for effecting economy, but let me see what the members of the Committee have to say. Mr. Manohar Lal whom none could accuse of extreme views and whose knowledge of the subject none could doubt says that almost to the end of the discussion in the Committee it was known that the deficit to be met was between 50 and 60 lakhs. It was only at the end that it transpired that the normal deficit was almost double that amount. The proposals of the Retrenchment Committee under these conditions, he says, would not be so vigorous as they would be if the deficit had been realised as being 1½ crores. As to the manner in which

the Committee worked he says: "But quite a considerable number of the members faced the task as if no real occasion had existed for retrenchment." But even with such a Committee all the recommendations for retrenchment have not been accepted. If I have read the report aright, by carrying out the recommendations of the majority report a saving to the tune of Rs. 50 lakhs would have been effected. There does appear to be a saving of 26 lakhs, but it includes savings from the Forest Department; that was not included in the recommendation of the Committee. But if the recommendations of Mr. Ganpat Rai and Sayad Muhammad Husain are acted upon, I think much can be done in that direction. Of course, I am a layman, Sir, and a novice in financial matters, but I think if Government means to effect economy and retrenchment the deficit can even now be made up at least in this year. If they accept a reduction of 25 per cent. in travelling allowance as suggested by the Canal Department in one of their memos, it would save us at least 11 lakhs. A further saving can be effected if the controlling officers apply the rule that travelling allowance must not be made a source of profit a bit strictly, specially in the case of motor journeys. Other allowances and honoraria: another head which costs the province nearly 2 lakhs. Then supplies and services and contingencies can be cut down by 10 per cent. That would give us another 10 lakhs.

There are certain items in the Canal budget which are set down as remunerative and they must be transferred to capital account as they ought to be according to the rules of revenue expenditure, and if this proposal is accepted the revenue expenditure would be reduced by 10 lakhs. For the present I accept the ratio between income and expenditure that has been set down by the Forest Department, that is of 10 to 7, but they must at least give us interest for the capital expenditure. I would ask the Forest Department to reduce their expenditure budget by one lakh and also to give us, say, something like 40,000 in the shape of reduced travelling allowance rates. This would give us another 1½ lakhs. Then, Sir, if we take into consideration that wages have gone down and things have cheapened, there should be saving effected under maintenance of repair and tools and plant. Under these heads they have budgetted more money than in the revised estimates of the last year. Even if we stick to our budget for 1923-24 a saving to the extent of 3,78,000 could be effected. All this should enable us to do away with our deficit of the next year.

Now, Sir, I have not taken into account the question of the Indianisation of the services or of reducing the pay of our provincial and subordinate establishment which we increased in a moment of generosity blinded by our imaginary balances with the Government of India. I would reserve those savings for the beneficent department. Any income that we get from those sources should be applied to education, co-operation and the improvement of agriculture.

Now, Sir, I come to the question of policy. As my friend remarked, policy has a great effect on the expenses of a Government. In olden days when our priests used to take money from us, they used to read *mantras* at the same time and I find that our high priests on the treasury benches recite the *mantra* of law and order to make us acquiesce in raising the expenditure in certain departments. Now, Sir, what is law and order? Is it a stone which has been thrown from heaven which we should worship for all time to come unchanged? I think, Sir, that with the growth of the moral ideas of the

[Sardar Jodh Singh.]

community, the law changes with it and if the law does not change, it is not law and order that we worship but something else which has taken its place. These ideas of law and order have been applied too long in the case of the Sikh community. That community has set its heart on a certain religious reform and as the Secretary of State in his recent speech has told us that, had that problem sprung up in England it would have been solved there in a very different way. But here inspite of the unity which the Sikh community has shown in the last elections in the interest of Gurdwara reform, what are we getting? Repression and more repression. This Council has been elected on the basis of communal distinctions and though I see that attempts are being made for further division on the basis of caste, still I would appeal to all the members of this Council to sink all their differences and show a united front and compel Government to change this policy of repression into a policy of compromise. I need not dilate on this point any longer. I will have many opportunities during the detailed budget debate to refute all the charges that have been laid against the Sikhs that they do not want compromise though Government has been trying its best to do so. I will reply to all that later on, but for the present I will say just this much that the tax-payers will be saved at least between 5 and 10 lakhs which they have been spending during the last three years for keeping these people in jails, for starting so many courts to punish them and for paying liberal fees to special Public Prosecutors against which I have been fighting up to this time and which I am sorry to say that in spite of the woes of the tax-payers some members of this Council have not supported.

Sir, I maintain that if retrenchment is effected in these departments, the deficit of the present year can be made up without our levying any new taxation. With these few remarks, Sir, I resume my seat.

Mr. President: If any Government members wish to speak except the Honourable the Finance Member for whom I shall reserve time, they must themselves guard their claims by rising.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari (Non-official, Nominated)
Sir, it should not be presumed or pre-conceived that like a hired mercenary, I have come to sing melodious songs or make laudatory remarks. If the House gives me the indulgence of hearing, I can say and say faithfully that I have also to tell a tale of grievances. I have not the advantage of consulting a written speech. Possibly I can say that I have committed a mistake not to be repeated again. However, whatever I have to say, I shall say with frankness and candidness. I can compare the budget to a fort which has taken a good deal of time in building and which is under the command of a General, the hero of a hundred fights who has arranged his positions with the assistance of his able lieutenants, but who is opposed by a battalion of volunteers full of enthusiasm but with a few exceptions quite new in the art of warfare. It will be really an interesting thing for us to see the battle. As for my part, I can say that the lucidity and the thoughtfulness with which the Budget has been prepared, the precision and the exactitude with which generally allotments have been made not only speak highly, not only do they deserve praise, but they extort our full admiration for its author, the Finance Member. I shall be failing in my duty if I were not to congratulate Mr. Miles Irving who has helped him and laboured hard for its preparation. But with all these remarks still I stand and I do stand with a

sense of disappointment. The Budget has passed through many hands. It has been tested by the Standing Sub-Committees, the privilege of serving on any one of them was not extended to the nominated members. But I beg to assure you that those who are imbued with any sense of duty perfectly understand that public money of which they are the custodians is not to be misspent or misapplied.

The Government which is responsible for running the machinery should not be presumed to be devoid of that sense and it should not be preconceived that the demand made by it are unnecessarily extravagant or unreasonable.

I want to say one word more. Our daily inevitable experience has taught us that when we have entrusted our work to others we should repose more confidence in them and we must not be over suspicious. Efficiency is the thing that we should always take into consideration. Sir, it is really very sad for me to say that we have not started with good omens. The sword of Damocles, I mean the deficit, is still hanging over our head and I feel confident that those who adorn the front benches on the official side will make every effort to reduce that deficit. I know they have been making every effort and if they have not been successful I cannot attribute it to any negligence on their part.

Coming to the various Budget heads, I do not at all wish to repeat what has already been said. I am not going to point their names into the battle. The first thing that I have to submit is about the three departments, Sanitation, Education and Maintenance of Law and Order. When I looked into the budget I found that 10,87,000 has been provided for public health of which three lakhs are for the Sanitary Board for Sanitary grants. Kindly consider, Sir, whether this is sufficient for such a big Province as this. In cities, municipalities have got sanitary inspectors and health officers who can look after sanitation. But go to villages you will find on one side there are heaps of manure on the other *chhappars*, nurseries of mosquitoes; there is no drainage system, there is no recreation ground. Plague, malaria, cholera and influenza come first as unbidden guests and go last. I ask, Sir, whether these three lakhs are sufficient to improve the rural sanitation.

Coming to education, I notice that one crore, four lakhs is provided for education and great credit is due to the Education Minister and Sir George Anderson for having an increasing number of boys and institutions. Illiteracy is the root cause of all evils and if we do away with illiteracy we will do away with crime. The more people are educated, the less offenders there are. In these circumstances I believe the resonant call of higher education, the mild but appealing sight of secondary education and the feeble and pathetic voice of primary education, all these will enlist your sympathy. (Hear, hear.)

Coming to the maintenance of law and order, we have to look to the present situation. I do not wish to say anything about this society or that, but there is an impression in the minds of the people that there is no safety of person and property. The members of a family have to keep watch by turns and cannot sleep on account of dacoities which are committed even within the precincts of the police station. When this is the state of affairs, I think it is the duty of the Government to provide more money under this head. I do not think that we have reached a maximum in the matter of provision for the suppression of crime. We have to go on further and further till we have suppressed crime altogether. I do not propose to

R. B. Sir Gopal Das Bhandari,]
 contradict the remarks of the Honourable the Finance Minister that crime is on the decrease, but I know that it is on the increase. My experience too is the same though it is confined to only one district. The other day the Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar said, these are the days when from Amritsar to Attari a man cannot travel without being looted. Octroi posts were looted within a short time; what more should I say on the subject?

I am sorry I have omitted to say one word in regard to sanitation. It has been truly said by a poet, neither wealth, nor honour, nor power can give to the heart a cheerful hour when health is gone. What I wish to impress is that if you don't provide adequately for rural sanitation, the people who till the soil and plough the fields will die in thousands on account of malaria, influenza, etc., and people will not be left to take up their work and consequently the revenue will fall.

It may be said that it is all very easy to make suggestions of this kind but how are we to meet the expenditure? The first is reduction in the contribution to Government of India. It is said that one should go to Government of India with folded hands but let us go on our knees to get what we had before the Meston settlement. This is with regard to provincial contribution. Next we come to retrenchment. I have got a good deal of experience in the matter of retrenchment in the Amritsar municipality. It is really a most delicate and difficult subject.

Then there is taxation. If one were to point out that a particular expenditure is necessary and that our revenue is absolutely insufficient, I shall be the first person to lift my hand in support of taxation. There is another method by which the expenditure can be reduced and that is by postponing some works which are not urgent. That is the process by which you can meet the urgent demands. I do not say civil works are indispensable, but we should make a list of the most urgent nature first and spend money only on them this year. We must not spend our money in all civil works irrespective of whether they are urgent or otherwise.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : That is what is being done.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das Bhandari : That is a matter of opinion. Whether it has been done or not is still a matter to be decided. When I read the budget, I searched it to find out what has been allotted for the education of girls. I cannot find anything. In future when budgets are prepared, my suggestion is that the amount allotted for girls' education should be shown separately from that allotted for boys' education. The girls of today are the mothers of tomorrow. It is well known how the home atmosphere can really improve the State and it can always improve the condition of the people. Surely more efforts must be made to educate our girls. I ask the Honourable Minister for Education to inform the House the amount that he is going to spend on female education.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh Urban). Read the educational report.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das Bhandari : I have read that report and it contains nothing. Is the Honourable Minister for Education really enamoured of the education for boys only? Has he no mind to bestow some attention on the progress of girls' education? It will really be a ver-

fortunate day for the province if the girls go to schools in as large a number as the boys. Therefore I am really very much disappointed that nothing has been set apart for female education. I will propose how money can be found for female education. In page 270 of 41—Civil Works Budget, I find a lump sum allotment of Rs. 35,00,000 for minor repairs. Now, Sir, lump sum allotments like that are really nets in which possibly another man cannot put his hand into. If this sum is reduced by at least one or two lakhs, we shall be thankful to the Government and this sum can be devoted to female education. The other allotment which astonished me most is this sum of Rs. 39,54,000 for repairs. I find from last year's budget that a sum of 40 lakhs was allotted for repairs. Are these repairs to be done every year? Can you not postpone some of these repairs and allow some money to be spent on female education? Another point that I wish to know is whether these repairs are a permanent annual feature? Are the repairs done so shabbily as to require redoing every year? Why should this repair work appear as a permanent item in the budget of every year? If the Government like, they can make substantial reduction under this head and spend some money on female education and other starving departments. If my proposal is acceptable to the Government, I hope they will take action soon without leaving it to the pleasure of the House.

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni (Punjab University): Sir, it seems to me that it is customary in this House to begin a speech with a shower of encomiums upon everybody who has had anything to do with the preparation of the budget or the spending of the money which is budgetted. I do not wish to be behind any one. I would be the last person to withhold any generosity that might be well deserved by honourable members who have had anything to do with the preparation of the budget or the spending of money. Sir, there is a clear indication in the budget that the money has not been spent as well as it might have been. There are several cases where money had to be spent but where no money is allotted; there are other things which do not require any money to be spent on them, but which have large sums of money allotted to them.

Before I come to that, I claim a little generosity from the official benches for the Swarajists also. The budget bears evidence to it, and I want to bring that point clearly to the notice of the House. In the year 1922-23, a sum of 1½ lakhs was spent in a very beneficial manner, an expenditure for which the Swaraj movement is mainly, perhaps wholly responsible. Sir, in that year we find that a sum of money about equal to the salary of the Governor of the Province plus the salary of the Honourable the Finance Member has been spent as remuneration to contractors, so that they might supply provisions to the officers on tour. For that beneficial reform, the Swarajists alone are, I claim, responsible. This year, I find, as much as 1.75 lakhs budgetted for the same purpose. This amount is to cover the remuneration of contractors who will supply provisions only in a few places, not in all places. So if the reform is extended to the whole province, so that every officer on tour might get provisions through these contractors, it would be better. Now, Sir, it has been pointed out that the bulk of the revenue of this province is spent in maintaining law and order. I shall have something to say about this later on; but, for the present, I want to say that 40 per cent. which is the estimated amount given by one of the honourable members does not exhaust the amount really spent. The Government of India spends large sums of money in maintaining law and

[Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.]

order. We on these benches maintain that a part of this money is absolutely unnecessary. A great deal of this money is being spent in repressing legitimate agitation—I use the word advisedly—legitimate and peaceful agitation for the demand of Swaraj. The Government has done things which they should not have done. At the present moment I would not go into details. Considering what has been done during the last two years to harass peaceful citizens, not only in connection with the Akali movement but also with the Swaraj movement, I would say that a great deal of the money spent is as good as or even worse than wasted. This policy on the part of Government has driven the conviction home into the minds of the people that they can get nothing out of the present rulers, and that Governments never give but yield. This has created a spirit of suspicion and distrust, instead of that spirit of friendliness and good will and gratitude which lie at the root of all good government, of a government such as many of us want to be established in this country. There is not one, Sir, of all those whom I have come across, who would not wish the British connection to continue; but on one condition and one condition only, and that is a condition which is being every day made more and more difficult to achieve by the repressive measures of the Punjab Government during the last two years. Sir, large amounts of money are being raised by the Government. I mentioned this, this morning and I will once more refer to it inasmuch as there was only a partial admission and I want to have a frank admission by the Government before I can feel contented with the situation. I pointed out Sir, that 92 lakhs were raised and were allowed to lie idle without bearing any interest for the last six months. The Finance Secretary also said so in reply to my remarks this morning. Out of this excess loan, the Punjab Government is now making arrangements to pay back the advance from the Government of India. Not only this; we find from the budget that a sinking fund of 25 lakhs has been created and this money also is lying idle. On this we have to pay 6½ per cent. interest in some cases and 6¼ per cent. in some other cases. All this money is lying idle, this 92 lakhs of rupees is lying idle. (A voice, No). I have also pointed out that another 25 lakhs is lying idle. Is it denied that this sinking fund of 25 lakhs is lying idle? Is it denied that 92 lakhs which were raised by loan are lying idle? The amount required for the loan was one crore but the amount accepted exceeded it by 92 lakhs. Not only so. We find in a great many cases expenditure being incurred which is not only against the decision of the Council, I mean the late Council, but which should not have been incurred. We find that in the case of settlement officers, for instance, certain allowances are continued to be paid while the Council clearly decided that these allowances were to be paid in the case of officers who had been engaged before the date of the Council resolution, but not in the case of those whose appointments were sanctioned after the date of that resolution. Then again just a word or two with regard to the allowances. The horse allowance was increased from Rs. 15 to Rs. 25 and Rs. 30 in 1920. Then it was increased once again a little later on. Perhaps a year later it was increased still further. The allowances were raised—not only the horse allowance but the daily allowance as well, and not only the daily allowance but the mileage allowance also. All these allowances come to several lakhs of rupees. It is necessary that the allowances should be reduced to the level of those obtaining in the year 1920-21, so that a large sum of money might be saved. This money may well be spent on the beneficent departments. I quite admit that the claims of the beneficent departments, like those of education, sanitation,

and so forth, are very urgent and very insistent. But one remark I would like to make with regard to education. I would do anything to extend the system of free and compulsory education. After all the avenues of income and expenditure are carefully examined, I would go to the extent of imposing fresh taxation if only we could introduce free and compulsory primary education in the course of five or six or seven years all over the province. But, Sir, there is one necessary condition which I would like to make, and that is this: that primary education should be of the right sort. Four or five years ago, the standard of primary education, which is now in vogue in this province, was cut down to a dangerous limit. Now four years' instruction is regarded as primary education. As I pointed out in those days in a series of letters, the Government of India have themselves admitted that there is a very large percentage of lapses to illiteracy in the case of children of immature age if the course of instruction extends over only three or four or five years. From five years the course of instruction was reduced to four years. The course of instruction should be designed and devised with particular consideration for the needs of the rural population for whom the primary schools will largely be meant and who are at present ignorant. If that is granted, I would say let every possible effort be made towards expanding free primary education of the right sort.

With regard to higher education, I would only say that there is a great deal of waste going on in the province at the present time. There is duplication. We have huge laboratories built for the Government College. We have now a big laboratory which has been built for research work for the University. There is absolutely no reason why the two should not be amalgamated, and why Government should not subsidise the University in a spirit of generosity and abolish altogether what is now known as the Government College. Some of the laboratories are like *mausolea* paved with marble and built in a grand style. I have worked in the Manchester laboratory and I can say this much that that laboratory and some other laboratories in Europe would compare unfavourably with the Government College laboratories, so far as their outward equipment is concerned, that is to say, the paving of the floors and the furnishing of the laboratories with apparatus. As the Honourable the Finance Member is taking down a note, perhaps I might make that point a little bit clearer. In the Manchester laboratory, where I had to work for a pretty long time, and which laboratory is famous on account of great discoveries having been made there, the equipment of apparatus is not so large as it is in the Physics laboratory of the Government College. I forget the name of the gentleman, Sir, but the present Vice-Chancellor of the University asked a winter term lecturer to come and give a course of lectures and what was his report with regard to the equipment? He said "One-third of the apparatus is superfluous, one-third has never been used and it is only one-third which is there to be put in use for teaching purposes." When we remember that not a single research paper of the first or second class or even of the third class has come out of the Physics laboratory of the Government College, then I consider such heavy expenditure on this laboratory a sheer waste of money. I would much rather spend that money on primary education than on the laboratory.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Did you say the Chemistry laboratory or Physics laboratory?

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni : I was speaking about the Physics laboratory at present. If you permit me, Sir, I would say with due humility and

[Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.]

modesty with regard to certain pieces of research done by Mr. B. K. Singh and myself that with the exception of the papers published by us two Indians not a single piece of research has been done by any of the officers of the Education Department on the chemical side which has been noticed in the Annual Report of the Royal Chemical Society.

Sir, I did not want to go into the details, but as I saw the Honourable Finance Member taking down notes about certain remarks which I was making and because of the further question asked by the Honourable Minister for Education which led me a little off the point . . .

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, I was writing down something unconnected with the honourable member's speech.

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni : I have perhaps transgressed a little too much on the limit of time of other gentlemen who want to speak. But just two or three words more I would like to say. Take the Agricultural Department. There is an estimate of expenditure on farms, agricultural farms. Sir, some of these farms are very old. There is no reason why they should not be made self-supporting. As honourable members will see, the expenditure on these farms is very much larger than the income. Considering that some of these farms are very old, considering also that no account is taken in these figures about the salaries of the Directors, advisors, the mukadlams and the Inspectors, considering that no account is taken of the capital outlay on the land under the farms, it is strange that no effort should have so far been made to make these farms a business proposition. We want these farms to be demonstration farms. I can understand money being spent on experimental farms. There are some of these farms where experiments are being made but for the purpose of demonstration. I think the business must be run much more cheaply before the zamindars will be induced to follow our example on their own lands.

It is strange, Sir, that in the case of the Fisheries Department the same sort of thing occurs again. We have gone on for a long enough time with the Fisheries. There is one remark which I should like to make with your permission.

One more remark I should like to make about our expenditure on quinine.

Mr. President : I think the honourable member has had 25 minutes.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I will say only one or two words and then finish my speech, Sir. I was going to say that a large sum of money was being set apart for the purchase of quinine. I say all this is very good. But what is generally done with this amount is this. The amount is used for other purposes and this head is considered as a sort of secret purse for providing supplementary demands. A great deal of the provision for the purchase of quinine is spent for purposes other than that for which it is intended.

I have said at the outset that the expenses on law and order should be cut down drastically and that undue importance is attached to law and order by the Honourable the Finance Member and the other members of Government. As somebody has said—law and order are the plea of every tyrant in all history. The repressive policy of Government has gone too far and I submit that it is now time to cry 'halt'. (Hear, hear).

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education): Sir, I shall make just a few remarks. I do not want to take much time, and so I shall proceed in a business-like way. First I will refer the honourable members to pages 8 and 9 of the budget. At the bottom of these pages they will find that the income of education has increased by Rs. 3,57,000...

(At this stage the President left the chair which was occupied by the Deputy President).

That means to say that the income of the Education Department this year will be Rs. 3,57,000 more than it was last year. As against that they will find that the expenditure will be nearly four lakhs more than last year which means that the additional budgetted expenditure for education taking into account the additional income is barely Rs. 50,000. Therefore next year I am expected to go on with the educational expansion of this great province, educating a lakh and more pupils in the primary schools, a few thousands in the secondary schools and a few thousands more in the colleges practically with the same funds that were provided for the current year.

In the Medical Department it will be noticed that the income this year will be Rs. 25,000 more than it was last year, but the expenditure will be a lakh and a half less. The same observation applies to public health also. Public health budget has not advanced. Sir, I have to thank the Honourable the Finance Member when he complimented the Education Department on their trying to get full sixteen annas worth for every rupee which was entrusted to them. But, Sir, they cannot do more than that. They cannot get seventeen annas worth out of a rupee and with the same money if they are expected to do more work, it is an impossibility. This is the condition of the finances of the beneficent departments.

I am grateful to the honourable member, who is now absent, and who complained that the existing reforms do not permit the Council to vote additional funds although it can take away the funds provided for a particular department. That is so. I do not know how I would have fared if this Council had the power to grant more than what is provided for in the budget. My honourable friends here assure me that if they had that power they would give me much more money than has been provided for by the Finance Member. I have no reason, Sir, to doubt their good intentions. But when I discussed this matter with a friend of mine I said if the Councils are allowed to vote additional sums for the beneficent department how happy the Ministers would be. That friend was not very sanguine and said, "you should not implicitly believe such promises." On further enquiry he asked me "Do you know that the Indian public subscribed no less than one crore of rupees only a year or two ago? Can you tell me what was the sum out of this crore of rupees that the National Assembly or the Representatives of Political India devoted to the cause of education?" I told him that a large number of national institutions, colleges, research institutes and schools have come into existence. I have no doubt that they must have cost a great deal, and as there is no regular assembly it is difficult to ask questions to find out the percentage of that one crore of rupees that was spent on the beneficent departments. My friend said, "don't believe all that you hear. In all probability nothing more than 5 per cent. would have gone to the beneficent department". So, Sir, just as a complaint is made in this Council Hall to-day that a major part

[Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

of the revenues of this province is eaten up by what are called political departments or repressive departments or administrative departments like the police, magistracy, jails and things of that kind, so the funds of the Indian public to the extent of one crore of rupees were similarly used in the administrative departments rather than in the nation-building departments.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Question, Sir. I can say that a very large fraction of the crore of rupees was spent towards national schools. The creation of national schools and colleges in Gujrat alone has cost ten lakhs of rupees. Large sums have been spent for this purpose in other parts of the Punjab though I am not now in a position to quote the figures.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : These remarks won't convince me. I want detailed figures and I cannot be satisfied otherwise. What I want to place before the House is this : Lip loyalty to education whether it is shown within the Council Chamber or outside is of no value to the cause of education. What is wanted is not lip loyalty but a real and true sympathy, and it can be tested when the time comes to vote for grants to the beneficent departments.

Now what has been said about public health ? Lakhs and lakhs of people are dying, because the preventive work done by the Punjab Government is poor. I, as representing that department, being the Minister in charge of that department, I am free to confess that the work done by it is poor. But I claim that the money that has been spent on that department has not been ill-spent, but that good value has been obtained. If you expect the heads of the department to give you more than the money's worth, it is asking for an impossibility. I recognise that all these departments for one reason or another are not getting what they ought to get, if the nation-building process is to go ahead. One of my honourable friends who spoke this afternoon said that primary education should be postponed for five or six years. Just imagine for yourself, Sir. We want swaraj within a year at the most, within a few months, because Lord Olivier is expected to make an announcement very soon, but the spread of education is to wait for six or seven years. What will be the sort of responsible Government we are going to have tomorrow or during the course of the new financial year 1924-25, if this is the mentality of the members ? Really and truly if we are in earnest about developing education, about developing the beneficent departments, let there be no doubt whatsoever, that Government is not likely to spare any money from other departments and give it to the beneficent departments. You may take my word for it that you will not get money like that. Therefore there is a good deal of force in the frank and honest assertion of Mian Shah Nawaz that if you really mean business you must be prepared for an education cess. Nothing short of that will do. If you wish me to approach my honourable colleagues and ask them to practice retrenchment in their departments and give me more money, then we will have to be waiting for ever. This is so far as education in the province is concerned. There is not money enough with the Government for these beneficent departments. As a matter of fact if the three money Bills are rejected probably the money that now appears in the budget for education will be reduced by no less than 4 or 5 or even 6 lakhs of rupees.

I can assure you, Sir, that in the administration of my department there is not a single brick laid for building hospitals or schools which can possibly be postponed till to-morrow. . . .

Lala Buchi Ram, Sahni : What about the Naulakah Boarding House which has been put up and which is accommodating only a few hundreds.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : I have never claimed that my memory is the strongest part of my ability. But the honourable professor living so close to that Naulakah ought to know that the building was constructed when he and I were younger by more than 4 or 5 years. I hope the honourable professor will brush up his memory and exonerate me from all responsibility whatsoever as regards this Naulakah business.

Now, Sir, I have been told that this year is a bad one and that in the next year things will grow better and that I will get something more. But, Sir, things have gone from bad to worse. I thought that there will be a surplus budget, but the time has not yet come. Therefore I am not very sanguine as to the future of the beneficent departments. What are called general taxation Bills brings money only into the Government treasury but they do not necessarily bring money for beneficent departments. If we want to see something specific done for these departments, then money must come specifically for this purpose.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. H. Forster (Director of Public Health) : As a good deal of interest has been taken in the subject of Public Health, I think this House might like to know what changes have been effected in this Department in recent years. I came out of the Medical College for the express purpose of reorganising and re-vivifying it and there have been considerable changes. I have noticed in the course of the discussions in this House that many interesting reports are frequently referred to, but I am sorry to say that I have never noticed reference to the Report of the Department of Public Health. In that Report for 1919 you will find details of the reorganisation scheme which I proposed and I will confine myself briefly to saying what the position was then and what it is now. The position then was that there was a Director, known as the Sanitary Commissioner, and one Deputy. In consequence of panic measures, diseases had been converted into special departments and placed under the control of another Department. Thus, Malaria was a special department conducted by a special officer and Plague was similarly situated, both Departments being under the control of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals. This system which is economically and scientifically unsound resulted in waste, both of effort and money. My first object was to create a unified department in which the principle that preventive measures must be applied to all diseases was recognised. I am glad to be able to tell you that this has been done. In 1920 the Plague and Malaria Departments were transferred from the Medical to the Public Health Department and in the last two financial years we have completed this portion of the scheme by abolishing these two separate departments and merging them into a scheme dealing with all epidemic diseases, regardless of their names. This change has resulted in a net saving of approximately Rs. 45,000 but I wish the Council to clearly understand that it is a saving of money which was not being usefully spent, but which, it is hoped, will be more usefully spent in the future.

The next obvious thing was to take up the rural question. Much has been said on the subject of rural public health, but few members realise the difficulties of a District Board really anxious to do useful work in the rural areas. In the first place, the District Board must have the necessary technical information and advice on which it can act and in the

[Lt.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.]

second place, it must have money for the execution of schemes. Hitherto, the agency which the District Board has been obliged to rely on for its information and advice has been the Civil Surgeon, a very busy official quite incapable of devoting the necessary time and attention to such an important subject. We are, therefore, arranging to supply District Boards with a special District Health Agency, the policy being to eventually supply all districts with a District Medical Officer of Health. We began with four districts, namely, Gurgaon, Rohtak, Jullundur and Kangra and in this budget we are asking for two more District Medical Officers for Health. By this policy we are supplying the Districts with a competent Health Officer who will discover the conditions of the district requiring remedy and who is competent to advise District Boards in all matters regarding public health. With regard to funds, the Sanitary Board has adopted the principle of theoretically allocating a certain portion of its funds for the assistance of sanitary schemes put forward by District Boards. We are now in a position to say that as soon as a Health Officer of a district gets out a satisfactory scheme approved by the District Board, the Sanitary Board will finance it to an extent, varying from 50 per cent. to the whole of the total cost.

The next point I wish to refer to is the ignorance of the rural population which is naturally very great considering the amount of education that the rural population has. No public health measure can really succeed unless it is grounded in public opinion, and to have that public opinion it is necessary to educate the people. Therefore we introduced a small advertising department, an Education Bureau, which prepares from local subjects lantern slides to illustrate lectures upon the causation and prevention of disease and associated matters which both rural and urban population should know. The total amount spent on the Bureau annually is only Rs. 2,000, so I trust we will not be accused of extravagance. By means of this Bureau and with the assistance of the Red Cross Society, we have been able to provide every district and every town with a whole-time Medical Officer of Health with a series of standard lantern lectures illustrative of important health matters and generally designed for propaganda work. Consequently Health Officers can now go round their districts and give popular lectures to the people in their villages. In this connection I am most grateful to my honourable friend, Sir George Anderson, for the assistance rendered by certain Inspectors of Schools and his Department generally in regard to these lectures.

The next point I wish to refer to is the very confused condition of the staff of the Sanitary Department when I took it over. The position then was that we had under the title of Plague Medical Staff, a heterogeneous crowd of men who in reality represented the reserve of the Medical Department. They were allocated to me and removed from me according to the exigencies of the Medical Department and were not of much use. They were returned to the Medical Department and we adopted the definite principle of employing in their stead only Medical Officers possessed of full public health qualifications, that is to say, were qualified to hold the post of Medical Officer of Health under English law. These officers are now recruited by this Department and at the present moment we have 15 of them. We want more and as qualified men become available we hope to be allowed to employ them.

Then I come to the general question of Maternity and Child Welfare, which has been so much to the fore recently. This subject was in a chaotic condition administratively and financially and so I had it transferred to my Department. We have now established in Lahore what is known as the Punjab Health School where we undertake the great and important work of educating suitable women for the work of Lady Health Visitor and Supervisor of Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres. I am happy to be able to tell you that Her Excellency, Lady Reading, on the occasion of her visit to Lahore inspected this school and was pleased to express her approval of the arrangements generally. We are at present training on an average six women per year in this school and if money be made available we will be able to train more.

Another point which is of great importance to the province generally is the creation of the Drainage Board. This Board has now associated itself very definitely with rural sanitation and through its agency very great improvements may be expected. We are now in the happy position of having the drainage of districts surveyed by the technical staff of the Board. Where water-logging exists very careful surveys have been made and the Board has now definite projects ready for execution as soon as funds are made available. At present one of the worst districts as regards blocked drainage is the Karnal District and here a definite project is already under construction. I have little doubt that I or my successor will be able to detail to the Council great and important improvements in this respect.

These, in outline, are the principal activities of this Department and I would like to point out to the Council that while the budget estimate for the financial year 1920-21 was 12 lakhs, the budget for this year is only 10 lakhs. In other words although the Department has been reorganised and reconstituted, so as to get the utmost value for our money we are being steadily starved.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadian Rural)]: Sir, at this late hour of the debate, I will only say a few words. I congratulate the Honourable Finance Member and Mr. Miles Irving for the way in which they have placed the budget before the House. The deficit which was quite a considerable sum last year has dwindled down this year and I trust that before the Honourable Finance Member presents his budget next year he will be able to show to the credit of the Government some accumulated balance. If the Honourable Finance Member goes on taxing the people of this province continuously, I am sure there will be a good deal of balance next year. But every one of us will have to complain of heavy taxation. My honourable friends Muhammad Husain and Mir Maqbool Mahmood complained of heavy taxation in the province. May I remind them, Sir, that it is they that assisted the Government during the last few days in taxing the people heavily? Therefore they have no excuse in complaining now. (Hear, hear). If their pocket is touched they complain. But what about the poor people in the towns on whom a heavy stamp duty is levied if they sell or transfer their property? We cannot imagine what other methods of taxation the Finance Department has in store for us. Settlement operations are still going on in the division I represent. Multan, Lyallpur, Montgomery, Jhang, Muzaffargarh and Dera Ghazi Khan have

[R. B. Lala Sewak Ram.]

been recently assessed. The new assessments are going on in Sheikhpura, Attock and other places. I beg to submit that no effect has been given to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee.

5 P. M.

It may be said that something has been done, but I support my friend Sayad Muhammad Husain that solid effect has not been given to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee.

Sir, another thing which is draining the wealth of this province is the time-scale payment to Government officers and officials. This system was introduced during the war. It will be most ruinous in course of time to this province, when a good many officers, both of the Imperial and the Provincial Services, will begin to draw heavy salaries and the result will be further taxation. The sooner this time-scale system is done away with the better, otherwise I cannot understand, and it is beyond my imagination where this time-scale system will run the province into.

My learned colleagues have all spoken on Forests, Police, Irrigation, etc. As regards these I have given notice of a few amendments and I will try my best to cut down a good deal of money from the allotment to these departments. Therefore I will not deal with them now.

Now comes in the question that some officers of Government should be retrenched. Under the old system I think the office of the Chief Secretary was very necessary but under the present I think this office can easily be abolished (ironical cheers). Next comes, Sir, the office of Commissioners. The Retrenchment Committee has discussed this fully and I submit that the Commissioners should be very soon dispensed with. In the Presidency of Madras they easily work without the help of Commissioners. I do not know why this post office should exist in this province.

Another post office is the office of the Superintending Engineer in the Buildings and Roads and the Irrigation Departments. With one additional Secretary or two additional Secretaries to the Chief Engineer, I think the office of Superintending Engineer can easily be done away with. There are one or two such intermediate departments which are termed post office, and I submit, Sir, that Government should help the province by doing away with those departments.

As regards travelling allowance, we are going to cut down a large sum of money, as we did last time, and we hope that Government will also help us in so doing. The rates which were increased during the war require reduction.

As regards Public Prosecutors, a good deal has been said and I do not want to say anything at this stage but just to support my friend Sardar Jodh Singh that more work should be taken out of the Public Prosecutors that are already posted in various districts instead of spending such large sums of money by employing special Public Prosecutors.

As regards the Public Health Department, I am glad to learn from the officer in charge that they are also going to do something more beneficial than they have been doing before. All I can say is that during the malaria season in the month of September they should not be enjoying the cool breeze of Simla.

Lt.-Col. W. H. C. Forster : That is not the malaria season.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram (continued). These are some of the points which I have put in a nutshell before the House.

As regards the allotment for all these items I will try to strain every nerve to cut down when discussion on them takes place.

Then, Sir, I come to the Department of Education in which I find an attempt is being made to open second grade colleges. Sir, I am opposed to second grade colleges being opened by Government. They should be left to charitable agencies. There are already a good many Arts colleges in the province and the number of graduates that pass out of them every year cannot even get a sufficient living wage. There is absolutely no necessity for opening second grade colleges at all. I would like the money to be spent, as Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni has said, on primary education, that is to say that more money should be spent on primary education than on education which produces such graduates who cannot find even a living wage.

Then there is one point of general interest which I must put before the House, and that is the administration of local Self-Government. This department has been worked by our very able Minister for Education in such a way that it has been the cause of heartburning between the two largest communities of this province, the Hindus and Muhammadans. This department should have been worked in such a way as not to have created such feelings.

It is a matter of great regret to us all that these two communities which are the principal communities of India in this province are not very friendly, owing to the way in which the departments of Education and local Self-Government are administered. In order to bring this community into a friendly attitude, I would submit to Government that something should be done, and if Government continues in its present policy of indifference as to whether the two communities break each others heads or

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: May I know, Sir, what bearings these remarks have on the subject?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram (contd.): The Budget debate is of a general character and we are authorised by the President to make general remarks on everything. I will not take much time of the Council. My submission is this that Government should appoint a kind of round table conference in which members of both the communities concerned together with Government members should try to bring about conciliation or find some other means of checking the growth of ill-feeling. I beg to submit, Sir, that this is the most important of all points and that something should be done to bring about friendly relations between the two communities.

There is one more point and it is this. Roads are the greatest necessity in the district, and Government should grant to the District Boards more money for the construction and repairs of roads. There are very few good roads in the Multan Division, as Mr. Abbott will bear me out. I have been requesting that the districts in Multan Division should get a grant of money for the extension and retelling of roads. As regards education and medical relief I am already very hopeful that Government will give a big grant, but it is the roads which get very little grant specially in my division. I hope that Government will do something for the roads of this backward division.

[At this stage Mr. President resumed the chair.]

Chandhri Duli Chand [Karnal (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I cannot but admire the precision, exactitude and lucidity with which the budget has been prepared and presented before the Council. The credit is all due to the Honourable the Finance Member. I admire him still more for having devised more than one means to have grants of money. If he finds that any item in the budget has not been sanctioned, he will come forward with a supplementary grant. And if he fails there, he comes forward with token grants where he demands Rs. 10 only, but gets immense sums of money thereby; and if he has not succeeded to achieve his object even by that means, he goes up to His Excellency and appeals to him to use his certification power so as to be able to get more money.

But I cannot persuade myself to admire him when I look to the figures given by him in the budget. I cannot admire him for the deficit he has shown there. The Honourable the Finance Member is a *munim* or custodian of the finances of the province. He cannot expect to please his master by telling him after some years that he has not been able to make both ends meet, never mind whatever his reasons may be, and that exactly is the position of the Honourable the Finance Member and the budget presented by him.

Now I will proceed to show that it is possible for the Government to do away with the deficit shown in the budget. There are two different ways to bring about equilibrium in the expenditure and the income, either the expenditure should be reduced or that more taxes should be levied. I would examine how far the first of the two expedients has been employed. I am sorry to find that full use has not been made of it. There are certain posts which could be altogether done away with, and there are others in which the salaries and allowances could be reduced. Take, for example, the post of the Deputy President. Instead of a paid one we could have an honorary Deputy President in his place. It was and is possible to reduce the big salaries of different officials, and their allowances and if that had been done the necessity for introducing the three Bills would have been obviated. What is still more despairing is that if any taxation is proposed zamindars are selected as the target to shoot their arrows on. And if the Government is not prepared to reduce the expenditure, I can suggest some other means by which it would have been easier and less troublesome to make money.

Land and water have already been heavily taxed. But perhaps it has never struck the authorities to make air as a source of income. I can tell them how that can be done. Those who can afford to erect buildings three or four-storied, should be taxed.

Amongst Hindus the evil custom of infant-marriages prevails. Let the Government tax those people who are given to this custom. Then the Government can tax people who are celebrating marriages with great pomp and show. There can be a widow tax also. These above mentioned sources, if sufficiently explored, can bring a lot of money and in the presence of all these sources, I do not see any justification for Government to impose further taxation on the poor zamindars.

We were hoping that the Councils were a first step towards the attainment of Swaraj and we expected useful results in their wake, but the hour tells us that they were all false hopes. The fun is that when the question of taxation comes we, the zamindars, are asked and even implored to pay them, but when we request the Government to spend money for some beneficent purpose, we are refused all help. We expected, with the

introduction of the Councils, that the District Boards would be entirely left in our hands, but what we find is that the Deputy Commissioners are still presiding over these Boards although the municipalities have their own Presidents. We had hoped that the Co-operative Societies would be started in every nook and corner of the province and that these would, to some extent relieve the poor zamindars, but very little has been done in that direction.

We had expected that Reforms would bring with them greater facilities by way of education, and that we would be liberally supplied with medical aid, but that is also denied to us. We find no improvement in canals. We expected that water rates would be levied according to the quantity of water supplied, but what we find is that we are threatened with increase in water rates. Girls' education is still left unattended to although this inattention has produced unpleasantness in not a few houses. The corruption amongst officials is still prevailing, and nothing has been done to root it out.

The manufacture and industries of this country are in a deplorable state, and no steps have so far been taken to encourage them.

It was believed that early steps would be taken to introduce compulsory primary education, and that the courses of instruction in the already existing Primary Schools would be improved, but we find that our belief was based on false grounds.

It would have done much good to the boys in schools if agricultural farms had been attached to schools but no heed has been paid in that direction.

To provide facilities to those who are anxious and ambitious to go out for further education, no scholarships have been set apart from the revenues.

All these points go to show that the money raised by means of different forms of taxation, is being spent on departments which are less useful for the public, while the beneficent departments have been neglected.

With these few remarks I resume my seat.

Mr. Miles Irving (Finance Secretary): Sir, Sir John Maynard has told you of the voyage of the ship Budget with the whirlpool on the one side and the monster on the other. He has not told you of the story of how we escaped the sirens. The House will remember how in the legend the captain of the ship was afraid that if he listened to the voice of siren his ship would be wrecked and so he closed the ears of his crew and told them to bind him to a mast. When the ship passed near the sirens his resolution failed and he nodded to his men to stop to listen to the music of siren. But they could not hear and he could not move because of the bonds and so the danger was averted. But, Sir, still I hear the siren's voice here in the general discussion of the budget.

Sooner or later this province will have to choose one of two things when it gets responsible Government, either the very simple and primitive administration of Tibet or Afghanistan which can be managed at a very cheap cost or the administration of an economically advanced people. If, the latter, you will have to pay for it. But we cannot open our ears to the songs of expenditure and at the same time close our pockets when we have to pay money for it.

I will refer to one or two remarks mentioned during the course of to-day's debate. I think this House will do well to get out of its head this

[Mr. Miles Irving.]

question of contribution. It is very hard to move the Government of India by means of tears and entreaties. Such is the character of the Honourable the Finance Member of the Government of India. There is no good going to him again. We have spoken to him in a conference and we have not been able to get any reduction. I am afraid that the door is closed. I am told that there is a party in Delhi which is going to oppose the maintenance of salt tax; here is less impenetrable stuff than the Finance Member of the Government of India and I suggest that entreaties should be directed to that quarter, so that we may not lose our reduction of 38 lakhs of our contributions.

I have to remove a misconception as regards the loan which I think I made clear this morning. The extra money that we got by loan is not lying idle. It is with the Government of India who are our bankers. We are simply now negotiating as to what rate of interest we will get for the balance in their hands.

Now I come to the charge that we have under-estimated our revenues.

The Finance Department went into the question of land revenue very carefully with experts like the Financial Commissioner, and they found that even after allowing for a fairly good year in 1924-1925 we could not expect to get up to the figures of the preceding years, for the simple reason that in those two years very heavy arrears of revenue were collected. Mr. King in his administration of the revenue of the province has made a clean sweep of the arrears, and there is only 10 lakhs left of arrears all told. Some of these are in poorer districts, and they cannot be realised this year. I do not think that honourable members can expect the land revenue to be seriously in excess of what we anticipate.

Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan [Rawalpindi (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu): I have also seen the Budget, and I congratulate the Honourable Finance Member for the labour and vigilance with which he has prepared it, but I am sorry to observe that every tax is aimed against the poor agriculturists, while the urban population is left to enjoy all sorts of concessions. This leniency towards the urban population is perhaps due to their being very clamorous and noisy. They never hesitate to put every possible obstruction in the way of the Government, while the poor agriculturists are always prepared to help the Government through thick and thin. For all this service what do they get? Only taxation to weaken their condition all the more. These people who always safeguard the interests of both the Government and the country are now on the verge of starvation, but still the Government never pities the miserable plight under which they are suffering. The rich people like our Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia, can afford to pay the taxes of an *ilaga* but no taxes are imposed on them. Many questions pertaining to the corruption prevalent in many of the Government departments are raised, but nothing is done to extirpate this evil. The money-lenders and the police are both the chief enemies of the welfare of the zamindars.

Mr. President: It is difficult to see how this has any direct bearing on the subject.

Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan (continued in Urdu): Sir, I am going to show whether the zamindars are in a position to bear all this burden of taxation or not. There had been no rain in our country for 60 years during the last 90 years. When the agriculturists are so useful to the Government as well as the country.

Mr. President : I am anxious to give an opportunity to another member to speak, if possible, before the Honourable the Finance Member makes his reply. Will the honourable member mind bringing his remarks to a close.

(The member then resumed his seat).

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh) Rural]: Sir, ours is the position of a man who has been groaning under the crushing weight of expenditure and who heaves a sigh of relief when a little burden is removed from over his head and his destination seems in sight. He plucks courage and feels himself balanced to the task. Some waves of satisfaction thrill through his body, and he waits for the moment when the deadening weight might entirely be removed from over his head. Exclamations of joy and gratitude then emanate from his heart for his material benefactor. I am similarly looking to that auspicious occasion when we will have a permanently well poised budget, and be in a position to tender our sincere thanks to the Honourable the Finance Member.

In the hope of getting in future a well-balanced budget we should not lose sight of our present deplorable plight. In order to properly diagnose the disease the doctor must thoroughly examine every part of his patient's body. The experts tell us that the tuberculosis of profligacy is eating into the vitals of our every department. The main disease is our Home physician, lack of sympathy with public aspirations and his insistency to apply remedy not as required for the disease or by the patient but as it suits his interests.

If we want remedy for illiteracy the doors of education are closed at us by issuing prohibitory circulars. If we launch a scheme for the increase of trained staff, the Director of Public Instruction stands up with his cudgels and threatens its use if we yield not. When he is shrouded with illiteracy no wonder if a youngman takes to drinking and adopts it as his job, and the present nominal and infinitesimally small excise duties are tempting and inviting to every man of ordinary means.

Mr. President : I must ask the honourable member to give way as there is only just enough time for the Honourable Finance Member to reply.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, in the first place I should like to thank the House for the kind things they have said about me, Mr. Miles Irving and the staff of the Budget Branch of the Finance Department. So far as Mr. Miles Irving and staff are concerned this praise is very well deserved.

I come to my business at once. The critics who have dealt with the question of Budget this evening fall into certain classes. In the first place there are one or two who say that there is no deficit. It is all your imagination. The second class are those who say that there is a deficit, but if you economise sufficiently you can get rid of it. Then there is the third class who say that there is a deficit, but you can deal with it, without taxation, by increasing your revenues as you easily might do, and there is yet a fourth class which says whether there is a deficit or not, we want to spend more on the particular subjects in which we are interested.

I deal first with the criticism that there is no real deficit at all, but that it is only that we have seriously under-estimated our land revenue. Mr. Miles Irving has already dealt with that subject at length. But I must say one word more, and that is this, that as a matter of fact we have made a very

[Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.]

careful examination of the land revenue figures for a series of years, and we find that there is an annual increase in our land revenue of between $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and 1 per cent., and it is useless to pretend that it is more. Next I come to the argument that we ought to retrench more. On that point I do not think the House has quite understood what the true attitude of Government is. We do not say that we have done all that we can. We say we are doing and trying to do all that we can do. We have more yet to do, and we are doing it gradually. Don't misunderstand us. It is not a case of *non-possumus*, that we can do nothing further. These are matters which require very careful enquiry, and this we can only do at a certain pace. We are doing it, and we shall continue to do it. Next I should like to deal with those who think that we have got money lying idle and not properly utilised. Here again Mr. Miles Irving has satisfactorily answered the criticism. He has pointed out that it is a mistake to say that because we have shown a balance of 118 lakhs capital at the end of the year, therefore there is so much money lying idle. As a matter of fact we are negotiating for a particular rate of interest on that money. Someone else said that because we had a sinking fund of 25 lakhs to pay for the overdraft which we had to obtain from the Government of India, Rs. 25 lakhs was lying idle. That is not the case. It means that Rs. 25 lakhs is being repaid to the banker from whom we borrowed when we incurred our overdraft.

Next I come to the question of the reduction of the provincial contribution. As to that we have been doing our best. But I notice that there was a gentleman in the Council who thought that I had not been quite so vigorous in upholding the cause of the province as I might have been. I am ready to admit that the community to whom that gentleman belongs would have taken a more vigorous attitude than I have. If I had taken a leaf out of the book of that community, I should have collected some of the members from the official benches to join me in a *jatha* and gone and taken the money from the Government of India. I regret that I had not the courage to take that course.

Then there was one member who thought that the Government of India ought to be asked to pay for the Railway Police. That, Sir, is a fallacy which I have on several successive occasions tried to explode in this Council. On this occasion I would say this much that there are different sorts of work which the Railway Police does. One is what is technically called crime, the second is the maintenance of order, and the third is watch and ward. It is perfectly natural and proper that the Railway Administration should pay for watch and ward, i.e., the guarding of railway property, and the railways actually do pay for that. On the other hand, if gentlemen will consider for a moment what they ask when they suggest that the portion of the Railway Police which deals with Crime should be paid by the Railway, they will see that the suggestion is not reasonable. Supposing a murder happens to be committed in an *ekka* or some vehicle of that kind, is it contended that the *ekka* driver should pay for police who deal with the crime? There now remains the section of the Railway Police which is entertained for the purpose of the maintenance of order, keeping order on the platform, in the station yard, taking possession of lost property in railway carriages and so forth. For this we did make a demand on the Government of India, but they said they were not prepared to pay for the purpose of order. We were not prepared on the other hand to abandon the maintenance of order. Therefore, it was obvious that we had to pay.

I come now to some other matters and I shall be very brief. Some one said that we ought to hasten the amalgamation of the canal and revenue patwaris. We are doing it as rapidly as we can. It is a thing which requires a considerable amount of time and labour. Mr. King recently spent quite a long time on the Jumna Canal in order that he might be able to carry out the amalgamation in a satisfactory manner. The actual working of the new system has been going on on the Western Jumna Canal since the 1st of January.

Then, Sir, there was a suggestion to cut down travelling allowance. The Finance Department has already undertaken to examine the rates of travelling allowance paid to various Government servants. The question is already engaging the attention of Government and when the investigation has been made we have undertaken to consult the Standing Finance Committee.

Then someone suggested that we should get over our financial difficulties by postponing works. That is precisely what we have been doing and if the honourable gentlemen will examine the figures for what is called Civil Works (Transferred) for this year and those for 1921-22, they will see that we have actually reduced the expenditure on that account by one-third.

Sir, where there are many critics, it sometimes happens that the criticisms of one afford the answer to those of another. That I shall illustrate in another moment. One member urged us to reduce the expenditure on repairs and he pointed to an appalling figure on one of the pages of the Budget to show how large our expenditure on repairs was. Fortunately when I was thinking of my answer, my friend opposite (Rai Bahadur Sewak Ram) said, "Above all things whatever you do, reduce everything, abolish everything, but maintain your expenditure on roads." There is good reason for this and I must thank him for supplying an answer to the criticism of our earlier critic.

Then I come to a question to which we have been giving our serious attention. One gentleman said, use your land to the very best advantage. The same gentleman said: you actually have 18 million acres of culturable land lying waste to which you are paying no attention, and he urged us to look into the matter. But this is precisely the very thing with which our canal projects are designed to deal. We can only proceed with canal construction at a certain pace. If we could go more quickly, we should be delighted to do so. It is not possible to go more than at a certain pace. Then the same gentleman said, why don't you accept a certain bill, which I mean to introduce, the Registration of Money-lenders Bill. I am sure I can give you 15 lakhs out of the proceeds of the registration. But he did not think of those occupying the benches opposite, he did not remember that if he was going to give 15 lakhs out of the proceeds of this bill, some one will have to pay and though, in the first instance the money-lenders will have to pay it is certain that the ultimate incidence will be upon the borrower, to whom the lender will transfer the charge.

Another gentleman said, "why don't you make more out of your forests?" We are doing our best, but the present is a period of slump in the timber trade and it will be impossible to make more out of our timber at present.

Many gentlemen urged us to make more out of our land, timber and jail labour, but they added, don't you be so wicked as to make more out of your water. Now, Sir what sort of logic is there which asks us to use

[Hon'ble Sir John Maynard].

one kind of property so as to make the best of it and at the same time asks us to abstain strictly from making any use of another kind of property in order to increase our revenue. It is obvious that the gentleman who made the proposal had not thought it out logically. When a whole section of the community is being benefitted by the water, is it rational to ask us not to take a proper price for the water we supply as for the other commodities that we sell?

I now come to the remarks of those who said that more money should be spent. There was one suggestion that we should spend more money on the police. I was very much interested to hear that observation, although another member appeared to take a contrary view and to deprecate law and order altogether. As to the suggestion that more should be spent on beneficent departments. I wonder whether the gentleman who made that had looked at the very interesting graph at the beginning of the volume of the Budget. There you will see in a picturesque form what has actually happened in the way of increasing the expenditure on beneficent departments since the reformed administration came into existence. The actual increase in the expenditure on these beneficent departments as illustrated there, amounts to 17 per cent. since 1921-22 although the aggregate expenditure on all heads has not increased but has slightly diminished. I draw particular attention to that, that we have increased the expenditure on beneficent departments to the extent of 17 per cent.

I will touch, Sir, on one more subject. It was suggested that Government should economise by a change of policy and it was very definitely indicated in what direction that change should take place. I have no doubt, Sir, that I and others who are concerned with the painful task of maintaining law and order have been charged with being unsympathetic in our attitude towards the aspiration of a particular community. But those who charge us with this lack of sympathy should not forget the facts. The honourable gentleman who laid particular stress on this matter and many others of his community also, are well aware of the fact which is possibly not published to all the world, but is well known to them and has been well-known for sometime. The fact is this that Government has made it clear, and not recently but for sometime past, that it is prepared to look with a benevolent eye upon any proposal, if it commands support, which may be put forward for amending the existing Gurdwara legislation. (Hear, hear) But, Sir, up to the present time no Sikh has come forward with any specific proposal to make any such amendment. (Cheers).

The Council then adjourned till two o'clock on Friday, the 7th March 1924.

APPENDIX.

[Vide the Answer to Question No. 246 on page 402.]

No. 91—817-C. 9899, dated Lahore, the 18th—20th November 1922.

From—C. C. GARNETT, Esq., C.M.G., C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary, Land Revenue Committee, Punjab.

To—The Secretary to Government, Punjab, Revenue Department.

I AM directed to refer to your letter No. 4997-S. (Rev. & Agri.—Rev.), dated the 14th September 1921, appointing a Committee to carry out the intention of a Resolution passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, that is to say, "to examine the Government's present assessment and land revenue policy, and to report what changes should be made in it."

2. The Committee as originally constituted consisted of Sir Patrick Fagan (Financial Commissioner) as Chairman; Mr. Miles Irving, O.B.E., I.C.S., as Secretary, Mr. B. T. Gibson (Financial Secretary), Mr. D. J. Boyd (Revenue Secretary), and Mr. Manohar Lal, Raja Narendra Nath, Sayad Muhammad Husain, Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz and Sardar Dasaundha Singh,—the five last named gentlemen all being non-official members of the Punjab Legislative Council.

By your letter No. 97-Rev., dated the 3rd January 1922, four other non-official members of the Punjab Legislative Council—all of whom are members of the Land Revenue Standing Committee of that Council—were added to the Committee, *viz.*, Malik Feroz Khan, Nun, Rai Bahadur Lientenant Sardar Ragbir Singh, Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram and Khan Bahadur Chandhri Fazl Ali.

Under orders contained in your Memorandum No. 31885-Rev., dated 17th December 1921, Mr. E. R. Abbott, I.C.S., replaced Mr. Gibson. Sir Patrick Fagan retired at the end of February 1922, and was succeeded by Mr. H. A. Casson, Financial Commissioner, as Chairman. Mr. Casson presided over all the meetings held in March, April and May, and in the middle of June 1922 resigned his seat, on becoming President of the Legislative Council. He was succeeded by Mr. Abbott.

Early in December Mr. Irving's services were required elsewhere, and Mr. I. C. C. Lal, a retired member of the Punjab Civil Service, took his place as Secretary. Unfortunately Mr. Lal suffered a serious breakdown in health, which ultimately proved fatal. At the meeting held on the 14th February 1922, Mr. Leigh was requested to assist him in recording the minutes, at all succeeding meetings till he proceeded on leave. Mr. Leigh acted as Secretary. The Committee desire to bring to the notice of Government their appreciation of the ability with which Mr. Leigh discharged this duty.

3. The Committee met six times in all, *viz.*, on the 20th December 1921, 14th February 1922, 8th March 1922, 25th March 1922, 22nd April 1922, and 9th May 1922. Minutes of the proceedings of each of these meetings, and copies of the notes, etc., prepared from time to time by the Chairman and Secretary, have already been forwarded for the information of the Government.

4. I am directed to submit the enclosed report of the Committee, with a copy of the re-draft of Chapter V of the Land Revenue Act therein referred to for the orders of Government.

5. I am directed to draw your attention to paragraph 6 of Government of India's letter No. 14 of 30th June 1910, and to request that any

necessary steps may be taken to ensure that any danger which might possibly exist of the intervention in matters of assessment by Civil Court may be removed.

REPORT.

1. The Committee, in its preliminary sittings, decided that the best method of presenting to Government the results of its deliberations would be in the form of a re-draft of Chapter V of the Land Revenue Act. This decision was arrived at after consideration of a Note written by Sir Patrick Fagan on 9th December 1921. For the assistance of the Committee Sir Patrick Fagan drew up on 17th January 1922 a preliminary re-draft of that Chapter. (A copy of the Note and preliminary re-draft has already been submitted to Government).

2. The procedure followed by the Committee was to discuss that re-draft, clause by clause, as will appear from the minutes. The result of those discussions has been that the re-draft was modified in various respects, so as to assume the form of the draft which forms an enclosure to this letter.

3. The Committee wish to draw special attention to the following points :—

Clause 48 (2).—In view of the moral certainty that assessments in kind will never commend themselves either to Government or to the public, the Committee are unanimously in favour of omitting all references to them. They have, however, no wish to interfere with any existing rights whereby assignees of land revenue make collections in kind.

Clause 48 (4).—This provides more explicitly for “fluctuating assessments” than does the existing Act.

Clause 49-A.—This gives statutory force to the existing orders, under which the “nett assets” are made the basis of assessment and to the accepted definition of “nett assets.”

Clause 48-B.—This fixes and defines the “assessment circle” as the unit of assessment, according to present practice. It further gives statutory force to the existing orders by which the maximum share of the “nett assets” claimable by the State is limited, and fixes the limit, for future assessments only, at a lower fraction than the existing “one-half.”

It will be noticed that proviso A ensures that all existing settlements shall run their course; but Government will be bound by the undertaking given to the Legislative Council to the effect that any revision of assessment initiated after the giving of that undertaking shall be made in the light of such recommendations of this Committee as Government may be pleased to accept.

Proviso B.—Introduces a further limitation in the case of assessment circles in which there has been no great expansion of cultivation.

Clause 48-C.—Leaves it to the Local Government to make rules for the calculation of the value of ‘nett assets.’ The Committee were averse from binding the Local Government to prescribe rents paid by tenants-at-will as an essential guide.

Clause 48-D.—Requires the Local Government to make rules for the grant of exemptions on account of improvements.

Clause 49 (2).—As re-drafted recognises that the principles of assessment are now embodied in the Bill.

Clause 50 (2).—Requires that the Local Government, and not the Financial Commissioner, shall pass orders on Assessment Reports.

Clause 51 (1).—Inserts the words "by rule" before the last word.

Clause 51 (3).—Requires the Local Government to fix from time to time for each district, or part of a district, a limit of enhancement, and contains a proviso to the effect that for "fully developed" districts, as defined in proviso B to Clause 48 (B), the enhancement shall not exceed 33 per cent. of the previous demand. (Unless the Local Government has previously complied with this requirement the orders would naturally be passed in connection with the Forecast Report.)

Clause 53 (2).—Reads "part of a district" for "tahsil", and inserts a proviso which is analogous to section 15 (1) (c) of the Act.

Clause 53-A (1).—Embolds existing section 53 (3) and amplifies it.

Clause 53-A (2).—Provides that, in all revisions of assessment made subsequently to its enactment, the minimum periods of settlement shall be (a) in the case of estates perennially irrigated, otherwise than at the expense of the owners, for the first time—10 years; (b) on the expiry of a 10 years period so fixed—30 years; (c) otherwise—50 years.

Clause 53 (3).—Enables the Local Government to sanction a Permanent Settlement for any tahsil, if it considers that a state of full development has been reached.

Clause 55 (3).—Raises the minimum allowance to be received by landowners refusing liability for the assessment from 5 to 10 per cent. and omits all mention of maximum.

Clause 59 (1).—Former clause (a) has been omitted and the remaining clause re-lettered.

Clause 60.—Requires that rules made under this Chapter shall not take effect until the Legislative Council has had an opportunity of studying them and moving resolutions relative to them. Old section 60 has been entirely omitted as obsolete.

Clause 60-A.—Legalises the issue of executive instructions by the Local Government and the Financial Commissioner.

The Committee recommend that such instructions may include one whereby assessing officers shall be required to take occupiers' rates, if paid by the landlord into account as part of the expenses of cultivation, and to exclude them from the nett-assets.

4. The recommendations made have been agreed on by the Committee unanimously with the following exceptions:—

Clause 48 (1).—A majority of the Committee are of opinion that to substitute the word "tax" for "revenue" would facilitate various arguments for analogy of debatable validity, and would serve no other purpose.

Clause 48-B.—It will appear from the minutes of the proceedings of March 4th, 1922, that five members voted for a 'one-third' limit, while four members advocated a 'one-quarter' limit. Of the former group, four were officials and the fifth was Mr. Manohar Lal. The latter group consisted of representatives of rural constituencies. At the following meeting three other rural representatives stated that, had they been present they would have voted in favour of a 'one-quarter' limit. The Chairman held that it would be contrary to general practice to re-open questions properly decided

at an earlier meeting. He undertook, however, to make mention, in this Report, of the fact that had the question been submitted to a full meeting of the Committee at least seven members out of thirteen would have voted for a 'one-quarter' limit. The official members, on the other hand, made it clear that, in proposing a "one-third" limit, they merely hoped to induce the Committee as a whole to arrive at unanimity on this matter. For their own part, they saw no great advantage in departing from the present position in which the State may, though in practice it never does, take as much as "one-half." They lay emphasis on the fact that to fix the limit at a small fraction will almost inevitably result in every district being assessed fully up to that limit, and will leave no scope, such as at present exists and is freely utilised, of showing special leniency to districts with fine military traditions, or of unusual insecurity.

Clause 48-B, proviso B.—The supporters of this proposal fully realise that, as worded, it may result in unreasonable leniency in the case of circles which have been assessed lightly, on the ground that they are, agriculturally speaking, in their infancy, though most of the culturable area may have actually been brought under the plough. They trust, however, that expert draftsmen may be able to provide for the cases they have in mind—namely, what may be generally described as "fully developed" tracts without letting in those undeserving cases. The minority regard this as a very formidable undertaking, and would prefer to leave the problem to be solved by executive order.

Clause 51 (3), proviso.—The same remarks apply as to the foregoing proviso.

Clause 52 (1), proviso.—Four out of eleven members present were in favour of reading '60 days' for '30 days.'

Clause 53 (2).—Four members would have preferred to deprive the Commissioner and Financial Commissioner of all power to enhance an assessment.

Clause 53-A (2), proviso C.—The official members would have preferred a 20-year term to a 30-year term, on the ground that for so long a period as 30 years the assessing officer would feel bound to assess up to the limit in every case. The rural members were also in favour of extending current settlements up to 50 years.

5. Other suggestions which were put forward, but not accepted, were (a) the inclusion of a section legalising composition for land revenue in perpetuity; (b) the exemption of small holdings.

Revised Redraft of Chapter V of Punjab Land Revenue Act.

PRINCIPLES OF ASSESSMENT.

48. (1) All land, to whatever purpose applied and wherever situate, is liable to the payment of land revenue to the Government, except such land as has been wholly exempted from that liability by special contract with the Government or by the provisions of any law for the time being in force.

(2) Land revenue shall be assessed in cash.

(3) Land may be assessed to land revenue notwithstanding that that revenue, by reason of its having been assigned, released, compounded for or redeemed, is not payable to the Government.

(4) Land revenue may be assessed (a) as a fixed sum payable either annually or in instalments, or (b) in the form of prescribed rates per acre or other unit leviable according to the results of each harvest.

48-A. (1) The assessment of land revenue shall be based on an estimate of the average money value of the net assets of the estate or group of estates in which the land concerned is situated.

(2) The net assets of an estate or group of estates means the estimated average annual surplus produce of such estate or group of estates remaining after deduction of the ordinary expenses of cultivation as ascertained or estimated.

48-B. The assessment of land revenue is fixed, or the average annual anticipated amount of such assessment if in the form of prescribed rates, shall not in the case of any assessment circle exceed one-third of the estimated money value of the net assets of such assessment circle.

Proviso A.—Nothing contained in this section shall affect any assessment in force at the time of the passing of this Act.

Proviso B.—In any assessment circle in which the area matured does not exceed the matured area of the last preceding settlement by more than one-eighth, the assessment shall not be raised so as to exceed 20 per cent. of the money value of the net assets of such assessment circle.

Explanation.—An assessment circle is a group of estates approved as such by the Financial Commissioner, sufficiently homogeneous to admit of a common set of rates being used as a general guide in calculating the demands which can fairly be imposed upon the estates forming the group.

48-C. The Local Government shall from time to time prescribe by rules the method by which the estimate of the money value of the net assets of an estate or group of estates shall be made.

48-D. The Local Government shall from time to time prescribe by rule the principles on which exemption from assessment shall be allowed for improvements.

49. (1). A general re-assessment of the land revenue of a district or part of a district shall not be undertaken without the previous sanction of the Local Government and notification of that sanction.

(2) In granting such sanction the Local Government may give such instructions consistent with the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, regarding the assessment as it may think fit.

50. (1) The assessment shall be made by a revenue officer.

(2) Before making such assessment that officer shall submit through the Financial Commissioner for the sanction of the Local Government his proposals regarding the assessment in such form and with such particulars as the Financial Commissioner may prescribe by rules or by executive instructions respectively.

51. (1) When the Revenue officer has received the orders of the Local Government relative to the aforesaid report he shall make an order determining the assessment proper for each estate concerned and shall announce it in such manner as the Local Government may by rule prescribe.

(2) At the time of announcing the assessment he shall also declare the date from which it is to take effect, and subject to the other provision of this Act, it shall take effect accordingly.

(3) The Local Government shall from time to time prescribe for each district or part of a district (or for a group of districts) the maximum proportion which an assessment determined by order of a Revenue officer under sub-section (1) of this section may bear to the assessment in force previous to such order:

Provided that in any estate in which the development does not exceed the standard mentioned in proviso B to section 48-B, the maximum proportion which the assessment so determined may bear to the assessment in force previous to such order shall not exceed 133 to 100.

52. (1) The land-owner may, within thirty days from the date of the announcement of the assessment, present a petition to the Revenue officer for a re-consideration of the amount, form or conditions of the assessment.

(2) Where the land revenue is assigned, the assignee thereof may, within thirty days from that date, present a like petition to the Revenue officer.

(3) The order passed by the Revenue officer on the petition shall set forth his reasons for granting or refusing it.

53. (1) An assessment of the land revenue of a district or part of a district shall not be considered final until it has been confirmed by the Local Government.

(2) At any time before an assessment is so confirmed the Commissioner or Financial Commissioner may modify the assessment of any estate in the district or part of a district:

Provided that no order enhancing an assessment shall be made under this sub-section unless reasonable notice has been given in the manner prescribed under section 22 of this Act to the revenue payers of the estate thereby affected to appear and be heard in support of the assessment.

53-A. (1) The Local Government shall when confirming an assessment under section 53 (1) fix a period of time for which the assessment shall remain in force and before the expiry of which it shall not be competent for a Revenue officer to make an order under section 51 (1) enhancing the existing assessment of an estate.

(2) Save as hereinafter provided no period fixed under this section shall be less than 50 years.

Proviso A.—All assessments confirmed before the date on which this sub-section comes into force shall remain in force for the period fixed by the orders of the Local Government confirming such assessments.

Proviso B.—In any estate in which perennial irrigation has since the confirmation of the assessment, current on the date on which this Act comes into force, been introduced, or may hereafter be introduced otherwise than by the land-owners of the estate, the Local Government may, notwithstanding any order made under this section, sanction a re-assessment of such estate and may in confirming such re-assessment fix under this section a period of not less than ten years.

Proviso C.—In any estate for which a period has been fixed under the last foregoing proviso and in respect of which an order has on the expiry of such period been made under section 51 (1), the Local Government may fix a further period of not less than 30 years.

(3) The Local Government may in confirming under section 53 (1) the assessment of any tahsil record its opinion that the pressure of the land-owning population on the total culturable area of that tahsil is so heavy that there is no reasonable prospect of any marked increase in the cultivated area or improvement in the method of cultivation, and may then confirm the assessment of that tahsil permanently.

Explanation.—An opinion of the Local Government recorded under this sub-section shall not be liable to be called in question.

54. Notwithstanding the expiration of the period fixed for the continuance of an assessment under sub-section (2) of the last foregoing section the assessment shall remain in force till a new assessment takes effect.

55. (1) At any time within ninety days from the date of the announcement of an assessment the land-owner or where there are more land-owners than one, any of them who would be individually or collectively liable for more than half of the sum assessed, may give notice to the Revenue officer of refusal to be liable for the assessment.

(2) When the Revenue officer receives a notice under sub-section (1), the Collector may take possession of the estate and deal with it, as nearly as may be, as if the annulment of the assessment thereof had been ordered as a process for the recovery of an arrear of land revenue due thereon.

(3) While the estate is in the possession of the Collector, the land-owners shall be entitled to receive from the Government an allowance, to be fixed by the Financial Commissioner, which shall not be less than ten per cent. of the net income realized by the Government from the estate.

56. (1) If the assessment announced under section 51 is in whole or in part a fixed assessment of an estate for a term of years, the Revenue officers shall, before the date on which the first instalment thereof becomes payable, make an order distributing it over the several holdings comprised in the estate and make and publish a record of the distribution.

(2) The Collector may for sufficient reason make an order revising that record at any time while the assessment continues to be in force, and publish the record so revised.

(3) If the assessment announced under section 51 is in the form of rates chargeable according to the results of each year or harvest, a Revenue officer shall, from year to year or from harvest to harvest, as the conditions of the assessment may require, make and publish, not later than one month before the first instalment of the land revenue falls due, a record of the amount payable in respect of each holding.

(4) The Financial Commissioner may make rules for the guidance of Revenue Officers in making, publishing and revising records under this section.

57. (1) Any person affected by a record made under sub-section (1) or sub-section (3) of the last foregoing section, or by the revision of a record under sub-section (2) of that section, may, within thirty days from the date of the publication of the record, present a petition to the Revenue officer for a reconsideration of the record so far as it affects him.

(2) The order passed by the Revenue officer on the petition shall set forth his reasons for granting or refusing it.

58. An appeal from an order under the last foregoing section or section 52 shall lie to the Commissioner, and from the appellate order of the Commissioner to the Financial Commissioner.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS.

59. (1) Special assessments may be made by Revenue officers in the following cases, namely —

- (a) when land revenue which has been released or assigned is resumed;
- (b) when waste lands are sold, leased or granted by the Government ;
- (c) when the assessment of any land has been annulled or the land-owner has refused to be liable therefor, and the term for which the land was to be managed by the Collector or his agent or let in farm has expired ;
- (d) when assessments of land revenue require revision in consequence of the action of water or sand or of calamity of season or from any other cause ;
- (e) when revenue due to the Government on account of pasture or other natural products of land, or on account of mills, fisheries or natural products of water, or on account of other rights described in section 41 or section 42, has not been included in an assessment made under the foregoing provisions of this Chapter.

(2) The Financial Commissioner may make rules for the guidance of Revenue officers in making special assessments and may confirm such assessments.

(3) The foregoing provisions of this chapter with respect to general assessments shall, subject to such modifications thereof as the Financial Commissioner may prescribe by rules under the last foregoing sub-section, regulate the procedure of Revenue officers making special assessments.

60. Rules made under the provisions of this chapter shall not have effect until notified in the *Punjab Government Gazette* and until a copy of them has been laid on the table of the Legislative Council of the Punjab during a session of the Council and has been available for the information of the members thereof for a period of not less than 30 days, or if a resolution of the Council is moved relative to such rules until such resolution has been disposed of.

60-A. The Local Government or the Financial Commissioner with the approval of Government may issue from time to time executive instructions for the guidance of Revenue officers relative to all matters dealt with in this chapter, provided that such instructions shall be consistent with the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

2ND SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, the 7th March 1924.

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

OATH OF OFFICE.

The following member was sworn in :—

Lieutenant Malik Muzaffar Khan.—Representative of the Indian Army. Non-official, nominated.

VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

LAND REVENUE GRANT.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 44,07,000 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 1925 in respect of Land Revenue.”

Mr. President : The question is—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 44,07,000 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 1925 in respect of Land Revenue.”

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 13,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 22,030—Temporary Establishment. (5-A—Land Revenue).”

I do not feel any necessity for a long speech on the matter. The amount allotted under this head in the last year's Budget was Rs. 9,192 while the present budget demands a sum of Rs. 22,030, and the Memorandum gives no explanation for this increase. I, therefore, hope that Government will agree to this or the Council will help me in carrying out the amendment.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 13,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 22,030—Temporary Establishment. (5-A—Land Revenue).”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhamadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, no explanation has been given about the increase in this year's demand over the last one ; and when already sanction

[Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.]

has been obtained for almost every necessary officer and when even 72 menials have been included, why then is this sum being demanded for Temporary Establishment? Is there any increase in the work done? I, therefore submit, Sir, that the sum be cut down at least to the last year's level.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner): Sir, this is the first time that this grant for miscellaneous forest establishment comes under the Financial Commissioner. The items were scattered about in the last year's budget in various parts; they have all been collected together and brought under this head. I can assure the House that there is no increase anywhere except in one item. The only distinct increase over the estimates of the previous year is a sum of Rs. 2,280 set apart for the establishment for temporary leases, Mianwali. That is the only new item of expenditure. The reason for that is that we have made special arrangements for certain *raikhs* in Mianwali arranging for cultivation in a special way and with the expenditure of Rs. 2,280, we expect to get an increase in our income amounting to Rs. 40,000. The total sum of Rs. 61,350 which is allotted for the establishment for the ensuing year is only about Rs. 9,000 in excess of the amount budgetted for the last year. The whole of the items of that total are precisely the same as last year except for this one item of Rs. 2,280. There has been no real increase at all. It is merely a reclassification. Here I have got a complete list of the establishment. The temporary establishment of Hoshiarpur consists of a tahsildar, forest guards, forest girdawars, coolies, blacksmiths and so on. I can assure the House that there is no real increase at all over the sum allotted last year.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 18,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 22,080—Temporary Establishment. (5-A.—Land Revenue).”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided: Ayes 34, Noes 29.

Ayes, 34.

Malik Firoz-Khan, Noon.
Mir Maqbool Mahmood.
Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Sayad Husain Shah.
Snbedar Major Farman Ali Khan.
Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
Chandhri Najib-ud-Din Khan.
M. Haibat Khan.
Chandhri Ghulam Muhammad.
Chandhri Nur Din.
Chandhri Sahib Dad Khan.
Chandhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan.
Sardar Sangat Singh.
Sardar Joch Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
M. Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Chandhri Afzal Haq.
Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
Sardar Partab Singh.
Sardar Buta Singh.
Pandit Nanak Chand.
Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang.
Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Lala Sham Lal.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
Rai Bahadur Lala Dhaupat Rai.
Diwan Narinjan Das.
Lala Mohan Lal.
Chandhri Ram Singh.

NONS, 29.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
 Lieut.-Col. E. L. Ward.
 Mr. E. R. Abbott.
 Mr. C. M. King.
 Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
 Mr. E. A. Scott.
 Sir George Anderson.
 Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
 The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand.
 The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.
 The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
 The Honourable Sir John Maynard.
 Mr. A. Latif.
 Mr. Miles Irving.

Mr. D. J. Boyd.
 Mr. H. D. Craik.
 Dr. C. A. Owen.
 Lieut.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
 Mr. J. Coldstream.
 Sardar Jowahir Singh.
 Khan Bahadur Sardar Jamal Khan.
 Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das Bhandari.
 Mr. V. F. Gray.
 Lieut. Malik Munzaffar Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir.
 Chaudhri Dali Chand.
 Rao Pohap Singh.
 Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
 Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: I should like to say a word about voting. When the decision of the House was taken by voices, the preponderance both by number of voices and volume of sound was certainly on the side of the Nons. Either members must have changed their minds and voted for the amendment when it came to a division or else they just remained silent, but in either case they were out of order.

Pandit Nanak Chand [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 5,400 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,400—Continuance of Staff for Hoshiarpur Chos. (5-A—Land Revenue)."

I have read the proceedings of the last Council and I know great dissatisfaction was expressed by the members with the working of the Chos Act. It must be remembered that the Chos Act was passed in 1900. And in 1924, it should not be impossible to allow the District Board to make proper arrangement for the protection of the forest of Shivaliks. I therefore, submit, Sir, that this item of Rs. 5,400 for Temporary Staff should be reduced.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration: Amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 5,400 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,400—Continuance of Staff for Hoshiarpur Chos. (5-A—Land Revenue)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Lala Bedh Raj [Western Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban] (Urdu): Sir, we have not derived any benefit up till now from a similar expenditure on this account, while on the other hand the people have suffered great hardship. Under the circumstances I support the reduction.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) (Urdu): Those only who have actually seen the havoc caused by these chos can form any opinion about the necessity of making some arrangements for that. Government of the United Provinces also felt a necessity of making some suitable arrangement for reclaiming such land at Etawah and they planted trees to save the land from erosion.

[Hon'ble S. B. Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.]

The Punjab Government sent an officer to inspect this work, and to collect detailed information of methods employed there. Work is going on similar lines both in area in Hoshiarpur and at Pabbi, Jhelum District.

Last year's budget had allowed a sum of Rs. 10,400 but this year we have already reduced it to Rs. 5,400. My friend has mentioned the hardships the people have to undergo. A Committee consisting of an officer of the Forest Department, the Deputy Commissioner of the place and Mian Beli Ram, an ex-member of this Council, has been formed to go into the matters concerning the Chos Act. Any reduction in this item till the receipt of the report of that Committee will be premature and would be harmful to the work. I, therefore, hope you will not reject such an essential item.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadian), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, those who know how people suffer from the floods, will not oppose this item. I know people do undergo some hardships on account of this Act, but, then amending the Act would be a better remedy for that. A Committee has already been constituted for that purpose, and any action before the submission of its report would be inadvisable. Moreover, there is already a scarcity of fodder, etc. I, therefore, request the honourable mover to withdraw his amendment and wait till next year, when we can take necessary steps if the results are unfavourable.

Bai Bahadar Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari (Non-official, Nominated) (Urdu): Sir, there are two reasons for this opposition to the budget. First, the figures for the last year are not shown, and that is why each member objects to it. Secondly, if instead of giving verbal explanations, the same had been stated in the budget, nobody would have objected to it at all.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq (Hoshiarpur cum-Ludhiana Rural) (Urdu): Sir, there is a difference between the procedure adopted in Ambala and Hoshiarpur. In the latter place, the same purpose is being achieved by means of law, which has resulted in many hardships to the people. The officials do not stop floods, but they annoy the villagers. No good has come out to the people since the enactment of this law. I, therefore, oppose this grant to save the people from further annoyance.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din [Sialkot (Muhammadian), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, the real object of the opposers of the grant under discussion does not appear to be only the rejection of the small item under discussion. It appears clear that they are really opposed to the Chos Act and do not want it to remain on the Statute Book. If my surmise is right, the proper course for them is to move for the repeal of that Act. In that case the House shall be only too glad to give its fullest consideration to the matter. I do not think they are right to make the Act, so long as it is law, a dead letter, by rejecting the item under discussion which is intended for paying the staff employed under the Act. I consider this course unfair. If the Act is unnecessary and undesirable, they should make an effort to have it repealed outright. But they should not use underhand and indirect means to achieve their purpose. With these few words I support the grant.

Sardar Jodh Singh: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the question be now put."

Mr. President: I don't think the question has been fully discussed.

Rao Pohap Singh [Gurgaon (Non-Muhammadian), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I belong to a district which is known for its poverty. Even the Gov-

ernment cannot come to its relief by opening canals. There are many hills in the district and bunds are made to stop the rain water which flows down these mountains so swiftly that it washes away the surface of the agricultural lands. After a long consideration, the Deputy Commissioner decided to plant trees in order to stop a sudden rush of water, for which we are going to ask about a lakh of rupees. It is, therefore, not wise to stop a grant of Rs. 5,400 to Hoshiarpur District for the simple reason that people have some grievances against the operation of the Chos Act. You should have some regard for the poverty-stricken owners of the lands which are damaged by floods and which it is meant to stop by means of the growth of trees.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon [Shahpur East (Muhammadian) Rural] : Sir, during the last session of the last Council and during the whole life of the last Council there was now and again some discussion about the Chos Act. Sometimes we went thoroughly into the question and on the whole we kept on giving this grant to Government. I feel personally inclined to support this grant also this time. But there is a certain matter on which I would like to solicit information from the Government benches and if the Council can be satisfied on that point I think the Government will have every right to have this grant. I am told, and I am speaking subject to correction, that at the time when the Chos Act was passed there were certain forests in which the land-owners and other people of the neighbouring villages had a right to graze their cattle and also to cut wood. But since this Chos Act came into force, it is alleged that it was enacted with the object of taking possession of these forests by the Government in order to exclude all these people from the enjoyment of the rights of grazing and cutting wood from the forests. If the Government can clear up the misgivings created in the minds of the people, I think there will be nobody here who will refuse this grant. But if it is a fact that the people had such a right before the Act came into force and that the Act was passed specially for the purpose of withdrawing this right of the people, then I should consider that the cry of the people against the Act is perfectly justified. I hope the Government will be able to clear the point.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner): Sir, the whole object of the Chos Act was of course to restrict grazing on the hill sides and the consequent damage to them and it is not unnatural therefore that the Act has been unpopular. The question that will have to be decided is whether that Act should be repealed or not. In order to decide whether the Act should be repealed or not and also to enquire whether there has been any undue strictness in the application of that Act the Honourable the Revenue Member has appointed a committee to go into the whole matter. **Mian Beli Ram**, a member of the late Council, is a member of that committee. The committee is making enquiries as to what should be done in respect of this Act and its report has not yet been received. As soon as the report is received action will be taken.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) (Urdu) : Sir, my friend, **Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari**, has enquired why the last year's expenses have not been shown in the budget. Formerly the budget was prepared by the Accountant-General and it depended upon him to show an item wherever he pleased. He had shown Rs. 8,044 in 1920-21, Rs. 8,044 in 1921-22, Rs. 8,044 in 1922-23, and Rs. 10,400 in 1923-24 under the head General Administration. Therefore,

[Hon. S. B. Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.]

it was not possible to show these figures without having them from the Accountant-General. As has already been stated, this year's sum is already about half of the last year's sum.

My honourable friend Chandhi Afzal Haq has mentioned the case of Ambala District. There Ambala Committee which has on it zamindar members as well and who can look to the complaints of the zamindars is carrying out reclamation work. The idea of the plantation of such trees is to stop any rush of rain water, and to help the growth of trees, no doubt cattle are not allowed to graze in those tracts but those who know how young plants are harmed by grazing would not like that such restrictions on grazing being totally removed.

Pandit Nanak Chand : I rise to a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is making a second speech.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : I think I am in order.

Mr. President : No, please. Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 5,400 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,400—Continuance of Staff for Hoshiarpur Chos. (5-A—Land Revenue)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadian), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,700 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,400—Continuance of Staff for Hoshiarpur Chos. (5-A—Land Revenue)."

Sir, arguments have already been advanced against the continuance of the Chos Act and if the Council does not agree to a total reduction of the sum, I hope it will agree to its reduction by half the amount

Mr. President : You have already made speech on the subject. You cannot make a second speech. Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,700 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,400—Continuance of Staff for Hoshiarpur Chos. (5-A—Land Revenue)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh Urban) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,150 with respect to the item of Rs. 8,638—Travelling Allowance. (5-A—Land Revenue)."

(Urdu) : Sir, this amendment is a matter of principle and I draw the attention of the House to this fact. Last year a compromise had been effected between this Council and Government that all items of travelling allowances will be reduced by 25 per cent. But the Government instead of making a reduction in the rates, reduced the total amount of travelling allowances.

Now the prices have fallen and there is no reason for a continued increase in the rates of travelling allowance. I am, also, thinking of a reduction in the rates of pay. But at present, I only want to amend the rates of travelling allowances and if this is accepted there will be no loss in efficiency to the Government, for only an excess amount will be curtailed. I will give an example which though not applicable here will fit well

later on. An officer travels 80 miles and back by motor on a well kept canal road where we are not allowed even to walk. Thus he is able to earn Rs. 140 in a single journey.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I rise to a point of order, Sir. The item under discussion refers to the travelling allowance of naib-tahsildars. The honourable member is talking of people who travel in motors and make 12 annas a mile.

Mr. President : I think the honourable member is assuming that we are dealing with travelling allowance as a whole. At present the honourable member should confine himself to the particular item. If, however, the whole question of travelling allowance is to be gone into on this vote at any rate as far as the land revenue head is concerned then he would be in order. If that is understood, there will be no further discussion on each of the items.

Sardar Jodh Singh (continued in Urdu) : I pity the naib-tahsildars but I pity the poor zamindars more.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, it is not possible to treat the question of travelling allowances as one single whole for all the departments. The circumstances vary for particular departments and as far as the item under discussion is concerned, a very large portion of it is made up of 4 annas daily allowances to patwaris. Therefore, any decision with regard to the land revenue head has no relevancy to the general question and it is impossible to consider the question of travelling allowances in general under the Land Revenue head.

Sardar Jodh Singh : I have stopped that. But I request the Hons. to insist upon a decrease of 25 per cent. in the rate of the travelling allowances.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,150 with respect to the item of Rs. 8,638—
Travelling Allowance. (5-A—Land Revenue.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan), Rural] : Sir, this whole discussion could have been avoided by a general discussion on the head Land Revenue. But now we are discussing each item one by one, though our objections will be almost the same in each case.

Mr. President : The honourable member must confine himself to this particular item.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : I bow to your decision, Sir. Whatever I say should be considered as referring to the land revenue. The allowance of Tahsildars has already been enhanced and we can afford to raise it no further. Therefore a reduction of 25 per cent. in its rate will save us 11 lakhs of rupees.

Mr. President : How is this in order in dealing with travelling allowance of naib-tahsildars? How can you reduce this item of Rs. 8,900 by 11 lakhs. I fail to see. The honourable member must confine himself to the item which deals with the travelling allowance of this head of establishment, namely, naib-tahsildars.

Sayad Muhammad Husain (continued in Urdu) : Sir, if we reduce the rates of qanungos and patwaris we shall be laying down a general principle and it will not do us any harm.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member): If it will facilitate matters to take up travelling allowances under the Land Revenue head as a whole, I have no objection to doing so.

Mr. President : If the Government agrees to do so, it can be done.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: I have no objection to take the travelling allowance under Land Revenue as a whole.

Mr. President : In future the debate will proceed on the supposition that we are dealing with all travelling allowances under the head of Land Revenue.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz [Lahore (Muhammadan), Rural] : (Urdu) : Sir, this is a matter of principle. The total expense on travelling allowance is about 44 lakhs

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: Not on the Land Revenue side.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz (continued in Urdu) : It is really a matter of principle that either the rates should be decreased by 25 per cent. or rules should be framed to that end. In the last Council when this question was moved, the Government promised a reduction of 25 per cent. in the rates. Even the Retrenchment Committee agreed to the reasonableness of my resolution demanding a cut of 33 per cent. in the travelling allowances. Moreover in other provinces the rates have been reduced. Why then cannot the same be done in our province? I, therefore request that the big item be reduced by 25 per cent.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din [Sialkot (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, although the observations I am about to make will be general and as such will apply to all kinds of Travelling Allowances, yet I intend them to be taken to be applicable only to the particular item under discussion. On the basis of my experience as a member for 3 years for the first Legislative Assembly and also for two months of this Council, I can say without fear of contradiction that the rates of travelling allowance in the Punjab are much higher than those of the Government of India. In some cases the rates fixed by the Punjab Government are double of the rates fixed by the Government of India.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I rise to a point of order, Sir. The travelling allowance under the land revenue head does not include any officers of a rank higher than tahsildar. It is not relevant to the discussion to import the question of travelling allowance of officers of a status higher than that of tahsildars.

Mr. President : The point of order is well taken. I hope the honourable member will bear that in mind. He must not go above the tahsildars.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din (continued in Urdu) : Sir I bow to your ruling, but I venture to submit with due respect that every general principle can and does apply to particular cases, and I for one fail to see why the general principle underlying the present discussion should not apply to the item in question. There appears to be no reason why the rules of relevancy should be altogether ignored or unduly restricted in their application to matters discussed in this Council. I know that travelling allowance may be monthly or daily. My remarks apply to either case and, therefore, Government may take them in that sense.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The honourable member is presumably discussing settlement officers and not revenue officers up to tahsildars.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : I am not bringing irrelevant matters into the discussion.

Mr. President : Nobody has said that the honourable member is bringing in irrelevant matters. In this particular head the honourable member can not refer except as a brief reference in argument to any matter which is outside the scope of the land revenue subject.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din (continued in Urdu) : I will not go beyond the scope of the subject.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member was speaking in English. Has he changed his mind ? The honourable member can choose to speak in one language at one time, but he cannot deliver a speech partly in English and partly in Urdu.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Is there a standing order to that effect ?

Mr. President : Will the honourable member proceed ? He can speak in Urdu or English as he chooses.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din (continued in Urdu) : I shall be only too glad to address the Council in English, but this side of the House would not let me do so.

In every province there exists a certain ratio between the travelling allowances of officers and subordinates. Therefore, if the travelling allowance of tahsildars and naib-tahsildars is in conformity with that ratio, it should stand, otherwise, it should be decreased or increased as the case may be.

As it is an incontrovertible fact that the rates of travelling allowance in force in the Punjab are much higher than in the other provinces, it is the duty of this Council to bring them down to the proper level, especially when the prices of foodstuffs in our province are not higher than in others. I may remark *en passant* that the salary of the Punjab Provincial Services is also higher than the salary of the other Provincial Services in India, and that this Council should pay an early attention to this important matter. At present, however, I am only concerned with the question of travelling allowance and in my opinion this Council should reduce it all round by 25 per cent.

Mr. President : The honourable member is going outside the limits that I have laid down. He is not confining himself to the naib-tahsildars. He is now advocating to the House the desirability of cutting down the travelling allowances of Settlement Collectors and everybody else.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : Thank you, Sir. As the question before the House relates to revenue officers, I support the reduction of 25 per cent. in their travelling allowance.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood [Amritsar (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, as far as the travelling allowance of the revenue officers is concerned, that is divisible into two heads. First is the allowance per mile for journey by rail and the second is the halting allowance, or the diet money. But the tahsildars who travel among poor people seldom have any occasion to spend a penny out of their

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

pockets; for fortunately or unfortunately our middle class is known for their hospitality and they receive these officers and entertain them beyond their power. Therefore they do not deserve this halting allowance. This is highly unjust that they should receive money in the shape of travelling and halting allowance both.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadian), Urban] : Sir, may I ask one question with your permission? Is it a fact that the tahsildars used to get Re. 1 *per diem* three or four years ago and now they are getting Rs. 3-8-0 per day and the naib-tahsildars are getting Rs. 2-8-0 per day? And is it also a fact that the Retrenchment Committee decided that Settlement Officers should not be given any special allowance, nor the Assistant Settlement Officers? And is it also a fact that in spite of those recommendations, the Settlement Officers get Rs. 150 as fixed allowance and the Assistant Settlement Officers get Rs. 100 per mensem as fixed allowance?

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, I understand that what is desired now is a general discussion of the travelling allowance that is paid to the Revenue Department as apart from the general administration. We are considering now only travelling allowance that comes within this demand of Rs. 44 lakhs. I have had a calculation made as to how much the travelling allowance amounts to. As far as I have been able to work it out roughly, I think it comes to about 2 lakhs of rupees under this head of Land Revenue. Of those 2 lakhs a sum of about Rs. 55,000, I think is in the form of fixed travelling allowance, monthly allowance, chiefly for tahsildars and naib-tahsildars, settlement kanungos and peons who accompany them. This staff has to be continuously on tour. The naib-tahsildars have to maintain horses, and as a matter of fact, kanungos have also to maintain horses and anyone who has kept horses will, I hope, realise that it is not possible to go below those rates. The allowance of Rs. 3 per mensem for peon is about as low as it is possible to go. That is the fixed monthly travelling allowance. It amounts roughly to about Rs. 60,000 out of these 2 lakhs and I earnestly hope that the House will not endeavour to cut it down. I feel sure that to give a man drawing the pay of a naib-tahsildar, less than Rs. 45 and to expect him to keep a horse and a servant to look after the horse would be almost instigating him to practices which are highly undesirable, I won't say corrupt, but highly undesirable. I firmly believe that it is quite impossible to keep a horse on less than Rs. 45 and if you give a man less than Rs. 45 you will be conniving at undesirable results. That is the case with regard to the fixed travelling allowance.

Now of the remaining 1,40,000, the largest item is an item of 87,750 which will be found on page 70 of the Budget Estimates which is travelling allowance for patwaris chiefly. The members of this House who have obviously scrutinised this Budget with very great care will have noticed that there is an apparent great increase over the travelling allowance of the previous year. Again, I can assure the Council that this increase is only due to reclassification. The travelling allowance paid to patwaris was paid to them in previous years out of contingencies, i.e., the sum now allowed to patwaris as travelling allowance was paid from the contingent fund. The Accountant-General made a serious objection to the amount being charged to contingencies and he insisted on its being charged to the special head Travelling Allowance. This happened about the middle of last year and that accounts for the fact

that we have had to show almost double travelling allowance on account of patwaris. There has not been any real change but there has been a complete change in reclassification due to the objection of the Accountant-General. Another large item is Rs. 1,15,990. This also appears on page 70 of the Budget. This is also in a sense fixed travelling allowance of Rs. 20 to permanent kanungos. I feel sure that members of the House will not consider it to be too high an allowance for a man who has to keep a horse. The rate is about as low as you can possibly have.

Then, Sir, the allowance paid to patwaris is 4 annas a day. How that can be reduced, I fail to see. That is all that is allowed to a patwari. He gets 2 annas mileage and 4 annas a day as halting allowance. I have dealt with this large item of Rs. 1,15,990 on page 70 which is for kanungos.

Then there is Rs. 12,500 for tahsildars. The tahsildars get now Rs. 3 a day, but I understand that that rate is being revised. There is a special committee appointed to consider these travelling allowance rates and if that committee decides to revise the rates they will be revised. But until that is done, we are bound to allow for it in our estimates. We cannot prejudice the report of the committee appointed to enquire into this matter.

Then we come to another item Rs. 31,440. That is the only allotment of daily allowance under the land revenue head that is budgetted for for Settlement Officers and so on. We have got now eight settlements in progress and in each of them there is a settlement officer or the equivalent of a Settlement Officer and we have allotted Rs. 150 for each Settlement Officer and Rs. 100 for each Extra Settlement Officer.

We are bound to keep the items for travelling allowance because they are based on the existing travelling allowance rates. Whether the committee will reduce them or not, we cannot say at present. If the committee decides to reduce them, these will be automatically reduced, but until the travelling allowance rates are reduced, we are bound to keep them.

Then there is another item of Rs. 7,020 for the Director of Land Records and Personal Assistant to the Director of Land Records. This is the same in their case as in that of the settlement officer.

I think I have gone through all the major items here, Sir. If there is any special item of travelling allowance about which any member would like to have some special information, I shall endeavour to supply it.

Mr. President : You have not answered the question about the travelling allowance of tahsildars.

Mr. C. M. King : Yes, one thing more. Some years ago the fixed allowance of tahsildars was Re. 1. It was raised to Rs. 3 as it was felt that Re. 1 was totally inadequate. Thereafter it was raised to Rs. 3-8-0 which it now is. Here again this will be examined with a view to reduction. It was Re. 1. I think, I am right in saying, about eight years ago. I was on the committee which decided it.

[A voice.—The allowance of settlement officers should not be discussed.]

Mr. King : It was only because Dr. Gokul Chaud asked for the information.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : The Honourable the Finance Member said that the Settlement Officers and Assistant Settlement Officers would come under discussion.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, settlement allowance is not the same as travelling allowance. That is quite a distinct thing.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz : Sir, I beg to move :—

"That the question be now put."

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I want to ask for one piece of information. I want to know if it is a fact that since 1920 the rates of allowances for keeping horses, the daily halting allowances and the road mileage allowances have been raised by 50 per cent. and in the case of horse allowance by more than 50 per cent. If so, is it not justifiable that these allowances should be cut down in view of the fact that the wages and prices of commodities have gone down since these allowances were increased?

Mr. Miles Irving (Financial Secretary) : There were in 1920 considerable increases in the rates of travelling allowance, I am not sure to the extent mentioned by my honourable friend.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I have got figures, Sir, to substantiate my statement.

Mr. Miles Irving : There were substantial increases. The question of decreasing these rates have already come before the Government, which has to a certain extent reduced certain rates. For example, the railway mileage has been reduced to one and three-fifths instead of double fares. The road mileage does not count from zero, but counts from 15 or 25 miles. The question of daily allowance is extremely difficult and I wish honourable members during their discussion would give me some help by indicating the principles on which this reduction should be done. You have before you patwaris, who are getting four annas a day. Obviously the House is not going to take away 25 per cent. in their case. I have got out proposals for cuts in the daily allowances and we are trying to do something reasonable. The question of daily allowance is extremely difficult in that, while it is a loss to some people, it is a gain to others. I hope the House will not enforce brutal cuts in the case of lower grades by demanding an all-round reduction of 25 per cent. in travelling allowance. Further the basis of reduction should not be the demand made as that would be to encourage excessive demands. But if the House proposed reduction on the actual figures for 1922-23, there will be some reason in it.

Mr. C. M. King : May I request you, Sir, to make one point clear, whether this reduction will imply a similar reduction in other grants also?

Mr. President : I strongly deprecate the procedure adopted last year, namely, that if one item of expenditure is reduced under one head, then all similar items under other heads also should automatically be reduced to the same extent without being discussed. What I propose to do now, so far as land revenue is concerned, is to put each item of travelling allowance to the vote as it comes up. A separate vote should be recorded in each case.

Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,159 with respect to the item of Rs. 8,636—Travelling Allowance. (6-A—Land Revenue)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, before we proceed to the next item, I should like to make one suggestion. When members vote on any particular item they must know whether their vote is in respect of tahsildars or naib-tahsildars. I therefore suggest that opportunities should be given to Government members to state whether a particular item refers to tahsildars, naib-tahsildars, kanungos, or some other class of officers.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 180 with respect to the item of Rs. 720—Horse Allowance. (5-A—Land Revenue.) ”

Sir, this amendment is similar to the one which has just been accepted by the House as regards the travelling allowance. The horse allowance should also be reduced. I, therefore, propose my amendment without any longer discourse.

Mr. C. M. King : Sir, this item of Rs. 720 represents horse allowance of Rs. 20 per Darogha in Gurdaspur and Mianwali Districts.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 180 with respect to the item of Rs. 720—Horse Allowance. (5-A—Land Revenue.) ”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided ; Ayes 41, Noes 21.

AYES 41.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.

Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr Shab.

Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.

Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.

Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.

Sayad Pusein Shah.

Sutedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.

Lient. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.

Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.

Chaudhri Najib-ud-Din Khan.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazal Ali.

Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.

Chaudhri Nur Din.

Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan.

Sardar Sangat Singh.

Sardar Narain Singh.

Sardar Jodh Singh.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.

M. Mazhar Ali, Azhar.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq.

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.

Sardar Partab Singh.

Sardar Buta Singh.

Lient. Malik Muzaffar Khan.

Captain Mumtaz Muhammad Khan,

Tiwana.

Sayad Muhammad Husain.

Pandit Nanak Chand.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang.

Lala Buchi Ram, Sahni.

Lala Sham Lal.

Lala Bodh Raj.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.

Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.

Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.

Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.

Diwan Narinjan Das.

Chaudhri Duli Chand.

Lala Mohan Lal.

Chaudhri Ram Singh.

NOES 21.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
 Lieut.-Colonel E. L. Ward.
 Mr. E. R. Abbott.
 Mr. C. M. King.
 Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
 Mr. E. A. Scott.
 Sir George Anderson.
 Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
 The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chandri Lal Chand.
 The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.
 The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard.
 Mr. A. Latifi.
 Mr. Miles Irving.
 Mr. D. J. Boyd.
 Mr. H. D. Craik.
 Dr. C. A. Owen.
 Lt.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
 Mr. J. Coldstream.
 Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari.
 Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was carried.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,500 with respect to the item of Rs. 9,500—Contingencies. (5-A.—Land Revenue.)”

Sir, other amendments regarding this item are for a reduction of Rs. 700, but mine is for a reduction of Rs. 1,500. As this item is about contingencies and as every other possibility of expenditure has been provided for, I have after due regard to every consideration, proposed a reduction of Rs. 1,500 only, and hope the House will agree to it.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,500 with respect to the item of Rs. 9,500—Contingencies. (5-A.—Land Revenue.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon [Shahpur East (Muhammadan), Rural] : Sir, there are two other amendments on the same subject, one by Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh and the other by Sardar Jodh Singh for the reduction of that item by Rs. 700. Last year's grant was Rs. 8,800 and this year's grant is Rs. 9,500. Apparently the amendment aims at reducing the amount to the level of last year. I would therefore request my honourable friend, Mr. Sewak Ram, to withdraw his amendment and allow the other amendment to be moved.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural] : Sir, I beg to move :—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 700 with respect to the item of Rs. 9,500—Contingencies. (5-A.—Land Revenue.)”

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) : I accept the amendment, Sir.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 700 with respect to the item of Rs. 9,500—Contingencies. (5-A.—Land Revenue.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh—Urban) : Before you call upon the honourable member Mr. Bodh Raj to move his next amendment, I wish to point out, Sir, that according to the procedure laid down for our guidance in the matter of amendments to budget grants, the greater cuts should be moved first and then smaller ones. This is solely intended to avoid the mistake of the House giving two contradictory decisions. That was the procedure laid down by you, Sir. May I draw your attention to the amendment of the honourable member Sayad Muhammad Husrain printed lower down in the agenda proposing a reduction of Rs. 4,52,900 with respect to the item of Rs. 4,52,900. I think that amendment should be moved first.

Mr. President : The sub-head items will be dealt with first. The next amendment in the name of Lala Bodh Raj proposes that the item of Rs. 80,800—Charges of Administration—be reduced by Rs. 21,600. The Council has so far made a reduction of Rs. 13,039 from the sum of Rs. 80,800, and, if Lala Bodh Raj wishes to move his amendment, he should move that the grant be further reduced by Rs. 5,561 in respect to the item of Rs. 80,800.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir I beg to move :—

“ That the grant be further reduced by Rs. 5,561 with respect to the item of Rs. 80,800—Charges of Administration, (5-A.—Land Revenue). ”

Sir, we have no means of reducing expenditure except by way of refusing supplies in the budget. Now that there is a deficit of lakhs of rupees, that tax has been imposed and further retrenchment as alleged is not possible, there is only one way left to us. I, therefore, hope that under the circumstances the House will agree to this amendment.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved —

“ That the grant be further reduced by Rs. 5,561 with respect to the item of Rs. 80,800—Charges of Administration. (5-A.—Land Revenue). ”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon [Shahpur East (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, the honourable mover has given no reason while moving his amendment for refusing this grant. There were grounds for refusing the first one, but to ask the House in vague terms to refuse a particular demand is not enough. I, therefore, request the honourable mover to withdraw his amendment.

Lala Bodh Raj : As it seems to be the wish of several members of this House I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh—Urban) (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 705 with respect to the items of Rs. 2,820—Travelling Allowance, Kheri Estate and Bruceabad Estate. (5-B.—Land Revenue). ”

Sir, my amendment is regarding travelling allowance. I have only proposed a reduction of 25 per cent. and hope, therefore, that the House will agree to it.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 705 with respect to the items of Rs. 2,820—Travelling Allowance, Kheri Estate and Bruceabad Estate. (5-B.—Land Revenue). ”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, the main item consists of Rs. 2,700 for the Bruceabad Estate which covers a very large area to the south of Dera Ghazi Khan District. It is very necessary that the tenants there should be visited periodically. If the villages are not visited by the officers, it means loss of revenue to the estate. For these reasons I oppose the reduction.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 705 with respect to the item of Rs. 2,820—Travelling Allowance, Kheri Estate and Bruceabad Estate. (5-B—Land Revenue)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh—Urban (Urdu)) : Sir I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 15,100 with respect to the item of Rs. 85,280—Total pay of officers. (5-C—Land Revenue)."

Sir, the sum regarding which I have proposed this amendment is about the allowance of officers on settlement training. There is a mention in the Retrenchment Committee Report that no allowance shall be given for substantive posts, and this is but reasonable. Why should any allowance be given to people who go to have training?

This sum is regarding all the settlement officers or extra assistant settlement officers, and I hope that the House will refuse it.

Mr. President. Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 15,100 with respect to the item of Rs. 85,280—Total pay of officers. (5-C—Land Revenue)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. C. M. King : Sir, the question which was discussed last time was the allowance to Extra Assistant Settlement Officers. I understand that the allowances of Settlement Officers are non-voted. I am not quite sure whether Sardar Jodh Singh has not included these allowance in his motion.

Sardar Jodh Singh : I am including all allowances, Sir.

Mr. President : You cannot include non-voted items.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Are these allowances non-voted?

Mr. C. M. King : Yes, Sir.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, I think there seems to be some mistake. We find under this head an item of Rs. 22,200. How is that arrived at?

Mr. C. M. King : That is the pay of a Settlement Officer of the provincial service. His pay is Rs. 1,700 plus Rs. 150 allowance. That Settlement Officer is Khan Sahib Mian Abdul Aziz.

(A voice : What about Sheikhupura and Attock?)

Mr. C. M. King : They come below. I may explain, Sir, that this Rs. 22,200 represents the pay of a Settlement Officer of the provincial service. You have two cases of Rs. 850 plus Rs. 200 and Rs. 780 plus Rs. 200. These are special allowances made to two officers who are conducting settlement. They are practically Settlement Officers, and if paid as Settlement Officers their pay in each case would exceed Rs. 1,200, but as both the settlements are of a comparatively simple character, it was felt that it was not necessary to employ real Settlement Officers.

There is also another reason why we employ them as Settlement Officers. The number of listed posts had been filled up. So we had to apply the officers of the provincial service to hold charge of these settlements. It was felt that to give these Extra Assistant Commissioners who were holding charge of settlements the same allowance as would be given to an Extra Assistant Commissioner who was working under a Settlement Officer would not be fair. At the same time as we could not raise their pay to the full amount of a Settlement Officer's pay we decided to employ them on their own pay as Extra Assistant Commissioners and give them a special allowance. The two officers are Mr. Khurshaid Muhammad and Mr. Nur Muhammad.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I can understand the salary of an officer being non-voted. But I should like to know if these officers whose pay is non-voted can be allowed any allowance by the local Government without any reference to the Secretary of State, or if this allowance was sanctioned by the Secretary of State.

Mr. President : It is the Governor who decides what is non-voted. It is not for us to decide.

Lala Ruchi Ram : I want to know whether the allowance was specifically made non-voted.

Mr. President : It is obvious.

Mr. Miles Irving : The allowances have been sanctioned by the Secretary of State.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration : amendment moved :

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 15,100 with respect to the item of Rs. 85,280—Total Pay of Officers. (5-C—Land Revenue.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Lala Bodh Raj : Sir,

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz : Sir, on a point of order I submit that Chaudhri Afzal Haq should be asked to move his amendment first since all amendments are included in that.

Mr. President : I think it is unnecessary to waste the time of the Council by raising such points of order. The order in which amendments should be taken may well be left to the Chair to decide.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadian) Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 13,440 with respect to the item of Rs. 31,440—Travelling Allowance. (5-C.—Land Revenue.)"

(The member began to explain his reasons for the amendment when he was interrupted by Sardar Jodh Singh.)

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, I rise to a point of order. The matter has already been discussed, and the honourable member cannot discuss it again.

Mr. President : Yes, the honourable member cannot discuss it again. He will therefore resume his seat. Grant under consideration : amendment moved :

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 13,440 with respect to the item of Rs. 31,440—Travelling Allowance. (5-C—Land Revenue.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. C. M. King : Sir, I should just like to ask the honourable member as to how he arrived at the figure Rs. 13,440. I understood the object was to cut the grant for travelling allowance by one-fourth. But Rs. 13,440 is a good deal more than that.

Lala Bodh Raj : That is what I wanted to explain. (Continued in Urdu). If we for a moment look at the figures of 1922-23 and make a reduction of 25 per cent. in the actual figures of the above year, then we will be within our rights to make the proposed reduction. I hope that the honourable members of this House will agree to my amendment.

Mr. C. M. King : I may explain, Sir, that there are four new settlements. That is the reason for this increase. These four settlements are over and above what there were last year.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : May I suggest to the honourable member to reduce it to one-fourth ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Why not withdraw ?

Mr. President : The best thing will be for Lala Bodh Raj to withdraw his amendment. Then Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh's amendment may be considered.

Lala Bodh Raj : I do not wish to withdraw, Sir.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration : amendment moved :

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 13,440 with respect to the item of Rs. 31,440—Travelling Allowance. (5-C—Land Revenue.)"

The question is that that reduction be made,

The motion was lost.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 7,837 with respect to the item of Rs. 31,440—Travelling Allowance. (5-C—Land Revenue.)"

The motion was carried.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq [Hoshiarpur-cum-Ludhiana Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,70,240 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,78,100—Survey and Settlement—Other Head-quarters Establishment. (5-C—Land Revenue.)"

Sir, I am a zamindar and as a representative of the zamindar community I feel it my duty to represent the feelings of the zamindars of my constituency, who strongly protest against any increase in the land revenue of the province. The first settlement recorded in history took place in the time of Ala-ud-Din Khilji and ever since no settlement operations were undertaken till the time of Akbar. Those times were very troublesome and hence quite inconvenient for settlement operations, but the people were happy. Down from the time of Akbar to the advent of the British Empire in India no settlement was held but the people, during the period, were quite satisfied. The present policy of undertaking settlement operations after every 20 or 10 years as pursued by the British Government in various districts is unanimously looked down upon by the people. The country desires a permanent settlement. It may be argued that the machinery of the Government will not work satisfactorily without raising land revenue from

time to time by holding settlements in the province. In reply to this I would mention the name of Bengal province where the administration is going on very smoothly. The spirit of the policy adopted by the former rulers of India in connection with settlements of the country was really to raise revenues for the Government, but at the same time it was held responsible for the welfare and prosperity of the people. Now justice is being sold.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I rise to a point of order, Sir, The honourable gentleman says that justice is being sold in reference to court-fees.

Mr. President : The honourable member must keep to settlement entirely.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq (continued in Urdu) : Sir, I have said what I saw, but what I meant is this that the country is being overburdened by a thousand taxes.

Mr. President : Will the honourable member confine himself to the matter before the House.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Sir, I would say nothing more in this connection. Of course it is true that there is a great difference between the value of a rupee of to-day and a rupee of the Mughal days, but also a vast difference exists in the conditions and circumstances of both ages. In the Mughal days zamindars generally possessed very large areas of land, but it is not so now-a-days. In Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana and Jullundur Districts the zamindars possess very small tracts of land; the average would hardly be an acre per head. Justice demands that zamindars should not be troubled any more. On reading His Excellency the Governor's certification in the newspapers the zamindars really felt aggrieved.

Mr. President : Is the honourable member criticising the certification by His Excellency the Governor? If so, he is out of order. He must not mention it at all.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq (continued in Urdu) : Sir, I mentioned it at random; I was going to say that the whole country is unanimously opposed to the present system of settlements. In short we would be failing to perform our duty if we do not support the cause of the poorest community, I mean, the zamindars of the province.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration : amendment moved :

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,70,241 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,78,100—Survey and Settlement—Other Head-quarters Establishment. (5-C—Land Revenue)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Malik Firoz Khan : Noon : [Shahpur East (Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, before I say anything on the subject of these settlement grants, I wish to make it clear to the Government benches that we rural representatives quite realise our duties and understand that money is required for the administration of this province. If on a point like this we get up and support a reduction of this nature that is not because we play into the hands of a set of people who are bent upon opposing the Government, but because we believe that what is being done is right and that the situation requires a little clearing. As far as the settlement policy of the Government is concerned, it is carried on under the Land Revenue Act. . . .

Mr. President : If this motion is intended as a vote of censure on the Government regarding the settlement policy, it should have been in the form of a conventional reduction of a small amount. If it is meant purely for economy, then it should be argued on grounds of economy.

Mr. C. M. King : Do I understand, Sir, that the principle of settlement should not be discussed ?

Mr. President : I am pointing out that if it is intended to be a censure on the Government, it should have taken quite a different form. I am afraid I allowed the honourable mover to discuss the policy of settlement too much. The honourable member Malik Firoz Khan Noon seems to speak on the motion largely on the question of policy as distinct from economy. It seems to me that a vote to omit the whole grant, if it is based on economy, is all right, but if it is based on a question of policy it should have been of a different kind.

Mr. C. M. King : Then the discussion has to proceed on the question of policy.

Mr. President : I merely gave an expression of opinion as to the form which a motion should take, but I did not refer to this particular motion. If a motion is intended to discuss the policy of the Government, the usual convention in every Assembly as well as in the Parliament is that it should take the form of a small cut. If it is intended for economy, then it can be argued on that ground. But in the present case, it appears to be a motion for both purposes. So I must admit arguments on both grounds, but I only say that it is an unparliamentary practice.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Now, Sir, I wish to make the position of the zamindars clear as far as the settlement policy of the Government is concerned. The present settlements are carried on under the Land Revenue Act by executive orders. There is no legislation as far as the settlement in this country is concerned. I know it for a fact that the Government a year or two ago started taking action with regard to legislation to control the settlements that were to be carried on in future. I had the honour to serve on the Land Revenue Committee which formulated certain proposals as far as the legislation on the subject was concerned. But we have heard nothing further about those proposals. Suspicions are beginning to arise in our minds that the Government intends—I am speaking subject to correction—not to bring about any legislation to control the settlement policy, with the result that the Government under an executive order can bring about a settlement at any time they wish. They can fix 5, 10, 20 or 30 years and then bring about another settlement. Secondly, there is no check on the increase that a Settlement Officer or an executive authority can bring about in the rate of assessment. This state of uncertainty and illegality makes the zamindar class very apprehensive. Until the present time it may be justly claimed by the Indian Civil Service officers and it may be justly conceded by the zamindars that there exists sympathy between the two, and that it has been existing for many years between both parties of which both feel proud.

But, Sir, the times are changing and we are not certain as to who will be future Settlement Officers in this province, and we are getting apprehensive as to the assessment policy. It may be that the future Settlement Officers or Government will not be as sympathetic with the zamindars as are the present officers, and then where will we be and what will be our condition ?

It was for Government to hasten with legislation and bring in an amendment to the Land Revenue Act to control increase in the assessment and to fix the periods of certain settlements according to the proposals of the Land Revenue Committee. But so far as we are concerned, it is two years or a year and a half ago when that policy of amending the Act was launched and nothing has happened and probably nothing will happen. Now as far as the present law on settlements is concerned, I will give you only one instance, and you will be surprised as to how the executive authorities deal with the zamindars of a district which was settled in the year 1902. Then the same tract was again settled in 1912, i.e., 10 years later. The same district has again been settled in 1922 just after 10 years. These three settlements have taken place in the district about which I am speaking within a period of 20 years. I am referring to the Sargodha Colony. And within those 20 years there has been Rs. 245 per cent. increase in the land revenue assessed on that colony. You can very well imagine the feelings of the inhabitants of that *ilaga*. We quite realise that so far as this Council is concerned the argument brought forward by the Swarajists and non-co-operators that we are powerless seems to be justified in this case because we can do nothing. If we object to settlement under the law, our word is not final, and if we reject the demand it will be merely an expression of opinion and that expression of opinion will be overruled. If we are opposing these items it is not because we want any economy, it is not because we do not want to provide funds to Government, but it is because we wish to draw the attention of Government to fix a limit on the burden that can be placed upon us, and until the law is improved I am afraid the present policy is entirely unacceptable, and we hope that Government will bring in legislation in order to satisfy us.

Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan [Attock (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I admit that in some districts the settlement operations are indispensable, but I would submit a word or two about my own district. That this is not necessary in every case I do not see why re-settlement should be taken in hand with clock-like precision every 20 years, irrespective of the conditions prevailing. As regards my own district I would submit, Sir, that during the last 20 years it has made no progress as far as agricultural development is concerned: again the produce per acre has decreased considerably. Vast tracts of land were left uncultivated during the Great War owing to a large number of men having enlisted, and a considerable area is still lying uncultivated. Then, Sir, during the severe drought of 1921 many people had to leave their homes and go over to the banks of the Indus owing to lack of water and thousands of cattle perished which in many cases have not been replaced yet. This is the state of my district where now the settlement operations have been started. In Attock District there is no justification for increasing the land revenue. The only factor which may justify an increase is rise in prices which is more than counterbalanced by an increase in other necessities of life and by the low standard of cultivation. What I would like to bring to the notice of the Government is this, that in future when settlement operations are proposed in a district the Government should first see that the district stands in need of re-settlement after thoroughly considering the conditions prevailing there. There is a saying amongst us that when one man wants to punish somebody he usually says "*Tumhara bandobast kiya jaega*," that is, you will be set right. These settlements so to say, mean nothing short of doing our '*bandobast*'. I would not object to the settlements if the

[Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.]

Government had a definite policy regarding these on the principles I have already mentioned. If the Government were to change its policy in the desired direction I would be only too glad to support it, but as it is, there is nothing for me but to support the amendment. I would request the House also to solidly support it.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, my opposition to settlements is based on two reasons (1) on principles of policy; (2) on economic reasons.

A great light has been thrown on policy by my friend Malik Firoz Khan. I want to add that the land tax in future must be the act of legislation and not the executive act of the Government. Sir, a resolution was moved, carried and accepted by the Government in the previous Council to the same effect.

Not only that, the one cause of the delay of the grant of provincial autonomy by Parliament has been the representation of the select committee of Lords and Commons to the same effect. In the course of the discussion that ensued, when the Government of India Bill was being discussed in the House of Commons, Sir J. D. Rees observed "Nor can I refrain from mentioning one representation of the committee which may possibly escape notice. That is, that the increase of the land revenue, that all-important subject to the Indian cultivator who is really the Indian working man the petty land-owner should be as far as possible the act of the legislature in future and not the executive act of the Government. That is a far-reaching proposal which will commend itself to the more radical section of the House. We are all radicals now—the whole of us". Sir, as a result of these a committee was appointed and a Bill was framed by the Punjab Government. In the meantime the Council gave sanction to the grants of settlements subject to the undertaking given by the Government that the district in question will not be deprived of the benefits of the Land Revenue Act. That Bill never came to the council, and we hear it has been definitely dropped. His Excellency the Governor-General did not sanction its introduction.

Now, Sir, this means that eight districts, where settlement is proceeding, will be debarred from the benefits of the Act and the grant of provincial autonomy which hinges upon this Act will be unnecessarily delayed.

Coming to the economic side of the question, I am confident that if the scales of justice are held equitably between the Government and the zamindars no great enhancement commensurate with the money we will spend can accrue. The dark picture of Campbellpur has been already painted by the honourable Lieutenant Sikandar Hayat Khan. Gujranwala and Sheikhupura are already groaning under the heavy revenue tax imposed less than ten years back, while Hafizabad and Wazirabad have practically lost more than half of their land and the rest is in the course of deterioration. People who had started to reclaim their land have ceased to put their energies into it in view of the settlement authorities taxing their labour. Stagnation has set in where life prevailed, in place of effort, inertia is to be seen everywhere. My friend Captain Mumtaz Muhammad Khan representing Sargodha asked me to speak on his behalf, that the remaining hundred villages or so could have been easily settled by an Extra Assistant Commissioner with the ordinary establishment and the maintenance of such a highly paid Settlement Officer and staff is merely a waste of public money. He also pointed out that the

assessment of Sargodha is conditional being quite a novelty. If the Government does not enhance water rate, the assessment would be much higher than when *abiana* is enhanced. Now, Sir, had there been legislation could such lawless assessment have been announced? Certainly not.

Similarly the Jhang representative, the Honourable Sayad Husain Shah is very anxious to cut the grant of his district as he has been deprived of all the benefit of the undertaking given by the Government now that the Bill has been dropped. These, Sir, are my reasons for asking the House through you, Sir, to cut the settlement grant *in toto*.

Rao Pohap Singh [Gurgaon (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I really began to tremble when I heard the talk about settlement operations, for I am sure it will not be long when my district (Gurgaon) too will have to undergo similar operations.

The object of these settlements, Sir, is twofold. One of them is to ascertain the rights of people and the other is to find out whether a particular locality has improved with regard to income or has deteriorated.

Now, in the case of Gurgaon, it is quite unnecessary to order the settlement of that district. The first of these objects can be achieved by

Mr. President: Mr. King, is the settlement at Gurgaon included in the demand?

Mr. C. M. King: No, Sir.

Mr. President (addressing Rao Pohap Singh): Then you must keep Gurgaon out of your discussion. It is irrelevant.

Rao Pohap Singh (continued in Urdu): Sir, when every honourable member has discussed the state of affairs of his own district, I should be also allowed to make a brief survey of the conditions prevailing in my district.

Mr. President: I said Gurgaon should be kept out of the argument. If you bring it in for purposes of general remark, I will allow you. You cannot go into its merits.

Rao Pohap Singh (continued in Urdu): My point, Sir, is that settlements are unnecessary in almost all the districts. They are practically mere waste of money. As a concrete example I would take the case of my own district. In that district so many settlements have already taken place. By means of these settlements the Government have known what the rights of people there are, and when the conditions too have not improved, where lies the necessity of making any other settlement in that district.

Mr. President: What has this got to do with the matter before the House? That is irrelevant. You must remember I stopped you the other day for being irrelevant.

Rao Pohap Singh (continued in Urdu): I would insist, Sir, that it is quite unnecessary to make settlements in most of the districts in the Punjab. I confess that settlements are necessary in those districts alone where since the advent of the British Rule few settlements have taken place, because the land in those localities must have since improved; but where settlements have taken place so many times. I do not think there is any justification to settle them again.

Mr. President : The member is still speaking about settlements all over the province. He must confine himself to the settlement for which establishment is required.

Rao Pohap Singh (continued) : I do not know what these districts are, still my remarks apply to nearly all the districts.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din [Sialkot (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, the question of settlement is an all important question and the attention of the zamindar population of the Province as a whole is focussed on this question.

We find that some of the other provinces have been favoured with the boon of permanent settlement, and if our Province is not so fortunate as to receive that boon, at least it should not be made to groan under the heavy burden of periodical settlements. The Government should accede to this latter request of the people, a request which is quite reasonable and which the officials too if they come to possess land here some day, would certainly make.

There are, as far as I know, three results, that can possibly be expected from settlement operations. They are (1) that the land revenue can neither be enhanced nor reduced in a particular district, (2) that the revenue ought to be reduced in a particular locality or (3) that the land revenue can be enhanced, for the lands in some districts have begun to yield more than they yielded before.

If the result is that neither the land revenue can be enhanced nor reduced, it means that money spent for settlement purposes had been wasted, and if the revenue is to be reduced after settlement, it would mean bad economy in my opinion.

The money spent for settlement operations at a certain place can be said to have been utilised if the results are that the revenue can be enhanced on lands situate in that locality.

But we must see, before we enhance the revenue, whether we at all require the money, whether the other taxes are not sufficient to bring about equilibrium in expenditure and income of the Government. And if we find that expenditure does not exceed income and that we have been able to make both ends meet by means of other taxation, I do not think we are justified in enhancing the rate of revenue in that case. We should not further tax the zamindars simply because they are earning a little more than what they were earning before.

I say if permanent settlement is not possible, settlements should be undertaken only if there are sufficient grounds to justify such operations and if the people feel no inconvenience in undertaking them. But when no reasons exist and no fresh conditions justifying settlements have cropped up the settlement should not and ought not to take place.

The zamindar community is the back bone of the Government, and I would therefore request the Government to adopt all possible means to keep that community contented and happy. I do not say that settlements should altogether cease, but they should be made wherever and when necessary and not necessarily and invariably after 20 years. Before I resume my seat I must say that if Government comes to us after having made a good case in regard to settlement in a particular district and asks for a sum of money to spend thereon, I would be the first person to vote for that grant.

Some time ago a question was raised in the Council of State that the settlements should take place and consequently the land revenue should be enhanced in a certain locality after the consent of Council has been obtained, and if it could be possible to act up to that principle I think this heart-burning would never have been experienced.

With these few words I support the amendment.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali [Gujrat East (Muhammadan Urban)] (Urdu) : Sir, I do not say a word against the justice

5 P. M.

that is being administered by the British Government. I rather admire it. I admire the rules and regulations that are guiding the different departments of the Government. But what surprises me is that there exists no legislation, no guiding principle in regard to settlement operations.

These operations, if I do not mistake, depend solely on *girdawari* which are seldom accurate and about which the people know little, and this is why the settlements in most cases result in mere waste of money and in other cases in oppression to the people. I do not mean to cast aspersions on any particular individual, but I may mention here that these *girdawaris* which form the basis of settlement operations are prepared at home haphazardly and unmindful of the real facts. Settlements will prove a real blessing if they are undertaken to increase or decrease the assessments as the case may be. But in practice they are undertaken when by the forecast it is found that there are possibilities of enhancing the revenue. These periodical settlements have created an impression amongst the public that they are undertaken with a view to enhance the revenue, and that is why the people are afraid of settlements.

I think they are quite justified if they do not like them. It is really objectionable that while assessing the revenue the labour of the cultivator and the expenditure on the implements and other things are not taken into account. *Kharaba* is also another factor on which the assessment of revenue largely depends. But I am sorry to point out that the procedure followed even in this matter is not as it ought to be. The practice is that while assessing revenue a piece, say, 10 *bighas* is taken into consideration. Out of these 10 *bighas* it is calculated how much of it is well cultivated and how much is *kharaba*. The average that is arrived at between *kharaba* and cultivated lands regarding the 10 *bighas* is applied to the whole of the area.

This system of assessing revenue ought to be revised, and while assessing the revenue only the net income should be taken into consideration, and if such a system is introduced, I am sure there would be no grumbling and no clamouring anywhere.

Mr. President : Is the honourable member talking of his own district or the whole province ?

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali (continued in Urdu) : Sir, the rules regarding the land revenue are everywhere the same and remarks about one district are applicable to all alike.

Mr. President : The honourable member must link it somehow to those districts in which settlement is going on. He cannot discuss the settlement policy in the whole of the Punjab.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali (continued in Urdu) : I was talking about *girdawari* and *kharaba*. Both of these are important from the point of view of land revenue.....

Mr. President : What connection is there between *girdawari* and *khara* and the settlements that are now going on ?

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali (continued in Urdu) : Sir, as already explained *girdawari* is the only record on which the settlements are based. Without that there can be no settlement. Now I will tell the House the opinion held by some of the non-official members of the Land Revenue Committee of whom I was one. This committee was appointed last year. These members held that it was unjust that the Government should levy revenue to the extent of one-fourth of the net produce. They were of opinion that the revenue should be limited to one-eighth of the produce, and if that was not possible, it should not exceed the level of one-sixth in any case.

Mr. President : I am afraid the honourable member can not go into the details of what happened in the Land Revenue Committee about settlement.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali (continued in Urdu) : I was telling Sir, that the Committee was divided as to the limit of one-eighth, but it was unanimous that the land revenue should be charged at the rate of one-sixth of the produce. I think, Sir, that the present rate at which the revenue is levied is such that even the officials join with the public in declaiming it.

Mr. C. M. King : I rise to a point of order, Sir. The vote before the House is the vote for settlement. If the honourable member now goes into the merits, and if I am to follow him right through, it will prolong the discussion indefinitely.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali (continued in Urdu) : My point, Sir, is that there should be in existence a definite legislation in the matter of settlement operations. These settlements should not be undertaken haphazardly. Unless such a legislation is introduced no settlements should take place.

Mr. President : The honourable member is merely repeating the same irrelevant arguments and arguments which have been used by other members. I trust he will either keep himself to the point or will sit down. Every member is trying to argue about the details of the settlement, operations and the methods of settlement and the policy of settlement and so on, whereas the point before the House is to allot a sum of money to carry on settlement operations in certain districts.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali (continued in Urdu) : I take my seat with the words that the present system is objectionable, and I, therefore, support the amendment.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, I wish to point out first to the Council exactly what the result of this amendment will be. We have already cut out several items in this grant, and the result of this amendment if it is carried will be to deprive us of all the voted items required for other head-quarters establishment under the head Survey and Settlement. That is to say, if this amendment is passed, we shall either have to do the whole of these settlements with the non-voted amount of Rs. 59,000 and odd or else we shall have to abandon these settlements altogether unless means can be devised or some action is taken to restore the grant.

Mr. President : Supposing the Government cannot use the non-voted sums and wish to convert them into money for establishment, they will

have to come up even then with a supplementary grant for transferring it to voted heads.

Mr. C. M. King : I thank you, Sir, for enabling me to make my point clear. I did not mean to suggest that any portion of the voted item should be used for non-voted purposes. My point was that with the establishment already existing as part of the general land revenue establishment of the Province paid out of the voted item we might be able to carry on the work. It will be very badly done, and it will take an enormous time if ever done, but it is just conceivable that it might be done. I do not for one minute contemplate that it will be done, but it is possible.

The other alternative will be to do away also with this voted item and to have no headquarters establishment at all. It will follow from that that the whole of the amount allowed for Survey and Settlement this next voted item below will go out also. Now, Sir, I understand that there are two main grounds on which this particular item has been opposed. Those main grounds were made clear by my friend, Malik Firoz Khan, and also to some extent by my friend Sayad Mubammad Husain. One ground is the ground of economy and the other ground is the ground of policy. I will take the ground of economy first. Supposing that we do away with the whole of this Settlement Department. You will save over 6½ lakhs, but what will be the ultimate result? These settlements are going on in eight distinct districts of the Province, and as far as we have been able to estimate in seven, certainly six and possibly seven, we shall have a very considerable increase. In one district alluded to by my friend Malik Firoz Khan, the Sargodha District, there are two tahsils of that district, the assessment of which has just been announced and where there has been a very considerable increase. The result then of stopping your settlements at once at one blow as is contemplated, I won't say contemplated, but as will be the inevitable result, if this proposal is carried and means not found to meet the expenditure in other ways, the inevitable result will be that the whole of that increase which you can legitimately hope for must go. That is to say, the whole of the money that you have hitherto spent on this settlement, *i.e.*, about, Rs. 6,35,000 per annum and some other settlements which have been going on for the last two or three years, say, 18 lakhs of rupees, or 15 lakhs or even 10 lakhs, all that is wasted. You cannot get that back. That was expended in the hope that you will have a new assessment. That money is now lost for ever. That point has got to be realised. So much for the economy that will result if you adopt this amendment in its entirety.

Sir, my friend Malik Firoz Khan Noon was careful to point out that that really was not his object. I made a point of obtaining your ruling as to what was intended because I wanted to be quite sure that I should be able to follow the arguments of Malik Firoz Khan in support of the amendment that he was supporting. He said that his real object in opposing it was a matter of policy. He opposed this grant not because he wanted any economy, he opposed it because he wanted to draw attention to the fact that Government had undertaken to bring in a Land Revenue Amendment Bill, and although that undertaking was given as long ago as two or three years nothing had yet been done. From this Malik Firoz Khan drew conclusions and had suspicions that Government does not intend to bring in that legislation. I can say that his suspicions are unjustified. Government has said that it will legislate in a certain direction, and as soon as it gets the permission of the

[Mr. C. M. King.]

Government of India it will take steps in that direction. As members are aware, the matter of land revenue is a reserved subject, and without the approval of the Government of India we cannot proceed with this legislation to the satisfaction of this Council. Therefore we have applied to the Government of India for permission to bring in this Bill and as yet we have not obtained the final orders of the Government of India. Until those final orders are obtained it is impossible for us to bring in this Bill.

Sir, Malik Firoz Khan desires to visit upon the Punjab Government the sins of the Government of India. He strongly objects to the action of the Government which he thinks is delaying this legislation and therefore visits his resentment upon the Punjab Government by refusing this grant. I will go further into this matter. Supposing the grant is refused, I ask my friend Sayad Muhammad Husain and my friend Malik Firoz Khan definitely do they really intend that the grant shall be refused, and that Government shall accept that position and close down these settlements? Did they really mean when they moved this grant that it should be refused? What is the intention of Sayad Muhammad Husain and Malik Firoz Khan? Do they really wish to press Government into obtaining His Excellency's certification, or do they just wish to draw attention very forcibly and then take steps to withdraw this amendment? I sincerely hope that this latter is their intention, and that they do not wish to join hands with a party which is bent upon making Government impossible and to wreck the Reforms?

Khan Bahadar Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : That is far from our intention.

Mr. C. M. King : I am very glad to have obtained that disclaimer, and I hope that when Chaudhri Shahab-ud-din and his friends come to vote on this subject they will refuse to vote for the amendment which will force Government probably into taking action which is and must always be repugnant to Government which desires to carry out the Reforms in the spirit in which they are intended.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Is there no time limit fixed?

Mr. President : No.

Sardar Jodh Singh : This business has to be finished in two days.

Mr. President : I cannot help that. There is no Standing Order under which I can stop a member from speaking except when he is irrelevant or out of order.

Mr. C. M. King (continued) : Sir, I have spoken generally so far on the matter before the House. I find it a little difficult to deal with all the various arguments used by some of the speakers, because if I should attempt to meet them, I should inevitably go beyond the bounds of this motion. But I feel I must correct some wrong impressions which have been formed apparently by Chaudhri Fazl Ali, who has some idea that in our settlements it is usual for us to take a fractional share of the gross produce for our revenue demands. Any one, who has studied our land revenue methods must know that we never take in the Punjab a fractional share of the gross produce, but we do take a fractional share of the net produce, the net profit accruing to the owner of the land. In order to know what that net produce

is, the rough and ready way is to fix half the share that the land-owner takes from his tenants. Therefore it is wrong to say that we take one-fourth or one-fifth or one-tenth of the gross produce. Our rule is to take a fraction of the owner's share, which might be one-quarter or one-fifth and sometimes is one-third in the wealthy parts of the Punjab like the Colonies. I may also point out that although that is the maximum limit, I can think of no case in which we have approached that mark. In all settlements we have gone very much lower than that; so much is this the case that it was possible for the Government Members to agree with the proposals brought forward by non-official members to reduce this standard from half in the net profits to one-third, and in all settlement that are taking place and have taken place recently we have never gone beyond that limit. That is the position so far as this point is concerned.

Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din has divided all settlements into three classes, those in which no increase will result, those in which the result will be the same as before, and those in which they will be increased. He has at once ruled out the first two classes as being classes in which settlements are quite unnecessary, and he has proceeded to attack the third on the ground that no increase should be made without the consent of the people whose assessments are to be enhanced. Sir, if that is really the object of Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din, his object is not at all that of the Government which is that the conditions of each district or tract should be examined periodically and carefully with a view not only to enhance the assessment but also to see whether the assessment presses too heavily as between the villagers of any tahsil and also whether it is too heavy for the tract compared with others. Some scoffers have said that the Punjab Government always enhances the assessment, and there is no case in which the revenue of individual villages has been reduced. There are cases in which the revenue of individual villages has been reduced. But apart from that I may say that I have a case with me in which a suggestion has been made which I hope will be approved by the Government, that the revenue of a whole tahsil should be reduced. That is done, Sir, because in comparing that particular tahsil with other tahsils a little to the north which are in another district and which are better off, it was felt that the tahsil was over-assessed. That, Sir, I hope will satisfy those who think that the object of settlement is to increase the assessment. Our main object is to distribute the burden evenly among the people of the same area and also among the people throughout the province. And it is in order to do that that we have adopted this system of periodical assessment. I may tell the House that land tax is not peculiar to India alone. It exists in France, Germany, Italy and England. But unfortunately for those countries they have never kept up the theory which underlies land revenue that the ultimate owner is the State. In India we have far more nearly approached that theory, and as a result of that we are sure of distributing the burden evenly over the people. In France, Germany and Italy the reverse is the case, with the result that the assessments made some 50, 60 or 70 years ago, are now working quite unjustly. If a permanent assessment had been made in this province the result would have been quite unjust because you would have the wealthiest part getting off very lightly while the poorer part, the parts to which my friend Mr. Pohap Singh belongs, Gurgaon, Rohtak, Hissar, etc., would have been burdened far beyond a reasonable limit.

[Mr. C. M. King.]

I do not wish to trouble the House any further. I will go back to my original proposition. I can assure my friends the zamindar members of this House who have made a protest, that that Bill has not yet been abandoned. We have not the intention of dropping it altogether. We will bring it in at the first possible opportunity. I therefore ask for this grant. (Cheers).

Lala Bodh Raj: 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. King's speech was being translated when Mr. King went out of the Council Chamber.)

Sayad Muhammad Husain: I should like to point out that when a member's speech is being translated, the member should remain in the Chamber, otherwise his speech is not to be translated.

Mr. President: That was the rule in Mr. Butler's time. I don't propose to observe that. I will allow the translation to go on, but I will send a message to the honourable member in question that he should return.

Mr. President: I have already made some remarks on the nature of this peculiar amendment. Some honourable members seem to support it on the ground of economy, some on the ground that they object to Government's settlement policy and some on both grounds. I hope the House will establish a practice in future. If there is a desire on the part of honourable members to criticise the policy of the Government or to ventilate their grievances, they will adopt the usual procedure of moving to reduce the grant by some nominal amount. Supposing such a convention had existed we should have two amendments, one to cut out the whole grant on the ground of economy and another amendment proposing a nominal reduction on the ground that somebody wanted to air his grievances or criticise the policy of the Government. Then it would have been possible to get a clear vote on the two distinct points, one of policy and the other of economy. That is all I have to say.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration.....

Mir Maqbool Mahmood [Amritsar, Muhammadan (Rural)]: Sir, will it be possible for the honourable member in charge to undertake this economy next year?

Mr. President: I am afraid the honourable member is too late. I have started to put the question.

Grant under consideration: amendment moved:

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,70,240 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,78,110—Survey and settlement—Other headquarters establishment. (5-C—Land Revenue).

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided: Ayes 41, Noes 22.

AYES 41.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.
 Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
 Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr Shah
 Mir Maqbool Mahmood.
 Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
 Sayad Hussain Shah.
 Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
 Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
 Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
 M. Haibat Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
 Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
 Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan.
 Sardar Naram Singh.
 Sardar Jodh Singh.
 Sardar Tara Singh.
 Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.
 Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
 M. Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
 Chaudhri Afzal Haq.

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
 Sardar Har Chand Singh.
 Sardar Partab Singh.
 Sardar Buta Singh.
 Lieut. Malik Muzaffar Khan.
 Captain Muntaz Muhammad Khan,
 Tiwana.
 Sayad Muhammad Husain.
 Pandit Nanak Chand.
 Dr. Gokal Chand. Narang.
 Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
 Lala Sham Lal.
 Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
 Lala Bodh Raj.
 Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
 Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
 Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
 Diwan Narinjan Das.
 Chaudhri Duli Chand.
 Chaudhri Ram Singh.
 Chaudhri Kesar Singh.

NOES 22.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
 Lieut.-Col. E. L. Ward.
 Mr. E. R. Abbott.
 Mr. C. M. King.
 Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
 Mr. E. A. Scott.
 Sir George Anderson.
 Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
 The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chaudhri
 Lal Chand.
 The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian
 Fazl-i-Husain.
 The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar
 Sundar Singh, Majithia.

The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
 Mr. A. Latifi.
 Mr. Miles Irving.
 Mr. D. J. Boyd.
 Mr. H. D. Craik.
 Dr. C. A. Owen.
 Lieut.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
 Mr. J. Goldstream.
 Sardar Jawahir Singh.
 Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhau-
 dari.
 Mr. V. F. Gray.

The motion was carried.

The Council then adjourned till two of the clock on Monday, the 10th of March 1924.

PRINTED BY
THE SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNMENT PRINTING PUNJAB.
288 PLC-495-16-3-24-SGPP Lahore.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

2ND SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, the 10th March 1924.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR REDUCTION OF GRANTS.

Mr. President: A vast number of motions for reductions of grants are being received, and for the most part they reach the office only just in time to comply with a liberal interpretation of the two days' rule. This entails a great strain on the office, as these motions have to be typed out as quickly as possible and sent out to the departments concerned, and then they have to be arranged in proper order and printed. The office in consequence has been working till very late hours of the night, and there is danger of a breakdown. Apart from the strain on the office, I think the Heads of Departments would much prefer longer notice. I would appeal therefore to honourable members intending to send in further motions to do so as soon as possible.

SITTINGS OF THE COUNCIL.

Mr. President: I have to announce that the hour of the sitting fixed for the 14th will be changed; either to the morning of the 14th from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. or else it will be held at the usual hour but on Saturday the 15th.

I should like further to warn members now that all the remaining Government business, other than demands for grants, will probably not be got through on Monday, the 24th instant. In that case the Council will sit also on Tuesday, the 25th.

DISCUSSION OF GOVERNMENT'S DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

LAND REVENUE GRANT—(concluded).

Mr. President: We will now continue the discussion of the Government demand for the grant relating to Land Revenue that is to say, the discussion of Sayad Muhammad Husain's motion to reduce the grant of Rs. 4,52,900. Before we proceed to discuss this, I should like to point out to the Council that as it includes all the items, everything that is to be said must be said on this motion. Supposing this motion is lost, then the various motions to reduce specific items will come under discussion but no further speeches will be allowed as I shall assume that everything that had to be said has been said. All I shall allow is that the Financial Commissioner should just state in a word or two what a particular item refers to. It will be almost impossible for him to state them all now in such a way that the Council could remember them.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan), (Rural)] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 4,52,900 with respect to the item of Rs. 4,52,900—Survey and Settlement Parties (5-C—Land Revenue)."

(Urdu) : Sir, my reasons for moving the above amendment are just the same as were given the other day during the discussion on the settlement question. The present amendment also closely relates to the same question, hence I request the House to accept it.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 4,52,900 with respect to the item of Rs. 4,52,900—Survey and Settlement Parties (5-C—Land Revenue)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan [Attock (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, the matter has already been fully discussed. If there had been a motion for nominal reduction before the House I would have asked the House not to vote for the total omission of this sum but to vote in favour of a nominal reduction with the object of indicating to Government that the Council is against the existing policy of assessment. Since there is no motion for a nominal reduction I am compelled to request the House to cut down the grant *in toto*.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : On a point of order, Sir, I am not quite clear what my friend Sayad Muhammad Husain means by saying that it is exactly the same point as he took up with regard to the item of Rs. 1,78,100. On that occasion we argued the question of principle. Am I to take it that I have got to argue the question of principle or will that be ruled out of order? Are we only arguing the question from the point of economy?

Sayad Muhammad Husain : My argument is that the same arguments apply to this grant as the ones to the previous grant. I move this reduction from the point of principle as well as of economy.

Mr. C. M. King : Sir, the question of principle has already been discussed by the Council and I think that we cannot go again into the question of principle.

Mr. President : I do not think that it will be in order to go into the question of principle again. We have already discussed that question on Friday, and I think the members should confine themselves as to whether these particular settlements are necessary or not.

Mr. C. M. King : Then I understand, Sir, that the only arguments I have got to meet are those on the ground of economy, whether it is desirable to cut out the whole of this grant or not.

Mr. President : In view of the fact that we have discussed the question of principle before, I think you should confine yourself to the necessity of these particular settlements.

Mr. C. M. King : The amendment before the House is that the whole of the sub-head of Survey and Settlement parties amounting to Rs. 4,52,900 should be cut out. On the question of principle which is, I understand, the main reason why these amendments *en bloc* have been brought, I am precluded by your ruling, Sir, from making any remarks. Therefore I have to confine myself to the various items with respect to which the demand is being made and more particularly to those items with respect to which

amendments have been moved. Sir, I understand from your remarks at the beginning of your ruling that I shall be permitted very briefly to explain the reasons of the items with respect to which reductions have been moved in case this Council does not accept this amendment.

Mr. President: So that the Council can understand what the item refers to.

Mr. C. M. King: Yes, Sir, that is what I intended to convey. I must therefore at this stage deal with all these questions in as full detail as possible, leaving to myself only the possibility of explaining very briefly what the various items deal with as we go on.

Sir, as I have not to argue this question on a point of principle I take up at once the question of economy. What economy will result by the refusal of this Council to grant Government this sum of Rs. 4,52,000? Obviously this amount will be saved. That is on the credit side of this amendment. What do you get on the debit side? We have in progress at the present moment eight settlements throughout the province. These settlements have been going on for periods varying from four years to six or eight months. A great deal of money has been already spent in enquiries, in preparations connected with these settlements. I am not in a position to give this Council any accurate figures as to the actual amounts spent, but assuming that we spent four lakhs of rupees on an average in each year on these items the actual expenditure would come to say 12 lakhs. These 12 lakhs have been spent with a certain object and for certain reasons. By giving up the present demand of four-and-a-half lakhs of rupees that object and those reasons will be washed out almost entirely. When we started each one of these settlements we started on the understanding in most cases after complete consideration of the forecast reports that the revised assessment of these settlements would be a very paying proposition. (A voice: What about Attock?) About Attock I am not in a position to say anything definite at present. I can only say that the forecast that we had before us for consideration pointed to the possibility of an increase in the assessment there also.

Well, Sir, what will happen if we stop these assessments from the 1st of April next? Obviously we shall not have completed these enquiries which would have led to our imposing enhanced assessments. Obviously therefore we shall not be in a position to take from each of these settlements those enhancements which the forecast reports showed might justly and reasonably be taken. We shall have spent 12 lakhs of rupees and we shall not be able to get one penny of return that we hope would come from this large expenditure. Therefore it will not be wrong if, as I said, we put four lakhs and odd on the credit side of the account that we should put on the debit side 12 lakhs of rupees because all the money we have spent will be wasted.

Not only that. We will have to put on the debit side what we might reasonably have expected from the enhancements. What those enhancements will amount to I am not in a position to say at present, but I think I will be within the mark in saying that they should amount to not less than 8 or 9 lakhs of rupees per annum at the very lowest estimate. Thus if we are not given these Rs. 4,52,000 we will not only lose in cash 12 lakhs that we have already spent, but we will lose at the very lowest estimate about 8 or 9 lakhs per annum. Where is the justification for that? So much, Sir, on the general question.

[Mr. C. M. King.]

Sir, I am afraid I shall have to weary this Council by a discussion of some of the various amendments that follow which although they deal with petty items, are items for which we have provided after carefully examining them and which we cannot do without. I can assure this Council that in the preparation of this Budget very great care has been taken to secure economy. We cannot do with anything less than what we have provided for the next year, if we are to work properly and successfully.

It has fallen to me to go into the various items and explain the reasons why the amendments in each case should be rejected. I am afraid that if I take even one minute for each of the amendments as there are 63 amendments I shall have to take a good deal of the time of the Council. I don't know whether all the amendments will be considered or whether any of them will be withdrawn.

Lala Bedh Raj: I withdraw my amendment, Sir.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : May I suggest, Sir, that the amendments may be discussed when they are actually taken up?

Mr. President : The point is this. The present amendment covers all the other amendments under this head, and therefore this is the proper time for discussing them.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : But they have not been moved.

Mr. President : The amendments are obviously relevant under this sub-grant, and so discussion on them is relevant whether they have been moved or not. Further, the present motion asks that the whole sub-grant and thus every item in that sub-grant should be cut out.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Supposing some of the amendments are not moved at all.

Mr. President : There is a demand for the grant and the present amendment proposes to cut it out.

Mr. C. M. King : If any member proposes to withdraw any amendment he will do well to intimate his withdrawal in time, so that I may touch very lightly on it.

Mr. President : I think the Financial Commissioner has misunderstood the point. It is not so much the minor amendments that are under discussion. It is the principal amendment.

Mr. C. M. King : May I assume that granting this reduction of Rs. 4,52,000 falls through, there will be no objection to the other amendments being proposed?

Mr. President : That is so.

Mr. C. M. King : My point is to save the time of the Council. Instead of taking all the items I shall omit all those about which amendment are not to be moved. It is only with respect to the items about which there are amendments that explanation is necessary and I propose to give explanation with regard to those items only.

Mr. President : Quite true. But it will be in order to discuss each item although in the case of those to which amendments have been moved it may be unnecessary because if the motion is lost, these items will not come before the House again.

Mr. C. M. King : Then, Sir, I proceed to the discussion of those items with respect to which amendments have been moved, and I start with

the item of Rs. 65,860 which is mentioned on page 67 of the Budget—Temporary Establishment. With respect to this item my friend Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram has proposed an amendment reducing it by Rs. 25,000.

This temporary establishment of Patwaris and others is used in all settlements and is engaged in all the settlements to speed up the work of the settlement. The effect of having this temporary establishment is very greatly to reduce overhead charges. It can be well understood that unless we have extra hands to do this work we may have to continue our settlement for a very much longer time than would be necessary if we are permitted to have this establishment. Therefore we have this extra charge of Rs. 65,860. After all when this amount is divided among 8 settlements, it only comes to a little more than Rs. 8,000 per settlement and surely this cannot be said to be excessive. The alternative to having this temporary establishment would be to increase fairly considerably, in the same proportion of course, the permanent establishment in all the districts. The result of increasing the permanent establishment in all the districts would be very much more expensive than this temporary establishment for which we are now asking. I am afraid that the reduction proposed by my honourable friend is one that we cannot possibly accept or ask the House to accept. If the temporary establishment is cut down in that way, you will do so at the expense of keeping on the settlements for a much longer time than they would otherwise take and the result would be a greater expense in the long run.

The next item with which I wish to deal is one with respect to which my honourable friend Lala Sewak Ram has moved a reduction of Rs. 10,000. This sum of Rs. 28,690 is for servants and it will be found on page 67 of the Budget. Here again, Sir, there is the greatest necessity for these people. They are the peons appointed for the naib-tahsildars and tahsildars and out of this amount are also paid the *kanungos* who are the extra hands employed in settlement and we cannot reduce this number, without reducing the number of tahsildars and naib-tahsildars. If you do that, we again get the same result. We shall in the long run have to pay more for our settlement.

I come now to an item moved by Diwan Narinjan Das. It is for a reduction of Rs. 1,33,520 with respect to Rs. 2,58,520 which is the sum total of the pay of this establishment. My honourable friend wants to reduce it by more than half the amount. I am not in a position to say on what grounds my honourable friend proposes that reduction but I have already given the reasons why that reduction should not be made.

Diwan Narinjan Das [Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Division, North (Non-Muhammadan) Rural]: It is a matter of principle and not of economy.

Mr. President: The honourable member was going to move it on grounds of principle and not of economy.

Mr. C. M. King: Is it the same principle as applies to the sum of Rs. 4 lakhs and odd or is it based on some new principle that has emerged for this particular item? On that point I am in the dark and I am afraid this Council has also to be in the dark unless it is subsequently explained in detail by the honourable member himself.

I pass on then, from this question of principle to the amendment of my honourable friend Lala Bodu Raj where he proposes to reduce the sum of Rs. 12,500 for travelling allowances by Rs. 3,500. There seems to be

[Mr. C. M. King.]

a general wish on the part of this House to curtail the amount of travelling allowances throughout the budget. About that, Sir, I can only say this, that unless the travelling allowance rates are reduced, it is quite impossible for us to accept it. I understand—and it has been explained more than once to this Council—that a committee will be appointed to consider this question of rates and when the committee has submitted its report it is possible that some reduction in rates may result; but as long as the rates remain as they are, I am quite unable to suggest that this House should accept these reductions in travelling allowances.

The next two amendments are in the name of Sardar Jodh Singh and Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh with respect to the same items of travelling allowance and they propose to vary the amount slightly. I need not deal further with that point.

Then comes the amendment of my honourable friend Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh who deals with travelling allowances in another aspect. On page 67 of the budget, you will find an item of Rs. 51,500 for fixed travelling allowance and horse allowance. My honourable friend proposes a reduction of Rs. 10,000 with respect to that item. These fixed travelling allowances apply to naib-tahsildars who get Rs. 45 per mensem and to Kanungos who get Rs. 20 per mensem and to peons who get Rs. 3 per mensem. These people are employed exclusively on settlement operations and any one who has had any acquaintance with settlement operations will know and realise that naib-tahsildars and kanungos have to be on the move continuously. It is impossible for them to be on the move continuously and do the work unless they have this travelling allowance to enable them to keep horses. A sum of Rs. 45 for naib-tahsildars—Rs. 1-8-0 a day for the upkeep of the animal and the cost of insurance of the animal and purchase of a new animal if it dies—does not certainly seem to be excessive. We give Rs. 20 for the kanungos, presumably their expenses are somewhat less. The kanungos do not want such an expensive animal. They can probably make some arrangements for its grooming and so on. Twenty rupees for the kanungo, is, I submit, very low. We give Rs. 3 for the peons. The peon has not got to keep a pony: he has to go on his feet and I submit it is not too much to ask that a peon who has to be out for practically thirty days in the month should be paid this small sum of Rs. 3 per mensem in order to cover the extra expenditure to which he is put.

My honourable friend Sardar Jodh Singh also dealt with the question of fixed travelling allowance. I have also explained how the matter stands with regard to this.

The next item is Rs. 25,478 which is also found on page 67 of the budget. My honourable friend Sardar Jodh Singh wants the whole of this sum to be cut out. With respect to this item, I have only to say that it covers the allowance made to mahal patwaris in consequence of the extra work done by them during settlement. We have in every settlement special settlement patwaris and besides these special settlement patwaris, we have the ordinary mahal patwaris who do the ordinary land revenue work. We think it only just that we should pay the mahal patwaris some extra allowance to compensate them for the extra work and the hardness of life to which they have to submit when they are on settlement duty. The mahal patwaris have to do a great deal more in settlement than they would ordinarily do when they are on ordinary land revenue work and I do not think it is excessive to pay them Rs. 2 per mensem for the extra work done by them.

I then turn to the amendment of my honourable friend Lala Bodh Raj who wishes the item of Rs. 4,000 for the purchase of tents to be reduced by Rs. 2,500. In the course of my tours I have satisfied myself that in many cases tents are really necessary for settlement officers. There is a particular settlement in the Jhang District where the settlement officer has to work with tents which are in a very bad condition indeed. The settlement officers more than any other officers have to visit outlying parts in their charges and they cannot do it without tents. They cannot have bungalows even in the best canal areas and it is not fair to ask these settlement officers to risk their lives in going about in leaky tents. Therefore I would ask the House not to cut down this item. The reason why we want Rs. 4,000 and not less is because the price of tents has gone up more considerably in recent years and it is not possible to get tents at as cheap a rate as we were getting before. The price of cotton, I understand, has also gone up and that is one reason why the price of tents has gone up.

My honourable friend Lala Bodh Raj's amendment is to cut down Rs. 4,000 with respect to Rs. 4,000 for the construction of temporary tents. There is a double misprint with regard to this item; it ought to be construction of temporary huts. This item of Rs. 2,000, refers to survey instruments and it ought to be pushed up and the sum of Rs. 4,000 is really the cost of survey marks. The column opposite the words construction of temporary huts is blank. I do not know whether this will satisfy my honourable friend. This sum of Rs. 4,000 is not required for the temporary tents. It is required for the cost of survey marks.

Lala Bodh Raj : What is the amount for the construction of temporary tents ?

Mr. C. M. King : Nothing, we have no temporary tents. Then we come to an amendment to be moved by Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh with respect to an item of Rs. 20,000 to be reduced by Rs. 2,500—Total Supplies and Services. Then there is on page 68 of the Budget an item of Rs. 5,000—Hot and Cold weather charges. Last year the Budget Estimate was Rs. 3,000 and I suppose that my friend Lala Bodh Raj wishes to reduce it to what it was last year. The main reason for this increase is that this year we have got eight settlements instead of five settlements which was the number we had last year. That is the reason of the proportion of about 5 to 8, and that is why we have increased the amount. It works out to about Rs. 60 per settlement per mensem, which is not very much. I have explained certain of these items

Sardar Jodh Singh [(Sikh) Urban], (Urdu) : Sir, I want to draw your attention to the fact that if discussion goes on like this there will absolutely be no possibility of finishing the work before the House as the time fixed for the amendments by His Excellency the Governor would expire by this evening. It stands to reason that some limit must be fixed, otherwise the greater portion of to-day's business will have to be guillotined.

Mr. President : It is open to the honourable members to move the closure at any time.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Then I beg to move—

"That the question be now put."

Mr. President : I cannot accept it at this stage. I think the Honourable the Financial Commissioner is perfectly entitled to continue. It cannot be claimed that the matter has been threshed out. Apart from that there is

[Mr. President.]

no rule for reducing the limit of speeches in the Budget and the only remedy that I see is the closure, but I do not think that this is an appropriate occasion for applying that remedy. The Financial Commissioner won't take long. He has got through most of the items already.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, I draw your attention to the reasonableness of my proposal because if on every amendment under each head one or two hours are taken then the time will soon be finished and all the remaining items will have to be guillotined at the end.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I want to make one or two remarks to clear this point of order. I am aware that an unfortunate impression is being made in this House. This House is under the impression that the Financial Commissioner is speaking at length in order to reduce the time available for the discussion of other items. I wish to remove that impression and I think it can only be done by asking you to reconsider the method of dealing with these matters. At the present moment what is really under discussion is the general question whether these settlements are to be undertaken or continued or not. That is the question under discussion, and I submit, Sir, that it is desirable that speeches should be limited to that point and when it is decided that the settlements are to be continued or not, then comes the time, with due deference to the Chair, for the discussion of a particular item. It is, Sir, if I may venture to say, owing to the ruling of the Chair, that there will be no further opportunity of discussing the individual items at a later stage, it is owing to that fact that the Financial Commissioner finds himself in a position in which he is compelled to go into all the items now. He does not wish to do it and it is very desirable to alter the ruling of the Chair in order to economise the time of the House.

Mr. President : I quite realise that my ruling does lead to a certain waste of time, but I have no doubt that all these items ought to be open for discussion when the whole sub-grant is under discussion. Every item is open to discussion but it is a matter for the convenience of the House and undoubtedly in this particular case where the whole item is proposed to be cut out, I think I shall be meeting the wishes of the House if I do permit these matters to be discussed separately later, if necessary. I will therefore accede to the wishes of the House in that respect and if the Financial Commissioner does not wish to go on now he need not do so. He will have a further opportunity later, if necessary.

Mr. C. M. King : Sir, I thank you for that ruling. It is exactly what I wanted, but I do wish to remove the impression as quickly as possible that I am intending to waste the time of the House.

Sardar Jodh Singh : No, we never thought that.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 4,52,900 with respect to the item of Rs. 4,52,900—Survey and Settlement Parties (5-C—Land Revenue)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided : Ayes 39, Noes 24.

AYES 39.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.

Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr Shah.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood.

Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.

Rai Shahadat Khan.

Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.

Sayad Hussain Shah.

Subedar Major Farman Ali Khan.

AYES 39—concluded.

Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
 Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
 Chaudhri Najib-ud-Din Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
 Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
 Chaudhri Nur Din.
 Sardar Narain Singh.
 Sardar Jodh Singh.
 Sardar Tara Singh.
 Mian Muhammad-Shah Nawaz.
 Sardar Bakhtawar Singh.
 Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
 Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
 Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
 Sardar Har Chand Singh.
 Sardar Partab Singh.

Sardar Buta Singh.
 Lieutenant Malik Muzaffar Khan.
 Captain Malik Mumtaz Muhammad Khan, Tiwana.
 Sayad Muhammad Husain.
 Pandit Nanak Chand.
 Lala Puchi Ram, Sahni.
 Lala Sham Lal.
 Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
 Lala Bodh Raj.
 Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
 Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
 Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.
 Diwan Narinjan Das.
 Rao Pohar Singh.
 Chaudhri Ram Singh.

NOES 24.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
 Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. Ward.
 Mr. E. R. Abbott.
 Mr. C. M. King.
 Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
 Mr. E. A. Scott.
 Sir George Anderson.
 Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. H. Forster.
 The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand.
 The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.
 The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sunder Singh, Majithia.

The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
 Mr. A. Latif.
 Mr. Miles Irving.
 Mr. D. J. Boyd.
 Mr. H. D. Craik.
 Dr. C. A. Owen.
 Lieutenant-Colonel D. M. Davidson.
 Mr. J. Coldstream.
 Sardar Jowahir Singh.
 Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari.
 Mr. V. F. Gray.
 Lala Mohan Lal.
 Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was carried.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] 3 P. M. Sir, I beg to move.

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,755, with respect to the item of Rs. 7,020—Travelling Allowance (5 D.—Land Revenue)."

I need not say anything in support of this amendment.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,755 with respect to the item of Rs. 7,020—Travelling Allowance (5 D.—Land Revenue)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. C. M. King [Financial Commissioner]: I have already explained the position and I do not therefore propose to repeat it.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,755 with respect to the item of Rs. 7,020. Travelling Allowance (5 D.—Land Revenue)."

[Mr. President.]

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided : Ayes 39, Noes 22.

AYES 39.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr Shah.
Mir Maqbool Mahmood.
Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Rai Shahadat Khan.
Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
Sayad Husain Shah.
Sudedar Major Farman Ali Khan.
Lientenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
Chaudhri Najib-ud-Din Khan.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
Chaudhri Nur Din.
Sardar Narain Singh.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.
Sardar Bakhtawar Singh.
Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
Sardar Har Chand Singh.
Sardar Partab Singh.
Sardar Buta Singh.
Lientenant Malik Muzaffar Khan.
Captain Malik Muntaz Muhammad Khan, Tiwana.
Sayad Muhammad Husain.
Pandit Nanak Chand.
Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Lala Sham Lal.
Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.
Diwan Narinjan Das.
Rac Pohap Singh.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.
Chaudhri Kesar Singh.

NOES 22.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. Ward.
Mr. E. R. Abbott.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
Mr. E. A. Scott.
Sir George Anderson.
Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. H. Forster.
The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand.
The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
Mr. A. Latifi.
Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
Dr. C. A. Owen.
Lieutenant-Colonel D. M. Davidson.
Mr. J. Coldstream.
Sardar Jowahir Singh.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : I will again ask the members to speak up when I ask for votes by voice. It would have saved this division if they had been more distinct in raising their voices.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,08,414 with respect to the item of Rs. 24,27,810—Patwari Establishment (5-D—Land Revenue)."

(Urdu) : Sir, the amount on page 70 is a demand for patwaris establishment. I have moved the amendment only for one reason, that is, that if the section (*Ilaga*) of a patwari be extended by $\frac{1}{4}$ th of its present length, it would hardly mean a further addition of one village to his work ; but by doing so we would be able to make a reduction of 3 lakhs in the demand before us.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,03,414 with respect to the item of Rs. 24,27,310—Patwari Establishment (5-D—Land Revenue)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan [Attock (Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, I appeal to the honourable mover of the amendment to withdraw the amendment.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : If my friend will give me reasons for withdrawal I am prepared to withdraw.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon [Shahpur East (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I submit an argument. The mover wants to cut down a sum of 3 lakhs from the original demand for patwaris establishment. Before yielding to the wishes of the honourable mover I would request the House to consult some experienced revenue officers or form a committee of men well-versed in revenue affairs to consider the pros and cons of the situation that will be created after the acceptance of this amendment, otherwise it will be pure folly on our part to reject the demand.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, the arguments that have been advanced by the honourable member who has just sat down go against him as well. The honourable mover has asked us to make a very small reduction and we should not oppose the amendment. I, therefore, lend my support to the amendment.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I did not like to discuss the matter but am compelled to say a word or two in connection with the amendment under debate. I admit that Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram has moved the amendment with good intentions, but I would inform him that efforts are being made to combine the revenue and canal patwaris under one head, which would mean a reduction of one-third of the original demand. The present amendment, if carried, would prove the scheme a failure and thus we will be deprived of a great saving. Therefore, I would respectfully ask the honourable mover to withdraw his amendment.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Sir, I move—

"That the question be now put."

Mr. President : The question is :—

"That the question be now put."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,03,414 with respect to the item of Rs. 24,27,310—Patwaris Establishment (5-D—Land Revenue)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 3,000—Five Assistants to special Kanungos (5-D—Land Revenue)."

Mr. President : Is this a matter of principle at all or is it one of economy? There is no other item exactly corresponding to it in the Budget. If as I think it is made on the ground of economy, I must rule it out of order. It is altogether too petty for the Council to consider.

The amendment was accordingly ruled out.

Lala Bodh Raj: [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 21,938 with respect to the item of Rs. 87,750—Travelling Allowance (5-D—Land Revenue)."

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 21,938 with respect to the item of Rs. 87,750—Travelling Allowance (5-D—Land Revenue)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, this sum of Rs. 87,750 relates to the travelling allowance for patwaris. These patwaris never got travelling allowances until 1921. Honourable members of this House may be aware that there was then a great deal of discontent among the patwaris. In addition to their pay being raised, they demanded that they should be paid some travelling allowance when they left their circles and came to the headquarters of a tahsil and did work there. It was then decided that they should be given a very trifling allowance of four annas per diem. They get four annas a day while they are halting at the tahsil headquarters for special work. That happens once a year. They also get two annas a mile for their journey to the tahsil. We always hear complaints about patwaris; but if we do not pay these men a fair living wage and if we do not provide for their expenses when we summon them to headquarters how can we expect them to be as honest as we should like them to be? I do hope that this Council even if it cuts other items of travelling allowance in pursuance of its general policy of cutting all items by one-fourth, will allow this item to pass. It is really travelling allowance on a very low scale to the most ill-paid servants.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, we would not have at all pressed for this if the grant of allowance to the patwaris had removed the burden referred to from the agriculturists. But as the complaint remains where it was, we are quite helpless. Moreover, travelling allowance is always in some proportion to the pay and is primarily meant for extra expenses incurred while on tour not for the whole expense incurred and as the general prices have fallen down, it is but fair that the rate of travelling allowance be reduced.

In addition to that when we have no guarantee of the patwaris ceasing to have any bribes, by the grant of this travelling allowance, why should we, then, at all sacrifice a principle? I propose this reduction.

Malik Firoz Khan Noon [Shahpur East (Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, I move—

"That the question be now put."

Mr. President : The question is :

"That the question be now put."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 21,938 with respect to the item of Rs. 87,750—Travelling allowance (5-D—Land Revenue)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh Urban] (Urdu): Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 28,997 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,15,990—Horse allowance (5-D—Land Revenue) "

Sir, the House requires no arguments to prove the necessity of this reduction. There should be a general reduction of 25 per cent. in the rates of travelling allowance. Hence, I hope the House will agree to it.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 28,997 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,15,990—Horse allowance (5-D—Land Revenue)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner): I must explain, Sir, that this amount is intended for field kannungos. They have to tour round the villages and they are paid Rs. 20 per mensem for their expenses in keeping a horse.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): May I say one word, Sir? I want to say, Sir, that the principle of making a reduction of 25 per cent. in all items, no matter what the item is which is reduced, is radically wrong. For a man drawing Rs. 40 horse allowance, the House cuts it by 25 per cent. or Rs. 10 and he gets Rs. 30. There is another man who gets Rs. 20. Well, honourable members say, whether it is adequate or not, we are going to apply the arithmetical rule and cut it down by one-fourth. Before the Council does this great piece of illogicality, I would appeal to honourable members to stop and think what the result of proceeding like this must be. Is it not to be considered whether such a principle could be indiscriminately applied? Is there no distinction to be drawn between a man drawing Rs. 40 allowance and another drawing an allowance of Rs. 20 only. I trust it is not too late yet for the Council to awaken to the fact that these cuts must be based on some principle more convincing than that of mere arithmetical uniformity.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Punjab University): Sir, the real reason why it is considered necessary to cut down travelling and other allowances is to be found in the fact that during the last three or four years these allowances have been very largely increased in certain cases.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I rise to a point of order, Sir. That is not relevant to the question under consideration which is merely that of one particular item. That has not been increased in the manner which the honourable member described.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: If the Government would accept the general principle all this trouble would be saved. The prices of commodities have gone down considerably during the last three or four years. But the rates of allowances have been doubled and in some cases trebled. For that reason if for no other the allowances must be cut.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: No, Sir.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: I am speaking on proper authority, Sir.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: No, Sir.

Mr. President: The general rule is that contradictions should always prevail except when the Government is speaking from definite information from papers in their own possession and in that case their assertion must

[Mr. President.]

prevail otherwise when a statement is contradicted, the honourable member must accept.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I have got the figures to substantiate my statement; but unfortunately I have left my note book at home. But I remember the figures. In some cases, I remember the allowance of Rs. 15 was raised to Rs. 22-8-0.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Surely, that is not double.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : That was on the 1st of April 1920.

Mr. H. D. Craik : Quote the name of the allowance?

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Monthly allowance.

Mr. H. D. Craik : Monthly allowance of whom?

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Of certain class of officers.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Reference, Sir?

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : The daily halting allowance was raised in that case.

Mr. President : My ruling is that when a member makes a statement whether he is a Government member or not and if that statement is contradicted, then that contradiction should prevail for the purpose of the debate except in a case where the Government member's assertion is fortified by papers in his possession and he is quoting from information which is available to him but not available to the other honourable member.

Sardar Jodh Singh : 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. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved —

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 28,927 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,15,999 Horse Allowance (S-D—Land Revenue).”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 27,06,566 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 1925 in respect of Land Revenue.”

The motion was carried.

EXCISE GRANT.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I beg to move—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,42,000 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 1925 in respect of Excise.”

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,42,000 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 1925 in respect of Excise."

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 250 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,000—Travelling Allowance (6-A—Excise)."

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 250 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,000—Travelling Allowance (6-A—Excise)."

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : Sir, I accept this particular reduction in the hope that honourable members will see that every effort is being made to effect economy and to meet their wishes where possible.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 250 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,000—Travelling Allowance (6-A—Excise)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 13,770 with respect to the item of Rs. 55,080—Horse Allowance (6-A—Excise)."

Sir, the same principle applies to this amendment as well. I therefore would not take more time in arguing the thing.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 13,770 with respect to the item of Rs. 55,080—Horse Allowance (6-A—Excise)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I have to say just a few words as regards this item. There are at present 29 Excise Officers. The Excise Inspector has to go about from one end of the district to the other and it is not the same as when an officer has a small circle. His jurisdiction is the whole district and therefore he has to keep one extra servant for his horse. So, while considering this item honourable members will see that Rs. 40 is not a large amount considering the circumstances in which the Excise Inspector is placed. He is not like a naib-tahsildar who has a small circle or a Sub-Inspector who has only a sub-section of a tahsil, he has to move about in the whole district and very often at a moment's notice. Sometimes he is in one corner of the district and he has to move to the other. So, under the circumstances honourable members will see that Rs. 40 is not a very large amount. It is hardly sufficient for a horse and they will not agree to a cut so far as this item is concerned.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Will the honourable member kindly give the figures for the last two or three years? Has the travelling allowance been increased or is it the same as it was three years ago?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : This scale was sanctioned in 1919. Formerly there used to be two different scales of rates, one for Inspectors and another for Sub-Inspectors. In 1919 Colonel Powney. Thompson remarked : " Personally I do not see any ground for differentiation in the horse allowance granted to Excise Inspector and that granted to Excise Sub-Inspector as I do not see any material difference between the stomach capacity of the horses held by the two officers." The whole question was therefore gone into very carefully in 1919 and it is since then that the present scale was fixed.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Sir, the honourable member has not given us the figures at which the horse allowance stood in 1919. If he would kindly give us the figures as they stood in 1919 the whole thing will be cleared.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : I find that Inspectors got Rs. 30 in 1919 as horse allowance.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon (Shahpur East (Muhammadan) Rural) : Sir, there seems to be some rather interesting variation in the eating capacity of different horses, because sometimes we find that horse allowance in certain cases is Rs. 50 per month, sometimes Rs. 40 and in others Rs. 30. Be it as it may, I wish to point out that in the Sargodha Colony only Rs. 3 per month appears to be given as horse allowance to horse breeders. I will explain how it is arrived at. The land-holder of the horse-breeding colonies pays two annas per malkana acre and the land-holder of the non-horse breeding colonies, twelve annas per malkana per acre. Thus the horse-breeder gets ten annas per acre which amounts to Rs. 30 or 35 per annum or about Rs. 3 per mensem per animal. When that is the case if we allow Rs. 30 a month to Government servants as horse allowance they should be jolly glad for it.

Mr. E. R. Abbott (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, the honourable member must have his little joke. But the actual facts of the case are not exactly as he describes them. The cost of maintaining the horses was taken into consideration when the grants were made. Horse-breeders were given larger grants than other people and the best land was allotted to them.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 13,770 with respect to the item of Rs. 55,030—Horse Allowance (6-A—Excise)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Tara Singh (Ferozepore (Sikh) Rural) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 16,000—Journeys by rail for Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Excise (6-A—Excise)."

(Urdu) : Sir, only Rs. 14,000 were allowed under this head last year and as an Inspector has very rarely to move out for inspection purposes, it is, therefore, simple that only an equal sum be allowed this year as well.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 16,000—Journeys by rail for Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Excise (6-A—Excise)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Minister for Agriculture): Sir, I have got enquiries made and I find that the sum of Rs. 14,000 will not be sufficient and that Rs. 16,000 is the least sum with which we will be able to carry on the work. Honourable members will remember that in each case this item has to be certified by the Deputy Commissioner as being necessary and there is no chance of their extravagantly throwing away this money. I hope honourable members will accept this explanation and not apply their axe as usual in this case.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 16,000—
Journeys by rail for Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Excise (6-A—Excise)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh) Rural]: Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 17,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 17,000—
Rewards (Additional) (6-A—Excise)”

Sir, the figure under this head for the last year is Rs. 17,000 and I do not see any reason why Rs. 34,000 is provided for this year. In the last session of the Council the provision for rewards was disallowed. For the same reason I commend this amendment for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 17,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 17,000—
Rewards (Additional) (6-A—Excise)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Minister for Agriculture): Sir, this item has come several times before the House and I therefore need not delay the House very long with my explanation. I may, however, just point out that on page 72 of the Budget, honourable members will find that the temporary detective establishment cost about Rs. 8,900 per annum. This system of having a detective staff has been abolished and the new system of rewards has been substituted in its place. It has been found by experience that the system of rewards works better and is more economical than the system of engaging a temporary detective establishment for the whole year. Without the help of informers for whom rewards are meant it is very difficult for one Inspector and one or two Sub-Inspectors to carry on the work of detecting crime in a district. I may give here one instance of the sort of work that is being done by these Inspectors and the amount of illicit distillation that is going on. In the district of Ferozepore in the last month there were sixteen working stills found with 78 mannds of *lakan* in one place and in the district of Jullundur it was found that there were no less than 20 seers of illicit liquor besides *lakan* and other articles all in one place. It is not an easy matter to detect crimes of this nature. All over the province illicit distillation is going on. If honourable members will not sanction this item of rewards it will be necessary probably for Government to come before the Council for an increase in the permanent staff which will mean a much bigger demand. It is in order to keep illicit distillation within proper bounds that this demand for rewards is being made. If the amount asked for is reduced, the consequence will be that we will not be able to offer big rewards and so men of substance will not come forward to give us information of illicit distillation and thus help us in detecting crimes. Consequently there will be so much

[Hon. R. B. Chaudhri Lal Chand.]

loss of revenue as well as increase of illicit distillation and consumption. I hope this explanation will satisfy honourable members and they will not reduce this small demand. The department brings in a revenue of over a crore of rupees and their expenditure is only the minimum. Honourable members will observe also that we are spending much less than Bengal and Bombay. As a matter of fact we are spending 4.48 per cent. of our income from the Excise administration while in Bengal and Bombay it is 7.87 and 9.7 per cent. respectively. I may, therefore, assure the House that the

department is being run most economically and if this reduction is made it will not be conducive to the economical administration of the department.

Sardar Tara Singh: Sir, I beg leave to withdraw the amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab (Towns (Non-Muhammadian) Urban) (Urdn)]: Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs 1,525 with respect to the item of Rs. 15,250—Contract Contingencies (6-A—Excise).”

Sir, I move this amendment as a matter of principle. We have, somehow or other, to make the two ends meet, therefore, I, with due regard to the items of expenditure, and low prices prevalent nowadays, have decided to make a general reduction of 10 per cent. under the head of contingencies which includes all items other than those of establishment and travelling allowance. This will lay a general principle and also save us about 6 lakhs of rupees, in addition to 11 lakhs that will be saved out of travelling allowance.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I rise to a point of order, Sir, Is the honourable member discussing the whole of contingencies or is he discussing the contingencies relating to particular items?

Mr. President: I presume the honourable member is trying to discuss the whole of the question of contingencies. He is not in order in doing so. But if the honourable member in charge of the department has no objection to discussing the contingencies occurring in the whole of the grant, the honourable member Lala Bodh Raj can then discuss them; otherwise I cannot allow him to discuss them.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The reason why it is impossible to accept the principle which the honourable member Lala Bodh Raj proposes is that the word ‘contingencies’ is not used in the same sense throughout the budget. There are certain very large items which are described under the name ‘contingencies’ which are in no sense similar to the ‘contingencies’ which the honourable member has in mind. In particular there are two very large items indeed to which none of the observations are in any way applicable. Under these circumstances it would be dangerous to accept the principle that that which applies to one group would necessarily apply to another. I therefore most strongly protest against the importation of arguments which are not applicable to the particular items which the honourable member is discussing.

Mr. President: There are two or three items of contingencies under this grant. It is for the Honourable Minister to say whether they should be discussed separately.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Minister for Agriculture): Each case should be discussed separately.

Mr. President: The honourable member Lala Bodh Raj will confine himself to this particular item, the item of Rs. 15,250. Anything outside it, is irrelevant.

Lala Bodh Raj (continued in Urdu): Sir, with these few reasons that I have advanced I beg to submit that the amendment be carried; otherwise reduction in our expenditure is impossible. I hope, therefore, that the House will support me.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved:

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,525 with respect to the item of Rs. 15,250—Contract Contingencies (6-A—Excise)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand [Minister for Agriculture] (Urdu): Sir, perhaps, my learned friend has not considered the details before moving his amendment. I am sure, he will reconsider it when I tell him how this sum is to be spent and how economically we spend it. There are about 29 Inspectors and 84 Sub-Inspectors and this sum of Rs. 15,250 when divided over them, means hardly Rs. 10 per head per mensem and this, I believe, he will realise is not a big sum and more so when I tell him that this includes expenses for postage, telegrams, tonga hire for raids made on the reports of illicit distillation, besides hot and cold weather charges and repairs. I, therefore, hope the House will not agree to it.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration. Amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,525 with respect to the item of Rs. 15,250—Contract Contingencies (6-A—Excise)."

The question is that that reduction be made—

(When the division bell was being rung) **Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni** said: I see the Honourable the Minister for Education sitting in the non-official benches. I want to know whether that is allowed.

Mr. President: While the division is actually taking place every member should sit in his own place. This is only for the convenience of the tellers.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education): I have not the least objection to sit in my usual place. I hope my honourable friend Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni, had only the convenience of the tellers in his mind and not anything else.

The Council then divided: Ayes 18; Noes 42.

AYES 18.

Sardar Narain Singh.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Sardar Bakhtawar Singh.
Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
Sardar Partap Singh.
Sardar Buta Singh.

Pandit Nanak Chand.
Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Lala Sham Lal.
Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Lala Diwan Chand.
Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
Diwan Narinjan Das.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.

NOES 42.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
 Lieut.-Col. E. L. Ward.
 Mr. E. R. Abbott.
 Mr. C. M. King.
 Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
 Mr. E. A. Scott.
 Sir George Anderson.
 Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
 The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand.
 The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.
 The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
 The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
 Mr. A. Latifi.
 Mr. Miles Irving.
 Mr. D. J. Boyd.
 Mr. H. D. Craik.
 Dr. C. A. Owen.
 Lieut.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
 Mr. J. Coldstream.
 Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.
 Malik Firoz Khan Noon.

Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr Shah.
 Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
 Mir Maqbool Mahmood.
 Sardar Jawahar Singh.
 Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
 Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
 Rai Shahdat Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
 Sayad Hussain Shah.
 Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
 Lieut. Sirdar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
 Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
 Chaudhri Nur Din.
 Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan.
 Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari.
 Mr. V. F. Gray.
 Lieut. Malik Muzaffar Khan.
 Sayad Muhammad Hussain.
 Rao Pohap Singh.
 Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
 Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh) Rural]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 150 with respect to the item of Rs. 600—Travelling Allowance (6-A—Exoise)."

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 150 with respect to the item of Rs. 600—Travelling Allowance (6-A—Exoise)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh, Urban]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,250 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,000—Travelling Allowance (6-B—Exoise)."

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,250 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,000—Travelling Allowance (6-B—Exoise)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Minister for Agriculture): Sir, I would like to give some information to the House before they are called upon to vote. This particular item was Rs. 9,583 in 1922-23. Now Government are asking for only Rs. 5,000. So honourable members will see that we are doing everything that is possible to reduce these items, and this is the absolute minimum. From Rs. 9,583 in 1922-23 we have come down to Rs. 5,000.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, may I give an explanation? I am not sure whether the Council has realised what the actual position is as regards the rates of travelling allowance. The Finance Department has given an undertaking that it will reinvestigate the question of rates of travelling allowance of all kinds and that it will place the results of the enquiry before the Standing Finance Committee and will consult the Standing Finance Committee. Until that examination has taken place, it is impossible to say that the reduction will be 25 per cent. It is the more impossible to say that it will be 25 per cent. because some of the reductions have already been made. Some members do not realise that some reductions in rates have actually been made already and some remain to be made. In cases in which reduction has already been made, it is not conceivable that there will be yet a further reduction of one-fourth. Therefore if members who recommend these reductions insist on applying the same ratio to everything regardless of whether it is appropriate or not, we are prepared to resist these proposals.

Mr. Earnest Maya Das (Non-Official Nominated) : Sir, may I ask a question? The Honourable the Finance Member has just stated that every necessary reduction will be made after the matter has had due consideration. Sir, I would like to know how that reduction will be adjusted in the Budget afterwards.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I do not think the honourable member understands the financial procedure in the least. He asks how will the change be shown in the Budget if any reduction in the travelling allowance is made? It cannot be shown in the Budget; it will be shown in the expenditure and expenditure is the important thing.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,250, with respect to the item of Rs. 5,000—Travelling Allowance (6-B—Excise)".

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,21,537 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 1925 in respect of Excise."

The motion was carried.

STAMPS GRANT.

Mr. Miles Irving (Financial Secretary) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,000 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 1925 in respect of Stamps."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,000 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 1925 in respect of Stamps."

Mr. Miles Irving : Sir, I am prepared to accept a reduction of Rs. 5,000 in Contract Contingencies and I hope that all amendments relating to that item will not be moved.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 5,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 45,000—Contract Contingencies (7—Stamps).”

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 5,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 45,000—Contract Contingencies (7—Stamps).”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,07,000 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 1925 in respect of Stamps.”

The motion was carried.

FORESTS GRANT.

Mr. E. R. Abbott [Financial Commissioner] : Sir, I beg to move—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,83,000 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 1925 in respect of Forests.”

Mr. President : The question is—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,83,000 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 1925 in respect of Forests.”

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,158 with respect to the item of Rs. 4,680—Total Travelling Allowance. (8-A—Forests).”

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) : Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,158 with respect to the item of Rs. 4,680—Total Travelling Allowance. (8-A—Forests).”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 39,440 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,57,760—Total Travelling Allowance (8-C—Forests).”

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 39,440 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,57,760—Total Travelling Allowance (8-C—Forests).”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) : Sir, I simply want to bring to the notice of the House that the Forest Department has previously reduced the demand as will be observed from the accounts for 1922-23 by nearly 25 per cent. If a further reduction of 25 per cent. is made it will make the working of the

Forest Department practically impossible. They must understand that the Forest Officers have to travel an area of 6,500 square miles and it is not possible to tour round this vast area with the reduced grant. The House must also remember that we have got now a larger number of officers than in the last year. In these circumstances I trust the House will not effect this cut.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, the cut demanded by Sardar Jodh Singh does not mean any reduction in the quantity of travelling. He wants a reduction in the rate of travelling allowance. The House has fully expressed its views on this point and therefore will support the amendment.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Sir, I simply wanted to point out that we had already reduced the figure by 25 per cent. as may be seen from the figures for the previous years.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : Sir, my point was that the rate of travelling allowance should be reduced. If there has been a universal cut of this sort, the Forest Department should have no objection.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The House must also realise that we have a larger number of men this year than before.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : Sir, we want only that the Forest Department must have its share in the matter of reduction of rates of travelling allowance just as the other Departments have had.

Mr. A. D. Blascheck [Chief Conservator of Forests] : Sir, I should like to explain that we have had very great difficulty in cutting our tours by 25 per cent. during the current year. Since 1922-23 we have got a larger number of Imperial and Provincial service officers and rangers. The present proposal to reduce the grant by 25 per cent. does not appear to take this fact into consideration. It would be false economy to effect this reduction and expect the forest officers to do their work from their office table.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 39,440 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,57,760—
Total Travelling Allowance (S-C—Forests)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 9,012 with respect to the item of Rs. 90,120—
Establishment Contingencies (S-C—Forests)."

(Some voices : Withdraw the amendment). Sir, in view of the wishes of some of the members I do not move the amendment.

Mr. President : But you have moved it.

Lala Bodh Raj : I beg leave to withdraw.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, part of my amendment has been carried, and I therefore leave it to Sardar Jodh Singh to move his amendment for a reduction of one lakh.

Mr. President : If Sardar Jodh Singh moves for a reduction of one lakh it will effect a further reduction of Rs. 59,000 and odd.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : Sir, out of the total grant a sum of Rs. 39,440 for travelling allowance has been reduced. Therefore an amendment for a further reduction can be moved.

Mr. President : Sardar Jodh Singh's amendment does not come to that exactly.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : Then, I move, Sir,

(A voice : Give it up.)

Mr. President : Does that honourable member wish to move his amendment. If so, he must move for a reduction of Rs. 98,827.

Sayad Muhammad Hussain : Very well, Sir, I beg to move—

"That the total grant be reduced by a further sum of Rs. 98,827".

Sir, my reason for this is this. It has been practically decided in the Retrenchment Committee that the department is to be run in the ratio of 10 income to 7 expenditure, that is, if the department brings in a revenue of Rs. 10 it can spend Rs. 7. I submit, Sir, that with the exception of Bengal, other provinces are spending less and getting more income from this head. That is one reason for this lump reduction.

The second point is that this ratio has been arrived at after debiting certain amount towards capital expenditure. If I am wrong, I hope the honourable member-in-charge of the department will correct me. Now, Sir, it is said that no income out of the interest has been shown towards the revenue side. If the department were to convince me that interest on the income which has been debited towards capital expenditure has been shown in the revenue, I think I will be convinced and then I shall ask for permission to withdraw my amendment. If the Government is unable to show that the ratio which was arrived at by the department in consultation with the Retrenchment Committee cannot hold good here, I cannot withdraw the amendment. Under the circumstances, I want, an explanation under this head.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved.

"That the total grant be reduced by a further sum of Rs. 98,827."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. E. B. Abbott (Financial Commissioner) : As regards the honourable mover's first reason for asking for a further lump reduction in the demand which has been made under the head of Forests, I need only bring to the notice of the House that the Retrenchment Committee whose report was signed by gentlemen of such different political opinions as Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz, Lala Manohar Lal, Raja Narendra Nath, Mr. Ganpat Rai and Sayad Muhammad Husain, agreed upon the following arrangement being made in regard to the ratio of expenditure and income in the Forest Department. The ratio was to be one of 7:10 and in this '7' interest charges on all capital expenditure 'up-to-date' was to be included. 'Up-to-date' in that report meant from the time when the new arrangement came into force. This was in the nature of a compromise, but I may point out to the House that it is an exceedingly satisfactory one for the Province. The proportion of 7:10 actually gives to the Province after defraying interest charges at $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the total outlay for the year, an amount which is equal to 36 per cent. on that outlay. It was for this reason that the Retrenchment Committee accepted this ratio. It is a good working basis and it is exceedingly profitable to the Government. The other reason [that the honourable member, as I understood him, gave

for asking for a lump reduction was that in the budget no allowance has been made for interest charges on capital up-to-date. If honourable members will look at the budget for income, they will find that the income is put in at Rs. 42,68,000 and seventy per cent. on that amount is Rs. 29,87,600.

Mr. President : If the honourable members would stop talking, I shall be much obliged. If they have any business, they can whisper to their neighbours. They must not carry on loud talking or it becomes impossible to conduct the business of the House.

Mr. E. R. Abbott : As a matter of fact the budget is for Rs. 29,86,000. The difference of Rs. 1,600 is more than sufficient to cover the interest charges on the item of capital expenditure of Rs. 13,000 included in Demand IV under the head 52-A. That is to say, in framing this budget, the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee have been accepted and incorporated in the proposals placed before the House. Whether it was the honourable member's intention that interest charges on previous expenditure also should have been deducted from this 70 per cent. accepted by the Retrenchment Committee, I am not quite sure. But in case it was his intention that some interest should have been deducted on account of previous capital expenditure, I wish to explain to the House that in the 15 years up to 1914-15, in each year not only did the forest department repay to Government the average sum of Rs. 9,43,000 per annum expended on the department, but they also gave to the Government a surplus which yielded $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest on that total expenditure and in addition 53 per cent. provided on that expenditure. It will be seen that in those years therefore there was no actual capital expenditure on which an interest charge ought now to be deducted from the 70 per cent. which has been accepted by the Retrenchment Committee on the rates of expenditure. In the eight years which have expired since 1914-15, the results have not been so satisfactory. But still they are such that the forest department need not in the least degree be ashamed of them. In the last eight years, after repaying the expenditure of each year, the surplus which the forest department has handed over to the Government is enough to pay the interest charges on the total amount spent during the year and also has given Government in addition to that, some 16 per cent. pure profit. Therefore I think the House will agree, that, when the Retrenchment Committee recommended that in future the 70 per cent. of income included in the budget should include interest charges on all capital expenditure up-to-date, it did, as I who was a member of the Retrenchment Committee know, mean that this account should be begun from the time at which this recommendation was made and that no previous capital expenditure in fact exists upon which interest has to be taken in a reduction of the amount of current expenditure to be budgetted each year. With this explanation I trust that the honourable member will be satisfied and will not press for a further reduction being made.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : I am convinced by the speech of the honourable member and I therefore beg leave to withdraw my motion.

Mr. President : Is it the pleasure of the House to allow the honourable member to withdraw his motion ?

Leave was refused and so the further discussion on the motion was continued.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, the object that the House has in view is the reduction in expen-

[Lala Bodh Raj]

diture. The reduction of 1 lakh demanded stands in a very small proportion of 1 : 26 of the total expenditure under the head "Forests."

It has been argued that the income and expenditure from the Forest Department is, as suggested by the Retrenchment Committee, in the proportion of 10 : 7. No doubt it was so suggested, but I may tell the House, Sir, that, while suggesting this proportion, the Committee was guided by the consideration that the income from this department would increase if the expenditure incurred under this head was raised. But that has not been the case. The Forest Department has shown results below expectation. In support of my statement I would like to give, with your permission, Sir, a concrete example of a Company.

Mr. Abbott : I understand the honourable member to say that the income budgetted for under the Forest head is not sufficiently high. The amendment before the House is as to whether the expenditure is too high. The honourable member is therefore not in order in referring to the income.

Mr. President : Will the honourable member Lala Bodh Raj explain how he is in order in referring to the income of the Forest Department.

Lala Bodh Raj (continued). The income and expenditure as suggested by the Retrenchment Committee is in the proportion of 10 : 7. We have to see whether the income stands at a higher figure than we have budgetted for. We have to see whether the ratio stands at 12 : 7 or 11 : 7. I was explaining to the House that the income may stand at a higher figure.

Mr. President : The honourable member is certainly not in order in trying to show that the real income is more than what is shown in the Budget.

Lala Bodh Raj (Urdu) : Sir, we have to see as to how we can possibly effect cuts in the different items of expenditure. Last year the Chief Conservator of Forests, I learn, recommended to the Government that the posts of two Conservators of Forests be brought under reduction.

Mr. Abbott : Is the honourable member in order in discussing a non-votable item ?

Mr. President : I am not able to hear what the honourable member Lala Bodh Raj is saying as he is directing his voice away from the chair.

Lala Bodh Raj (continued) Urdu : Sir, I was trying to show that it is quite possible to reduce the expenditure budgetted under the head Forests by one lakh of rupees. It is quite possible if the Government could be made to act up to the recommendation made last year in regard to the reduction of the posts of two Conservators.

Mr. President : The honourable member is out of order in trying to use voted items to bring pressure to bear indirectly on non-voted items.

Lala Bodh Raj (continued) Urdu. No, Sir, I never meant to discuss or reduce any non-votable item. I was simply arguing that it is the business of the Government to see as to where reduction is possible, and if the Chief Conservator had made certain recommendations, they ought to have been carried out.

Mr. President : As far as I understand the honourable member's argument, he implied that a large sum of money is being spent in the Forest Department, some of which is in connection with the Chief Conservator of Forests and Conservators. The honourable member thinks that as a result of a cut in this grant the Government may be able to reduce the amount or the total

amount that they spend on the Forest Department whether by cutting down the voted items or non-voted items. If that is his argument, he is certainly out of order.

Lala Bodh Raj (continued) (Urdu). Sir, what I mean to imply by my arguments is that it is only one-twenty-sixth of the whole demand that we are anxious to cut down; and if it has been possible to make cuts under other heads, I see no reason why the Forest Department should not contribute its share towards general reduction.

Sardar Jodh Singh [(Sikh) Urban] (Urdu): Sir, I rise simply to say that it is unnecessary to press the amendment moved by the honourable member **Sayad Muhammad Hussain** any further, for we have been convinced that the object the amendment had in view is already being realised and that we are getting interest on capital expenditure. Besides the mover himself is prepared to withdraw his amendment. I, therefore, submit, Sir, that **Sayad Muhammad Hussain** be allowed to withdraw his amendment.

5 P. M.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz [Lahore (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I feel that some of the honourable members are labouring under a misunderstanding as to the proportion of income and expenditure, suggested by the Retrenchment Committee, and it is to remove that misunderstanding that I have considered it necessary to say a few words.

I may tell you gentlemen, that I have had the honour of being one of the members of that Committee which suggested the proportion. Before we were able to make such a suggestion, we took care to examine the figures in the other provinces which are more advanced in this direction. We found that in one of these provinces the profits accruing from the Forest Department were equal to one per cent. against 99 per cent. expenditure. In Behar and Orissa the profits and expenditure stood at the ratio of 20 : 80, while in Bengal the proportion was found to be 40 : 60.

It was after the consideration of these figures and the possibilities in our own province that we concluded that if 70 lakhs of rupees had been spent in the Forest Department, we could expect an income of one crore of rupees.

And although the profits have not been exactly as much as we expected, the Forest Department yielded 11 lakhs on an expenditure of 26 lakhs of rupees last year, and with the expenditure, we now expect an income of Rs. 12 lakhs and some thousands.

There are possibilities and if we expend to explore them we are sure to get much profits, but if we reduce the expenditure, we cannot hope to run this department at a great profit.

Lala Mohan Lal: Sir, I want to know whether the income from the lease of land given to cultivators in the Montgomery, Lahore and Multan Districts is included and if it is included what is the amount of that income?

Mr. Blascheck: Is the honourable member entitled to ask about income?

Mr. President: The point is this that the whole argument is proceeding on this line that the expenditure should bear the ratio of 7 : 10 of income and the honourable member is now asking whether a particular item, lease of land, is included in the income or not.

Mr. A. D. Blascheck (Chief Conservator of Forests): The revenue from land leased out by the Forest Department is included, but I cannot

[Mr. A. D. Blascheck.]

answer the question as to how much it is, without notice. It seems to me that to reopen that question reopens the whole question of the proportion of 10 : 7. Surely members of this Council do not imagine that every Rs. 7 that the Forest Department spends produces Rs. 10. We are forming new plantations and we spend large amounts on them. These may not give us any income for 10 or 20 or 30 years. Then there are large quantities of cheap timber firewood in the forests. Does this House wish to let that cheap timber firewood rot in the forest rather than to bring it out and sell it to the poor people of this province?

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Sir, I move—

“That the question be now put.”

Mr. President : The question is—

“That the question be now put.”

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the total grant be reduced by a further sum of Rs. 98,827.”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : The question is—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,42,402 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 1925 in respect of Forests.”

The motion was carried.

REGISTRATION GRANT.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, I beg to move—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,000 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 1925 in respect of Registration.”

Mr. President : The question is—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,000 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 1925 in respect of Registration.”

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,380 with respect to the item of Rs. 10,140—Sub-Registrars (P.A.—Registration).”

In moving this amendment, Sir, I may say that a step has already been taken in this direction inasmuch as certain posts of Sub-Registrars were brought under reduction last year, and the registration work for these localities was transferred to the Tahsildars. It is satisfactory to find that we have since received no complaints from the people of these places where the change has been introduced, and if similar change is introduced in some other places, we will be making further and sure savings in our expenditure.

If it is contended that the work of the Tahsildars will accumulate if they are made to perform this extra duty, I would say that since the separation of the Income-tax and Excise Departments the Tahsildars have been relieved of the Income-tax and Excise work, and if in their stead they are required to do this light work of Registration, I think they will not grudge. We should, therefore, welcome the reduction in the expenditure as proposed by my amendment.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,330 with respect to the item of Rs. 10,140—Sub-Registrars. (9-A.—Registration.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) (Urdu) : Sir, I doubt if the honourable mover has had any experience of getting documents registered. It is not possible to do away with Sub-Registrars without putting the public to a great deal of inconvenience.

Besides, the perusal of the Memorandum will show that we have already given effect to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee as far as it was possible and the posts of Sub-Registrars have been reduced in places where the number of documents registered used to be less than 500 a year. No further reduction is possible in this direction especially when I am told by some of the honourable members present here that the people are already suffering a good deal of hardship where the change has been introduced.

Malik Firoz Khan. Noon : Sir, I move—

"That the question be now put."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That the question be now put."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,330 with respect to the item of Rs. 10,140—Sub-Registrars. (9-A.—Registration.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] : Sir, I beg to move —

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 58 with respect to the item of Rs. 225—Travelling Allowances. (9-A.—Registration.)"

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 58 with respect to the item of Rs. 225—Travelling Allowances. (9-A.—Registration.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) (Urdu) : Sir, in order that I may also be able to contribute my share in general relation that is being effected in the House to-day I made enquiries with a view to ascertaining whether the Sub-Registrars were gaining anything, out of the travelling allowances set apart for them, but I was disappointed to find that the sum of Rs. 225 represented total expenditure that the Sub-Registrars nearly 90 in number might receive during the whole year.

[The Honourable A. B. Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

It is not worth bothering about and the amendment should be withdrawn or rejected.

Lala Bodh Raj : Sir, I beg leave to withdraw.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadian) Urban] : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 30,947 with respect to the item of Rs. 92,840—Commission to Sub-Registrars (9-A.—Registration.)”

Sir, if the House is not prepared to make any reductions in the posts of Sub-Registrars.....

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : A sufficient reduction has already been effected.

Lala Bodh Raj (continued) (Urdu : I would request the members to make cuts in the Commission given to Sub-Registrars.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 30,947 with respect to the item of Rs. 92,840—Commission to Sub-Registrars. (9-A.—Registration.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Sir, as has already been said, the reduction has been made in this department to the extent to which it was possible.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadian) Urban], (Urdu) : Sir, the Honourable Minister for Education has said that it is not possible to effect any further reductions by way of reducing the commission allowed to Sub-Registrars.

In this connection I may point out that the posts of Sub-Registrars are more or less honorary, like that of the Honorary Magistrates. The Sub-Registrars are generally retired officers of the Government whom it is desired simply to patronize, and they are invariably men of means and their posts are not meant to be a source of livelihood. If they are offered less by way of commission or remuneration, I doubt if they will ever grumble. Under the circumstances I do not understand why the Honourable Minister for Education should object to any reduction in the rate of commission.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 30,947 with respect to the item of Rs. 92,840—Commission to Sub-Registrars. (9-A.—Registration.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided; Ayes 14; Noes 38.

AYES 14.

Sardar Tara Singh.
Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Chaudhari Afzal Haq.
Pandit Nanak Chand.
Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.
Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Lala Sham Lal.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Lala Diwan Chand.
Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
Diwan Narinjan Das.
Lala Mohan Lal.

NOES 38.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
 Lieut.-Colonel E. L. Ward.
 Mr. E. R. Abbott.
 Mr. C. M. King.
 Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
 Mr. E. A. Scott.
 Sir George Anderson.
 Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
 The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chaudhri
 Lal Chand.
 The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian
 Fazl-i-Husain.
 The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar
 Sundar Singh, Majithia.
 The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
 Mr. A. Latifi.
 Mr. Miles Irving.
 Mr. D. J. Boyd.
 Mr. H. D. Craik.
 Lieut.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
 Mr. J. Coldstream.
 Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-
 Din.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
 Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr
 Shah.
 Mir Maqbool Mahmood.
 Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
 Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
 Rai Shuhadat Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
 Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
 Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
 Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
 Chaudhri Nur Din.
 Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali
 Khan.
 Mr. V. F. Gray.
 Lieut. Malik Muzaffar Khan.
 Captain Malik Mumtaz Muhammad
 Khan, Tiwana.
 Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah.
 Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
 Rao Pobap Singh.
 Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : The question is—

“That a sum of Rs. 1,12,000 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 1925 in respect of Registration.”

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION GRANT.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,58,41,000 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 1925 in respect of Irrigation.”

Mr. President : The question is—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,58,41,000 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 1925 in respect of Irrigation.”

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh), Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 52,61,151—Maintenance and Repairs. (XIII (1) (b)—Irrigation.)”

Sir, I beg to submit that prices have gone down and labour comparatively cheap and the department too is so flexible that in the interests of economy this reduction can safely be effected.

Therefore I move this amendment.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000 with respect to the item Rs. 52,61,151—Maintenance and Repairs. (XII (1) (b) —Irrigation.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia [Revenue Member] (Urdu): Sir, before I make any remarks as to the reduction demanded with respect to the item of Rs. 52,61,151—Maintenance and Repairs, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the figures of the last three years under the very same item. From an examination of these figures it will appear that the average expenditure per year incurred under this head amounted to Rs. 61,12,264, while the demand that is being made now amounts to Rs. 52,61,151, meaning thereby that the Canal Department has already curtailed the expenditure by about 10 lakhs of rupees.

Now if any of the honourable members has cared to know about this department, he will have seen that there are 10 different canals running at present and this amount of Rs. 52,61,151 is to be distributed over these 10 canals in order to meet the maintenance and repair charges. The amount is already too small and if, as desired, a further cut of 2 lakhs of rupees is made, I cannot imagine what difficulties the department will run into and how much inconvenience the public, the irrigators, will be put to.

It is an admitted fact that most of the income of the Government and the welfare of the people of this Province depends upon the existence of properly working canals, and if a sufficient amount is not set apart for the maintenance and repairs of these canals, the result will be that their working efficiency will decrease. And if the efficiency will decrease, the income too will go down. I would, therefore, submit, Sir, that we will have missed the mark if we accept the proposed reduction.

And if after all the proposed reduction is accepted, the necessary repairs will have to be postponed to the next financial year. In that case this amount of money will be demanded again in addition to the expenses for that year and if the House then agrees to it, as it must owing to the urgency of demand, I think it will be following an unsound principle—a principle of bad economy.

To keep the canals in proper working order is, as essential as the food is for keeping the body and soul together and as it is I would ask the House to reject this amendment.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari (Non-official, Nominated): Sir, I have been very patiently listening to all the speeches on the amendment and I think some discrimination should be made as regards more important items. I shall only say a few words on the point. As far as the consideration of the budget is concerned, we should always bear in mind that when an item for the next year is proposed to be written off, we should consider the amount budgeted for in the previous year. If there is a substantial reduction from the amount budgeted for in the previous year, I think cogent reasons must be given by a mover for further reduction. The only reason assigned by my honourable friend Sardar Tara Singh is that labour has become cheap. But has he gone into the question whether the difference in the cost of labour would cover the amount of Rs. 2 lakhs which is the reduction proposed by him? I think he has not taken the point into consideration. Even if the cheapness of labour referred to by my honourable friend is taken into consideration still we

can fairly say that Rs. 52,61,151 covers the amount of wages and reduction in the labour. Therefore I submit that this reduction should not be supported by the House.

Sayad Muhammad Hussain [Montgomery (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, it is not my opinion, but the opinion of the responsible heads of the country that the Canal (and perhaps Education Department too) is the only department by which this poor country can prosper and improve, and if any drastic reduction is proposed in this Department, it will greatly affect the economic state of the country.

All will admit that it is due to the Canals that waste lands have come under cultivation and so many people have found employment and easy living on new *Mandis* having come into existence. If we find to-day the people of this province a little well off, it is because so many canals are working well.

I wish that reduction be made in rates and the contractors be not allowed to earn high profits, but if any reduction is made in the maintenance of the canals, it would merely mean the suffering of the general public, and especially of those whose lands are situated at the tails of the Canals. Besides the Government will suffer loss as they had to suffer on the occasion of the breach of the canal near Renala Khurd. The Canal Department in that case had to pay a good deal of compensation to the people and the zamindars had to wait for one month before they could get water for their crops.

I would therefore, submit, Sir, that reasonable cuts may be effected, but no drastic reduction be made under this head.

Sardar Tara Singh : I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 6,250 with respect to the item of Rs. 25,000—Travelling Allowance. (XIII (1) (c)—Irrigation.”

As the House has already agreed to the principle of cutting by 25 per cent., I request the same principle may be observed in this department also.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 6,250 with respect to the item of Rs. 25,000—Travelling Allowance. (XIII (1) (c)—Irrigation.”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 5,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 20,000—Hill Journeys and Hill Allowances. (XIII (1) (c)—Irrigation.”

The same principle may be observed here also.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 5,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 20,000—Hill Journeys and Hill Allowances. (XIII (1) (c)—Irrigation.”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) (Urdu) : Sir, my honourable friend is, perhaps, of opinion that if certain remarks apply in the case of travelling allowances, those remarks are equally applicable to hill allowances. Had my honourable friend known that the establishment that accompanies the Chief Engineer to the hill is indispensable and that reduction in the strength of that establishment has already been effected to the extent to which it was possible, he would have hesitated to move the amendment.

I think it will not be out of place to mention that attempt is made to take up only those clerks who are single and who do not take their families with them although I can not assure my honourable friend that it is invariably the practice observed in the case of all clerks.

The reduction recently effected combined with the fact that only those clerks are to go who are single has brought about a saving of Rs. 20,000, which is, in my opinion, the maximum saving that could be effected.

And if it is still demanded that further reduction be made in the item of hill allowances I may tell this House that it will greatly impair the work of this department. With a smaller establishment the Chief Engineer would not be able to carry on the work quite satisfactorily in the hills.

Sardar Tara Singh : He may keep on to the plains.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The work would not go on. The Government requires the Chief Engineer to be there near at hand for consultation.

Besides it is feared that those who are accustomed to go to the hills may fall ill if they are made to remain in the plains. The Government will then have to pay leave allowances and consequently the expenditure will increase rather than decrease. Therefore I oppose the amendment.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari : May I ask what were the actuals under the head in 1922-23 ?

Mr. Miles Irving : The Accountant-General would have to spend a great deal of money if he gave actuals for these sub-heads. He gives actuals for the primary units and that is generally regarded as sufficient.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 5,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 20,000, Hill Journeys and Hill Allowances. (XIII (1) (c)—Irrigation.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Tara Singh [Perosapore (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 9,825 with respect to the item of Rs. 38,500 Travelling Allowance. (XIII (1) (c)—Irrigation.)"

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 9,825 with respect to the item of Rs. 38,500 Travelling Allowance. (XIII (1) (c)—Irrigation.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) (Urdu) : Sir, I should not have attempted to speak on any of the amendments because I find that the House has made up its mind to carry through all the amendments and because they are not prepared to listen to any reasonable arguments. But I consider it my duty to let the

House know what the consequences will be if the travelling allowances of the Superintending and Executive Engineers are reduced. As already explained these officers will not be able to go about on tour and thus properly supervise the work of their subordinates which is, to all intents and purposes, undesirable.

With these few words I ask that the amendment be rejected.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 9,625 with respect to the item of Rs. 33,500—Travelling Allowance. (XIII (1) (c)—Irrigation.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,02,299 with respect to the item of Rs. 8,11,197—Total Travelling Allowance. (XIII (c)—Irrigation.)”

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) (Urdu) : Sir, my honourable friend wishes the Government to reduce the travelling allowances of the Chief Engineers, but perhaps he does not realise that by this reduction, the Chief Engineers would not be able to tour and properly supervise the work of the subordinates working under them. They will be compelled to confine themselves to the four walls of their office rooms. The result will be, I think, not conducive to the efficient working of the Department which I presume no member of the House would like to see brought about. Besides the proposal is already on foot to reduce the rate of travelling allowances and unless and until a decision is arrived at, I do not think it would be wise to propose any reductions in travelling allowances. I, therefore, ask that the amendment be rejected.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,02,299 with respect to the item of Rs. 8,11,197, Total Travelling Allowance. (XIII (c)—Irrigation.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided : Ayes 29, Noes 28.

AYES 29.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-
nd-Din.

Malik Feroz Khan, Noon.

Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr
Shah.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood.

Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.

Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.

Lient. Sardar Sikandar Hayat
Khan.

Sardar Narain Singh.

Sardar Jodh Singh.

Sardar Tara Singh.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.

Sardar Bakhtawar Singh.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq.

Rana Feroz-ud-Din Khan.

Sardar Partap Singh.

Captain Malik Mumtaz Muhammad
Khan, Tiwana.

Sayad Muhammad Rana Shah.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.

Lala Sham Lal.

Captain Dhan Raj Bhassin.

Lala Bodh Raj.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.

Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.

Rao Pohap Singh.

Chaudhri Kesar Singh.

NOTE 28.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
 Lieut.-Col. E. L. Ward.
 Mr. E. R. Abbott.
 Mr. C. M. King.
 Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
 Mr. E. A. Scott.
 Sir George Anderson.
 Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
 The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chaudhri
 Lal Chand.
 The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian
 Fazl-i-Husain.
 The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur
 Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
 The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
 Mr. A. Latif.

Mr. Miles Irving.
 Mr. D. J. Boyd.
 Mr. H. D. Craik.
 Lt.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
 Mr. J. Coldstream.
 Sardar Jowahir Singh.
 Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
 Sayad Hussain Shah.
 Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
 Chaudhri Nur Din.
 Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das,
 Bhandari.
 Mr. V. F. Gray.
 Lieut. Malik Muzaffar Khan.
 M. E. Maya Das.

The motion was carried.

Mr President : The question is—

"That a sum of Rs. 3,58,32,326 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 1925 in respect of Irrigation."

The Council then divided ; Ayes : 41 ; Noes : 12.

AYES 41.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
 Lieut.-Col. E. L. Ward.
 Mr. E. R. Abbott.
 Mr. C. M. King.
 Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
 Mr. E. A. Scott.
 Sir George Anderson.
 Lieut.-Col. W. H. C. Forster.
 The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chau-
 dhri Lal Chand.
 The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian
 Fazl-i-Husain.
 The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sar-
 dar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
 The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
 Mr. A. Latif.
 Mr. Miles Irving.
 Mr. D. J. Boyd.
 Mr. H. D. Craik.
 Lieut.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
 Mr. J. Coldstream.
 Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-
 ud-Din.
 Malik Feroz Khan, Noon.

Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr
 Shah.
 Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
 Mir Maqbool Mahmood.
 Sardar Jowahir Singh,
 Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
 Sayad Hussain Shah.
 Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
 Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat
 Khan.
 Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
 Chaudhri Noor Din.
 Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhan-
 dari.
 Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.
 Sardar Bakhtawar Singh.
 Mr. V. F. Gray.
 Lieut. Malik Muzaffar Khan.
 Sayad Muhammad Hussain.
 Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
 Rao Pohap Singh.
 Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
 Mr. N. Maya Das.

NOMES 12.

M. Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
 Chandhri Afzal Haq.
 Rana Feroz-ud-Din Khan.
 Sardar Parbat Singh.
 Dr. Gokul Chand, Narain.
 Lala Buxlal Ram, Sabni.

Lala Sham Lal.
 Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
 Lala Bodh Raj.
 Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
 Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
 Lala Mohan Lal.

The motion was carried.

GRANT FOR INTEREST ON ORDINARY DEBT.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 80,000 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 1925 in respect of interest on Ordinary Debt."

The motion was carried.

The Council then adjourned till two o'clock on Tuesday, the 11th March 1924.

PRINTED BY THE
SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRINTING, PUNJAB.
291 PLC-425-19-3-24-SGPP. Lahore.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

2ND SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 11th March 1924.

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

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORTS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEES.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard [Finance Member] : Sir, I beg to present to the House the reports of the Select Committees on—

The Court-Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill.

The Stamp (Punjab Amendment) Bill.

GOVERNMENT DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (RESERVED) GRANT.

Mr. H. D. Craik [Chief Secretary] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 84,14,000 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 1925 in respect of General Administration (Reserved)."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 84,14,000 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 1925 in respect of General Administration (Reserved)."

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh), Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,525 with respect to the item of Rs. 10,100—Travelling Allowance—Staff of the Governor (22-A (a)—General Administration)."

In moving this amendment I do not want to make a long speech. The principle was accepted by the House yesterday that the travelling allowances should be cut by 25 per cent., and I hope that on the same principle the House would accept this amendment.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,525 with respect to the item of Rs. 10,100—Travelling allowance—Staff of the Governor (22-A (a)—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. H. D. Craik [Chief Secretary] : Sir, I am afraid I cannot accept this amendment. The grant on account of travelling allowance on page 123 of the budget is for the personal staff that accompanies His Excellency the Governor on tour, and I think the House will admit that it is only reasonable that when His Excellency tours he should be accompanied by such of the members of his personal staff as are absolutely necessary and indispensable. These officers and clerks are entitled to travelling allowance under the ordinary rules. So long as these rates are in force, they are bound to be

[Mr. H. D. Craik.]

paid at those rates. The total amount budgetted for is Rs. 10,100, and it is based on a very careful survey of the actual figures in the past. Unless the tours of His Excellency are reduced—which I think will be against the wishes of most of the members of this House, for that was a point debated last year and the feeling of the House was that His Excellency's tours should not be reduced—it is impossible to make any reduction in this grant. The only item at all which can be said to be of a special nature in this grant is the sum of Rs. 2,500, which is noted under the travelling allowance of the retiring Governor. That is the usual allowance which the retiring Governor is entitled to draw on retirement and represents the cost of his journey in a special saloon to Bombay. It also represents the cost of the new Governor's journey from Bombay to the Punjab. I hope the House will accept this explanation as sufficient and not press the amendment.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh, Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, It has been stated quite a number of times in this House that it is not our wish to reduce the amount of touring by any officer. We want only a reduction in the rates of travelling allowance; but by that we should not be understood to mean that we want those officers whose travelling allowance we have reduced to sit in their offices without touring. We, therefore, want a general reduction of one-fourth in the rates of travelling allowance.

Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan [Attock (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, my submission is that the total expenses of His Excellency are less than a third of the net revenue of our province, which is very low as compared to the rulers of the Native States. I, therefore, request the House to sanction no reduction in any of the demands of His Excellency the Governor.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, His Excellency the Governor's demands ought to be safe from this axe of general reduction. The House is quite at liberty to lay this axe anywhere and everywhere they please, but His Excellency the Governor's demands should be met without any hesitation. I, therefore, submit that this amendment should be rejected.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard [Finance Member] : There is one point of great importance to which I should like to draw the attention of the House and it is this. Practically the whole of this item is on account of railway travelling and railway fares. We have already reduced by 25 per cent. the travelling allowance which is admissible on account of railway travelling. Therefore that particular process which the honourable member wants to undertake has actually been undergone in respect of this item.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood [Amritsar (Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, the Governor represents His Majesty the King in our constitution, and constitutional etiquette and decency demand that the King should be placed above all party consideration. I hope the constitutional gracefulness of the Council Chamber and of the honourable members will prevail upon the House to vote unanimously for the amount asked for, for Governor's tour charges. When further we realise that the Governor is retiring, it is doubly necessary from the point of view of courtesy and good grace that we should pass all the items under this demand.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain [Minister for Education] (Urdu) : Sir, I am going to speak only to translate the speech of

Sir John Maynard. Sardar Jodh Singh has proposed to reduce the travelling expenses by 25 per cent. in their rates. I would like to know 25 per cent. of which rates? I have obtained some useful information from the Financial Department which, though it does not concern this particular item, has its bearing upon most of other travelling allowance items. I, therefore, claim the attention of the House for a few minutes. As far as the journeys by rail are concerned, first class officers used to receive double first class before 1920, and the first class officers for this purpose were those who drew more than Rs. 500 a month.

The first class level was raised to Rs. 600 per mensem. Thus a reduction was effected in the expenses, though the rates remained unchanged. But since October 1923 only those officers have been considered entitled to a double first class travelling expenses who draw Rs. 750 per mensem or above. In addition to this reduction they are now not entitled to a double first class fare, but to a $1\frac{1}{2}$ first class fare. This means a reduction of 20 per cent. But, is it the wish of the House that a further reduction of 25 per cent. be made in this already reduced rate of travelling allowance? This would mean only 65 per cent. of the former one.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,525 with respect to the item of Rs. 10,100—Travelling Allowance—Staff of the Governor (22-A (a)—General Administration."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh), Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 4,000—Hill Journey and Hill Allowance—Staff of the Governor (22-A (a)—General Administration)."

Sir, in the Budget we find that the actuals for 1922-23 were Rs. 2,129, and I do not see why we should have Rs. 4,000 this year. I hope that a reduction of Rs. 1,000 will be accepted by the Council.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 4,000—Hill Journey and Hill Allowances—Staff of the Governor (22-A (a)—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. H. D. Craik [Chief Secretary] : I am sorry, Sir, I was not able to catch what the honourable mover was saying. I do not know what grounds he advanced for reducing this item. (A voice : He said that the grant for this year should not be more than that for 1922-23.) Sir, this amount of Rs. 4,000 represents the whole allowance which is paid to the clerical members of His Excellency the Governor's staff who accompany him to Simla. They are clerks who are part of the Civil Secretariat establishment and they are entitled to draw allowance during their stay at Simla at the same rates as are given to clerks of the Civil Secretariat. This allowance amounts to between 40 and 50 per cent. of their pay during the months of their stay in Simla, and in the same way the menial establishment, chaprasis, and so on, are given one-third of their pay as a special hill allowance. As the House appears to be satisfied as to the justification for this item, I won't waste more of their time.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das Bhandari [Non-official nominated] : Sir, I have a word to say. We have to vindicate our right to bring in

[B. B. Sir Gopal Das Bhandari.]

amendments to certain items, but at the same time, as I submitted yesterday, discretion is the best part of valour and we should take into consideration whether we are laying our finger on the right item. I hope that the honourable mover will kindly consider again whether discretion really shows that such amendments relating to the allowances of the staff of His Excellency the Governor ought to be moved.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 4,000—Hill Journey and Hill Allowance—Staff of the Governor (22-A (a)—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh) (Rural)] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 15,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 85,000—Total Tour Expenses (22-A (c)—General Administration)."

My reasons are the same as already advanced.

Mr. President : I wish the honourable mover could manage to speak a little more clearly. I cannot hear him, and I do not think that Mr. Craik could hear him.

Sardar Tara Singh : Nor can I hear anyone. It is the same thing with me.

Mr. President : I cannot hear you. I think I will ask Sardar Jodh Singh to move the amendments in future in cases where identical amendments stand in both names. Will Sardar Jodh Singh move this amendment?

Sardar Jodh Singh : [(Sikh) Urban] : I will repeat what Sardar Tara Singh has said. He said that his arguments are the same as before, that the actual expenses during 1922-23 were Rs. 65,600.

Mr. H. D. Craik [Chief Secretary] : I do not think any lengthy explanation is required any more than on the previous items. I need only explain that the reason of the increase is that the railways have increased their charges for the haulage of His Excellency's special train from Rs. 3 per mile to Rs. 5 per mile.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 15,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 85,000. Total Tour Expenses (22-A (c)—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh, Urban] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 500 with respect to the item of Rs. 6,500.—Total Executive Council voted (22-A (d).—General Administration)."

Sir, the Executive Council have already reduced their travelling allowance by one-fourth by budgetting Rs. 6,500 instead of Rs. 8,000 which ought to be Rs. 6,000. So I am simply moving for a reduction of Rs. 500.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 500 with respect to the item of Rs. 6,500.—Total Executive Council voted (22-A (d)—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard [Finance Member] : Sir, I should like to repeat what I have already explained to the Council in regard to another item. Almost the whole of this sum on account of travelling allowance of myself and my colleagues is railway travelling allowance. Most of it is the actual charge which is made for having a special carriage. If we do by any chance buy our own tickets, we are entitled to draw not the original rate of double first class but the reduced rate of $1\frac{2}{3}$, that is to say, we have already made that reduction which the Council desires to be made.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, in the light of this explanation, I would beg to withdraw.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh, Urban) : Sir, I beg to move—

" That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,000—Temporary Establishment—Legislative Council (22-B—General Administration). "

I find that there is enough permanent staff and I hope that Government will be able to give us this little slice. I need not make a long speech.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

" That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,000—Temporary Establishment—Legislative Council (22-B—General Administration). "

The question is that that reduction be made.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : May I ask, Sir, for what purpose this sum is required ? Because if there is any good reason for keeping it, the honourable mover might withdraw it.

Mr. H. D. Craik : [Chief Secretary] : Sir, temporary establishment has to be entertained during the Council session only in order to cope with the rush of work that is caused to the Council office. The permanent staff of the Council office consists only of four clerks, and it is impossible for these clerks to carry on immediately before and during the Council session when they are overwhelmed with hundreds of questions and amendments. It is a much more economical arrangement to engage temporary establishment during those few weeks of rush.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, I beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh, Urban] : Sir, I beg to move—

" That the grant be reduced by Rs. 19,980 with respect to the item of Rs. 78,820—Travelling and Daily Allowance of Members, Legislative Council (22-B—General Administration). "

I need not say anything on it. I am moving it on the same principle as before.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

" That the grant be reduced by Rs. 19,980 with respect to the item of Rs. 78,820—Travelling and Daily Allowance of Members, Legislative Council (22-B—General Administration). "

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain [Minister for Education] (Urdu) : Sir, I would like to know what part of this item do they propose to reduce. Is it Sardar Jodh Singh's wish that the travel-

[Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

ling allowance of the members be reduced, or does he want the halting allowance to be reduced? This item is composed of two different parts—one the travelling allowance and the other the halting allowance. What part of this item, then, is required to be cut.

Sardar Jodh Singh: I cannot answer this question, because the two parts have not been defined in this item. The travelling allowance of the members should be reduced according to the reduction made in the travelling allowance of other first class officers.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (continued in Urdu): Are you satisfied with the reduction made in October last? Now, the members will not get double first class, they will be having only 1½ first class since October 1923.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Urdu): Sir, my submission is that a similar reduction as made in the travelling allowance of first class officers be made in our allowance as well. We are anxious for a reduction in the rates of travelling allowance. We would have proposed a reduction in the travelling allowance only if any differentiation had been made in the total sum.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (continued in Urdu): Sir, I am sorry that a digression had to be made from the usual manner of debate in the House, in order to elucidate certain facts. I want the House to say if they want officers to make no tours.....

Mr. President: This is a question of travelling allowance not of officers, but of the members of the Legislative Council.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (continued in Urdu): Yes, Sir, this travelling allowance relates to the members alone. From the discussion which has just taken place between Sardar Jodh Singh and myself it is obvious that he wants the members to have the same travelling allowance as first class officers; it was, therefore, necessary to explain to the House in detail the actual facts about the travelling allowance. After October 1923 it has already been reduced to 1½ first class. I, therefore, hope that the House will not accept further reduction.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (non-Muhammadan) Urban] (Urdu): Sir, as has been stated, we are now allowed, under the rules 1½ first class as railway fare and Rs. 15 *per diem* as halting allowance. But according to this cut of 25 per cent. we shall be allowed 1½ first class on account of travelling allowance and Rs. 11-4-0 *per diem* as halting allowance.

As true representatives of the people we are reducing the travelling allowance of the officers by 25 per cent. We shall be setting an example to the outside public and to the members on the official benches that we are moving the amendment with a spirit of economy and with no other spirit. The members should not reject this amendment simply because it affects them. The members will be strengthening the hands of the Government to reduce the rates of travelling allowance, if they accept this amendment.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, we meant to have a reduction of 25 per cent. in the rates of travelling allowance. But the Government did not agree to it. We, therefore, had to resort to cutting each item separately. But, how could we keep ourselves safe from this general reduction. We, therefore, propose an equal reduction in our travelling allowances as well and leave the manner of doing that to the Government.

As to the question of Mian Fazl-i-Husain we would draw travelling allowance equal to a first class officer.

Sir, I submit that by proposing this reduction in our travelling allowance we have strengthened the hands of the Government, for after our accepting this reduction the officers will have to follow suit. I, therefore, support the amendment.

Malik Feroz, Khan Noon [Shahpur East (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, the members have decided to make a reduction of 25 per cent. in all the items of travelling allowance, for they are determined to reduce the rates of such allowance. It is just possible that we are not in the know of the whole thing, because we do not possess the same knowledge of facts and figures as the Government does, but the only remedy for that is to satisfy the House by forming a Committee of a few leading members who take interest in this thing to revise the rates of travelling officers. We do not mean that the officers should not tour, but we do want to force the Government to reduce the rates of allowance.

Lala Mohan Lal [North East Towns (non-Muhammadan) Urban] (Urdu): I submit Sir, that we should accept this reduction in our travelling expenses without the least hitch, for then and then only can we press upon the officers to reduce theirs. I, therefore, request the House with all the force at my command to accept this amendment.

Mr. Miles Irving rose to speak when he was interrupted.

Sardar Jodh Singh: Sir, I beg to point out that the Government has no right of reply.

Mr. President: The honourable member has not spoken yet.

Mr. Miles Irving: [Financial Secretary] (Urdu): Sir, the proposal for the appointment of a Committee to go into the question of travelling allowance is really a very useful one and the Government is already considering this question of reducing the rates, when it will be presented to the Finance Committee. Any other such proposal also will have the most sympathetic consideration of the Government.

I hope the House will accept our promise of presenting this question of travelling allowances to the Finance Committee in the month of April.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 19,980 with respect to the item of Rs. 78,820—Travelling and Daily Allowance of Members, Legislative Council (22-B.—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Jodh Singh: Sir, there seems to be some mistake in printing my next amendment. The figure must be 300 instead of 600. May I correct my amendment before moving it?

Mr. President: Certainly, if it is a misprint.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh, Urban]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 800 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,200—Hill Journey and Hill Allowance—Legislative Council (22-B.—General Administration)."

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 300 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,200—Hill Journey and Hill Allowances—Legislative Council (22-B—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. H. D. Craik [Chief Secretary] : Sir, I accept the reduction.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 300 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,200—Hill Journey and Hill Allowances—Legislative Council (22-B—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh, Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,081 with respect to the item of Rs. 10,810—Total Contingencies—Legislative Council (22-B—General Administration)."

Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to the last year's original grant which amounted to Rs. 10,000. Contingencies consist of books, periodicals and other miscellanies, in which I have proposed a reduction of 10 per cent. only. I, therefore, hope the House will accept it.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,081 with respect to item of Rs. 10,810—Total Contingencies—Legislative Council (22-B—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon [Shahpur East (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I regret I differ from the honourable mover of this amendment. In the year 1922-23 the grant for this head was Rs. 15,416, in 1923-24 it was Rs. 12,000, and this year it stands at Rs. 10,810 which evidently shows a great reduction and economy in the expenses of this department. The demands which this sum has to meet consist of periodicals, books, fans, uniforms for the menials, and sundry other little items. In view of this, I hope the House will not oppose this item.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh, Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, I think now, that this office has had some experience, they will be in a position to make some further reduction in their expenses. Moreover, the general prices of things have now fallen down. Again, there are a few items on which a very lavish expenditure has been incurred. There are two big items of Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 6,000 which I think could be easily reduced. I, therefore, insist upon this reduction.

Mr. H. D. Craik : On a point of order. Is the honourable member in order in making a second speech?

Mr. President : Occasionally in matters of budget for the purposes of explanation a member is allowed to speak twice.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (non-Muhammadan) Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, this item consists of a big sum of Rs. 6,990. We do not know what is this sum meant for when every other item of expenditure has been provided for. It is, therefore, not a difficult thing to cut Rs. 1,000 out of a sum of Rs. 10,810.

Mr. H. D. Craik [Chief Secretary] : Sir, I oppose this amendment, and I do it with more confidence because I personally have nothing to do with the expenditure. I saw the explanation furnished to me about the Council office as regards their contingent expenditure, and I am astonished at their moderation. I think the Council office is run with great economy. They have actually made a reduction of Rs. 1,190 since last year in spite of the fact that the Secretariat insisted on their paying Rs. 800 as their share of charges for electric lights and fans which they were not paying before. So in fact there has been a curtailment of expenditure to the extent of practically Rs. 2,000. It was a small grant of Rs. 12,000 and one-sixth of that amount has been curtailed already. Considering the way in which the Council work has increased I think that is most creditable to the office. I hope honourable members will realise the debt they owe to the Council office for catering to their convenience. The Punjab Legislative Council is run on cheaper and more economical lines than any other Council in India, and to cut down an item in which, as I have shown, the strictest economy has been maintained would be both unreasonable and unfair to the Council office. I hope the House will reject the amendment.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,081 with respect to the item of Rs. 10,810—Total Contingencies—Legislative Council (21-B—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 10,200 with respect to the item of Rs. 10,200—Deputy Secretary, Finance (23-C (a)—General Administration)."

In this connection, I submit, Sir, that there are four Secretaries, two Under-Secretaries, one Finance Adviser and Joint-Secretary and one Deputy Secretary; besides there are two Assistant Secretaries. When there is such a large army of assistants, I do not think it will really matter if one post is abolished. Surely the work can go on as efficiently as before. I therefore appeal to the House that, for the sake of economy and without impairing the efficiency of the work, this retrenchment can be effected and I trust that honourable members will help me in getting this reduction.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 10,200 with respect to the item of Rs. 10,200—Deputy Secretary, Finance (22-C (a)—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. Miles Irving [Finance Secretary] : When I first saw this amendment tabled, Sir, I thought that it must be a vote on principle to record the dissatisfaction of this House in the way in which this Budget has been prepared. I now see that the honourable member has moved this amendment under a pure misconception. My honourable friend seems to think that there are two Assistant Secretaries and one Deputy Secretary along with the Finance Secretary in the Finance Department. As a matter of fact the Finance Department is manned by one Secretary and one Deputy Secretary.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh, Urban] : What about the Financial Adviser?

Mr. Miles Irving : He does Irrigation work. He does a certain amount of work which the Financial Secretary used to do. The House will perhaps remember that in the last year we had no Deputy Secretary; we had instead an I. C. S. Under-Secretary who cost us Rs. 1,750. Now we substituted in the interest of economy a Deputy Secretary who costs us Rs. 800. I hope that this House will not accept this amendment. I trust that the House will not expect me to prepare the budget single-handed without assistance. I have prepared a list of establishment of the various Finance Departments in the whole of India, and it will be seen that ours is very economical.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (non-Muhammadan) Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, this office of a Deputy Secretary did not exist in 1922-23 as the figures do not show it. It was only in the last year that a Deputy Secretary was added to the already existing cadre. Moreover, with a number of Secretaries and an army of subordinates, I do not think a Deputy Secretary is required at all. I, therefore, hope the House will accept this amendment.

Mr. Miles Irving (Finance Secretary) : Perhaps I did not make my meaning clear to the House. I attempted to explain that before there was an Indian Civil Servant Under-Secretary who cost us Rs. 1,700 per mensem and he was abolished and in his place a Provincial Civil Servant who costs us Rs. 850 per mensem has been appointed.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar [Kangra-cum-Gurdaspur (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I strongly oppose the amendment on the ground that apparently, though these petty reductions do appear to be very useful, in reality they are simply meaningless and in fact harmful. It is an easy thing to propose reduction, but to run the whole administration of the Government is quite another thing. In my opinion, we are spending about Rs. 15 per minute in the conduct of this Council, and to insist on a reduction even in the face of a satisfactory explanation from the Government is mere waste of such a precious time. I, therefore, oppose the amendment.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 10,200 with respect to the item of Rs. 10,200—Deputy Secretary, Finance (22-C (a)—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : Next is an amendment by Sardar Jodh Singh.

Sardar Tara Singh : On a point of order, Sir. This amendment is in my name.

Mr. President : Order, Order. There are two identical amendments one is in your name and the other in the name of Sardar Jodh Singh. I can choose which member is to speak, and I do choose Sardar Jodh Singh because the House and I can hear him better.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh, Urban] (Urdu) : Sir I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 6,876 with respect to the item of Rs. 10,476—Temporary Establishment—Civil Secretariat (22-C (a)—General Administration)."

Sir, I do not want to take much of your time on this item. Those of you who have read the report of the Retrenchment Committee or were its members, will bear me out that the staff of our Secretariat is already over-

manned. But if no reduction is to be made in it why should any increase be made in the staff? I, therefore, request the House to support my amendment.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 6,876 with respect to the item of Rs. 10,476—
Temporary Establishment—Civil Secretariat (22-C—(a)—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. H. D. Craik [Chief Secretary] : Sir, the greater part of this grant is due to the establishment of the new post of Financial Adviser. As to that Sir John Maynard will say something in a moment. The rest of the establishment amounting to a little less than Rs. 4,000 is establishment entertained for certain purposes which I will explain in a moment. One branch deals with the preparation of passports. The clerks employed are on a temporary basis because we do not expect that the preparation of passports would be a permanent arrangement. We also have a certain number of clerks employed on the Budget who work on a temporary basis, and on the preparation of certain returns required for the annual reports on local bodies. The House should understand that the employment of clerks on a temporary basis is an economical measure because it does not entitle them to earn a pension. Besides Government can reduce a temporary establishment whenever the work becomes less. The only new item in the part of this grant for which I am responsible is the pay of a clerk who is employed on the restoration and exhibition of historical documents. That, Sir, is work in which I would like honourable members to take an interest. We have in the Secretariat a very large number of documents of very great historical interest, and through the zeal and public spirit of Professor Garrett of the Government College, one of the leading historians in Lahore, who is doing this work without any sort of honorarium in his spare time, we have now had a number of such documents extracted from the boxes and dusty files in which they were buried, and they will be shortly, I hope, available for inspection to the public and to any students of history who choose to avail themselves of the opportunity. Mr. Garrett has already rescued from oblivion and preserved a large number of documents of great interest. To save him the manual labour of dusting, unfolding and preparing files we have allowed him to employ a retired clerk of the Secretariat on a small monthly salary and that accounts for Rs. 540. The rest is the amount repeated from year to year.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, I beg to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

**Rai Baha dur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (non-Muham-
madan) Rural] (Urdu) :** Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 50,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 2,69,314—
Total Pay of Establishment—Civil Secretariat (22-C (a)—General Adminis-
tration)."

Sir, by this amendment is meant a reduction in the staff of the Civil Secretariat. This establishment has been on the increase day by day. A survey of the old history of the Civil Secretariat shows that formerly when the Native States of the Punjab were under the superintendence of the Punjab Government, there used to be only two Secretaries. Then one more Secretary was added and now there are four Secretaries and also a Financial Adviser. There are other officers whom we cannot touch, and then there are the subordinates whose number is very very large. I refer the House

[R. B. Lala Sewak Ram.]

to the middle portion of page 126 of the budget, where they will find that as many as 9 Superintendents, 8 Personal Assistants, 29 Assistants, 28 Senior and 29 Junior clerks, in addition to that one Assistant officer in charge, and as many as 18 translators form part of the English office of the Secretariat. It had been stated that establishment had still to be increased on account of these Reformed Councils. But this should not be done as the staff is already increased. I, therefore, submit the staff is really more than necessary and should be reduced. Sir, in the interest of taxpayers, I would request Government to reduce the Secretariat. I leave it to the Honourable the Chief Secretary to make the necessary reduction wherever he thinks fit and do not wish to go into further details.

Mr. President : I do not think the honourable member is entitled to make a vague motion of this kind. He must indicate to Government in some way how this is to be done, what details he would like to cut out.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Sir, I have suggested a small reduction of Rs. 50,000, and leave it to the Chief Secretary to adjust it himself.

Mr. President : I do not think the honourable member is quite in order in doing that. I think he ought to be able to indicate how a sweeping reduction like this is to be carried out.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I do not wish to go into detail (cries of withdraw).

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 50,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 2,69,314—Total Pay of Establishment—Civil Secretariat (23-C (a)—General Administration).”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. H. D. Craik (Chief Secretary) : Sir, I do not quite understand how the honourable member has met your ruling. I understood that he was not in order in being vague. He merely said that he would leave it to Chief Secretary how to meet the reduction.

Mr. President : I would not like to say that he was absolutely ruled out of order. I think that it is an improper sort of amendment, unless the mover in his speech indicates how the reduction can be made, I would not say that it is out of order.

Mr. H. D. Craik : Sir, I think the House will admit that it is extremely difficult to meet a very vague amendment of this kind. The honourable mover says that the Secretariat is too expensive. He does not tell us if it is more expensive than the Civil Secretariats in other provinces; and if it is more expensive, in what way it is more expensive, and what particular department is expensive. He has merely said that the expense is growing greater and greater every year. That statement is not correct. If he looks at the Budget figures for 1922-23 he will see that the Secretariat cost us Rs. 5,000 more in that year than we are budgetting for in the present year. I admit that we have had to make a small increase over last year's figures in our Budget for this year. That is merely because two items were miscalculated by the Accountant-General. I am not responsible for that. I understand that my friend Mr. Miles Irving is not responsible either. One mistake was that expenditure on a certain

branch was miscalculated and the other was that there was a mistake in calculating the figures required for leave salaries. The latter figure must always be a matter of conjecture, and it is impossible to budget accurately for an item of that kind. The increase of a little under Rs. 7,000 is entirely due to these mistakes. There has been really no extra expenditure at all.

Now, Sir, the honourable member has stated that the size of the Secretariat has increased. I think the honourable member on reflection will admit that if the size of the Secretariat has increased, there is some ground for it. Instead of this province having one Lieutenant-Governor, a Legislative Council with 30 members which sat for about three weeks in the year, we have now a Governor with a Council of two and two Ministers and a Legislative Council of nearly 100 members. Does the honourable member believe that the whole of the extra work arising out of the very great change in the whole system of administration can be done by the same number of officers and the same number of clerks? I ask the House, is it reasonable to expect that?

Now, Sir, I have said if the Secretariat has increased there is every justification for it. But as a matter of fact the Secretariat has not increased since the Reforms scheme was introduced. We are performing the task with exactly the same number of officers, and I think with a smaller number of clerks than was performed before 1921. Before the reforms we had four Secretaries and even now we have the same number of Secretaries. We had three Under-Secretaries and we now have two Under-Secretaries and one Deputy Secretary, and thus there has been an actual saving. As for clerks, the pay has been increased but not the strength of the establishment. I think I am right in saying that the number of clerks is actually smaller than it was before 1921. Some honourable member has complained that we have nine branches and nine Superintendents. It is true that we have nine branches and we must have nine Superintendents. In the neighbouring province, the United Provinces, there are 17 branches with 17 Superintendents in the Secretariat with, I think, seven Assistant Secretaries. Is it unreasonable that the Punjab should have two Assistant Secretaries. . .

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : What is the comparative area and population of that province?

Mr. H. D. Craik : The population of the United Provinces is roughly double that of ours.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : The population there is forty millions whereas ours is twenty millions. I have got figures before me.

Mr. H. D. Craik : Very well, but there is only one Executive Council and one Legislative Council as in the Punjab. The actual population does not make so much difference as the form of Government. If any honourable member wants any proof as to the correctness of my assertion that the work of the Secretariat has enormously increased in consequence of the reforms I shall be most happy to show him the actual figures giving the number of letters received and the number of letters despatched and the number of cases dealt with. I have not got the figures on hand here, but I think I am right in saying that they have doubled since 1920. If the honourable member considers that the Secretariat is a sort of pleasant club for officers who work only for a few hours there, I can show him that he is very much mistaken. Before bringing this amendment the honourable member would have been well advised if he had come to me and asked me to

[Mr. H. D. Craik.]

show him something of the work done in the Secretariat. He would have found not only myself and my colleagues working as hard as is humanly possible for any one to work, but the great majority of clerks in positions of responsibility also working excessively long hours without enjoying holidays and leisure that are enjoyed by clerks in most other offices. I hope, Sir, the House will endorse the force of my arguments and reject this amendment. (Hear, hear.)

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari (Non-official nominated) : Sir, my view is that such amendments should generally be made in the Committees when the Budgets are discussed there. I do not question the motives of the members who bring in such amendments in the Council, but I am of opinion that such amendments are brought forward in Municipal Committees, though I do not attribute that motive to the members of Council, for the sake of amendments. (Hear, hear and cries of order, order.) I am not out of order. I am correct in what I say. What I wish to impress upon the House is that such amendments lose their value. I have sufficiently guarded myself. . . .

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : The honourable member is not entitled to lecture on the nature of the amendments.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari : I am not lecturing, Sir. What I was going to say was that such amendments become valueless, because the mover does not satisfy himself as to the work done by the establishment for which reduction is asked. The best thing for him will be to go to the Secretariat and see for himself the nature and amount of work done by each individual and place the result of his scrutiny before the House. That will certainly have weight with the Council and their views will be endorsed by the other members also. I know that the clerks work from morning to evening like labourers and say they are not sufficiently paid. In these circumstances I suggest that the amendment should be rejected.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang (North-West Towns (non-Muhammadian) Urban) : Sir, objection has been taken to the amendment on the ground that the mover was not able to give details of the reductions proposed. A glance at page 126 of the Budget Estimates would show, Sir, that there are eight personal assistants and stenographers whose salaries range from Rs. 175 to Rs. 350. My submission is that there are only four Secretaries, and it is sufficient if they have one personal assistant and stenographer combined for each. At this rate it will do to have four personal assistants and stenographers. At present they have eight, some of whom are personal assistants and others stenographers.

Mr. H. D. Craik : I think it will save the time of the House if I explain that of these eight, four are personal assistants and stenographers to the Executive Council Members and Ministers and the other four are personal assistants and stenographers to the four Secretaries.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : Even, then, my submission is that there is not sufficient work to keep these stenographers engaged all the six or seven hours they are supposed to be on duty. There can be a reduction in this head either in the cadre of personal assistants or stenographers. So far as my information goes personal assistants and stenographers are not the same persons. They are different offices held by different persons.

(A voice : Some hold both offices.) My submission is that both the offices should be held by one and the same person. The Honourable the

Education Minister and the Chief Secretary seem to be at variance, and therefore one of them must be mistaken on this point. This reduction will effect a saving of Rs. 8,400 a year.

Then, coming to the question of assistants, there are 29 of them in the Secretariat. So far as my information goes, these assistants are recruited from a particular class, and the education that they have received does not compare favourably with that of the senior clerks, some of whom are graduates or in any case possess higher academical qualifications. If this number is reduced to 14, that is, if 15 of them were brought under reduction and 15 senior clerks were appointed, I am sure the work of the Secretariat will not suffer in any way. The senior clerks will be able to do their work in as efficient a manner as the assistants do. In fact my information is that on some occasions the senior clerks are made to do the work of the assistants; and although they have no increase in their emoluments they discharge the work of assistants in a most satisfactory manner. If this reduction is made there will be a saving of Rs. 36,000 a year. I hope the Chief Secretary will kindly note these figures and point out if I am wrong in the calculation, and I hope he will give his serious attention to this matter. A sum of Rs. 36,000 can easily be saved under this head, and 15 senior clerks will have to be appointed in the place of 15 assistants who may be discharged. They will be appointed on Rs. 75 per mensem and will cost only Rs. 13,500 so that this may be deducted from the saving effected, that is, Rs. 36,000, and the net amount added on to Rs. 8,400 and this will bring the figure of net saving to Rs. 30,900. Then I come to the assistant officer in charge. I may be ignorant so far as the inner working of the Secretariat is concerned; but with the little experience I have of office routine I may say that though one cannot have too many assistants if one wants to work at ease and to see a well lubricated machine go on smoothly, yet at the same time if one does want to make a reduction it is not impossible to effect it. I think this case of assistant officer in charge can be dealt with in the same manner. That will result in a saving of Rs. 4,680, thus giving us a total of Rs. 35,580.

Then we come to translators. There are eighteen of them and that looks like a little army of translators. There may be a good deal for translation, but if economy was kept in view I am sure that the work of 18 persons could be turned out by 12 persons without experiencing much difficulty. This will bring our savings to Rs. 45,680. Then there is another head of temporary establishment which costs us now Rs. 10,480.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard [Finance Member]: The House has already rejected the amendment proposing a reduction in the temporary establishment.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang: Not under this head, Sir.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President: Further discussion on the item of temporary establishment is not permissible.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang: I was about to propose a reduction of Rs. 5,000 in the temporary establishment, but I will not now say anything about that. If economy has to be effected, certainly there is much scope for reduction elsewhere also. There are nine superintendents, and I think one junior superintendent can easily be spared. That would bring the figure of saving to Rs. 50,000. I think, Sir, the mere fact that my honourable friend

[Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang]
 did not give or did not choose to give details of the amount of Rs. 50,000 which he wanted to cut from this item need not stand in the way of this amendment being accepted by this House. He naturally expected that when this lump sum was proposed to be reduced the Chief Secretary as head of the department would not find it difficult to allocate that reduction under various heads. I think I have made out a sufficient case for reduction of this item. If any difficulty is felt after the reduction of these various officers I have suggested, I think the officers on special duty who have not been reduced might lend a helping hand to discharge any extra work that might devolve on the Secretariat. There seems to be ample provision for that. There is Rs. 13,000 in the budget just at the top of the heading "Establishment." So far as I can judge there will be no practical difficulty in giving effect to this reduction.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Sir, I move—

"That the question be now put".

Mr. President : The question is—

"That the question be now put."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 50,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 2,69,314—Total Pay of Establishment—Civil Secretariat (22-C—(a) General Administration.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided. Ayes 21 ; Noes 45.

AYES 21.

Sardar Narain Singh.
 Sardar Jodh Singh.
 Sardar Tara Singh.
 Sardar Bakhtawar Singh.
 Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
 Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
 Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
 Sardar Partab Singh.
 Sardar Buta Singh.
 Pandit Nanak Chand.
 Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
 Lala Sham Lal.
 Lala Bodh Raj.
 Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
 Lala Banke Rai.
 Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
 Lala Diwan Chand.
 Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
 Diwan Narinjan Das.
 Lala Mohan Lal.

NOES 45.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
 Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. Ward.
 Mr. E. R. Abbott.
 Mr. C. M. King.
 Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
 Mr. E. A. Scott.
 Sir George Anderson.
 Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. H. Forster.
 The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand.
 The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
 The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
 Mr. A. Latif.
 Mr. Miles Irving.
 Mr. D. J. Boyd.
 Mr. H. D. Craik.
 Lieutenant-Colonel D. M. Davidson.
 Mr. J. Coldstream.
 Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.
 Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.

NOES 45—CONCLD.

Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr Shah.
 Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
 Sardar Jowahir Singh.
 Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
 Mian Muhammad Sharif.
 Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
 Rai Shahadat Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
 Sayad Husain Shah.
 Khan Bahadur Sardar Jamal Khan.
 Subedar Major Farman Ali Khan.
 Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
 Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
 Chaudhri Najib-ud-Din Khan.

M. Haibat Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
 Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
 Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan.
 Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari.
 Mr. V. F. Gray.
 Lieutenant Malik Muzaffar Khan.
 Captain Malik Muntaz Muhammad Khan, Tiwana.
 Sayad Muhammad Husain.
 Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir.
 Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh, Urban] Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,750 with respect to the item of Rs. 11,000—
 Total Travelling Allowance—Civil Secretariat (22-C (a)—General Administration)."

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,750 with respect to the item of Rs. 11,000—
 Total Travelling Allowance—Civil Secretariat (22-C (a)—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. H. D. Craik [Chief Secretary] : I understand that this amendment is moved on the general ground of cutting all travelling allowance by 25 per cent. The Government does not accept that view. The Finance Secretary explained to the House just now that it was intended to refer the question of the rates of travelling allowance either to the Finance Committee or if the House would prefer it to a special committee appointed for the special purpose. I understood that that explanation was accepted by the House, and that it did not intend to proceed with the amendment. To proceed with this amendment further will not have the desired effect. By moving a reduction of 25 per cent. in any particular item, the honourable member does not succeed in reducing the rates of travelling allowance at all. So long as the present sanctioned rates are in force, those who perform the journey must be paid at those rates. If the object of this amendment is to reduce the rates, that cannot be achieved by this method. Would it not be more satisfactory to wait for the committee to be appointed to consider the rates and then let the Government see what reductions could be made in the gross amount required? Under these circumstances, I cannot accept the amendment in its present form.

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni : We simply want that Committee to reduce the rates in such a way that the total reduction may amount to one-fourth.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard [Finance Member] : If I understand the object of the honourable mover, it is to decide beforehand what the Committee should propose. That Committee has to consider the facts as they are and then put forward its views to Government. If the Council

[Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.]

forces the hands of the Committee to make a particular reduction, it is fairly obvious that the proceedings of that Committee will be a farce.

Mr. Miles Irving [Finance Secretary]: I should like to point out that this particular item is practically railway fares in which reductions have already been made. If this House makes a reduction in every particular item and specifically reduces each item, then we shall have to come to this House for adjustments between our sub-heads. Therefore I really think it would be much better to leave the matter to the Finance Committee to make a serious attempt to make a fair reduction of rates without forcing them to make reduction in each case whether it is desirable or not.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: In view of the remarks that have just fallen from the lips of the honourable member may I ask if Government will just give an assurance that they will make an all-round cut of 25 per cent. They can make a larger cut in one direction and a smaller cut in another direction, but so long as they give an assurance that a cut of 25 per cent. will be made on travelling allowance and on contingencies and the other items that have been singled out, I believe the members will agree.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Twenty-five per cent. of what?

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: Twenty-five per cent. on the travelling allowances that are charged here in the Budget and the contingencies and the other items for which amendments have been tabled.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Sir, I think the suggestion made by Professor Ruchi Ram very unreasonable. It has hitherto been proposed to make a reduction of 25 per cent. on contingencies. Some members have proposed a reduction of 10 per cent., but the honourable gentleman suggests that we should at once say that there is going to be a reduction of 25 per cent., not only in travelling allowances but in contingencies as well. From what he has said I realize that all the explanations which my friend Mian Fazl-i-Husain has given in a most lucid manner have been lost upon him. We have actually made certain reductions in certain items, such as railway fares. Does the House wish to make a second reduction of 25 per cent.? Does the House wish to make another reduction from 75 per cent. thereby reducing it to something like 50 per cent. Then the Standing Finance Committee is going to undertake the examination of these allowances. Does the House wish to tie beforehand the hands of that Committee? Does it wish to compel the Committee to make a reduction of a precise percentage on certain items to be decided beforehand by this House? If that is the wish of this House, then it appears to me that no reasonable and self-respecting committee can possibly undertake the examination of a question the decision on which has been previously determined by some body else.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: May I explain the position a little further.

Mr. President: All right.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: With regard to the explanation given my position was not clearly understood.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: But was it clearly stated?

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: In the first place there seems to be a little arithmetical mistake. It does not come to 50 per cent. even on the assumption that a further reduction of 25 per cent. is going to be made.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I said approximately 50 per cent.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : What I was saying was this. It is true that with regard to certain items of contingencies a cut of 10 per cent. had been proposed and with regard to certain other items a cut of 20 per cent. has been proposed. With regard to other items of travelling allowance, horse allowance, road mileage and railway allowance, a cut of 25 per cent. had been proposed. What I was suggesting was, if the Government would agree to a cut of something in the neighbourhood of 25 per cent. all round in some way, to be adjusted by themselves—it is immaterial how it is done, whether the railway allowance is cut down 25 per cent., or 15 per cent., or 20 per cent., and the road mileage a little more. All we want is that a reduction altogether amounting to 25 per cent. with regard to these items should be made, and if that undertaking is given by Government, it will save a great deal of the time of the Council. A similar agreement was arrived at between Government and the Council last year though it was not quite acted upon. If Government will agree to.....

Mr. H. D. Craik : On a point of order. Is this a personal explanation or is it a speech?

Mr. President : The honourable member is suggesting a sort of compromise. That is the only reason why I am allowing him to continue.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Sir, it would save a great deal of discussion of some arrangement of that kind is arrived at. That is, Sir, with regard to the unreasonableness of the suggestion which I put forward. I claim, Sir, that it is an eminently reasonable and feasible suggestion which I have put forward. We are not over-riding the functions of the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee is subordinate to this House. We suggest that an arrangement of this kind should be made. The Finance Committee with the help of Government members in charge of the various departments will examine the rates and adjust them within the limits which I have proposed, namely, a cut of something like 25 per cent. That is all I have to say. I have not been in any way unreasonable, and my suggestion is not in the slightest degree impracticable.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din [Sialkot (Muhammadian) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, it is the second time that I have had to get up to protest against the rate of travelling allowance prevalent at present in this province, and to say that it is but necessary that these rates be reduced. The Honourable Finance Member has said that a cut of 25 per cent. has already been made.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : May I make a personal explanation, Sir? I said only under the head of railway fare.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din (continued) : I am already aware of this fact, Sir, but what I wanted to say is that the Punjab Government took a long time say about six months to make a move even in this direction, six months after the Government of India had made general cuts in the rate of travelling allowances.

In this connection I want to ask whether it is a fact that the rate of mileage and daily allowance in the Punjab is still higher than what the Government of India and other provincial Governments are paying. If the answer to this question is in the negative, I would further ask the Government why these rates have not been reduced so far? What justification

[K. B. Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.

exists there which makes it necessary to maintain higher rates in this province. And unless and until sufficient reasons are given which might convince us as to the necessity of maintaining these rates, I think the Government should be prepared to face all this criticism from this House.

I may assure Government that by a reduction of 25 per cent. it is not intended to limit the tours of the officers and thus impair the work of administration, but the wish of the Council is that the rates of halting allowance and mileage are really heavy and there is room for reduction in these rates, and, therefore, early steps should be taken to make reasonable cuts, especially when other provinces have done so without endangering the administrative work.

It is said that the Government have reduced the rate of railway fare.

Well and good. But, why does not the Government make a declaration that they are also prepared to reduce the rates of mileage and halting charges, if they really intend to do so, so that all this clamouring and criticism might stop? If such a declaration is made, we shall be with Government, otherwise there is no course open to us but to oppose all grants relating to travelling allowance. Before resuming my seat I would repeat my question whether the Punjab mileage and halting rates are higher than the Government of India rates?

Mr. Miles Irving [Finance Secretary]: Sir, I believe that the officers of the Government of India when they tour in the Panjab get the same rates as prevail in this province. But I am not sure about this. I will look it up. I am not in a position to give an accurate answer.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood [Amritsar (Muhammadan); Rural] (Urdu): Sir, as far as I have been able to make out from the different speeches delivered to-day in connection with the travelling allowance, it appears that most of the speakers have not well understood the situation. They seem to have overlooked the fact that it is already proposed to appoint a committee whose business it would be to make a general cut in the travelling allowance by 25 per cent. I must say that my honourable friend Malik Firoz Khan Noon has rightly voiced the feelings of the members on this side of the benches that a committee be appointed to go through this question, and I am glad that the Government have agreed to give us such a Committee, never mind in whatever form.

I submit, Sir, that the Government should not ask us to give our consent to these grants before the said Committee has sat and given its opinion on the matter. Before I resume my seat I think it necessary to assure the Government that we, on these benches, will be prepared to support supplementary grants if, in the opinion of the Finance Committee, these are indispensable and quite necessary for carrying on the work.

Mr. H. D. Craik [Chief Secretary]: The offer made by my friend is eminently reasonable. If the Committee considers the rates of travelling allowance and, if as the result of the recommendations of that Committee, a necessity arises for demanding supplementary grants under this head, and if the Government are to be supported in their supplementary demands, then Government will not oppose these amendments.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din: We shall certainly help Government in that case.

Mr. H. D. Craik: The Finance Secretary has already said that the Government will appoint such a Committee. The Committee cannot of course

be appointed now. But it will be appointed next month, and I think the matter may be left on that understanding.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : Pending that decision Government may accept 25 per cent. reduction.

Mr. H. D. Craik : I accept that amendment on behalf of Government.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, in January when we came before the House for supplementary demands we were told that we were guilty of breach of faith because we had accepted certain reductions and afterwards asked the House to make them up. That is why we have not been able to accept a general reduction now. Since we are now assured that we shall have reasonable support in our application for supplementary demands if the rates agreed upon by the Finance Committee should be such as to require additional sums to be granted to us, we are perfectly ready to accept a cut of 25 per cent. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : We cannot hold out any such promise, Sir.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Sir, before voting on this amendment I should like to have one very important point cleared. Last time in spite of the undertaking, the Government went on spending and then came up to the Council for supplementary grants. By the present arrangements also, am I to understand that they will go on spending while making an attempt to reduce the item by 25 per cent. ?

Mr. President : The Honourable the Finance Member never said that. He said, I understand that until a Committee is appointed the Government will accept a reduction of 25 per cent. If after the Committee has considered the question the Government finds that the reduced grant is not sufficient to cover the travelling allowance resulting from the rates recommended by that Committee a certain portion of the House will support Government in asking for supplementary grants to cover deficits arising from that. He never said anything about this 25 per cent, as far as I understood him except that on that understanding he was prepared to allow these amendments relating to travelling allowance to go through without opposition.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Yes, Sir, that is what I said.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Our difficulty is this. The expenditure under the new budget will begin from the 1st April. If this Committee does not decide before the 1st April, as probably it will not be able to decide, then the Government will go on spending at the rates budgetted for and not at any reduced rates. They may therefore have to come to the Council in September next and by that time

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The honourable member does not seem to understand the position. So long as particular rates are fixed by rules we must abide by those rates, and there is no question of coming to the Council in September. This much, however, I can say that the new rates will be introduced as soon the Committee makes its recommendation. We shall not wait till the next Council.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh, Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, I think it is no use pressing the question regarding travelling allowances any further when we find that it is practically decided and when the Government have agreed to a desired cut under this head for the present. (Some voices : on one condition.) Yes, the undertaking is conditional, but it lies with us whether we accept the report of the Finance Committee in the matter or do not accept it.

[Sardar Jodh Singh.]

If it is quite reasonable, no one will find fault with it ; but if it is found to be unreasonable, the Council will have full liberty to reject it. For the present further discussion is useless and mere waste of time.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : it seems I must explain still further. The honourable gentleman seems to think that the proposal of the Finance Committee is to come before the Council for acceptance. That is not the proper procedure. That is not what happens, Government considers the advice of the Finance Committee and acts upon it or declines to act upon it according to circumstances. But under the proposal now made the House will already have reduced the grants for travelling allowance by 25 per cent. How can the House expect any further guarantee ? After the new rates are fixed if it is found that the reduced grant will not suffice to meet the travelling allowance on those heads we shall come before the House with supplementary demands. We have the assurance from certain groups of members that they will support us when making these demands based according to the new rates. It is true certain members opposite have said they won't do so. But we rely upon our friends and do not care what our opponents may do.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari [Non-official nominated] : Sir, I want to have some important information. What I have not been able at all to understand from this compromise is this. If these cuts are to be considered as accepted and if as a consequence there is a great reduction in all the items which are shown under the head travelling allowance what will be its effect on the three Bills now introduced into the Council ? If these cuts are accepted, the Budget will be reduced to the extent of about 20 lakhs and so there will be no necessity for the three money Bills. If the Committee comes to a decision on the question of rates before the 1st April it will be good. Otherwise we will be in a difficult situation in the matter of these Bills. The result will not be what is desired.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : I think I can help on that point also. The honourable member rather exaggerates the possibilities of difference as to the amount. The total of travelling allowance as budgetted for comes to something like 48 lakhs. Supposing it to be 44 lakhs, 25 per cent. of that would be 11 lakhs, that is to say, the maximum that anybody expects from this particular economy is 11 lakhs ; whereas the minimum that I think may be reasonably contemplated from the point of view of Government is something like 6 lakhs. There is therefore only a difference of 4 or 5 lakhs between the two sets of figures. That will not settle the need for legislation. The difference of 4 or 5 lakhs between the maximum and the minimum saving will not be of such a character as to really influence the question of legislation.

Mr. President : On one point I am not clear, that is the undertaking which the Government have more or less accepted from a certain group of honourable members in the House, namely, that they will support a supplementary grant. But do they, by doing so, undertake to support whatever rates the Finance Committee may decide to recommend to the Government ? That is to say, supposing the Finance Committee recommends a certain rate, are they going to accept that rate or are they still entitled to oppose ? If the Finance Committee makes a recommendation that the Government should accept a certain rate and if that rate is not low enough for the group concerned, are they bound absolutely by the promise to accept what the Finance Committee may decide to recommend to the Government ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : On that point, Sir, I am quite satisfied with the assurance which I have had. As a matter of fact, I am quite satisfied with the opportunity I have had of putting the correct position before the House, so that when we do come up with a supplementary demand we shall not be told as we were told last January that we are guilty of a breach of promise in doing so. That is really the main object that has been gained by this discussion. When we come again with a supplementary demand in respect of travelling allowance, we shall not be told that we have violated our undertaking.

Mr. Miles Irving : Will the amendments relating to travelling allowances be put to the House if there is no time for them to be moved on account of the enforcement of guillotine.

Mr President : I think I cannot do otherwise than put the grant to vote without putting the amendments, but I have no doubt that the Government will act on the undertaking they have given and will not take any undue advantage.

Mr President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,750 with respect to the item of Rs. 11,000—Total Travelling Allowance—Civil Secretariat (22-C (a)—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 12,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 24,000—Hill Journey and Hill Allowances—Civil Secretariat (22-C (a)—General Administration)."

Let me say that I should be misunderstood, I must say that my amendment is not based on the principle of general reduction by one-fourth, but what I mean is that the strength of the Secretariat staff that is taken every year to the hills be reduced so as to reduce the expenditure by Rs. 12,000. Sir, I have several times brought it to the notice of Government that hill exodus should be reduced, but no attempt is being made to curtail the expenditure in this direction.

I say that it is for Government to decide who should be taken to the hills and who should not be taken, but exodus should be reduced.

Mr President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 12,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 24,000—Hill Journey and Hill Allowances—Civil Secretariat (22-C (a)—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. H. D. Craik [Chief Secretary] : Sir, I cannot accept this amendment. It is not known whether the honourable member wants to reduce the rate of hill allowance or the number of clerks that are taken to the hills.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : The number of clerks that are taken to the hill stations may be reduced.

Mr. H. D. Craik : We have cut down to the absolute minimum the number of clerks that we take to the hills. Last time great inconvenience was felt in one or two branches by reason of the very small number of clerks taken to the hills. We take one Superintendent or one assistant in each branch and one copyist; at the most two men from each branch. The total number

[Mr. H. D. Craik.]

of clerks that go to Simla is I think about 17 or 18, that is, the absolute minimum required to carry on the work. If it were possible, I would gladly take less number of clerks; but we find that the despatch of public business would be delayed in a way that would be contrary to the public interests, if there were a further reduction.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 12,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 24,000—Hill Journey and Hill Allowances—Civil Secretariat (22-C (a)—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh, Urban] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 6,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 24,000—Hill Journey and Hill Allowances—Civil Secretariat (22-C (a)—General Administration)."

I think the rates fixed for hill journeys may also be cut to the extent of 25 per cent.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 6,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 24,000—Hill Journey and Hill Allowances—Civil Secretariat (22-C (a)—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan) (Urban)] : Sir, over and above the reason that has been advanced in support of the amendment I wish to place two more facts before the House. One is we want a reduction in the rates of hill allowance. If on account of the reduction in rates it is not possible to effect a saving, then we want the period of stay in the hills to be reduced. At the same time the number of clerks that accompany the officers must be reduced. It was stated that the number of clerks taken has been reduced to the minimum

Mr. President : I think the honourable member is out of order. He should have spoken on the first amendment of Lala Sewak Ram. The matter under discussion is identical.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 6,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 24,000—Hill Journey and Hill Allowances—Civil Secretariat (22-C (a)—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided : Ayes 22 ; Noes 42.

AYES 22.

Sardar Narain Singh.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
Sardar Partab Singh.
Sardar Buta Singh.
Pandit Nanak Chand.
Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang.
Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.

Lala Sham Lal.
Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Lala Banke Rai.
Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
Lala Diwan Chand.
Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.
Diwan Narinjan Das.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.

NOES 42.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
 Lieut.-Col. E. L. Ward.
 Mr. E. R. Abbott.
 Mr. C. M. King.
 Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
 Mr. E. A. Scott.
 Sir George Anderson.
 Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
 The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chaudhri
 Lal Chand.
 The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian
 Fazl-i-Husain.
 The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur
 Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
 The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
 Mr. A. Latifi.
 Mr. Miles Irving.
 Mr. D. J. Boyd.
 Mr. H. D. Craik.
 Lieut.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
 Mr. J. Coldstream.
 Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-
 ud-Din.
 Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.

Chauhri Ali Akbar.
 Mir Maqbool Mahmood.
 Sardar Jowahir Singh.
 Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
 Mian Muhammad Sharif.
 Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
 Rai Shahadat Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
 Khan Bahadur Sardar Jamal Khan.
 Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
 Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat
 Khan.
 Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
 Chaudhri Najib ud-Din Khan.
 M. Haibat Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazi Ali.
 Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
 Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das,
 Bhandari.
 Mr. V. F. Gray.
 Lieut. Malik Muzaffar Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul
 Qadir.
 Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
 Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh, Urban) : Sir I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,500 with respect to the item of Rs. 2,500—
 Composition of Articles for the Press (22-C (a)—General Administration)."

Mr. President : Is it a matter of principle or a matter of economy ?

Sardar Jodh Singh : It is a matter of economy, Sir.

Mr. President : Pure and simple ?

Sardar Jodh Singh : Yes, Sir.

Mr. President : If it is merely a matter of economy, I should rule it
 out.

Sardar Jodh Singh : And a matter of principle, too, Sir. (Laughter.)

Mr. President : Very well, you will argue on the point of principle.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, so far as I understand, the sum of Rs. 2,500
 is spent on the employment of an agency, the duty of which is to write
 articles on behalf of Government and send them to press for giving wide
 publicity to certain statements in favour of the Government. What is still
 more curious is that these articles do not appear on behalf of the Government
 but on behalf of private persons, although the Government pays for them. I
 am positively opposed to this kind of secret propaganda, and I would,
 therefore, ask the members to disallow the sum of Rs. 2,500 to Government.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,500 with respect to the item of Rs. 2,500—
 Composition of Articles for the Press (22-C (a)—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon [Shahpur East (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I think the Honourable Sardar Jodh Singh will be satisfied when I remind him that there used to be a Publicity Department whose business it was to do the propaganda work on behalf of the Government and which was being run at an expense of about a lakh of rupees. This Publicity Bureau was abolished sometime ago because it was considered by the late Council that the sum of one lakh of rupees was too much for the purpose and in its place the Government were asked to have the work done with the small sum of Rs. 2,500.

Now it would be an extravagant and unreasonable demand if we disallow even this small sum, for it is most essential for a Government to contradict false allegations and to let the public know the real facts. The Government must employ certain well-trained men whose duty it should be to give publicity to the real state of affairs, and as it is we should not grudge this small sum of Rs. 2,500 to the Government.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood [Amritsar (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, as my honourable friend has very ably explained, good many strange and baseless rumours reach our ears every now, and then, and if the Government were to take no steps to contradict them, these are sure to create undesirable results.

If I were to take the case of my own district, I should like to have the grant increased under this head, for not a day passes when we do not hear some unpleasant and horrible news which, in fact, are baseless. I would therefore ask the honourable mover to withdraw his amendment.

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan [South-East Towns (Muhammadan), Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, two arguments have been advanced by the two honourable members opposite me against the amendment moved by Sardar Jodh Singh, and both of them differ from each other.

The honourable member Mir Maqbool Mahmood has opposed the amendment because he considers it necessary for the Government to contradict false and strange rumours through a private agency, but I would enquire whether it is not possible for Government to contradict the same rumours by means of Government *communiqués*. I really wonder why the Government should employ any private agency, when the Government *communiqués* are there which are readily received and published by the Press and which can serve the purpose all right.

As to the argument advanced by the honourable member Malik Firoz Khan, Noon, that it is essential for Government to employ certain well-trained men to do the propaganda work for the Government, because perhaps the Press would refuse to publish a statement sent by Government directly, I would say that it is nothing but deceiving the public and spending the public money. It is really a deplorable matter, and I would, therefore, heartily support the amendment.

Sardar Narain Singh [Rawalpindi Division and Gujranwala (Sikh), Rural] : Sir, I must confess that I was ignorant of the fact so far that our Government depended on certain private individuals for the propagation of their cause, and I must confess too that the exposition of this fact came to me like a shock. My hair stood on end when I heard that the Government with whom our relations have been one of respect, honour, faith and love expended public money to deceive the public. It is really strange that the Government should not identify themselves with statements which are published on behalf of the Government.

I think that this procedure is not only dangerous but shows a lack of moral courage on the part of the Government. Nay it amounts to deception legally. In my opinion the *communiqués* can very well serve the purpose, and I therefore strongly support the amendment.

Mr. H. D. Craik [Chief Secretary] : Sir, the House does not quite understand, I think, the circumstances in which this expenditure has been incurred. Government is faced in this country with a Press which has an extraordinarily light sense of its own responsibilities. The number of statements—I won't say which are prejudiced but which are definitely untrue—that appear in the press day by day is quite incredible. It is my unfortunate duty to have to read a great many. I have a few extracts here, but I will not read them in order not to weary the House or even possibly to shock the House, but if anybody disputes the accuracy of my statement I am quite ready to read a few of them which will surprise the members of this House. Just one or two small examples. These are some extracts I picked out this morning in the short space of half-an hour. They have all appeared in the last few days. I won't give the names of the papers. One paper, for instance, says of Government: "There is now only a powerful gang of dacoits in our country which is practising every oppression on us. O, you people who are inebriated with the wine of rule! O embodiments of Satan! You are the disciples of some Ahriman (the genius of darkness or evil)." That is the sort of statements that are published in the Press daily. When you come to positive statements that people are being killed, women are being flogged and children are being butchered when nothing of that sort is taking place, then it is absolutely necessary for Government to defend themselves. I can quote hundreds of cases of that sort where utterly false statements are made—statements which are known to be false by the writer and which are known to be false by everybody who knows anything about the subject. But these statements, I am sorry to say, are believed by the ignorant and the prejudiced, and Government has in some way or other to deal with that situation. You may say, "very well, these people who have published these statements have committed an offence, prosecute them." Well, Sir, we have tried prosecuting but these papers that publish statements of that sort have never published the names of the owners of the paper. They have a dummy editor who is paid to be prosecuted and to serve the sentence of imprisonment and who in his spare time works as a chaprasi. It is his name that appears on the front page. So you will see that prosecution is useless. We cannot demand security from the Presses for the law has been amended. In the face of such scurrilous, untrue and seditious writings of that sort, Sir, Government is practically helpless. We have tried for a time to work counter-propaganda of our own. We did it for a short time on a big scale with a proper department presided over by a trained journalist and helped by trained journalists. That department unfortunately the last Council refused to sanction, and it had to be cut down. It was a most unfortunate decision. Sir, there is not a single civilised Government in the world that does not do propaganda through the Press. . . .

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Secretly ?

Mr. H. D. Craik : Yes, secretly. It is done every day in England, in America, in France. It is done by all civilised governments and in India.....

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : During peace time ?

Mr. H. D. Craik : Yes, now. We come to this House with a request for a small, ridiculously small sum of Rs. 200 a month for this purpose, and we are told we are deceiving the public. In what way, may I ask, are we

[Mr. H. D. Craik.]

deceiving the public? What deception is there at all? The articles of which I complain place one point of view before the public and the articles that we publish ourselves place another point of view. There is a wrong view and there is a right view. There is no deception. I am surprised that a charge like that should have been made. One set of articles is anonymous and so is the other set.

Another point that has been made is that we ought to reply by Government *communiqué*. We have tried that also. It may be within the recollection of certain honourable members of this House that only the other day a *communiqué* contradicting in the briefest possible terms, I think, seven distinct and separate lies published in an Amritsar paper were issued. What is the result? The same paper that published the *communiqué* has published another article replying that the *communiqué* is untrue. What is the good of issuing *communiqués* if they do not convince anybody. So, in order to spread the true and correct information we have to employ trained men whose business it is to write. My only regret is that the procedure of this debate does not enable me to come to this House and ask that Government should be given double or even four times this grant.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: Why are *communiqués* not believed?

Mr. H. D. Craik: The honourable member may be better able to answer that than myself. A very large section of the people refuse to believe anything Government says.

Sardar Jodh Singh: Is not the Government to blame for the mistrust of the people?

Mr. H. D. Craik: Sir, I think it is most extraordinarily unfortunate that this House decided to abolish the Publicity Board, and I trust that it will continue to agree to Government spending this small amount on propaganda which I am satisfied—because the work is in my personal charge—serves a useful purpose, and I even venture to express the hope that if at a later period I find the sum insufficient and come to this House for a further sum, the House will agree to give it.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni [Punjab University]: Sir, I should certainly have no objection to the contradictions appearing in the papers by journalists, trained or untrained, by correspondents and others representing the views of the Government, provided they do not sail under false colours. I would certainly be one of those who would vote not only this amount, which the Government wants for the purpose of publicity, but even a larger sum, provided the correspondents appear before the public in their true colours. I have something to do with the Press, and I have had some of these letters placed before me. One letter which I have now in my mind is the one signed by 'A Nationalist'. This letter was refused publication, because the writer would not be taken to be a nationalist even by any of those who are on the Government benches. I am prepared to give the name of that writer confidentially to any of the official gentlemen who are sitting on the opposite side.

Sir, this letter was also sent to some of the papers outside the Punjab.

S. P. M.

It appeared in the 'Young India' and it was replied to also. But when the Editor of 'Young India' came to know who the writer was, he was sorry that he had noticed it all. Well, Sir, that is the state of affairs. There is a letter which has appeared lately with regard to this matter about which the honourable the Chief

Secretary had something to say. The letter was written by a graduate, a gentleman who signs himself 'a graduate,' and who gives his address. Will you believe me, Sir, that that gentleman is not there? I do not say that the Government has had anything to do with this particular individual, but things like that are appearing and are likely to appear. Let nothing appear on behalf of the Government under wrong names, and if Government correspondents write to the Press, let them write in their correct names, and then there will be every disposition on the part of the right thinking public to give due importance to such publications. But, Sir, the fact is that statements are published both by Government and by others which are not necessarily absolutely correct. At least when we challenge the Government about the truth of a certain statement, and when Government does not come forward to substantiate that statement, then we have a right to say that we positively disbelieve the accuracy of the statements that have now and again been made by Government. With regard to the Guru-ka-Bagh, for instance, it has been stated, stated not once or twice but over and over again.....

Mr. President : The honourable member is going far off the point, I hope he will try to get at the point.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I was saying, Sir, that statements which are not acceptable to the public are made and the public cannot naturally take them without a grain of salt. They are not accepted, because we have had experience ourselves that those statements which are made by the Government or on behalf of the Government are not absolutely true.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : I rise to a point of order, Sir. The question under discussion is the composition of articles in the Press. The honourable member seems to be discussing statements made by Government which have nothing to do with the employment of journalists to write to the Press.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I was only replying to what the Honourable Mr. Craik had stated that certain statements were published in the form of Government *communiqués* in the press and that certain papers did not accept those statements as correct. With regard to that particular event we have asked for an open enquiry.....

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I rise to a point of order, Sir. Is the honourable member in order in discussing the question of open enquiry on certain matters when we are discussing the question of employment of journalists to write to the Press on behalf of the Government?

Mr. President : The honourable member Lala Ruchi Ram will realise that he has been allowed to speak in the way he does by the greatest courtesy extended to him.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I will close with this remark, Sir, that if the Government will accept the position that the correspondents who write on their behalf give their full name and their full address in every communication that appears in the Press, then we would be quite prepared to allow this grant. They should not sail under false colours.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon (Shahpur, East (Muhammadian) Rural) : I move, Sir,—

That the question be now put.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadian), Urban] : It is a matter of principle, Sir, and I therefore request that the closure may not be applied now.

Mr. President : I will ascertain the wishes of the House whether they want to continue the discussion. The question is :

" That the question be now put."

The motion was carried.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang (A side remark addressed to Malik Feroz Khan) : It is a nice way of shutting out discussion.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I rise to a point of order, Sir. Is the honourable member opposite, Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang, justified in saying that this is a nice way of shutting out discussion.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I did say, so, Sir. It was only meant for my honourable friend opposite Malik Feroz Khan, Noon, who moved the closure. It was a remark 'aside.'

Malik Feroz Khan, Noon : It was a remark meant for me alone.

Mr. President : I am acting in the interests of the House. The honourable member will readily understand that there is a certain limit of time. I accept the disclaimer of the honourable member, otherwise I should have had to take serious notice of it.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : It was no reflection on any one.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,500 with respect to the item of Rs. 2,500—Composition of articles for the Press. (22-C (a)—General Administration.)"—Com-

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided ; Ayes 24 ; Noes 41.

AYES 24.

Chandhri Saadullah Khan.
Chandhri Najib-ud-Din Khan.
Sardar Narain Singh.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Chandhri Afzal Haq.
Raua Feroz-ud-Din Khan.
Sardar Partab Singh.
Sardar Buta Singh.
Pandit Nanak Chand.
Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Lala Sham Lal.
Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Lala Banke Rai.
Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.
Diwan Narinjan Das.
Lala Mohan Lal.
Chandhri Kesar Singh.

NOES 41.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Lieut.-Col. E. L. Ward.
Mr. E. R. Abbott.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
Mr. E. A. Scott.
Sir George Anderson.
Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chandhri Lal Chand.
The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
The Honourable Sir John Maynard.
Mr. A. Latifi.
Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
Lieut.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
Mr. J. Coldstream.
Khan Bahadur Chandhri Shahab-ud-Din.
Malik Feroz Khan, Noon.

NOES 41—*concl'd.*

Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr Shah.
 Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
 Mir Maqbool Mahmood.
 Sardar Jowahir Singh.
 Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
 Rai Shahadat Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
 Sayad Husain Shah.
 Khan Bahadur Sardar Jamal Khan.
 Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
 Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.

Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
 M. Haibit Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
 Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
 Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari.
 Mr. V. F. Gray.
 Lieut. Malik Muzaffar Khan.
 Captain Malik Mumtaz Muhammad Khan, Tiwana.
 Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir.
 Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh) Rural]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 9,995 with respect to the item of Rs. 93,950—
 Total Contingencies—Civil Secretariat (22-C (a) General Administration.)"

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 9,395 with respect to the item of Rs. 93,950—
 Total Contingencies—Civil Secretariat (22-C. (a)—General Administration.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. H. D. Craik [Chief Secretary]: Sir, I am afraid I cannot accept this amendment. The grant under 'Contingencies' for the Secretariat has already been reduced, and it is now really at the lowest possible point. There is an apparent increase of Rs. 13,500 for the carriage of hill dāk. That means we are introducing a more economic system of sending our dāk to the hills. The Civil Secretariat grant is bearing the whole of that burden. As a matter of fact that item covers the expenses of all the other departments as well. If honourable members would look at the departments concerned, they would find a big reduction in the items under the departments of Irrigation and so on. The total amount of contingencies allowed for the Secretariat cannot be reduced any further. If it is reduced at all, it will only mean that the Government will have to come up with a supplementary grant later on.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 9,395 with respect to the item of Rs. 93,950—
 Total Contingencies—Civil Secretariat (22-C (a) General Administration.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided: Ayes 19; Noes 44.

AYES 19.

Sardar Narain Singh.
 Sardar Jodh Singh.
 Sardar Tara Singh.
 Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
 Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
 Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
 Sardar Partab Singh.
 Sardar Buta Singh.
 Pandit Nanak Chand.
 Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.

Lala Sham Lal.
 Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
 Lala Bodh Raj.
 Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
 Lala Banke Rai.
 Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
 Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
 Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.
 Diwan Narinjan Das.

NOTES 44.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
 Lt. Col. E. L. Ward.
 Mr. E. B. Abbott.
 Mr. C. M. King.
 Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
 Mr. E. A. Scott.
 Sir George Anderson.
 Lt.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
 The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand.
 The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.
 The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majitha.
 The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
 Mr. A. Latifi.
 Mr. Miles Irving.
 Mr. D. J. Boyd.
 Mr. H. D. Craik.
 Lt.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
 Mr. J. Coldstream.
 Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.
 Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr Shah.
 Chaudhri Ali Akbar.

Sardar Jowahir Singh.
 Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
 Mian Muhammad Sharif.
 Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
 Rai Shahadat Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehd Shah.
 Sayad Husain Shah.
 Subedar Major Farnan Ali Khan.
 Lt. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
 Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
 Chaudhri Najib-ud-Din Khan.
 M. Haibat Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
 Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari.
 Mr. V. F. Gray.
 Lient. Malik Muzaffar Khan.
 Captain Malik Mumtaz Muhammad Khan, Tiwana.
 Sayad Muhammad Husain.
 Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
 Chaudhri Duli Chand.
 Rao Pohap Singh.
 Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
 Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : Hereafter I will take the amendments relating to travelling allowance as having been moved. I will simply put them to the House. Grant under consideration, amendment moved —

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 125 with respect to the item of Rs. 590—Travelling Allowance—Legal Remembrancer (22-C (a)—General Administration.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, I beg to move —

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 7,200 with respect to the item of Rs. 15,120—Assistant Secretary, Financial Commissioners (22-C (b)—General Administration.)”

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 7,200 with respect to the item of Rs. 15,120—Assistant Secretary, Financial Commissioners (22-C (b)—General Administration.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, this matter was discussed last year and after the explanation given the Council decided not to make any cut. The Assistant Secretary has to control a staff of 67 clerks and 60 odd menials. He has the entire charge of the office during the time the Financial Commissioner is away. It is impossible to get on without a gazetted officer to control this big office. I hope that the amendment will not be pressed.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 7,200 with respect to the item of Rs. 15,120—Assistant Secretary, Financial Commissioners (22-C (b)—General Administration.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,125 with respect to the item of Rs. 4,500—Travelling Allowances—Financial Commissioners (22-C (b)—General Administration.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sawak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhamadan) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 6,500—Hill Journey and Hill Allowances—Financial Commissioners (22-C (b)—General Administration.)”

(Urdu) : Sir, this amendment is similar to the previous one regarding the establishment of Civil Secretariat. The motion about the establishment of the Financial Commissioners is an amendment on exactly the same principle as I have stated before.

I would request the Financial Commissioners to reduce the bill exodus of their establishment.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 6,500—Hill Journey and Hill Allowances—Financial Commissioners (22-C (b)—General Administration.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, the only explanation I have to give in this case is that the travelling allowance of the Under-Secretary (Revenue) is now included under this head. That is a reason for the increase.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 6,500—Hill Journey and Hill Allowances—Financial Commissioners (22-C (b)—General Administration.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhamadan) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 36,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 36,000—Commissioners (22-D—General Administration.)”

(Urdu) : Sir, I move this amendment with a view to effect retrenchment among the Commissioners. The Retrenchment Committee also recommended to reduce the number of Commissioners by two, but nothing has yet been done in connection with the above recommendation. The last Council also discussed this question at length . . .

Mr. President : The honourable member must confine himself strictly to this one particular item. He cannot talk now about Commissioners except this one Commissioner. I understand that all the others are non-voted.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram (continued in Urdu): Sir, the Retrenchment Committee recommended to reduce two Commissioners, but I propose the reduction of one, and while doing so, I had naturally to refer to the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee. If the post of one Commissioner be reduced now, the turn of other posts will shortly follow. Therefore I would request the Council to accept the amendment and thus make a precedence for future.

Mr. H. D. Craik: I rise to a point of order. There is a mistake in the Budget. It says that Rs. 36,000 on account of one Commissioner is votable. As a matter of fact it is not votable. So I think the amendment is quite out of order.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I am sorry, Sir, that it is stated here that the salary of one Commissioner is voted. That forecast was mistaken. I now think that no Commissioner's salary is votable.

Mr. President: Then I am afraid, it is out of order.

Mr. H. D. Craik: We have decided to transfer this item from voted to non-voted.

Mr. President: I think unless we can treat it as misprint I must accept the amendment as in order.

Mr. Miles Irving [Finance Secretary]: At the time the Budget Estimates were prepared it was thought that one Commissioner would be votable.

Mr. H. D. Craik: The best way will be to surrender the grant by accepting the amendment.

Mr. President: That is the proper course. Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 36,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 36,000—Commissioners (22-D—General Administration)."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,921 with respect to the item of Rs. 20,250—Total Travelling Allowance—Commissioners (22-D—General Administration)."

The motion was carried.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh, Urban]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 53,199 with respect to the item of Rs. 2,33,800—Total Commissioners—voted (22-D—General Administration)."

(Urdu): Sir, the reason why I move the amendment can be found in the report of the Retrenchment Committee, from which I read out the following words to the Council:—

"Eventually on a proposal to reduce the number of Commissioners to two the Committee were evenly divided, but by 7 to 4 votes (one member remaining neutral) the Committee resolved to recommend that the number of Commissioners be reduced from 5 to 3."

My amendment comes to the same result that two posts out of the five posts of Commissioners be reduced.

Mr. President: What is your object in referring to that Committee's report? You say that a certain Committee recommended that the number of Commissioners should be reduced from 5 to 3.

Sardar Jodh Singh : My idea is that the staff of Commissioners should be reduced.

Mr. President : I don't quite follow you. What has the Committee's decision got to do with staff? I understand you to say that you want two Commissioners to be reduced?

Sardar Jodh Singh : Yes, Sir, the staff of the two Commissioners.

Mr. President : What is your object in reducing the staff of two Commissioners?

Sardar Jodh Singh : Economy, Sir. (Laughter.)

Mr. President : I think the honourable member's real object is to cut down two Commissioners. He cannot attack the officers directly, nor can he attack them indirectly by cutting down their establishment. The matter before the House is the establishment and the honourable member can consider only this aspect of the case, namely, whether the establishment is sufficient or not, whether it is paid too much, and so on.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Is that a final ruling, Sir?

Mr. President : Yes, it is my ruling.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Taking for granted that my motive has been guessed correct the only way allowed to this Council is to attack these items in an indirect way. In the Budget speeches also we are allowed to do so. For example when we are attacking the policy of Government for certain purposes we are allowed to refer to these points.

Mr. President : You are at perfect liberty to say in the general discussion on the Budget how many Commissioners should be entertained, but not on the vote for grants, because the matter is not before the House.

Sardar Jodh Singh : I want, Sir, that the staff should be reduced, and that the Commissioners should manage with the remaining staff available. So I move for the reduction of this staff.

Bai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : This is a votable item.

Mr. President : Certainly the item can be voted on, but you cannot argue on wrong lines.

Sardar Jodh Singh : I simply move my amendment, and as I am not allowed to invite the attention of the House to the Retrenchment Committee's Report I will simply ask the House to bear that in mind. (Laughter.)

Mr. H. D. Craik [Chief Secretary] : Sir, the honourable member has invited the attention of the House, though he is out of order, to the Retrenchment Committee's Report. I hope I may have similar latitude and may be allowed to refer to the decision of this House itself. When the House discussed. . . .

Sardar Jodh Singh : I rise to a point of order, Sir. I was ruled out of order for referring to the Retrenchment Committee's Report. Otherwise I would have read two or three pages of the report. If I was not allowed to develop my point the Chief Secretary also should not be allowed to refer. . . .

Mr. President : I have not got the decision of the House you refer to before me. If it purely relates to Commissioners then I should think it is out of order.

Mr. H. D. Craik: The discussion to which I referred is the one on the grant for Rs. 86,000 for Commissioners. There was a full dress debate on that item and the amendment was defeated by 46 votes to 7. To my mind that carries more weight than the majority report of a Committee of this House. The only point I wanted to refer is the reference to the report of the Retrenchment Committee. I think I have answered that.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 56,199 with respect to the item of Rs. 2,59,800—Total Commissioners—voted (22-D—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided; Ayes 40; Noes 22.

AYES 40.

Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr Shah.

Khan Muhammad Saifulla Khan.

Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.

Rai Shahadat Khan.

Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.

Sayad Hussain Shah.

Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.

Lient. Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan.

Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.

Chandhri Najib-ud-Din Khan.

Khan Bahadur Chandhri Fazl Ali.

Chandhri Ghulam Muhammad.

Chandhri Nur Din.

Chandhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan.

Sardar Narain Singh.

Sardar Jodh Singh.

Sardar Tara Singh.

Manvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.

Chandhri Afzal Haq.

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.

Sardar Partab Singh.

Sardar Buta Singh.

Captain Malik Mumtaz Muhammad Khan, Tiwana.

Sayad Muhammad Husain.

Pandit Nanak Chand.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.

Lala Sham Lal.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.

Lala Bodh Raj.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.

Lala Banke Rai.

Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.

Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.

Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.

Rai Sahib Chandhri Chhotu Ram.

Diwan Naringan Das.

Chandhri Duli Chand.

Rao Pohap Singh.

Lala Mohan Lal.

NOES 22.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.

Lient.-Col. E. L. Ward.

Mr. E. R. Abbott.

Mr. C. M. King.

Mr. A. D. Blascheck.

Mr. E. A. Scott.

Sir George Anderson.

Lient.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chandhri Lal Chand.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.

The motion was carried.

The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.

Mr. A. Latiff.

Mr. Miles Irving.

Mr. D. J. Boyd.

Mr. H. D. Craik.

Lient.-Col. D. M. Davidson.

Mr. J. Coldstream.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari.

Mr. V. F. Gray.

Lient. Malik Musaffar Khan.

Mr. E. Maya Das.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh Urban]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 10,800 with respect to the item of Rs. 75,600—
Temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners (22-E.—General Administration)."

(Urdu): Sir, I do not like to discuss the matter at length. It has already been placed before the Finance Committee. The Government has proposed seven appointments of Temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners for this year, out of which four will go to Cantonment Magistrates and the remaining three seem to be quite unnecessary. Hence I would ask the House to reject the demand made for these three appointments.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 10,800 with respect to the item of Rs. 75,600—
Temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners (22-E.—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. H. D. Craik (Chief Secretary): Sir, these temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners are required in the period of stress in any particular district. We must always have a certain amount of elasticity in our reserve. I am afraid that I cannot accept the proposition that it should be cut down by three officers.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 10,800 with respect to the item of Rs. 75,600—
Temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners (22-E.—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh)] Rural: I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,400 with respect to the item of Rs. 2,400—
Language pay—General Establishments (22-E.—General Administration)."

Mr. H. D. Craik: It is a non-voted item, Sir.

The motion was accordingly ruled out.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh)] Rural: I beg to move Sir—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 31,471 with respect to the item of Rs. 62,230—
Temporary Establishment—General Establishments (22-E.—General Administration)."

In support of this amendment, I beg to submit that all our proposed reductions regarding high posts and the staff have been defeated. Though I am sure that this amendment also will be defeated, yet I will have the satisfaction of having achieved a moral victory. I appeal to the House that for the purpose of effecting retrenchment it is necessary that this grant should be reduced by the amount mentioned by me.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 31,471 with respect to the item of Rs. 62,230—
Temporary Establishment—General Establishments (22-E.—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. H. D. Craik (Chief Secretary): Sir, this temporary staff represents the requirements of various districts. They are required for two purposes, firstly, for the destruction of records and, secondly, for the establishment of extra officers posted temporarily to districts. There is, for example, one such officer at Amritsar and another at Gujranwala. I would be only too glad to reduce this staff if the state of the crime in the districts permitted us to do so. The state of crime in these districts has made it necessary for us to provide them with the required staff to deal with the work.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 31,471 with respect to the item of Rs. 62,230—
Temporary Establishment—General Establishments (22-E.—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : I will put amendments relating to travelling allowance without having them formally moved in order to save time. Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 38,250 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,45,000—
Travelling Allowances of Officers—General Establishments (22-E.—General Administration).”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 40,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,60,000
—Travelling Allowances of Establishment—General Establishments (22-E.—General Administration).”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Raj Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammaddan) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 24,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 48,633—
Local Allowances—General Establishments (22-E.—General Administration).”

(Urdu) : Sir, the demand is made on page 134 of the Detailed Budget Estimates. I cannot understand what the grant is meant for. Is it for the officials or for the staff? However, I move the House to make a reduction by one-half in the original demand.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 24,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 48,633—
Local Allowances—General Establishments (22-E.—General Administration).”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : These local allowances are given to petty officers, and it is impossible to reduce them. These officers are scattered all over the province. I hope the House will reject the amendment.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 24,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 48,633—
Local Allowances—General Establishments (22-E.—General Administration).”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

SITTINGS OF THE COUNCIL.

Mr. President : I said yesterday that the House might either sit on Friday morning or Saturday afternoon instead of on Friday afternoon. Unless there is a feeling to the contrary I propose to sit on Friday morning at 10 A. M.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : It may be somewhat inconvenient for members of the legal profession to attend on Friday morning. If possible we would like to have a sitting on Saturday afternoon.

Mr. President : I should like to take the wishes of the House.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I should be quite agreeable to Saturday afternoon.

Mr. President : I think the general wish seems to be Saturday afternoon. We will therefore sit on Saturday afternoon.

The Council then adjourned till two of the clock on Thursday, the 13th March 1924.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

2ND SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 13th March 1924.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

POWER OF TRANSFER OF TAHSILDARS AND NAIB-TAHSILDARS.

250. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Arising out of the answers to questions Nos. 1154 and 2297 on page 59 of Volume III. and page 1003 of Volume IV of the Punjab Legislative Council Debates, respectively, will Government be pleased to withdraw the power of transfers of Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars from the Commissioners and vest them in the Financial Commissioner as before ?

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

POSTING OF TAHSILDARS IN THEIR HOME DISTRICTS.

251. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table—

(a) a complete list of Tahsildars who are at present posted to their home districts ;

(b) will Government be pleased to arrange that in future in no case a Tahsildar or a Naib-Tahsildar is posted to his home district ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia

(a) A list of Tahsildars posted to their home districts is given below :—

Home district.

1. Khan Muhammad Khan, Munshi, B.A., E.S.,
Tahsildar, Lahore ... Lahore.
2. Faiz Bakhsh, Munshi, E.S., Tahsildar,
Multan ... Multan.
3. Ghulam Murtza, Sayad, Tahsildar, Pasrur... Sialkot.
4. Sada Nand, Lala, Tahsildar, Lodhran ... Multan.
5. Mir Muhammad Khan, Munshi, Tahsildar,
Dera Ghazi Khan ... Dera Ghazi Khan.
6. Basant Singh, Chaudhri, E.S., Tahsildar,
Jagadhri ... Ambala.
7. Rattan Singh, Chaudhri, Tahsildar, Nankana
Sahib ... Sheikhupura.
8. Himayat Ali, Munshi, Tahsildar, Shakar-
garh ... Gurdaspur.
9. Fateh Ullah Khan, Mirza, Tahsildar, Nur-
pur ... Kangra.
10. Beant Singh, Bhai, B.A., Tahsildar, Amritsar ... Amritsar.
11. Kundan Singh, B.A., LL.B., Munshi, Tah-
sildar, Sargodha ... Shahpur.
12. Kashi Ram, Datt, Chaudhri, Tahsildar,
Batala ... Gurdaspur.
13. Amir Singh, II, Tahsildar, Hemirpur ... Kangra.

[Hon. S. B. Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.]

(b) The postings of Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars are regulated by the Commissioner of the Division and Government does not propose to fetter his discretion.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will Government be pleased to bring this matter to the notice of the Commissioners ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The reply is already given in part (b) of the question.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I want to know how are the members of this Council to get this complaint remedied ?

Mr. President : It is entirely a new question and requires notice.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Very well, I will give notice.

CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

252. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the answer to my question No. 2810* regarding Canal Advisory Committee ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : A copy of the reply to Council Question No. 2810 is forwarded herewith.

Answer to Question No. 2810.

(a) Yes.

(b) (i) *Khanewal Division.*—No meetings in 1922, but three in 1923.

(ii) *Multan Canals Division.*—Three meetings in 1922.

(iii) *Lower Sutlej Canal Division.*—No meetings in 1922 but one on 28th July 1923.

(iv) *Muzaffargarh Canals Division.*—Five meetings to date.

(v) *Dera Ghazi Khan Canals Division.*—No meetings.

(c) (i) 22nd August 1923.

(ii) 25th September 1922.

(iii) 28th July 1923.

(iv) 11th June 1923.

(v) Nil.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL AT KAMALIA.

253. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Is it a fact that there is no suitable building for the Government High School at Kamalia ? If so, will the Government be pleased to order that a suitable building be made at an early date ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Yes.

(b) the matter is under consideration. There is provision in the Budget, for an expenditure of Rs. 30,000 for the improvement of the school buildings subject to the sanction of the Legislative Council.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

254. Chaudhri Ali Akbar : Will the Government be pleased to state the substance, the date and the number of the various letters which were issued by Government to its officials directing them not to take part in the Punjab Legislative Council Elections ?

Mr. H. D. Craik : One communication was issued on the subject by Government in 1920 and two in 1923. The orders communicated were based on rule 23 (2) of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules of which a copy is laid on the table.

COPY OF RULE 23 (2) OF THE GOVERNMENT SERVANTS' CONDUCT RULES.

A Government servant, who is a whole-time Government servant, may not, by canvassing or otherwise, interfere or use his influence in any way in an election to a legislative council except that he may record a vote, if he is qualified to do so, and in that case he should, as far as possible, avoid giving any indication beforehand of the direction in which he intends to vote.

PERCENTAGE OF LITERATES IN THE PUNJAB.

255. Mir Maqbool Mahmood : Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the percentage at present of all literates (male and female) in the Punjab to its total population ;
- (b) whether the percentage of literates has increased in the last three years ? If so, by how much ?

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia :

(a) It is not possible to give figures of the present time, but the following figures which show the number of literates per mille of the total population of the Punjab, including the Delhi Province, but excluding Indian States, are taken from paragraph 144 of Part I of the Census Report of 1921 :—

1911.		1921.	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
65	6	67	6

- (b) It is regretted that the information is not available as we have no yearly Census taken.

GRANT OF LAND TO PERSONS WHOSE LANDS HAVE BEEN EATEN UP BY RIVERS.

256. Mir Maqbool Mahmood : (a) Is it a fact that in Amritsar and some other districts of the province large tracts of the lands of agriculturists have been rendered permanently unfit for agricultural purposes, having been eaten up by the rivers or through constant changes of the course of the rivers ?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether they have offered or propose offering any compensation to such persons ? If so, in which form ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to direct the various Deputy Commissioners to get up lists of persons within their districts who have suffered in

[Mr. Maqbool Mahmood.]

this way by the action of the rivers and in hard and deserving cases to compensate them with grants of culturable Government waste land in their respective districts?

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : (a) All riverain tracts are subject to alluvion and diluvion.

(b) and (c) Attention is invited to the reply given to question No. 204.*

GRANT OF LAND TO PERSONS WHO HAVE SUFFERED THROUGH WATER-LOGGING

257. Mir Maqbool Mahmood : (a) Is it a fact that in many districts of the province lands of people have suffered through water-logging?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to direct the various Deputy Commissioners to get up lists of persons within their respective districts who have suffered through water-logging due to the vicinity of the Government canals and in hard and deserving cases to compensate them with grants of Government culturable waste lands in their respective districts?

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : (a) Yes.

(b) Complaints received are being carefully investigated.

CONSPIRACY CASES.

258. Sardar Jodh Singh : Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of persons convicted in the 4 conspiracy cases, the first of which was known as the Lahore Conspiracy Case and was tried from April to September 1915, the second as Supplementary Lahore Conspiracy Case which lasted from October 1915 to March 1916, the third and fourth which were taken up and finished during 1917?

(b) the number of persons convicted in all the four cases mentioned above who were awarded the capital punishment and were actually hanged, with their names and full addresses;

(c) the number of those who were set at liberty as a result of Royal Clemency;

(d) the number of those who have since been set at liberty after serving their full term of imprisonment;

(e) the number of those who died in captivity, with their names and full addresses, dates and causes of their deaths;

(f) the number of those who are still undergoing their sentences, with their names, full addresses, place of captivity and the term of imprisonment that they have still to serve;

(g) the number of those who have been conditionally released with their full names and addresses and the conditions on which they have been released;

(h) whether it is a fact that Bhai Randhir Singh, one of the convicts in the second supplementary case, was allowed the concession of cooking his own food owing to his religious scruples in the Rajmundry and Hazaribagh jails;

(i) whether it is a fact that when he was transferred to the Nagpur Central Jail that concession was withdrawn;

- (f) whether it is a fact that there is a good deal of difference between the diet, habits and customs of the Punjabis, especially Sikhs, and men of other provinces ;
 (k) will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of transferring all the Punjabi prisoners sentenced by courts in the Punjab in other provincial jails to jails of their own province ?

The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard (a) 133.

- (b) 21. Government is not prepared to give the names.
 (c) 47.
 (d) 22.
 (e) Government has no information as to this part of the question.
 (f) 43. Government is not prepared to give the names.
 (g) 23. Government is not prepared to give the names. A copy of the conditions is laid on the table.
 (h) and (i) Government has no information.
 (j) This is a matter of opinion.
 (k) The answer is in the negative.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONDITIONS FOR THE SUSPENSION OF SENTENCE.

I,....., son of.....having been convicted on.....of the offence noted in the margin and now undergoing a sentence of.....for a period of years, accept the following conditions, upon which the remainder of the above sentence will be suspended by the Local Government under section 401, Criminal

Procedure Code, namely :—

- (1) That during the remainder of the term of my sentence I will not commit or abet the commission of any offence against the State or public tranquillity.
- (2) That during the same period I will not directly or indirectly take part in any movement directed against the State or public tranquillity or likely to lead to the commission of any offence of the nature described above.
- (3) That on release I will remain in my village ofin the jurisdiction of Police Station.....of the.....District until I receive the permission of the Local Government to the contrary.
- (4) That I will obey all such orders as may be issued by the Local Government from time to time restricting any movements or requiring reports of my presence.

If any of these conditions is in the opinion of the Local Government not fulfilled, the Local Government may cancel the suspension of the sentence.

Signature _____

Date _____

Place _____

Signed in my presence.

Superintendent

Jail.

SIKH REPRESENTATION IN KASUR MUNICIPALITY.

259. **Sardar Sangat Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that no separate seat has been given to Sikhs in the Municipality of Kasur? If so, why?

(b) Is it a fact that Sikh voters of Kasur Municipality are included in the Non-Muhammadan community? If so, why have they not been given separate seats in the Municipality of Kasur?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of keeping the Sikhs separate in the Municipality and try to give them at least two seats?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) and (b). Yes. Please refer to the Note on the re-constitution of the Municipal Committees and District Boards of the Punjab (copy laid on the table)* particularly to paragraph 4 on page 2 and entry No. 49 on page 16. If separated from the Hindus the Sikhs of Kasur would be entitled to less than half a member and thus the question of giving them separate representation on the Committee does not arise.

RETBENCHMENT OF TWO CONSERVATORS OF FORESTS.

260. **Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) the annual cost of the appointment of one Conservator of Forest in the Punjab, his pay, travelling allowance, etc., and the cost of his establishment;

(b) if it is a fact that the Chief Conservator of Forests, Punjab, made a proposal to the Government last year that the administrative staff of the Punjab Forest Department be reduced by two Conservators;

(c) if the reply to the above be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken on the Chief Conservator's proposal?

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) About Rs. 25,000.

(b) Yes.

(c) On further consideration the Governor in Council decided to drop the proposal.

PUNJAB FOREST DEPARTMENT.

261. **Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Forest officers in the Punjab, viz., Imperial Forest Service, Provincial Forest Service and Forest Rangers, for the years 1918-19, 1919-20, 1920-21, 1921-22, 1922-23, 1923-24 and the cost of those officers for each year;

- (d) the strength of clerical and other subordinate establishment of the Punjab Forest Department, and its cost during the years 1918-19, 1919-20, 1920-21, 1921-22, 1922-23, 1923-24 ;
- (e) the total income of the Punjab Forest Department during the years 1918-19, 1919-20, 1920-21, 1921-22, 1922-23, 1923-24, under the following heads :—
- (a) Income from the sale of timber or trees and the minor produce.
 - (b) Income from fines and sale of drift timber.
 - (c) Income from the lease of forest lands including those in the Lahore, Multan and Montgomery Districts which were meant for plantations and have now been leased ?

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

The information in answer to part (a), with the exception of that relating to Forest Rangers is given in the attached statement. As regards Forest Rangers and the clerical and subordinate establishment, Part (b), the labour of collecting the information is disproportionate to the value of the information when collected.

The information in reply to (a) and (b) of part (c) is given in the statement attached, the labour of collecting that in reply to (c) is disproportionate to the value of the information when collected.

The following statement shows the actual number of officers employed in the Punjab and the cost of these officers for the years 1918-19 to 1923-24 :—

Name of Service.	1918-19.		1919-20.		1920-21.		1921-22.		1922-23.		1923-24.		Rangas.
	No.	Actual cost.	No.	Actual cost.	No.	Actual cost.	No.	Actual cost.	No.	Actual cost.	No.	Anticipated cost.	
Imperial ...	9	Rs. 1,46,447	11	Rs. 1,65,602	11	Rs. 2,28,425	14	Rs. 2,73,068	19	Rs. 3,21,321	23	Rs. 3,43,040	The number of officers on duty fluctuates during the year and the figures shown are for the 1st half of each year.
Provincial ...	8		11		14		13		23		21		

[Hon. S. B. Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.]

The total income of the Punjab under the various heads is shown below :—

FINANCIAL YEARS.

Particulars.	Actuals 1918-19.	Actuals 1919-20.	Actuals 1920-21.	Actuals 1921-22.	Actuals 1922-23.	Anticipated 1923-24.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(a) Timber, Trees and minor produce.	17,38,888	32,43,957	30,86,022	40,50,058	25,67,375	37,11,265
(b) Drift and Waif Timber and fines and forfeitures.	54,141	1,10,460	1,01,112	58,932	68,297	46,595

**GENERAL MANAGER OF ESTATES UNDER COURT OF WARDS IN THE
AMBALA DISTRICT.**

262. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : (a) Is it a fact that a pensioner Tahsildar was last time appointed as general manager of the Estates under Court of Wards in the Ambala District, and that he has now tendered his resignation from the appointment? If so, will the Government be pleased to state why he has tendered his resignation?

(b) Is it a fact that there were about 12 names on the list of candidates for General Managership kept in the office of the Commissioner, Ambala Division, and that most of them were removed from the list just a few days before the new appointment was made?

(c) Is it a fact that there is not a single Sikh on the list now, and that the name of the only Sikh on the list was removed with others? If so, will the Government be pleased to state why the name of no Sikh has been kept on the list?

(d) Is it a fact that the last four General Managers were not on the list of candidates when they were appointed to the post? If so, will the Government be pleased to state why it was not possible this time to appoint a person not on the list?

(e) Is it a fact that the appointment has again been offered to a Tahsildar in anticipation of his retirement from the service, and that the rights of several other candidates in the District have been overlooked? If so, will the Government be pleased to consider the matter at the time of final appointment and give the post to a deserving Sikh?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : (a) Yes. He resigned as the Deputy Commissioner was not satisfied with his work.

(b) Yes. The number of candidates on the list of the Ambala Division is restricted to 3 by the orders in paragraph 10 of the Financial Commissioners' Standing Order 33.

(c) There is no name of a Sikh on the list of candidates. Presumably there was no suitable Sikh to put on the list.

(d) Yes. Appointments by the Court of Wards of Managers of the larger estates are not necessarily made from Commissioners' lists of candidates.

(e) The appointment of a Tahsildar on the eve of retirement has been made by the Court of Wards. The question therefore of the appointment of a Sikh does not arise.

RURAL AND URBAN SANITATION.

263. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Government be pleased to state separately the amount spent by the Government and the local bodies on the rural and urban sanitation, respectively, during the last five years, specifying separately the sums expended on actual improvement of sanitation and on the pay of the establishment?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Government does not consider that the labour necessary for a complete reply to the question would be justified, but the following information, which has reference only to grants by the Public Health Department, can be given:—

1. During the five financial years 1919-20 to 1923-24 inclusive, in the case of urban areas the expenditure by Government and the Local Bodies respectively on sanitary works and establishment (Medical Officers of Health) was:

		Rs.
(a) Sanitary Works	Government	18,64,726
	Local Bodies approximately the same amount.	
(b) Establishment	Government	1,12,630
	Local Bodies approximately the same amount.	

2. In the case of rural areas—

(a) Sanitary Schemes	Government	1,68,136
	Local Bodies	30,480
(b) Establishment	District (Medical Officers of Health)	
	Government	1,00,976
	Local Bodies	Nil.

District Boards have been urged to submit comprehensive schemes for the improvement of rural water supplies in their areas, but so far there has been very little response.

GRANTS OF LAND.

264. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Government be pleased to state the names and the number of civil officers who have received grants of land, during the last ten years, in recognition of their services as such officers and to state how many of them belong to agricultural tribes?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: So far as can be traced no free grant of land has been made in the last ten years to any civil officer as such.

IMPROVEMENT OF RURAL SANITATION IN THE ROHTAK DISTRICT.

265. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram** : Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of money spent by the Government and the local bodies separately on the improvement of rural sanitation in the Rohtak District apart from the pay of the sanitary staff ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member has omitted to specify the period which is covered by his question and therefore it is regretted that a reply cannot be given.

PUNISHMENT OF CORRUPT OFFICIALS.

266. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram** : With reference to the answer to question No. 2785 (page 271, Vol. V, Punjab Debates), will the Government be pleased to bring up to date the number of officers punished for corruption since the publication of the Report of the Corruption Enquiry Committee in respect of (a) the number of the officers punished, (b) the nature of the punishment awarded, and (c) the departments to which these officers belonged ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : The information is being collected and will be communicated as soon as it is obtained.

ARREST OF SIKHS AT MACHIWARA FOR WEARING KIRPANS.

267. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Is it a fact that four Sikhs have recently been arrested at Machiwara for wearing *Kirpans* and severely beaten by the police ? If so, will the Government be pleased to enquire into the matter and take necessary action, if any, required against the persons responsible for the same ?

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.

ARRESTS OF SIKHS ON ACCOUNT OF KIRPANS.

268. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Is the Government aware that arrests of Sikhs are being made for *Kirpans* ? If so, will the Government please issue strict instructions that no arrests of Sikhs be made on account of *Kirpans* ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No arrests of Sikhs have been or are being made for wearing *Kirpans*.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE OF COMMERCE.

269. **Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni** : (a) Is it a fact that in or about 1905, the Punjab Government in response to a strong agitation for the establishment of a College of Commerce, convened a conference with the late Sir D. P. Masson as its President ?

(b) Is it also a fact that the conference, after mature deliberations extending over several days, made a recommendation *inter alia* that the establishment of an Institute of Commerce teaching up to the Intermediate standard and affiliated to the Punjab University was an urgent necessity ?

(c) Is it a fact that, inspite of repeated demands, no action was taken on the recommendations of the Masson Conference for many years, and that only lately, and in response to further agitation, an Institute of Commerce was established at Lahore ?

(d) Is it further a fact that it has been decided, as a measure of retrenchment, to close the Institute ?

(e) Is the Government aware of the fact that closing of the Institute has given rise to dissatisfaction and criticism ?

(f) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of the Masson Conference Report ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Yes.

(b) The Committee recommended that an Institute of Commerce should be established, which should reach a standard equivalent to the Intermediate.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Institute of Commerce has been abandoned, on the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee.

(e) No. Especially as post Matriculation courses in clerical subjects have been opened at the Central Model School.

(f) The report was not printed.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Is it not a fact that the Institute of Commerce was for the Intermediate stage, not reaching up to the Intermediate but definitely for or equivalent of the Intermediate stage ? Secondly, does the Honourable Minister mean that the report was not published or not printed ? I have seen a copy in the Director of Public Instruction's office.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Sir, English is not my mother tongue, but I am not able to understand the honourable member when he says 'reaching up to' or 'equivalent of.' As to the second part of his question, I do not see the relevancy or the importance of it. If he has seen any unauthorised copies, I should like them to be surrendered.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE FOR ATTENDING MUHAMMADAN EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.

270. Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that officers of Government, Muslims and others, attending the All-India or Provincial Muhammadan Educational Conference are paid travelling allowance at the Government rates out of public funds ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the total amount so spent year by year during the last five years ?

(c) Whether similar travelling allowances are allowed to officers attending the Sikh Educational Conference ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) No.

(b) & (c). Do not arise.

ROORKEE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS.

271. Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of scholarships were given by the Punjab Government to the deserving students from this province studying at Thomason Engineering College, Roorkee ;

(b) the number and value of these scholarships ;

[Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.]

- (c) whether these scholarships have lately been discontinued or diminished in number or value? If so, will the Government be pleased to say why such action has been taken?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : The answers to the questions are :—

- (a) The answer is in the affirmative.
 (b) Five scholarships of Rs. 50 per mensem each.
 (c) The answer to the first part is in the negative, and latter part does not therefore arise.

NEW TYPE OF INTERMEDIATE COLLEGE.

272. Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : (a) Is it a fact that Government accorded its approval to a scheme urged by the Punjab University in 1919 or 1920 for the creation of a new type of Intermediate College "devoted to a practical course of study as distinguished from a literary curriculum"?

(b) Is it a fact that the one persistent demand in regard to education has throughout been that it should be made more practical and less literary?

(c) If the answers to the preceding questions are in the affirmative, how is it that although several new Intermediate Colleges have been established during the last three years, no attempt has so far been made to start a single college of the new type?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Government has received the scheme proposed by the Punjab University, but has expressed no opinion on the matter.

(b) Such statements have been generally made.

(c) No new Government Intermediate College has been started in the last three years.

The Honourable Member has forgotten the Moghalpura College.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Is it not a fact that the Moghalpura College is not the type of college contemplated in the question which I have put?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : I will not commit myself whether it is or it is not.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Is it not a fact that the Ludhiana College was started after the scheme was adopted by the Senate and sent up to Government?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : I want notice of that question.

INQUIRY INTO CASES OF ALLEGED ROBBERIES BY POLICE.

273. Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : (a) Is it a fact that in or about October 1922 the Government placed Mr. A. W. Mercer, Deputy Inspector-General of Police, on special duty to "make an enquiry into the alleged cases of robbery, etc., committed by the police during the operations conducted against the Akalis proceeding to Gura-Ka-Bagh"?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what was the result of this enquiry and what action, if any, was taken on the report of Mr. Mercer?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to publish the report submitted by Mr. Mercer?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) In the latter half of the year 1922, Mr. A. W. Mercer, Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Central Range, under the orders of the Inspector-General, enquired into 12 specific allegations made against the Police who were conducting operations against *Akalis* in the Amritsar District. He was not placed on special duty for this purpose.

(b) In some cases Mr. Mercer was handicapped by the refusal of members of the Congress and Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee to co-operate with him and to substantiate the complaints made by them ; but in all those in which evidence was forthcoming, the complaints were found to be in all but very minor particulars, entirely without foundation. In these circumstances no action was required on Mr. Mercer's reports, but an abstract thereof was laid on the table of the Legislative Council in answer to question No. 1897* of the late Council.

(c) In view of the fact that an abstract of the reports made by Mr. Mercer has already been laid on the table and of the time that has elapsed since the Guru-ka-Bagh affair, the Government do not consider it necessary to publish the reports.

REFUSAL OF FREE RAILWAY PASSES TO AKALI PRISONERS.

274. **Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni :** With reference to the Punjab Government Notification No. 2404-Jails, dated the 22nd January 1924, published in the *Government Gazette*, dated the 25th January 1924, amending the Punjab Jail Rules by adding a proviso clause (2) of the rule contained in paragraph 528 of the Punjab Jail Manual, in the sense that " provided that without the special permission of the Local Government no such pass shall be given to any person who has been sentenced by a court having jurisdiction in any district which the Governor in Council may notify for this purpose to imprisonment for any offence connected with the illegal entry or attempt at entry upon any lands or buildings alleged to belong to a shrine", will the Government be pleased to state if the amendment is directed especially against the *Akalis*? If so, will the Government be pleased to state why it has been found necessary to refuse the issue of free pass on the termination of sentence to a particular class of offenders?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The attempt has been made to embarrass the administration by offering large numbers of persons for arrest in the expectation that the jail accommodation of the province will not suffice to receive them. It is believed that the amendment of the rules which is the subject of this question will assist in the defeating of these tactics.

RURAL INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.

275. **Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that Mr. J. A. Riehey, when he was Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, prepared a complete scheme of Rural Industrial Education for the province?

(b) If so, what has become of it?

(c) Why no effect has been given to it so far?

(d) Whether the Government has any intention of introducing it?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to place a copy of the scheme on the table for the information of the House?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The scheme was adopted.
- (c) It has been given effect to as far as possible.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) A copy of the scheme is placed on the table.

C. M. No. 32, dated Lahore, the 20th January 1919.

From—The Hon'ble Mr. J. A. RICHY, M.A., Under-Secretary to Government, Punjab, Home (Education) Department.

To—All Commissioners, Chairmen and Presidents of District Boards and Municipal Committees, Inspectors and District Inspectors of Schools.

I AM directed to state that a revised scheme for the organisation of the Industrial schools in this Province, which was submitted to the Local Government by the Standing Committee on Technical and Industrial Education, and the draft of which has met with the approval of all Local Bodies interested, has been accepted by the Punjab Government and will be brought into effect from April 1st, 1919.

Before explaining the scope of this scheme it appears advisable to enumerate some of the causes which have led to the comparative failure of the Industrial schools of this province in the past. (A more detailed report on the present condition of these schools will be found in Appendix B to the Report on Education in the Punjab for 1914-15) :—

- (1) Lack of definite views as to the function of these schools, with the result that attempts have been made to train craftsmen without any preliminary manual education.
- (2) General education in advance of the requirements of the industrial classes and not properly related to industrial subjects.
- (3) Industrial courses ill-devised with inadequate hours.
- (4) Buildings often inadequate and unsuitable.
- (5) Equipment poor and insufficient.
- (6) Contingent grant generally insufficient.
- (7) Headmasters without industrial qualifications and otherwise unsuitable.
- (8) Staff ill-qualified and sometimes ill-paid.
- (9) Insufficient control owing to dual inspections by the Industrial and District Inspectors.
- (10) Insufficient inspection on the industrial side.

2. These defects which have been brought to the notice of Government by the Inspector of Industrial schools will, it is hoped, be largely remedied by the adoption of the following scheme.

Industrial schools will be divided into two classes as at present: Primary Industrial schools and Middle Industrial schools; but the distinction between these two classes of schools will be more clearly defined than at present.

(a) *Primary Industrial Schools*—Will not attempt to teach crafts, but will be devoted to instruction in manual training (woodwork and ironwork), drawing and the general subjects of the primary curriculum.

They will for purposes of inspection, assessment of grant, etc., be under the control of the Inspector of Drawing and Manual Training, Punjab.

The course of instruction in Primary Industrial schools have been drawn up by the Inspector of Drawing and Manual Training, and will be issued shortly.

Although these courses have been most carefully designed to suit the children both of artisans and non-artisans, yet the Standing Committee recognises that some artisans may prefer to give their sons their craft training themselves. In order that such boys may take advantage of the instruction in drawing and general subjects imparted in Primary Industrial schools, it will be necessary to divide the work of these schools in two sessions. The one session will be devoted to manual training, the other session to general subjects and drawing. To the latter session may be admitted, in addition to the boys attending the manual training classes, any children of artisans who are regularly engaged in craft work during the day; and the hours for these sessions for general work should be arranged, if possible, to attract these boys to school.

It is hoped that by this means, while the children of artisans and non-artisans alike should be encouraged to attend the full school courses, working boys also may obtain some advantage from these Industrial schools.

It is laid down for information that these courses for Primary Industrial schools are intended to be the first of these progressive steps in the artisans' sons' industrial education, and are based upon the principle that before craft training can be taken up it is essential that the child shall be grounded in the initial stage of hand and eye training by which he is taught progressively to observe, to control his hand and finally to construct.

The courses of the Primary Industrial schools therefore are educational courses giving the boy general ability with the pencil, the measure and the tools used in modelling, wood and metal work in their elementary stages and do not attempt the specialised training necessary to the making of a craftsman.

This first step in industrial training leads progressively to the second step in the Middle Industrial schools.

(b) *Middle Industrial Schools.*—These schools will admit pupils who have either been trained in Primary Industrial schools or have had an equivalent training (e.g., as apprentices to their parents), enabling them to pass at test entrance examination.

These schools will be under the control of the Principal, Mayo School of Art, for purposes of inspection, assessment of grant, etc., in his capacity as Inspector of Industrial schools. The subjects of instruction in Middle Industrial schools will ordinarily be woodwork and metalwork with such General work, e.g., mathematics, drawing, etc., as are directly useful for an artisan. Other subjects (e.g., pottery) should only be introduced when the Inspector of Industrial schools is satisfied that the qualifications of the Instructor and the equipment provided are satisfactory.

The Standing Committee is of opinion that the indiscriminate introduction of inferior instruction in such subjects as tailoring has tended to discredit industrial schools.

The courses in carpentry and iron work have been prepared by the Principal, Mayo School of Art, and will be issued shortly.

[Hon. R. B. Chaudhri Lal Chand.]

These courses for the Middle schools are designed to give specialised training in the craft having regard to the fact that 6 hours a day will be devoted to craft work in the three middle classes of these schools, and the aim is that the training shall be sufficient to give a thorough grounding in construction, finish, and how to interpret and make scale drawings, with an understanding of materials, their uses, preparation and composition. These studies with the three years' practice in craft work will fit the boy to take place in competition with any boy trained in the bazar and show better workmanship and a greater knowledge of construction. It must be understood, however, that the three years' practice will not also give the speed and decision that can only be acquired by long years of hard work under commercial conditions. It must therefore be the endeavour of the staff of these schools to inculcate the discipline of attention to work, and concentration during working hours, that will lead to the necessary speed and decision.

3. No carefully considered curricula or scheme of organisation can ensure the success of these schools unless the staffing, equipment and maintenance charges are also satisfactory. These factors depend upon the degree of interest taken in the institutions by the local boards responsible for their management.

The Standing Committee recommend that each school should have a managing and visiting committee of not more than six members under the chairmanship of the President of the Local Board; the Industrial Inspector of schools also being an *ex-officio* member. This committee should meet once a year in the cold weather after the annual inspection of the school and should also visit the school periodically and record their advice and criticism in a book kept for the purpose for the information of the Inspector.

In future the grants earned by Industrial schools will be assessed by the Inspector of Industrial schools in the case of Middle schools, by the Inspector of Drawing and Manual Training in the case of Primary Industrial schools. Grants will not as at present be dependent solely upon the pay of the teachers, but will be partly determined by the general efficiency of the school under the heads buildings, equipment, maintenance and management. The Inspector will be empowered to reduce the grant earned by twenty-five per cent. (as a maximum) for defects in any of the above heads. Existing schools in order to maintain recognition must conform to the new scheme of studies, and in order to obtain grant-in-aid must comply with the standard of efficiency in staff, equipment, and maintenance required by the Industrial Inspector from schools of their grade.

4. A system of Industrial school training cannot be considered complete without instruction in the use of machine tools and finer and more advanced craft work in wood and metal such as are necessary in metal turning, fitter's work and higher class cabinet work. This type of work cannot be taught in the Middle Industrial school nor in any school which a local board could ordinarily afford to maintain. This need can only be met by the establishment of special craft schools dealing with separate crafts, on the lines of the Bareilly School of Carpentry. Steps have already been taken by the Local Government towards the foundation of such a school of carpentry at Jullundur.

LAHORE CONSPIRACY CASES.

276. *Sardar Harchand Singh : Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the number and the names of persons (with parentage and residence) convicted in the Lahore Conspiracy Case which was tried in the Lahore Central Jail in 1915-16 and the term of sentence passed on each one of them;
- (b) whether any of these convicts has died in jail? If so, when and from what disease;
- (c) whether any of the convicts has since been released, and whether they were given any concession under the Jail Rules;
- (d) how many of them are still undergoing their sentences, and in which jails they are imprisoned and what is the term of the unexpired sentence in each case;
- (e) whether their sentences were revised after the repeal of the Defence of India Act? If not, is Government prepared to cancel the remaining portion of their unexpired sentences?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) Sixty as detailed below :—

7 were sentenced to death with forfeiture of property.

3 were sentenced to death.

24 were sentenced to transportation for life with forfeiture of property.

10 were sentenced to transportation for life.

9 were sentenced to 10 years' transportation.

1 was sentenced to 7 years' rigorous imprisonment.

8 were sentenced to four years' rigorous imprisonment.

1 was sentenced to 3 years' rigorous imprisonment.

1 was sentenced to 2 years' rigorous imprisonment.

1 was sentenced to simple imprisonment till the rising of Court.

(b) Government have no information about this.

(c) Twenty-one were released under the Royal Amnesty. Six were released after serving their sentences. Government have no information about the concession given to these prisoners under the Jail Rules.

(d) Twenty-three are still serving their sentence (transportation for life).

(e) The cases of these prisoners were considered under the Royal Amnesty.

No further revision is contemplated.

Sardar Tara Singh : Sir, Part (a) of the questions asks for the number and names of the persons whereas the answer gives only the number. Will the Honourable Member please give the names also?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I do not propose to give the names.

Sardar Tara Singh : Will the Honourable Member please give reasons for his refusal?

Mr. President : The honourable member is entitled to decline to answer a question without giving reasons for the same.

277. *Cancelled.*

* In the absence of Sardar Harchand Singh, his questions were put by Sardar Tara Singh.

THEFTS AND DACOITIES IN THE PROVINCE.

278. **Sardar Harchand Singh:** Is it a fact that the number of thefts and dacoities is increasing in the province? If so, what steps Government proposes to take in this respect?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. Except in certain districts where special conditions created unrest, there was less crime in 1923 than in 1922. The Police have recently been strengthened and vigorous action is being taken to suppress crime.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S SCHEME REGARDING SETTLEMENT OF ATTOCK DISTRICT.

279. **Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) if a scheme was submitted by the Deputy Commissioner, Attock, suggesting *inter alia*—

- (1) postponement of the revision of the settlement records;
- (2) recommending a special method of re-assessment without undertaking elaborate settlement operations;

(b) if so, what action has been taken, or is intended to be taken by Government regarding the proposals contained in the above scheme;

(c) the expenditure involved—

- (1) if the above scheme were adopted, and
- (2) under the present system;

(d) will Government be pleased to lay on the table the original proposals and all the correspondence on the subject?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: The Deputy Commissioner of Attock in demi-official correspondence has suggested to the Financial Commissioner a scheme by which settlement operations shall in future be conducted by the Deputy Commissioner of the district to be settled without the intervention of a Settlement Officer. The Financial Commissioner has not accepted the suggestion.

There has been no reference to Government. Government is not prepared to lay on the table demi-official correspondence.

Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan: Sir, the answer to that part of the question asking whether a scheme was submitted by the Deputy Commissioner suggesting the postponement of the revision of the settlement records has not been answered.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: The recommendation was not accepted.

THE PUNJAB MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION BILL.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill.

GOVERNMENT DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (RESERVED) GRANT—CONCLUDED.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh) Rural]: Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 76,823 with respect to the item of Rs. 8,07,291—Total Other Allowances and Honoraria—General Administration (22-E—General Administration)”.

Sir, from the Budget Estimates it is observed that the remuneration to contractors for the supply of commodities to officers on tour for 1922-23 was Rs. 1,49,809. The prices have gone down since and labour also has grown cheap but the remuneration for contractors has gone up. I submit, Sir, that the remuneration to the contractors can be cut down. Moreover I do not see any necessity for these contractors inasmuch as the officers have got servants and orderlies who can go to bazars and obtain supplies for these officers. In my opinion the whole amount can be cut out as it is a mere waste. Therefore I appeal to the House to accept my amendment and reduce the grant by the amount suggested by me.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 76,922 with respect to the item of Rs. 8,07,291—Total Other Allowances and Honoraria—General Establishments. (22-B.—General Administration.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. C. M. King: Sir, I could not quite catch the honourable member. Is it the remuneration of contractors that he is referring to?

Sardar Tara Singh: Yes, Sir.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, the House will be aware that the system of contractors to supply commodities for officers on tour, wherever it has been introduced, has been exceedingly popular and it has relieved the people of a great burden. I would therefore strongly deprecate any reduction under this head. I hope in course of time we shall be able to extend this system. I therefore trust the House will not make this reduction. If it does, it will, I am sure, cause a great deal of disappointment and dissatisfaction in those districts where the system is now in full use.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar [Kangra-cum-Gurdaspur (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, the system previously in practice was that the officers on tours used to obtain supplies and other necessities for themselves through their subordinate officers and these subordinate officers in turn got these supplies from the villagers. But in so doing these subordinate officers used corrupt and unfair means and consequently the villagers had to suffer inconvenience and trouble. Very often the villagers were paid nothing for the articles they had supplied and sometimes it so happened that there were serious quarrels between the poor subjects and the subordinate officers.

Complaints after complaints reached Government and it was represented that the system required a radical change and it is in response to that cry of the public that the system of *Thekedars* has been introduced. Since its introduction the people have been relieved of all that trouble and inconvenience. The officers on tours also have got no complaint against this system, for where a *Dak Bungalow* happened to be at a distance from the town or village, the presence of the *Thekedar* obviates any difficulty in bringing food-stuffs or other supplies from a far off place. The system now in practice is working satisfactorily in every way. The people as well as the officers are feeling no inconvenience. Under the circumstances I do not see any reasons for reducing the sum spent in carrying on the work and I, therefore, oppose the amendment.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, my honourable friend Chaudhri Ali Akbar has tried to put forward a very nice argument, but I am sorry I cannot persuade myself to agree with him. He said that the subordinate officers were corrupt and they often tease

[Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.]

the villagers and in order to save them from this trouble this amount was provided for the contractors. In my opinion this money can be better spent on beneficent departments. I think that this burden should not be placed on public coffers, but that the officials should be more careful and should exert themselves a little more in supervising their subordinate officers in whose hands the work of obtaining supplies is given. I therefore support the amendment.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muham-madan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, the amendment moved by my honourable friend Sardar Tara Singh, proposes to cut only a small portion of the whole grant for the purpose and not the whole of it. It does not mean that the system is not workable and therefore we should put an end to this system. I would rather say that this system is better than the previous arrangement but, I must say, it has not been used fully well and the end, that was in view when this system was introduced, has not been achieved. I would say that the system is decidedly better although the poor villagers and especially the people in the new canal colonies have not been relieved of the troubles and difficulties altogether, for in most cases supplies are being obtained in quite the same way as these used to be obtained previously. I would therefore like to request the Financial Commissioner, to see his way to remove these complaints and to direct the officers to make full use of this system. I also want particularly to bring it to the notice of Government that the Canal Department is not making much use of this system.

Why I support the amendment is because the cut proposed is small and the system can be worked with the balance remaining. I hope the authorities concerned will have no objection in accepting the amendment.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner): Sir, as my honourable friend has raised fresh points, I should like to reply to them briefly. In the first place I wish to protest strongly against the statement made by my honourable friend Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh that this is a sort of bribe to take the place of the bribes which the officers on tour used to take. I protest strongly against a statement like that being made in this Council. What used to happen is exactly what Gurbakhsh Singh suggests should be done, namely, that chaprasis were sent out to collect supplies at particular places where the officers were proceeding on tour. That system is undesirable and it did cause a certain amount of friction among the villagers. In place of that system we have now introduced the present system of having contractors. The contractors make their own arrangements to collect supplies and to sell them to officers when required. The contractors are paid the full price for everything they supply. Indeed they are paid a price higher than what is ruling in the market. A certain amount is allowed to the contractors for the carriage of supplies to the particular place required and the contractor thus gets full payment for the articles supplied. Unfortunately however there are many places in which the officers go rarely on tour and the profit that one would derive from selling these supplies is not sufficient to attract contractors from those places. Where owing to the paucity of the articles supplied, contractors cannot be obtained, we have to pay persons to be contractors. That is how Rs. 1,75,000 come to be put down under the head "Remuneration to Contractors." This is done entirely in the interests of the public and the rural population. Recently in November and December I toured throughout a great part of the Western Punjab and I had an oppor-

tunity of testing the great popularity of this system. As I said before I strongly deprecate the reduction under this head. We have heard Chaudhri Ali Akbar explain to the House the point of view of a zaildar and there must be hundreds of others like him who take the same view. My honourable friend Lala Sewak Ram, although he desires to cut down the grant does so not because the present system is not working well but because he thinks like Sardar Gurbaksh Singh that the officers do not use the system now. The only thing I can say about this is that the most stringent orders have been issued that the officers should use this system and if my honourable friend Lala Sewak Ram will bring to notice any particular case in which an officer has not carried out these orders, I shall be very grateful to the honourable member and shall see that due punishment is inflicted where there is disobedience.

Sardar Gurbaksh Singh (Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural): I think the honourable member has misunderstood me. I never said that it was meant as a bribe to be paid to the contractors for supplying articles at lower prices. My honourable friend Chaudhri Ali Akbar put forward the argument that the subordinate officers were corrupt and they often teased the villagers, and in order to save them from this trouble this amount was provided for the contractors. What I said was that this burden should not be placed on the public coffers, but that the officials should be more careful in supervising their subordinate officers. They should ask their private servants to provide them with their necessities. I never said that this amount was being paid to the contractors in order to supply the articles at prices lower than what was prevailing in the market.

Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan [Muzaffargarh (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I admit that the system of obtaining the supplies through *Thakadars* for the officers on tours was introduced in response to the public demand and in order to remove the trouble and inconvenience the poor people were suffering at the hands of zaildars and lambardars because these men used to pocket the money themselves instead of paying the same to those from whom they had bought certain things for the officers on tour. But as the pay of those, whose duty it is to supply all the things required, has recently been reduced from Rs. 45 to Rs. 15 or so, it would not be much if the Government are asked to make a reduction in their demand under this head by a small proportion. I, therefore, support the amendment moved by my friend Sardar Tara Singh.

Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah (Non-official Nominated) (Urdu): Sir, as far as my district is concerned (Lyallpur) where the people have come to settle from all parts of the province, the system of getting supplies through the *Thakadars* is working quite satisfactorily, and the people are feeling grateful to the Government for introducing this system. They are happy because the troubles and suffering they had to bear no longer exist, and because they are no longer afraid of the constables coming to them and compelling them to comply with their exorbitant demands. And as the system has proved a blessing I would ask the Government to spend more under this head in order to appoint contractors at bungalows where it has not been possible to attract them so far and where the people are still suffering. I would request the House too to grant more, if not this year, next year so that all may benefit by this system.

I know that at certain places the difficulties still exist even if this new system has been introduced, but it is not because the system is bad, but

[K. B. Sayar Mehdi Shah.]

because the contractors at these places happen to be dishonest. In order to satisfy the people of these localities we can get rid of dishonest contractors and replace them by better ones.

There is no doubt about it that the system is good. I, therefore, oppose the amendment.

Chaudhri Nur Din [Lyallpur South (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I really wonder what led my honourable friend Sardar Tara Singh to move this amendment, when he himself is a zamindar and perhaps knows well the various kinds of troubles and inconveniences the zamindars in villages were put to before the present system was introduced.

We have not forgotten the troubles and difficulties the poor villagers had to suffer at the hands of zaildars and lambardars when officers happened to come to a village or town on tour. Their troubles are still fresh in our memory and it is only on the introduction of the present system that we have been relieved of them.

For my part, I would strongly deprecate any efforts to discourage the system when we know positively that it has brought blessings on so many of us. I would rather appreciate all attempts on the part of the Government, if any are made to attract contractors at bungalows where such an arrangement does not already exist, so that no occasion may arise for complaints in this matter.

With these few words I would ask my honourable friend to withdraw his amendment, and if he is not prepared to do so, I would strongly oppose the amendment.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) (Urdu) : Sir, in moving the amendment the honourable member has argued that the grant that is being demanded now is more than what it was last year under this head. No doubt such is the case but perhaps he is unaware that the number of contractors has increased from what it was before and consequently Government had to ask for a larger demand. And I may tell him that if it is considered necessary that more contractors are required, as some of the honourable members have expressed that they are required at certain bungalows, more money will have to be spent and consequently if need be more will be demanded next year.

With regard to Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram's remarks that the system is good, I am thankful to him for the compliments, but when he says that it can be worked with less money, I really hesitate to accept this assertion. If he is sure that the system can be worked with less money, I would suggest his taking a contract for the whole of the province. He may perhaps thus be able to manage it with less money and Government will be really obliged if he can show that some money could be saved.

Sardar Tara Singh : 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. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 76,822 with respect to the item of Rs. 8,07,241—Total Other Allowances and (Honoraria—General Establishments. (22-E—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh Urban) : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 8,540 with respect to the item of Rs. 85,404—
Total Supplies and Services—General Establishments. (22-E—General Administration.)”

I find that the actuals for 1922-23 were Rs. 25,373. We budgetted Rs. 31,400 for the last year though we revised that figure to Rs. 35,000. I therefore move to bring the amount down to that budgetted for last year.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 8,540 with respect to the item of Rs. 85,404—
Total Supplies and Services—General Establishments. (22-E—General Administration.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, this item consists of costs of suits, purchase of tents, and scales and weights. As regards suits, no suits are conducted unless they are absolutely necessary. So is the case as regards tents, no tents are purchased unless old tents are absolutely condemned. The provision for tents is very small when the whole province is considered. I, therefore, do not think it will be possible to reduce the amount any further.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 8,540 with respect to the item of Rs. 85,404—
Total Supplies and Services—General Establishments. (22-E—General Administration.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : As there are three members who have sets of identical amendments standing in their name, I propose to leave it to them to decide who is to move each amendment. If the member selected to move the amendment will rise in his place, he will be called upon to move the amendment.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 79,430 with respect to the item of Rs. 7,94,300—
Total Contingencies—General Establishments (22-E—General Administration.)”

This amendment, Sir, as others of this kind, is based on the principle that as prices are coming down, the items under the head contingencies should be reduced by at least one-tenth. I hope that the House will vote in favour of this amendment.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 79,430 with respect to the item of Rs. 7,94,300—
Total Contingencies—General Establishments. (22-E—General Administration.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. Miles Irving (Financial Secretary) : Sir, the apparent growth of these contingencies is larger than it really is because we have lumped up with these contingencies the provision that used to be made for the purchase of stationery in the country. Thus in 1921-22 the actuals of these contingencies were 6 lakhs plus half a lakh for stationery purchased in this country.

[Mr. Miles Irving:]

making a total of 8½ lakhs. In 1922-23 the actuals (the Accountant-General gives us) were Rs. 6,70,000. I wish to take the House into my confidence. The Deputy Commissioners asked for Rs. 7,14,000. I have not reviewed new contracts, but as I had to put something in the budget, I cut Rs. 14,000 and put 7 lakhs in the budget. It is quite possible that a few thousands, Rs. 10,000 or 20,000 or 30,000 may very well be cut down, but I do not think Rs. 70,000 or 80,000 can. Therefore I would suggest to the House to leave it to me and I will cut these contracts as close as reasonably can be done. It can be cut down by Rs. 20,000 or 30,000, but it cannot be cut down by Rs. 70,000 or 80,000.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Sir, I beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 500 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,000—Contingencies—General Establishments. (22-E—General Administration.)"

Sir, as I said before, this amendment is based on the principle that we have cut down 10 per cent. out of the total amount of contingencies.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 500 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,000—Contingencies—General Establishments. (22-E—General Administration.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. E. R. Abbott (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, I wish to draw the attention of this House to the fact that this Rs. 5,000 which is shown under contingencies for treasury establishment is actually included in the contingencies higher up on the same page which the House has already passed. The Rs. 5,000 is a deduct entry to show the cost which is debitable to the treasury.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 500 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,000—Contingencies—General Establishments. (22-E—General Administration.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,500 with respect to the item of Rs. 7,760—Naib-Tahsildars for Mutation Work. (22-E—General Administration.)"

In doing so, Sir, I take my stand on two points. The first is that this grant for 1923-24 was Rs. 2,500. . .

Mr. President : Order, order. It is a very small sum and there is only one item in the budget under this head. Is it on a matter of principle that you propose this reduction, or is it as a matter of economy?

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : As a matter of economy, Sir, because the sum provided for the next year is in excess of what was provided for the current year.

Mr. President : I suppose it is not on a matter of principle?

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : No, Sir.

Mr. President : Then I rule out your amendment. It is only a small sum.

The amendment was accordingly ruled out.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 37,155 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,48,620—Travelling Allowance of Tahsildars. (22-E—General Administration.)"

The motion was carried.

Mr. H. D. Craik : The amendment has not been moved.

Mr. President : I have already announced that in the case of amendments relating to Travelling Allowance, they will be deemed to have been moved and will be put from the Chair. This is in order to save time.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 7,112 with respect to the item of Rs. 71,125—Total Contingencies—Staging Bungalow Establishment. (22-E—General Administration.)"

Sir, I may inform the House that this amendment has been proposed on the principle of reducing such items by one-tenth as has been done on previous occasions.

Mr. President : This amendment covers three items, contingencies, pay of menials and petty construction and repairs. Will the honourable member tell us in detail how he proposes to effect this reduction?

Sardar Tara Singh : Sir, I do not propose to cut the pay of menials. I only submit that these petty constructions and repairs can be postponed to next year, because we want to balance our budget this year. Last year no provision was made for this item and I don't see why it should be provided for this year when we have a deficit. In view of the present financial stringency, I trust my amendment will be accepted.

Mr. President : Am I to understand that you attack only the item of Rs. 22,900 for petty construction and repairs and not the Rs. 19,000 for contingencies?

Sardar Tara Singh : Both, Sir.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 7,112 with respect to the item of Rs. 71,125—Total Contingencies—Staging Bungalow Establishment. (22-E—General Administration.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. Miles Irving (Financial Secretary) : Sir, it is not worth while spending much time of the Council. I shall only point out that the postponement of petty construction and repairs to next year is not a very sound idea. If we postpone we will have to spend twice as much next year. I therefore think it is better to leave this item alone.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 7,112 with respect to the item of Rs. 71,125—Total Contingencies—Staging Bungalow Establishment. (22-E—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 79,936 with respect to the item of Rs. 7,99,600—Contingencies—Copying Agency Establishment. (22-E—General Administration)."

Sir, the actuals under this head for 1922-23 are Rs. 7,48,869 and I do not see why there should be any increased grant for this year. That is why I have proposed a reduction and I trust that my amendment is quite reasonable and will appeal to the honourable members on the official benches.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 79,936 with respect to the item of Rs. 7,99,600—Contingencies—Copying Agency Establishment. (23-E—General Administration)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I should like to know why such a big sum for contingencies under copying charges has been provided this year. I think the amount is too much and must be reduced by 10 per cent.

Mr. Miles Irving (Financial Secretary) : Sir, I have to offer only a few words of explanation. This contingency expenditure so called is merely the copying agency fees. As the expenditure grows up under this head so also the income grows. If the honourable member will turn to page 54 of the Detailed Budget they will observe that the income of the copying agency account has risen from Rs. 8,24,000 to Rs. 8,68,000 and as our income goes up so also must our expenditure.

Sardar Tara Singh : I beg leave to withdraw the amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 81,82,795 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 1925 in respect of General Administration (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (TRANSFERRED) GRANT.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,33,000 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministries of Agriculture and Education) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1925 in respect of General Administration (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE GRANT.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,71,000 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 1925 in respect of Administration of Justice."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,71,000 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st March 1926 in respect of Administration of Justice."

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 4,000—Travelling Allowance—High Court. (24-A—Administration of Justice.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh (Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 9,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 9,000—Assistant Legal Remembrancer—English Law Officers. (24-B—Administration of Justice.)"

In moving this motion, I beg to submit that there are two appointments of Assistant Legal Remembrancer; one has been recently created. These are days of retrenchment and not of creating additional appointments. On that point, I submit that this post may be abolished.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 9,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 9,000—Assistant Legal Remembrancer—English Law Officers. (24-B—Administration of Justice.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. J. Coldstream (Legal Remembrancer) : Sir, the post of Legal Remembrancer was created in 1897 as the Government Advocate could not cope with the work. Two years after that in 1899, the post of Assistant Legal Remembrancer was created. The work steadily increased until in 1922 it became many times more heavy than what it was 20 years before. It was then proposed by the then Legal Remembrancer that a whole-time officer should be appointed in the place of the part-time assistant, that he should be a first class lawyer and should draw a pay of Rs. 1,500 rising to Rs. 2,000. This proposal was approved by the Government, but the succeeding Legal Remembrancer found that he was unable to get a suitable man properly qualified who would give up his whole time and practice for Rs. 1,500 a month. He therefore proposed that instead of one Legal Remembrancer, two half-time assistants should be appointed, one to help in conveyancing which is a very large part of the Legal Remembrancer's work and the other to assist in legislation work which as the House knows has increased very largely in the last few years. This proposal was sanctioned and it led to a saving not only because the increment of Rs. 100 was dispensed with but also because it gave Government two law officers in place of one to appear free in the High Court at times when such free appearances were necessary under the rules. The Assistant Legal Remembrancer for conveyancing whose pay has now been attacked does the whole of conveyancing work which as I already mentioned to the Council forms a great part of the work of my office. This work is greatly increasing, for reasons obvious in these days of commercial expansion in the province. He also assists a good deal in opinion work where also work has increased. As the House is aware a great many more Benches are now sitting continuously for criminal work in the High Court than before. Honourable members on the other side of the House

[Mr. J. Coldstream:]

know better than I do how greatly criminal work in the High Court has increased and how much stronger is the call for Government representation before the Honourable Judges. I can give the House statistics showing the number of appearances, on behalf of Government by lawyers in the High Court. Between 1919 and 1921 the number rose from 1,691 to 1,530 and in 1922 it went up to 2,234. This increase has been maintained; but I have not got the figures for 1923. Opinion work also has increased enormously in recent years. Putting aside confidential and secret work which has increased in greater proportion than any other part of the work of the Legal Remembrancer the number of references has grown from 918 in 1919 to 1,317 in 1923 and this rate of increase is being maintained. Circumstances in the Punjab are exceptional. This is not a province which we can compare with others. We have got a large garrison, and work coming from the military authorities is increasing. We are seeing a great growth in important commercial undertakings in every direction in some of which the Government takes a part. Great public works are in course of construction and a great portion of the legal work arising from these falls to the share of the Assistant Legal Remembrancer whose pay has now been attacked. We have the North-Western Railway which I understand is about the second greatest in the world and it sends all its legal work to the Punjab. As regards criminal work, I have already shown how heavy and how important it is. Only the other day I told the House the number of murder references dealt with by the High Court on the average was greater than the number in the other Provinces of India put together excepting the Central Provinces and the United Provinces. Besides all this work, the Legal Remembrancer's office has to supervise a department consisting of 26 public prosecutors at present, as well as many public prosecutors specially appointed, whom unfortunately we cannot for the moment do away with. All this burden is too great for one man. I have shown to the House that we cannot get a suitably qualified second man who can give all the assistance necessary for the pay we can offer. I hope that the facts that I have laid before the House will be found sufficient to justify the retention of the second Assistant Legal Remembrancer, the grant for whose pay has been attacked.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh Sir, I beg leave to withdraw my amendment

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 825 with respect to the item of Rs. 2,500—
Total Travelling Allowance—English Law Officers. (24-B.—Administration of Justice.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 6,250 with respect to the item of Rs. 25,000—
Total Travelling Allowance—Muzaffil Establishment. (24-B.—Administration of Justice.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh) Rural]: Sir, I want to draw attention to the fact that there is a misprint in the figures of my amend-

ment as printed on the list of amendments. I wanted to move a reduction of Rs. 55,000 out of Rs. 1,55,000 and not Rs. 55,000 out of Rs. 55,000. The figure '1' is missing.

Mr. President: In that case I will call upon Lala Bodh Raj to move his amendment which will cover yours.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,55,000—Total Other Allowances and Honoraria—Law Officers. (24-E—Administration of Justice)."

This item of total other allowances and honoraria is meant for special public prosecutors who are to be engaged for special cases. On page 146 of the budget we have the Government Advocate, the Assistant Legal Remembrancer and other law officers. On page 147 we see a large staff of public prosecutors and over and above that we are asked to give our sanction for Rs. 1,55,000 to conduct special cases. On principle I am against the appointment of special public prosecutors. The appointment of special magistrates or the appointment of special public prosecutors is nothing short of luxury. Year before last the grades of public prosecutors were revised and they were placed in a fixed salaried grade so that the Government might be able to have a good staff of public prosecutors, capable men with sufficient intelligence to conduct complicated cases. With that idea the Council also sanctioned the fixed salary for the public prosecutors. But my experience tells me that although they are at the disposal of the Government for the whole time, they are allowed to conduct civil cases and get fee. In other words they have not sufficient work and they can get time to conduct civil cases. ...

Mr. J. Coldstream (Legal Remembrancer): It is incorrect. They have extremely little time to do any work of their own. In the majority of cases they have no time.

Lala Bodh Raj: I can say from my own experience that public prosecutors have got sufficient time for civil cases. From my own experience and from what I learn from other members of this House I can say that they have plenty of time to ...

Mr. President: I gave a ruling that contradiction must prevail. I cannot allow the honourable member to enter into a dispute as to who is right on this particular point. The honourable member has made his point. He can go on to something else.

Lala Bodh Raj: I have to bow to the ruling of the chair and I am not allowed to contradict the state ment that has been put forward in the House by the member on the opposite bench. You will see in the Explanatory Memorandum of the Budget that this item of Rs. 1,55,000 has been provided for for ten public prosecutors. On page 58 of the Explanatory Memorandum the monthly salary of these public prosecutors is shown to be Rs. 13,060 per mensem, so the whole amount comes up to Rs. 1,55,000. There is an arrangement that if Government feels the necessity of engaging any public prosecutor they can engage an officiating public prosecutor who is paid Rs. 500 per month. I beg to say that instead of engaging any temporary public prosecutors as special public prosecutors for special cases, Government can engage the public prosecutors who are on the cadre of the permanent staff to conduct those special cases and to replace this permanent staff by the officiating public prosecutors who can

[Lala Bodh Raj.]

do the work quite efficiently. In that case Government will have to pay for these ten officiating prosecutors about Rs. 5,000 a month and the total amount for the whole year will come to Rs. 60,000. We can thus save one lakh of rupees and that is the object of my amendment. With these few remarks I appeal to the members of this House that up till now we have not been able to make any savings in the budget except in the case of travelling allowance. We have to bring down the expenditure to the amount of revenue. We should be ready to make savings wherever we can and this is the place where we can safely and definitely effect a saving and I think members of this House will not grudge accepting this amendment. I may remind the members of this House who have come to this House with a view to protect the interests of agriculturists that whatever savings we can effect in the budget, it will be the agriculturists who will benefit more than the non-agriculturists. I need not dilate on the matter any longer and I hope that members of this House will agree with me and accept the amendment.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,55,000—Total Other Allowances and Honoraria—Law Officers. (24-B—Administration of Justice.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

Chaudri Ali Akbar [Kangra-*sum*-Gurdaspur (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I could not follow the honourable mover of the amendment, but I want to say this much that is, that the movers of amendments usually waste the time of the Council by moving their amendments and withdrawing them a few minutes later.

Lala Bodh Raj : Sir, is the honourable member in order?

Mr. President : I do not think the honourable member is speaking to this amendment.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : He is playing the school master.

Mr. President : I quite agree.

Chaudri Ali Akbar (continued) : It is said that the burden of expenditure thus incurred will be borne by the zamindars. It is true, but the Government has to meet the expenditure somehow or other. The outlaws must be brought to book and for this purpose the Government have certainly to undergo heavy expenses. I oppose the amendment because the number of dacoits is daily increasing by leaps and bounds. These dacoits have plenty of money and they select lawyers of high standing for their defence. Keeping this point in view we ought to engage pleaders of established reputation to conduct these special cases successfully.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I am at a loss to understand how and why my honourable friend Chaudhri Ali Akbar has tried to oppose the amendment when he had not been able to follow the honourable mover of the amendment. Now I come to the question under debate, that is why public prosecutors are engaged at all. Some say that they are engaged simply to conduct special cases. There are two kinds of cases, first those in which violation of law is the chief factor, secondly the cases of political nature. I take the cases of the first kind about which I would draw the attention of the House to the Honourable Finance Member's statement that this year the number of crimes has markedly decreased as compared with the last year.

Mr. President: The honourable member must deal with the coming year.

Sardar Tara Singh (continued): Sir, I mean to say that if the number of crimes has decreased and the political discontent has virtually ended in the major portion of a community, the number of cases will naturally fall down in the coming year. Now the question arises how the pending cases can be disposed of as they have already taken a very long time; but I submit that there is a possibility of their early disposal excepting our Akali Leaders' case. I admit that violence must be checked thoroughly but the means adopted to put down violence are very expensive and costly. For example, Mr. Manohar Lal is conducting a special case at Gujranwala very successfully on a low scale of remuneration. I do not understand why public prosecutors are engaged on a daily fee of Rs. 2,000 or so. I attended the court yesterday for about three-quarters of an hour and witnessed that during that period Mr. Petman did not utter a single word and that Pandit Jawala Parshad conducted the case alone. It shows that Pandit Jawala Parshad could manage the case alone. The public prosecutor came back from the court with pockets full of money while I returned empty handed. I mean to say, Sir, that lawyers of ordinary standing can be engaged on modest scale of pay and that there is no need of undergoing such heavy expenses by the employment of special public prosecutors. Moreover, Sir, those lawyers alone are engaged in these cases to whom the Government wants to show a certain amount of favouritism. There is one Mr. Bhandari, public prosecutor at Montgomery, who has been engaged on a fee of Rs. 1,200 to conduct a special case at Ferozepore.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari: Do not refer to me (laughter).

Sardar Tara Singh (continued): I mean Captain R. R. Bhandari. Was there no pleader capable of conducting the case in the Ferozepore bar which consists of eighty lawyers? Sir, I want to enquire also whether the item under discussion includes the pay drawn by Mr. Petman or not. These public prosecutors are entitled to travelling allowance in addition to their fees and they profit by both means. For the sake of effecting economy I would ask the House to cut down the grant as suggested by the honourable mover of the amendment.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): Sir, I shall begin by explaining very briefly the position as regards the state of crime in the province. My honourable friend opposite put forward my statement that crime had decreased very much as an argument for not employing special public prosecutors. It is perfectly true that crime last year has been less than in the preceding year. (A voice: Markedly less.) Yes, but it must not be forgotten that a great many cases of special kind have arisen. Apart from that, good many special cases of great magnitude which are now being tried are cases which cropped up in 1922. Now, Sir, there is much misconception about the employment of these special prosecutors. It is said there is no reason why the ordinary public prosecutor should not deal with these cases in the intervals of his other work. It is also suggested that men on very low pay can very well be employed. I do not know whether the honourable gentlemen have made a study of the actual nature of the cases with which we are now concerned when we are discussing this subject. A certain number of them have been specified by my friend the Legal Remembrancer and I can tell from the remarks that have fallen from Sardar Tara Singh that he is

[Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.]

aware of the general character of the cases in question. He is perhaps not aware that these are cases with an enormous number of witnesses and in some cases very large number of accused and that they are cases which continue from day to day for a very long period. I am not going to detain the House by going into the details of all these cases, but I think I might refer, as an example, to the well-known, almost I may say notorious, case of forged notes. That is a case of very great complication with a considerable number of accused and a very large number of witnesses. Now, Sir, I want the House to realise what a case of this kind means to the people. I can understand a great many persons here present do not mind whether the case succeeds or not so long as they imagine that Government only is concerned. But I should like them to realise, in this matter of forged notes, where hundreds and thousands of ordinary men have been plundered by the trick of putting into their hands notes which are not genuine, who it is that suffers. Every person who has suffered in this way will thank the Government for having taken some pains and spent some money for the purpose of bringing home the crime to the guilty and thus preventing the recurrence of similar types of crime. (Hear, hear). I do not propose to go into details of other cases. There are cases of dacoity, cases of very great importance because they touch the people very closely. Those who suffer from dacoity know well enough that it would be a grave fault on the part of the Government to omit to take any action or to spare any expense which may be necessary in order to put a stop to this cruel and destructive form of crime.

Sir, the speaker who addressed the House last said that there is no reason why pleaders on a lower scale of fees should not be employed. It is true that some of the special prosecutors have been appointed on a considerable sum of money, but if he sees the list of special prosecutors he will observe that there are also some who have been appointed on a very modest scale of pay. There is one, for instance, who is drawing only Rs. 500 a month and there are several others who have been employed on Rs. 1,000 or less a month. It has been remarked that it should be possible to find pleaders on a lower scale of pay. Well, Sir, I have explained to this House on more occasions than one that we have actually appointed a committee consisting of members not of this Council but of the Council which has now ceased to exist. In accordance with the desire of that Council we have appointed a committee consisting very largely of members of the legal profession who will assist us by their skilled advice to fix the scale of fees which shall be proper in these cases. If as a result of their advice any reduction should be possible for the future we shall be most happy to make it.

Sardar Tara Singh : I can provide better pleaders on a lower scale of fees.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I am sorry I do not hear what the honourable member says.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari (Non-Official, Nominated) :

Sir, I do not wish to be understood that I am partial to my own profession and that for that reason I am speaking against the amendment. In a way I have to repeat what was said at the time when the supplementary grant came before us for discussion. I would not have stood up at all to repeat what I have already said on the last occasion but certain remarks made by my honourable friend Sardar Tara

Singh have compelled me to be on my legs. My honourable friend argued that the engagement of a lawyer in special cases can be considered or compared to a luxury. He being a lawyer ought to have considered well before characterising it as a luxury. He ought to have known that that was not a proper term to be applied to a case like that. As far as my experience for the last 40 years goes, I have to say that when there are three or four lawyers sitting on one side, one is generally considered a leader. I appeal to the experience of my honourable friend to say what is generally done by the lawyers. They are just watching the case and doing nothing else. My own experience in cases where there are three or four lawyers is very clear and definite and if the experience of the other members of the legal profession is otherwise, I should say they are not on the right side. If I say anything with regard to the particular case, I should not be considered to be partial to Mr. Revan Petman who is conducting this case. If we go to the court, what do we see? I am not discussing from the point of view of special fee that is paid to Mr. Petman who is conducting the case. I think my honourable friend too would have gone and seen with his own eyes what was occurring in the place. He must have seen that the leader was sitting doing nothing but simply watching the case while the other three juniors under him were attending to all the work. Whenever the senior sees that the junior is not proceeding in the right direction, the senior at once gets up and puts him in the right track. Ultimately he has to argue the case. In that way his attention is there, his mind is there and he has to look in what way his case is being conducted. In the present case this is not what is expected and what is wanted. From my own experience I have to say that when there is a case of a special nature and when the accused in the case engage three or four eminent lawyers to defend them, the other side has naturally to engage equally competent lawyers. When there is litigation whether civil or criminal, do not the litigants rush at the first opportunity to the house of lawyers who are at the top of the profession and who are considered to possess a reputation and ability to conduct cases, and engage them? Is this not a matter of every day occurrence in the High Court? In the High Court, we see that long before an appeal is taken up, lawyers are engaged so that the other side may not have the opportunity of engaging the same eminent lawyers. If an accused engages eminent lawyers, is it proper on our part to ask the Government to engage lawyers of the lowest order? While the right of selection is granted to the accused, the Government also should be given the opportunity of engaging good lawyers. The Government should find out the most capable lawyer to conduct the case. In this respect I beg to say that differentiation on the question of selection is not a proper thing at all. Probably my honourable friend went there and saw that the pockets of some lawyers were full while he was offered nothing so that he was obliged to return empty handed. I am very sorry for that and I very much sympathise with him for having returned with his pockets empty. Possibly that might be the reason for his moving this amendment.

The next thing we have to consider is whether these are special cases and if they are special cases, the question resolves itself into two heads. The first is whether the lawyers who are ordinarily in the service of Government are quite capable or whether they have sufficient time to attend to the special cases. If they are quite capable to conduct the case and if they have sufficient time, then I think the amendment must certainly be accepted by the House. If those who are competent to judge say that

[R. B. Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari.]

these cases are of a special nature and that the lawyers who are already in service have got neither sufficient time nor the requisite capacity to conduct the cases, then it would be idle on our part to say they can attend to the cases. Honourable members who have got experience will certainly accept this statement. I certainly can fall back on my experience in my own district. The public prosecutor in my district has to work from morn till night just like a labourer ; he has to wander from one court to another and he has not got sufficient time to attend to other cases. If we consider the matter on that ground, it appears to me that the Government is not wasting public money in any way. As I already said, Government has got a responsibility and the eyes of the public are fixed on the Government. Especially when the public are watching the Government with a critical eye, I presume great care would be exercised by the Government in the matter of spending money. Therefore, it is, I think, going too far if we say that the Government is spending money on this luxury or that it is paying only those who are their favourites. In this world there is favouritism and there shall be favouritism, but I do not consider it a favouritism when the question is one of ability and other qualifications. For these reasons, I beg to say that the amendment seems to me to be rather unreasonable and it should therefore be rejected.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon [Shahpur East (Muhammudan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, there is no doubt a big amount is demanded to defray the expenses in connection with the employment of special public prosecutors. In the first place let us see to what extent there is peace and quiet in the province. For this purpose I will take the case of my own District Sargodha. On the borders of Shahpur and Mianwali Districts there is a mountain called the Salt Range, where dacoits usually take refuge. Dacoits possessing military rifles have been infesting these districts for the past two months. Nobody is safe there. They have become so powerful. . . .

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : What has dacoity to do with this ?

Malik Firoz Khan, noon : What I wish to say is this. I can understand my honourable friend taking more interest in this although the argument is going against him. My contention is that if in this province there is a state of lawlessness, then it is the duty of the Government to take every possible step to put down that crime. One of the steps which the Government can take to put down that crime is to prosecute those people in such a manner that they do not get off by lack of ability in the prosecuting agency. That is exactly what I was driving at. When my honourable friend interrupted me, I was just going to illustrate the state of lawlessness in this province.

(Urdu) : Three dacoits went to a village and asked for the patwari who had reported against them. The patwari escaped by taking protection amongst 40 men present on the spot. Then they demanded the surrender of one named Muhammad Khan, who, it is said, was hidden under some wood. His nephew cried out that his uncle was there under the wood. They caught hold of him and cut him to pieces with their swords. There is another case of a woman who had a child with her and was asked to leave the child aside, but on refusing she was shot dead and hacked to pieces with swords. This is the state of affairs in my district for the past two months. A marriage procession was going from village Chak Ram Das to another village Bhikhi and on the way it was detained by these dacoits, who took away the ornaments and clothes of those poor people. Now the question arises whether

the Government should suppress this sort of lawlessness or not. I hope every body would say that the Government should be as strict as possible to suppress the disturbance and that exemplary punishment should be given to these outlaws. If we engage lawyers of ordinary capabilities the dacoits would be encouraged and would arrange somehow or other to get off scot free. In my opinion in such cases the Government should never mind money. I admit that, and in reality, money is being spent very lavishly on the Akali Leaders' Case. The Government might have engaged other lawyers on a very moderate scale of fee. But now as the case stands I do not think it wise on our part to hand over the case to other lawyers. The argument that Mr. Petman sat still for three hours is merely absurd and I need not discuss it.

Sardar Tara Singh : My point was that the money could have been saved.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon (continued in Urdu) : This is also no argument in favour of economy. Because how can you expect a lawyer to do his case properly when you make him absent when his adversary is cross-examining the witnesses? In the end I may say that I am not of opinion that lawyers of ordinary standing should conduct such an important case at the present stage.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz [Lahore (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I give the real facts. There are only ten special cases being tried in different courts. The Babar Akali case is being conducted by Mr. Pindi Dass on a fee of Rs. 2,000. This amount is really more than what he ought to have been given. He could have done the case on Rs. 1,500. I admit there may be some danger to the life of a public prosecutor who conducts such cases. There are a good many capable lawyers at Hoshiarpur and Jullundur who could have been engaged on a lower scale of remuneration. Another case is being conducted by Rai Sahib Shiv Narain on a fee of Rs. 1,500. In this case also there is a difference of two or three hundred rupees. Rai Sahib could have done the case for Rs. 1,250 or so. Khan Sahib Muhammad Nasir-ud-Din is also getting Rs. 1,300. Usually he takes less than this amount. Mr. Rallia Ram is receiving Rs. 1,500 at Amritsar. He could have taken Rs. 1,200 at the most. The same is the case with Captain R. R. Bhandari. Mr. Anant Ram is receiving Rs. 1,200 at Lahore, where a capable lawyer can very easily be had on a fee of Rs. 600 or Rs. 500. The gang case is really a complicated one and the fee given to the lawyer conducting the case is quite reasonable as he had to give a good deal of his time to the case. I would say a few words about the case under debate and Pir of Makhad's case. The public is anxious to know the true state of affairs in connection with these cases. Really the Parbandhak Committee is suffering the most and Mr. Petman is being given fees at exorbitant rates. A capable native pleader could have been engaged on a lower scale of fee. The public should be satisfied that everything is being done with good intentions. In my opinion there is absolutely no need of lavishing money so mercilessly on these cases. I remember the Finance Committee expressed the same opinion. As regards Pir of Makhad's case.....

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I rise to a point of order, Sir. No provision is being made for the Pir of Makhad's case under this head in the coming year.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz (continued) : The note says, the appointment of a public prosecutor on Rs. 700—

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I said, Sir, in the coming year. That is the list of the people who have been employed hitherto. I said and

[Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.]

I repeat again that no provision has been made for the case of the Pir of Makhad in the coming year.

Sardar Jodh Singh: May I ask if that case is going to be finished before the 1st of April?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: That appears to be irrelevant. The question is whether money is provided or not. It is not provided.

Mr. President: If the case is not included under this head, you cannot refer to it in your speech.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz (continued): I was misled by this note.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The honourable member is creating prejudice by referring to a matter which is not relevant. I object to it.

Mr. President: The honourable member will, I am sure, drop all reference to the case of the Pir of Makhad.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz (continued): Very well, Sir, I feel it my duty to say clearly that the public is impatient to know the motives which have brought about these cases. Lala Manohar Lal at Gujranwala is conducting a very serious case on a modest fee of Rs. 500 but in certain other cases, such as cases in connection with Parbandhak Committee the amount of fee given to public prosecutors is really more than what they deserve. I am also aware that the Government is conducting these cases simply for the good administration of the country.

Sardar Bakhtawar Singh [Hoshiarpur and Kangra (Sikh), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I do not think there is any member in this Council who would advocate the cause of lawlessness and disturbance. The Sikhs have absolutely no sympathy with the Babar Akalis and even the Parbandhak Committee has also issued a *communiqué* to the same effect. The case, I am now about to refer to, is the Akali Leaders' case about which I would say a word or two. I cannot understand why the Akali Leaders' case is handed over to a special public prosecutor when lawyers of ordinary standing are conducting cases of murder. Malik Feroz Khan, Noon, has remarked that the case has reached such a stage that if we hand it over to some other lawyer the prosecution will certainly suffer a great deal. In the last session of this very Council it was said that in future further demands would be made in the future for this case and I wonder to see that the remark made at that time has proved quite true. The stability of a Government is always based upon the hearts of its subjects. If one cares to read history.....

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I rise to a point of order. Is this relevant to the question of provision for public prosecutor?

Mr. President: I think it can be brought in but I cannot allow him to dilate on that point at any length.

Sardar Bakhtawar Singh (continued in Urdu): Sir, I submit that if the Government had done just in accordance with the will of the Sikh community these occurrences would certainly not have arisen?

Mr. J. Coldstream: I think the honourable member is confusing the Akali case generally with certain accused who are standing their trial.....

Mr. President: Are you raising any point of order?

Mr. J. Coldstream: No, Sir.

Mr. President: Then you will take your seat, Sardar Bakhtawar Singh, have you finished?

Sardar Bakhtawar Singh : Yes, Sir.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh, Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, this question has been discussed twice or thrice, but whenever it comes before the House, one member or other tries to frighten the House by narrating the stories of dacoits. The reality is this that the money that is being spent on the Akali Leaders' case is much more than the amount spent on other cases that are of more serious nature. The stories of dacoits have no application here.

The public prosecutor in the Babbar Akali case is being paid only Rs. 2,100 a month, while in this case monthly expenses amount to something like Rs. 15,000. I don't say that Mr. Petman is not worth what he is getting. All I urge is that by spending so lavishly on this case an impression is being created that accused in this case are worse than the Babbar Akalis even.

No one can say how long the case will take as the investigation is also going on along with the proceedings in the court. This case has been pending since 13th October.

Mr. President : The honourable member must deal with the coming year.

Sardar Jodh Singh (continued) : I mean to say, Sir, that it is not certain that the investigation will be complete till the next year. It is being treated an extraordinary case so much so that the investigation even is also not complete as yet.

Mr. President : I think the honourable member is going off the point.

Dr. Gokal Chand : He is saying that the case will take a very long time.

Sardar Jodh Singh (continued) : Yes, Sir, I also want to show that the public is right in inferring that the Government is not treating it as an ordinary case to maintain peace and order but that there is something behind it. The Honourable Finance Member has stated that due consideration will be given to any Bill that may be brought before the Government for the pacification of the Sikh community.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I rise to a point of order. Is this relevant to the question of payment for special public prosecutor ?

Mr. President : I think it is because the case is within the scope of this grant. It seems to me he is entitled to say something about the case and the chance of settling it. Of course I quite realise he is making his whole appeal on the ground of that case. But he cannot dilate on the point.

Sardar Jodh Singh (continued) : Thank you very much, Sir, I will finish within a few minutes. I want to say how can we bring a Bill to settle the Sikh movement when the Government has declared the Shiremani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee an unlawful assembly. I think I have made it clear that money is being wasted on this case, and if the same principle of employing the ablest lawyer available as advocated by some of the honourable members be observed in all other cases as well I cannot imagine what would be the financial condition of the Government in future. A saving of Rs. 13,000 can be made in this very case just now. We are already undergoing a great many hardships, and we should not be put under this financial burden as well. I would request the House to cut down the grant and thus give a practical proof of their sympathy for the over-burdened tax-payer.

Sardar Tara Singh : 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 : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,55,000
—Total Other Allowances and Honoraria—Law Officers (24-B.—Administration of Justice.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided : Ayes 21 ; Noes 41.

AYES 21.

Chaudhri Saadullah Khan,
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.
Sardar Bakhtawar Singh.
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
Manvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Sardar Partap Singh.
Pandit Nanak Chand.
Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Lala Sham Lal.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Lala Banke Rai.
Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
Lala Diwan Chand.
Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhota Ram.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.

NOES 41.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Lieut.-Colonel E. L. Ward.
Mr. E. B. Abbott.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
Mr. E. A. Scott.
Sir George Anderson.
Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chaudhri
Lal Chand.
The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian
Fazl-i-Husain.
The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur
Sardar Sunder Singh, Majithia.
The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
Mr. A. Latifi.
Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
Dr. C. A. Owen.
Lieut.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
Mr. J. Coldstream.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-
ud-Din.
Malik Iqbal Khan, Noon.

Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr
Shah.
Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Mian Muhammad Sharif.
Rai Shahadat Khan.
Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
Sayad Husain Shah.
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
Khan Bahadur Sardar Jamal Khan.
Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das,
Shandari.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Lieut. Malik Muzaffar Khan.
Captain Malik Mumtaz Muhammad
Khan, Tiwana.
Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul
Qadir.
Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh), Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 55,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,55,000—
Total Other Allowances and Honoraria—Law Officers (24-B—Administration
of Justice).”

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 55,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,55,000—
Total Other Allowances and Honoraria—Law Officers (24-B—Administration
of Justice).”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided ; Ayes 19, Noes 39.

AYES 19.

Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Sardar Partab Singh.
Pandit Nanak Chand.
Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Lala Sham Lal,
Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Lala Banke Rai.
Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
Lala Diwan Chand.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.

NOES 39.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. Ward.
Mr. E. R. Abbott.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
Mr. E. A. Scott.
Sir George Anderson.
Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. H. Forster.
The Honourable Rao Bahadur
Chaudhri Lal Chand.
The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian
Fazl-i-Husain.
The Honourable Sardar Bahadur
Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia.
The Honourable Sir John Maynard.
Mr. A. Latifi.
Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
Dr. C. A. Owen.
Lieutenant-Colonel D. M. Davidson.
Mr. J. Coldstream.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-
Din.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr
Shah.
Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Mian Muhammad Sharif.
Rai Shahadat Khan.
Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
Sayad Husain Shah.
Khan Bahadur Sardar Jamal Khan.
Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat-
Khan.
Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das,
Bhandari.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Captain Malik Mumtaz Muhammad
Khan, Tiwana.
Khan Muhammad Abdulla Khan.
Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir.
Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : The next item relates to the reduction of Re. 1.
I would not allow it to be argued unless it is based
on a totally different ground.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : The principle is that Government should not continue its attitude towards the Sikhs. I won't repeat arguments that have already been advanced. If you like, I would say that I have moved my amendment. Sir, I beg to move.—

“ That the grant be reduced by Re. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,55,000—
Total Other Allowances and Honoraria—Law Officers—Muzaffar Establishment (24-B—Administration of Justice). ”

Sir, I have to say not more than a couple of words in support of this reduction of Re. 1. The House knows the object of this reduction, and I hope they will deal with it accordingly.

(Mr. President was about to put it to the vote when Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh interrupted.)

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Sir, we want to speak on this amendment.

Mr. President : I have pointed out to you that it has already been discussed.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : The previous amendments have been discussed on the principle of economy. We want to discuss the present one on the question of policy (Cries of order, order).

Mr. President : The honourable mover should sit down when the President is standing.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Sir, all I want to say is

Mr. President : Will the honorable member kindly sit down? The point is that I was standing when you rose to speak. You got up to speak, but you should not get up when the President is standing, and when you are speaking and he gets up you should sit down. If you want to say anything, you can say it now.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : I did not do it intentionally. I wanted to say that we reserve our right to make speeches on this amendment, which amounts to a vote of censure. The previous speeches were made on the principle of economy, this one is on the principle of policy. We were ready to make speeches, when you began to put the motion to vote. This amendment by Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram has been brought forward as a measure of censure on the policy adopted by Government with regard to the Sikh situation. We wanted to bring home to Government that that policy is wrong, and that the time has come when it should change it.

Mr. President : Well honestly I think that the House has already heard a great deal on that subject. I had started to put the question, but I will give honourable members an opportunity of discussing this amendment. You should discuss only the question of policy and not of economy, and develop arguments which have not been already discussed. I am not going to have any repetition.

Mr. H. D. Craik [Chief Secretary] : Sir, before the discussion begins, I wish to ask for your ruling. Is it in order for any honourable member to move a reduction of a grant, in this case two reductions in the same grant and then to move a third reduction of Re. 1 on what he calls a vote of censure? If that is so, then I venture to say that it is unparalleled, for then it would be open to members to bring in a dozen amendments and divide the House on every one of them.

Mr. President : The honourable member will see that the gentleman who is moving this amendment is not the same as the gentlemen who moved the other amendments.

Mr. H. D. Craik : Yes, but the subject is the same.

Mr. President : Yes, the subject is the same. I think it is perfectly in order to raise a separate point by a separate amendment to a sum already dealt with. You usually discuss the question of economy first and take the amendments relating to economy one by one, and if there is a motion of principle which is in the form of a nominal reduction you take that afterwards. Supposing this amendment is carried it will be regarded as a further reduction. I think you will find that principle put down in my note on budget procedure as circulated before.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, this merciless expenditure on the prosecution of the Akali leaders has already been thoroughly thrashed out. The argument advanced in defence of such an extravagant waste is the dictates of law and order. But, Sir, the unreasonableness of this has been proved beyond all doubt from the economic point of view. It is unpardonable even on the point of policy. This tug-of-war between the Government and the Sikhs has now been going on for the last 3 or 4 years.

Mr. President : The honourable member must not discuss the past and should pass on to the case in the next year.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : The matter before the House is money for this case during the coming year. I am not discussing the past, on the other hand, I am trying to show, that by taking certain steps the situation between the Government and the Sikhs can be pacified and the expenditure to be incurred in future thus avoided.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, I rise to enquire whether we can discuss all the cases against the Akalis?

Mr. President : Certainly all the cases for which special public prosecutors are being provided.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh (continued in Urdu) : Sir, much though I wished to go into the details of the Sikh case, I regret I have been debarred by the ruling of the Honourable the President. I would now only discuss it from the point of view of public weal. The Government has more than once festered the Sikh community. But, thank God, Sikhs have throughout come out successful.

Mr. President : This is not before the House. We are discussing the policy of Government and not the problem of the Sikh situation. If the honourable member cannot appreciate that point, I am afraid, I shall have to ask him to resume his seat.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : My difficulty is that the case and the general situation are so very intimately mixed up that it is very difficult for an ordinary human being to distinguish one from the other. One has necessarily to be brought in to discuss the other.

Mr. President : The two things are quite distinct, and the only difficulty of the honourable member is that he wants to speak on the Sikh situation which I can't allow him to do.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : As unfortunately the Sikh case is to go on in the next year, I want to bring out certain measures by following which these things in all probability might be wiped out and in doing so

[Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.]

I do not see any other way but to bring in the present situation and to explain the measures which Government can safely take in order to avoid all this heavy expense by stopping these cases. In doing so, I will not say much on the Sikh situation, but I will only refer to it.

Mr. President : The suggestion seems to be that some measures should be taken which would wipe out the past.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : The future should be wiped out, the past cannot be.

Mr. President : That is to say, your suggestion is that Government should come to some compromise, I presume, and drop the proceedings, in connection with what has occurred in the past.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Yes, I want to suggest to Government to drop the proceedings which are going to be taken during the next year, change their attitude towards the Sikhs and pacify them.

(Then continued in Urdu) : Sir, I was talking of the repeated and hard tests placed upon the Sikh community, in all of which happily the Sikhs have proved their worth. But now to insist, after all that has happened, upon putting this heavy financial burden upon the people in the Punjab is unjustified according to the canons of good Government. The only mistake which has been made is to suspect this religious movement of the Sikhs to have ulterior political motives.

Mr. President : I have not yet heard a word relevant to the matter before the House. If the honourable member forces me to interfere again, I fear I shall have to ask him to resume his seat.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : If I am not to be allowed to speak on the Sikh situation, I will submit to the ruling. I will not go into the Sikh situation because discussion on that subject is shut out.

(Then continued in Urdu) : I mean only this, Sir, that now a situation has risen which can be better expressed in the words of Lord Olivier. If the Government members have read that statement of the Secretary of State, they will know.....

Mr. President : I must ask the honourable member to discontinue his speech.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang [North West Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban] : May I ask, Sir, one question ? Is it permissible to discuss the policy, or rather the question of wisdom or folly of the Government in launching this case ? If so, I should like to say a few words.

Mr. President : Yes, so far as it relates to the continuance of the case, it is permissible.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : Indirectly it may bring in the launching of the case.

Mr. President : The case has already been launched.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : I shall try to keep myself within bounds of relevancy.

Mr. President : You must remember the point is about the grant of money for the next year.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : It is a very difficult position to discuss the matter without touching the question of launching the case.

Mr. President : You can make an attempt.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : Very well, Sir. By your ruling I am confined to the discussion of this amendment so far as it relates to the future and not to the past. So far as this is concerned, I think, the procedure is perfectly valid because the past is dead and we are therefore concerned only with the present and the future.

Mr. President : The question is about money....

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : Yes, Sir, I am coming to that. The only question we can discuss at this stage is whether it is wise or unwise to make a provision for the conduct of this case in the future, that is, in the year 1924-25.

Mr. J. Coldstream : The honourable member is going into the merits of the case which is *sub judice*.

Mr. President : I do not think we have so far heard anything about the merits of the case. We heard about the wisdom of prosecuting the case and not the merits of the case now before the court. But if anybody hears anything relating to the merits of the case, I hope he will draw my attention to it immediately. Dr. Gokal Chand, I believe, you realise that further restriction. You cannot indulge in commenting on the guilt or innocence of the accused.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : I think the learned Legal Remembrancer might give me some credit for knowing that it is not permissible to discuss the merits or otherwise of the case which is still *sub judice*. I think it was really an unnecessary interruption.

(Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain spoke out a part of a Persian verse, viz., "*daman tar makun*" &c. Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang, completed the quotation referred to by Honourable Mian Fazl-i-Husain, viz., "*Darmian-i qur-i-darya takhtabandam kirda-i. Paz mi goi lei daman tarmakun hushiar bash.*")

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Sir, the honourable member can speak in English or Urdu, but he cannot speak in Persian. (Laughter).

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : The situation no doubt is very much like this : A person is put upon a plank in the midst of the sea and he is asked to be careful that he does not wet his clothes or any part of his body. The situation no doubt is very delicate, and I shall have to steer my way very carefully. The policy of the continuation of this case is the only thing now under discussion. This case so far as I have been able to gather has been going on for the last five months or so. It has cost us by this time at the rate of some Rs. 20,000 a month, very nearly about a lakh of rupees.....

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No, Sir, it is a mistake.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : I do not understand, Sir, whether the Honourable the Finance Member means that I am wrong in the number of months that I have mentioned

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Yes, Sir.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : Or in the amount of money that I have mentioned.....

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Both, Sir.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : Very well, Sir, I should like to know the exact figures. But it does not make any difference to my argument. The

[Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang.]

case has been going on for x months and the expenditure every month is y rupees. By this time we have spent an amount which may be represented correctly in Algebraical language by xy . That I presume is a very considerable sum and the Honourable the Finance Member cannot deny that.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : 'Considerable' is a vague expression.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : We all know that. I use it in the ordinary sense, and it can be left to the good sense of the House what to understand by it. The question then is whether it is advisable, whether it would serve any useful purpose to go on with the case spending at the rate of Rs. 20,000 a month. I hope I am not wrong there.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : That is not the rate of expenditure.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : What I understand is this, that the present counsel is being paid at Rs. 600 per day.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No, Sir.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : Is it Rs. 700?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No, Sir.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : What is it then?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Rs. 500.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : Thank you, Sir. Another counsel is getting Rs. 2,000 a month. That comes to Rs. 17,000 a month.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No, Sir.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : Perhaps the fees for Sundays are to be deducted. But it is immaterial, and I do not know why the Honourable the Finance Member is quarrelling about these figures unless his object is to heckle me down, but there, I am sure he will be disappointed. (Laughter). Now, Sir, we have to consider what object will be served by this case. The consideration of this question will bring me to a certain extent to the wisdom or otherwise of launching this prosecution. It does not require any explanation on my part, Sir, that the gentlemen who are being prosecuted in this Akali case are the cream of the Sikh community in this province. It cannot be denied, and if it could be denied, the Honourable the Finance Member would have taken the earliest opportunity to do so. Not a single one of the accused, so far as my information goes, has ever been guilty or has ever been suspected of being guilty of any personal violence or physical breach of law. The only ground on which this case is going on, I won't say launched, the only ground on which Government is persisting in the prosecution of this case is that the gentlemen who are accused are responsible for things which in the opinion of the Government have led to the breach of law here and there in the province. That is the only ground. I do not say, that so far as the individual accused are concerned any of those who are now taking their trial in a court of law, have been or have not been guilty of doing anything which directly or indirectly led any one of their community or any other community in this province to break the law.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is referring to a case which is *sub judice*.

Mr. President : That is obviously a question which is *sub judice*. You cannot refer to it.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : No, Sir, I did not refer to that.

Mr. President : But you did refer to it.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : I said that I would not say anything as to whether the accused are guilty or not.

Mr. President : You should not go beyond the wording of the standing order. You must not refer to the question which is now under adjudication in a court of law.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : I take it, Sir, that in this House no speaker is allowed even to say that he would not say anything on the merits of a particular case, whether the individual is or is not guilty.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Is the honourable member questioning the ruling of the Chair ?

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : Far be it from me, Sir, ever to question your ruling. I was only trying to understand it thoroughly. I have been referring to the position of the accused. Now I will refer to the result which the prosecution of these accused has produced in the province. They may all be guilty or they may not be guilty. That is a matter that concerns the law courts. But no one can deny that their very trial, the continuation of their trial, has created a feeling in this province not only among the Sikhs but among other communities as well that the Government is not doing the wisest thing in persisting in this prosecution. I do not want to be more explicit. People feel that their money is not being put to the best use in so far as every pie spent in the prosecution of these persons who without a single exception are held by the public in the highest esteem. Unless they are convinced by their legal advisers that it is absolutely necessary in the interests of peace and order and that it is in the interests of the maintenance and upholding of their prestige, I would appeal to the Government to stay their hand. It is never too late to repent. There is still *locus penitentiae*. The Government can still stay their hands because it may not serve any useful purpose to get these persons convicted. In this case the gain by a technical conviction of all the accused or any of the accused may not be commensurate with the injury which is being done so far as the good name and the reputation of the Government are concerned. I have had various facilities and opportunities of watching the public mind. I come in contact with all classes of people, and I know from my personal knowledge that the prosecution of these accused has created the most acute bitterness in the minds of the Sikhs and also of their friends, whether they belong to the Hindu or the Muhammadan community. It is only necessary to take up any journal whether Vernacular or English which is conducted by people of this province and we will find there the real state of feelings of the province over this case. The greatest good that the Government can do is to remove all possibilities of wrong opinion being formed by the people with respect to its intentions and motives, and if ever the intentions and motives of Government were (from one point of view) misunderstood or were held to be bad and objectionable, my submission is, it is so with respect to this case. We the elected representatives of the people think it our duty to urge whatever the Honourable Finance Member and his friends may say, that it is necessary for the maintenance of law and order and for the establishment of good relations between the rulers and the ruled that there should be mutual trust and that people should have complete faith in the Government. Only the other day the Honourable the Chief Secretary was saying : People do not believe our *communiqués*. I asked him why people did not believe

[Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang.]

the *communiqués* of the Government. He said, "you know it perhaps better than I do." I am sure my honourable friend knows it quite well though perhaps he is right in saying that I may know a little better. The reason why the *communiqués* of the Government are not believed and why anything that goes from the Government to the Press is not believed and why the Government is under the necessity of hiring people to write articles is

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Is this in order, Sir?

Mr. President: It is not relevant so far, possibly he may link it on to something else. When an argument is begun it is impossible for the Chair to tell whether it is going to be relevant or not.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang: The Honourable Finance Member was rather impatient. If he had only waited he would have seen the relevancy. I was saying that it was absolutely necessary that Government should create a spirit of trust and confidence in the minds of the people. If the Government or its representatives say that such and such a thing is so and so, the people should say: it must be so because the Government says so. People should have such an implicit confidence in the Government. Now what do we see? The position is absolutely the reverse, and that was a confession which the Honourable the Chief Secretary made the other day. In the interests of good Government, in the interests of peace and order and in the interests of the progress of the country on the lines of evolution and not on the lines of revolution, it is necessary that Government should take every precaution against forfeiting the confidence of the people. The Government ought not to do anything which may lower it in the estimation of the people. It should not give any opportunity to the people to think that Government is vindictive or that it does not like the people to have perfect religious liberty and to have free scope for the expression of opinion

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I rise to a point of order, Sir. Is not the honourable member by saying all this, prejudicing the case which is now *sub judice*.

Mr. President: I do not think he is prejudicing the case. He might conceivably be prejudicing the sentence, but not the facts.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Is not the honourable member's suggestion that the prosecution is vindictive, exciting prejudice? He used the word 'vindictive'.

Mr. J. Coldstream: The honourable member is out of order because he is suggesting that the accused are persons of such high respectability that they would never commit crimes, that is to say, he is suggesting that they are innocent. He is in this way prejudicing the case which is now *sub judice*.

Mr. President: The honourable member will try and get into order.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang: My honourable friend should understand that we lawyers are to a certain extent trained; we may go far but we do not go too far.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Question, Sir.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang: They need not have any apprehension on that account. All that I was saying was that apart from the merits or the demerits of the case the feeling that was created by this case was this. I did not even say whether there was any justification or otherwise either from a purely logical or legal point of view. I was simply stating what I con-

sidered to be a fact, because the state of mind of the people is also a matter of fact and I was only referring to that. I think that no useful purpose will be served by the continuance of this prosecution because not only will that prosecution fail to achieve its object, but that it will give an impetus to the movement which the Government want to suppress. We know that when the Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee was prosecuted, another came in its place. That was also arrested, I mean the members of that committee were arrested and I believe yet another committee emerged and I am sure this process will continue for ever. I am a humble student of Sikh history and I know how the Sikhs have been taking prosecutions and persecutions in whatever form they came. This is an additional reason for my submission that the Government should not proceed with this prosecution. The Government will surely fail to achieve the object with which they launched this prosecution and it will be an absolute waste of public money to continue the prosecution any longer.

Again I would submit, Sir, that if the Government had shown only ordinary interest in the case just as it does in other cases of similar legal importance so far as the facts of the particular cases are concerned, then probably the feeling of the people against it would not have been so bitter. But as my honourable friend Sardar Jodh Singh pointed out, people have got eyes and they can see that while the Government engages a counsel on Rs. 70 a day for conducting the prosecution in the Babbar Akali case where . . .

Mr. President: The honourable member should avoid repeating arguments raised by others.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: I was only referring to what my honourable friend, Sardar Jodh Singh, had said. That is an additional reason for my believing that people are likely to be more prejudiced against the Government by the retention of a most costly counsel to conduct the case. That is an additional reason for dropping the prosecution. Without any malice or any feeling of bitterness I would submit that it will be in the interests of the people as well as in the interests of the Government if they should withdraw from the prosecution now. Law and order should be maintained but not in the way in which it is done now. Nobody crushes butterflies on the wheel and big guns need not be brought to the scene when competition is with ordinary people. It was said on a previous occasion that the village wrestler is no match for a Ghulam or Kikkar Singh. Ghulam and Kikkar Singh were brought on the scene before any Ghulam or Kikkar Singh had entered the arena on the other side. From the very beginning Mr. Bevan Petman was engaged before it was even known to the Government who was appearing on the other side. A legal Kikkar Singh was engaged on a fee which was really unprecedented in this province. I have no personal grudge against the gentleman. We are the best of friends and I am very glad that he is making money, but my only regret is that he is making money, rather than he is allowed to make money at the expense of the people who can ill afford to pay such high fees.

My honourable friend Sir Gopal Das Bhandhari was vehemently saying that the Government should be allowed to engage the best counsel and in this statement he was supported by some other honourable members. I would submit, Sir, that if a litigant is a bankrupt, he has to engage a lawyer only on fees within his means.

The honourable Sir John Maynard : Is not the honourable member discussing the question of economy while he has to limit himself only to a question of policy.

Mr. President : The point of order is well taken. The honourable member should not discuss on a point of economy. An amendment relating to economy has already been discussed and thrown out.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I think it is a matter hardly distinguishable from a matter of policy ; but I shall not say anything further on this point. I will not take any further time of the Council. I submit, Sir, that what I have urged here should be taken in the spirit in which I have said it and I trust that those who are in charge of this case and those who are in charge of the destinies of the people of this province would open their eyes and see far ahead and would have a much wider outlook than they have had up to the present time and that they would shape their policy in future in the light of the experience and knowledge they would gain thereby.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon [Shahpur (East Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, this prosecution of the Akali leaders is no doubt the direct result of a certain policy which the Government is following as against a body of men known as Gurdwara Prabhandak Committee and as representing the political views of a certain section

Sardar Tara Siagh [Ferozepore Sikh) Rural] : No, Sir, the religious views.

Malik Feroz Khan, Noon : The Gurdwara Prabhandak Committee does represent the religious views of the large and illiterate Sikh public . . .

Sadar Tara Singh : It represents the whole Sikh community.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : It is an elected representative body.

Sardar Joda Singh : It has been acknowledged by the Government to be a representative body.

Mr. President : So far the honourable member Malik Firoz Khan Noon is not relevant. The honourable member does not seem to link this on to the case so far. He is making a general remark on the character of the members of the Prabhandak Committee, and its representative character.

Malik Feroz Khan, Noon : What I was trying to lead to was this. They say that the Gurdwara Prabhandak Committee represents the religious views of the Sikh public, the illiterate villagers as well as the learned people living in the towns. But somehow or other there seems to be a feeling in the public whether right or wrong, that there is a certain political object in a great many of the things that are being done. I say that that is understood to be the case by a certain section of the people of this Province (a voice : ' by Government ' ?). Not only by Government but by members of other communities also.

Sardar Jodh Singh : They are wrong.

Malik Feroz Khan, Noon (continued) : Now as far as the religious aspect of the whole of this movement which has led to these prosecutions is concerned, the heart of the public goes out to the Sikh community.

Mr. President : There should be no more disquisition as to whether the heart of the public goes out to the Sikh community or not. The matter for discussion is the continuance or not of the cases. If the honourable member will connect it, I shall be obliged.

Malik Firoz Khan Noon (continued): Well, Sir, if the policy of Government which has led to these prosecutions were based on the principle that they wanted to suppress the Sikh religion or a movement for the advance of that religion, then certainly the whole public would be against Government and against any prosecution which Government might launch against the community. If the public could be assured that these prosecutions were against the Sikh religion or any reform movement in the *gurdwaras* we would be the first to go against Government and condemn their policy, but there is, on the other hand a suspicion in the mind of the public or in the mind of Government that there is a certain object . . .

Sardar Jodh Singh: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is discussing the whole case hypothetically.

Mr. President: He is perfectly in order. He can discuss it hypothetically if he wishes to.

Malik Feroz Khan, Noon: As it is our duty and the duty of Government to do everything to pacify the Sikh community as far as their religious objects are concerned, it is the duty of the Sikh community to create a belief in the mind not only of Government but in the mind of their sister communities also that they have no political object in view. If an assurance could be given by words or deeds to the general public at large in this province that the Sikhs were aiming at nothing but religious reform then certainly we would be on their side . . .

Sardar Jodh Singh: This has been done many times.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: If there are reasonable grounds for Government and for other sister communities to suspect a political tinge in the movements of the Sikhs which may lead to the political detriment of the other sister communities, then I think, Sir, that the Government and the other communities will be justified in suspecting their actions.

Mr. President: It is not a question of suspecting. It is a question of continuing the prosecution or not.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: Sir, Government and this Council have done their best to bring to an end the present Sikh situation and to avoid all prosecutions or the continuance of any prosecutions and one great proof of the *bona fide* of Government and of this House is the Gurdwara Bill.

Sardar Jodh Singh: That is against the wishes of the community. (Cries of order, order.)

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: From that Bill, Sir, it is clear that Government has tried to pacify the Sikh situation.

Mr. President: The honourable member is still apparently making a general disquisition on the Sikh situation as it appears to me. I have no doubt that at the back of his mind it has some bearing on whether the case is to go on or not, but he is taking a dreadfully long time to get on to that. He has been speaking for the last five minutes, but I do not think that he has mentioned the case once.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: If I were to mention the word 'case' in every line, every one in this House would get tired of it. After all if one has to lead to a certain point he has to advance certain arguments and if they are listened to patiently, I think you will see the point at the end.

Mr. President: The last speaker kept absolutely to the point the whole time and I do not see why the present honourable member should not do so.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Sir, but he is a very much abler lawyer (A voice : and you are still budding). You must give me some allowance. So, if the Sikh community or our brethren on the opposite benches could bring forward a solution which would put a stop to the present Sikh situation and which would enable Government to stop these prosecutions which are not only most unpleasant to the public but which I can assure them are most unwelcome to Government also, and if means could be found by which the continuance of the old prosecutions and the starting of new ones could be stopped, I can assure the honourable members, our Sikh brethren, that Government will be obliged to have any suggestions on that point (hear, hear).

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : I endorse it, Sir.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Throughout the life of the last Council and since the end of that last Council as far as I know, Government have always said to the Sikh members of the Council to come forward with a solution which can put an end to this situation and that they will be only too pleased to help to pacify the situation.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Call a round table conference.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : If the last Gurdwara Bill is not satisfactory, then let our Sikh brothers come forward with a suggestion or with a Bill which will assure their sister communities that they have no political object in view. If the whole object of that Bill is Gurdwara reform and reform of religious movement, then I am sure that each single member in this House will support them. But Sir, if the Sikhs, transgress the political rights of other communities, then, Sir, I hope

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, that is an insinuation which we all deny.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : If he denies this, then let him give a guarantee to the effect that there are no political objects in the movement and let him put forward any suggestions that he likes

Mr. President : I must point out to the honourable member that he has mentioned the word 'case' or 'prosecution' about twice all this time. The whole point is as to whether the prosecution is wise and politic. I do see a certain bearing on the point but the honourable member has so far not indicated at all, how the proposal that he makes that the Sikhs should come forward with such and such a Gurdwara Bill or with such and such a proposal, will have any effect on the prosecution and the continuance of this case.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Sir, I will try and bring in the words 'case' and 'prosecution' in a very few lines (laughter). Well, Sir, they say that this prosecution is being carried on on account of certain policy of Government with regard to this movement. If there is a means of making the Government change that policy, it is this that a solution should be brought forward by either this Council or by Government or by the Sikhs. As my learned friend has pointed out that there is no political object in view then, I think, Sir, that a solution can be found with the greatest ease, because if assurance can be given either in the Council or in a round table conference to assure the general public that there is no political object in view then there will be nobody who will stand in the way of the fulfilment of the wishes of the Sikhs.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Sir, I was going to develop on these arguments but I was stopped.

Mr. President : The honourable member was asked three times to link his arguments to the point under discussion. If he had done so he would have been allowed to continue. He would not do it and I had to ask him to resume his seat.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : If Government could be assured that there was no political object behind the movement which at present seems to be the case, then I think a solution can be found and all the prosecutions that are going on might be dropped if a solution could be found.

Mr. H. D. Craik (Chief Secretary) : Sir, unfortunately I have had the opportunity of only hearing part of this debate as I was urgently needed elsewhere, but I confess I was surprised at the turn which the debate had taken, when I returned to this House. I was even more surprised when I heard the honourable member opposite seriously putting forward the doctrine that because a certain prisoner commits a crime and because there is reason to suppose that if he is prosecuted other persons will come forward to commit the same crime, therefore the person who originally commits the offence should not be prosecuted.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, I rise to a point of order.

Mr. H. D. Craik : I am in possession of the House, and I refuse to give way. I am repeating exactly what the honourable member opposite said and there is no point of order nor is there any inaccuracy in what I say. That, Sir, is a most extraordinary doctrine which I have ever heard from the lips of any lawyer and I am surprised that the honourable member whose living depends on the maintenance of law and order should have put forward such a doctrine. Does he mean really to say that because certain people deliberately defy the law and because we have reason to think that other persons will continue to defy it in spite of prosecution, the Government, which is responsible for the maintenance of law, and this House, which is entrusted with the even greater responsibility of making the law, should deliberately refrain from vindicating the law which it has made. That seems to be a most extraordinary proposition and I am surprised that it has been put forward.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Sir, I rise to a word of explanation. I hope my honourable friend will not mind giving way for a second. I never said that a person who has actually broken the law should not be punished because some one else may also break the law. The Chief Secretary seems to think that as soon as a person is placed on trial he is as good as convicted.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Is the honourable member in order in making another speech?

Mr. H. D. Craik : That is not my point at all. I said that it is an extraordinary proposition that the prosecuting agency should refrain from prosecuting when it has reasons to suspect that the law has been broken, merely because it had reason to believe that the offence would be repeated. I never said anything that could be taken to mean that individual persons under trial were guilty or innocent.

Well, Sir, the time of this House has been taken up for one hour and forty minutes on this question whether a certain grant should be reduced by Rs. 1. In my humble opinion the discussion has been both unnecessary and infructuous. It is now time for adjournment. I have been working

[Mr. H. D. Craik.]

out roughly what this discussion has cost this province, and I put it somewhere in the neighbourhood of a thousand rupees. I think that is sufficient to show the futility of repeating the discussion on a point which the House has already twice voted upon.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Is the honourable member speaking on the amendment or is he lecturing to the members of the House ?

Mr. H. D. Craik : I think I have said enough to show that this discussion might well have been avoided.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : 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 lost.

The Council then adjourned till 2 o'clock on Saturday, the 15th March 1924.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

2ND SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, the 15th March 1924.

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

SETTLEMENT OF JAITO AFFAIR.

Mr. H. D. Craik (Chief Secretary): Sir, with your permission I should like to read a telegram which I have just received and which will be of interest to the members of this Council. The telegram is from the Administrator of the Nabha State.

'I would be most grateful if you would convey my sincere thanks to the members of the Council who visited Jaito and were instrumental in bringing about a settlement here to-day.'

That is the message from the Administrator of the Nabha State. I may perhaps be permitted to add one word on behalf of His Excellency and his Government to express the relief they felt at receiving the news which was published in the papers this morning.

GOVERNMENT DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE GRANT (*concluded*).

Mr. President: The Council will now continue the discussion on the following amendment which was left unfinished the other day.

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,55,000—Total Other Allowances and Honoraria—Law Officers—Mafassil Establishment (24-B—Administration of Justice)."

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh Urban): Sir, the other day while discussing this subject my honourable friend Mr. Craik remarked that by lengthening the discussion on the point we were wasting about one thousand rupees per hour. Well, Sir, I may assure him that our object is to save money. Had he as carefully calculated how much has been wasted on the repressive policy of the Government in connection with their Akali policy for the last three years, then perhaps he would not have passed such remarks. In reply to certain remarks of Dr. Gokal Chand the Honourable the Chief Secretary further asked whether the Government was not to vindicate law and order if it knew that when it arrested one man another would be found to take his place; well, Sir, in this case the Government is not dealing with individuals. As their *communiqué* dated 15th October 1923 sets forth, they are prosecuting those gentlemen because they are the members of the Managing Committee of certain bodies. Now, Sir, the Shromani Gurdwara Parbhandak Committee is a representative body of the Sikhs in the matter of the Gurdwara Reform, elected by their free vote. Even in the matter of Council elections it has been proved that Sikhs listen to the voice of this body very respectfully. Between 80 and 90 per cent. of the Sikh votes were cast for the nominees of the Shromani Gurdwara Parbhandak Committee. So in prosecuting these individuals the Government is trying to repress the desire for Gurdwara reform in the minds of the whole community.

[Sardar Jodh Singh.]

Again, Sir, maintenance of law and order is meant for promoting peace and contentment. Is that object being achieved in this case? No. Again, as I remarked the other day law was not a revelation from Heaven. It was man-made. Nowadays it is being claimed that the Government wants to govern in accordance with the wishes of the people. If it is so, why not accept the will of the Sikhs in this matter?

Now I turn to the remarks made by Mr. Firoz Khan Noon. He said that if we could assure the Government that there was no political motive behind the movement then they would all help us. Now, Sir, there is a proverb in Punjabi 'It is easy to exorcise a devil but it is very difficult to remove a rooted suspicion.' The Shromani Gurdwara Parbhandak Committee has in numerous *communiqués* proclaimed to the whole world that it is a religious committee. Once more I assure the House that the movement is nothing but religious. When the Honourable Mian Fazl-i-Husain first introduced his ordinance in this House in 1921 he himself described the movement as religious. No doubt religious movements when opposed by Government in their objects do take a political tinge, but even now if the question of Gurdwara reform is settled, no political tinge, as far as I can see, will remain in this movement. But I do not stop with mere assurances. I am prepared to put a clause in the Bill assuring that not a pie of the Gurdwara money will be spent on political propaganda. An invitation has been given to us to bring forward a Bill. Well, Sir, there are two obstacles in our way. No Bill will be acceptable to the Sikh community which does not transfer the control of Gurdwaras to the Shromani Gurdwara Parbhandak Committee. The Government left the Shromani Gurdwara Parbhandak Committee out of its first draft and had to drop that Bill. Then by a *communiqué* it had to recognise it as representative of a large section of the Sikhs. Then in the final Act it had to give it a statutory recognition. Now, Sir, can we leave that body out of our Bill. And as long as it is unlawful, how can we bring it in? This is the first difficulty.

The second is we don't want to have the Bill passed only. We want all antagonism caused by this movement between the Government and the Sikhs to disappear. There are thousands of Sikhs who are in jail on account of this movement. If we leave them there and pass a Bill an agitation is again sure to rise for their release. I, therefore, want an assurance on that point also. If the Government is prepared to give these assurances the Bill can be before the Council before the end of this session. Otherwise we are handicapped.

Now, Sir, the Government is nowadays taking pride in calling itself people's Government. The Secretary of State says so. The speeches in the Assembly say so. The royal proclamation points to the same. Let the Government in this matter of religious reform bow to the wishes of the Sikhs. Let them prove that they are really the people's Government. We assure them that we are not after taking other people's rights. The Sikhs are very tolerant. Even up to now daily in the holiest of their holies sacred music is sung by Muhammadans. No one can promise that with the settlement of this question there will be no extremists among the Sikhs. Extremists are among all the communities and will remain. But the main unrest will subside. There is no use of the Government going on making new changes in their rules in order to harass the Akalis. If no free passes.

are given to them when released from jails they will walk from place to place and do propaganda. A determined people cannot be defeated in that way. Let the law be changed. We are ready to discuss all reasonable suggestions if those two assurances are forthcoming and the whole Sikh situation will be eased.

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni (Punjab University): I believe, Sir, there is not one individual here who would enter upon a discussion of this question or for the matter of that of every question in this House in a spirit of carping criticism of the Government or its acts or its policies. In this particular matter, Sir, I believe a great mistake has been made in instituting these cases and especially the cases against the Akali leaders. Sir, it is not merely that so much money has been wasted and will be wasted if these cases are continued, but it is something much worse. Sir, the spirit of suspicion and distrust which these cases have created is one which has been referred to by so many other speakers, but perhaps the magnitude of this suspicion is not fully realised. Day after day, Sir, in this case evidence is being produced on the part of the prosecution for the present and evidence will be produced on the part of the defence later on, evidence which rakes up old memories. I submit, Sir, that some of these events and incidents might well remain buried in the lumber heap of forgotten memories. Sir, the amount of unrest and discontent which this case has created is increasing. There is not one individual who believes that the cases are really cases for waging war against the King-Emperor.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): Is it not a matter which is *sub judice*?

Mr. President: I think the Honourable the Finance Member is quite right. The honourable member should keep off a matter which is actually before the court for decision.

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni (continued.): Sir, I have not the slightest wish to enter into a discussion of the merits or demerits of that case, but I merely want to say that when even this morning we find that Government enters into negotiations over the recent affair with the very same body which it has declared to be unlawful, then people laugh in their sleeves and say that the real object of instituting these cases is simply to put down the Akali movement. The Akali Gurdwara movement has taken its rise from a certain serious defect in the law of the land for the relief which they seek in rescuing their Gurdwaras and their places of worship from the hands of corrupt and debauched mahants and priests. That is, Sir, the real root of the whole trouble. The law is very defective. The Akalis for several years after they were first awakened to a need of purifying their Gurdwaras had recourse to courts of law, but they found that relief was very slow in coming and years passed and no progress was made. It was under those circumstances that they had recourse to passive resistance. I am not bolstering up a new story. This has been mentioned again, and again by the Akali leaders themselves. They have said that the real reason why they are having recourse to passive resistance and *Satyagraha* methods which are strictly constitutional, is simply because the law is defective. What Government should have done and which, I submit, Government did not do, is that they did not pay any attention to this defect in the law; and they did not move in the slightest degree to amend that defect in the law. If one particular section of a particular Act had been amended, (a voice: Section 92 of the Criminal Procedure Code) then the whole trouble would have ended, but that was not

[Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.]

done. That Sir, is really at the root of the matter. The difficulty will not be removed simply by saying that at the back of the mind of the Akali leaders and others is some political object.

Mr. President: The honourable member appears to be discussing the Sikh situation generally. The matter before the House is the case. I have no doubt that it has a bearing on the case but he should bring it in. I cannot allow him to continue at great length on this point.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: I am just closing up that point, Sir. I was just referring to the political side. That is neither here nor there. In one sense every movement is political. In that sense the Akali movement is a political movement. Every religious movement is in its essence a political movement. When a movement in order to attain its object rises to the sacredness and the efficacy of *satyagraha*, does it then become a political movement? If the Akali movement is a political movement it is a political movement in that sense and in no other. The money which has been spent, which is being spent or is going to be spent next year on these cases is, as I have already said, not only being wasted but it is being ill-spent. It is being spent to the disadvantage of Government as well as of the people. The interests of both are identical and therefore the sooner these cases are withdrawn the better will it be. The only remedy of this difficult and delicate situation which has arisen, lies in reconciliation, as has been pointed out by Sardar Jodh Singh. With these words I support the amendment.

Chaudhri Saadullah Khan [Jullundur (Muhammadian) Rural]: Sir, the Akali Leaders case has been the subject of comment and discussion before this House in the last session and this one. But one point has not up till now been touched. And that point is whether it is constitutional for us to pay for the Akali Leaders case or not, whether the law authorises us to pay for the Akali Leaders case. It is clear from the Acts of 1919, 1916 and 1915 that the provincial revenues are to be spent on provincial matters and the Akali Leaders case has not territorial effect but it has extra-territorial effect as it is connected with the Nabha State. That is why I beg to submit that this House should not vote for the Akali Leaders case for it is for the Government of India to bear the expense of such cases. Section 72 D (2) clearly shows that "the estimated annual expenditure and revenue of the province shall be laid in the form of a statement before the Council in each year." It was asked in the Legislative Assembly the other day as to who will bear the expense of this case and it was answered that the Punjab Government has consented to pay the expense of this case. That answer does not satisfy us.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): Sir, I rise to a point of order. Would not this have been relevant on the question of the proposal to take away the whole grant or a large portion of that grant? Is it relevant when the amendment is for the reduction of Rs. 1?

Mr. President: I think the Honourable the Finance Member is quite right that this point should have been brought out when it was a question of economy. . . .

Chaudhri Saadullah Khan: Sir, I beg to submit that this question being of constitutional nature. . . .

Mr. President : Order, order. The question now under discussion is not the saving of money. The arguments you are bringing forward should have been brought forward during the discussion which took place on Thursday.

Chaudhri Saadullah Khan : Besides there has been much talk of the enormous expense on special public prosecutors.

Mr. President : That again is a question of economy. We have discussed that thoroughly. The only point now is the policy in going on with the cases.

Chaudhri Saadullah Khan : So far as this question of policy of going on with the cases is concerned, it is again concerned with the extra-territorial jurisdiction and the expenditure of money is an extra-territorial matter. So, I beg to submit that this point should be considered along with others.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar [East and West Central Towns (Muhammadian) Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, I have only two points to discuss. During the debate my friend Malik Firoz Khan Noon remarked the other day that as far as possible Government did try to pass a Bill regarding the Gurdwaras, but it was the Sikhs who did not care to co-operate with the Government in carrying that through, and this accounts for the prosecutions held later on. But, Sir, the reason of the rejection by the Sikhs of the Bill is quite obvious. A Bill is passed for the convenience of a certain community but when that very community is not willing to accept that, what right have we to force that upon them? Supposing the same is done with regard to the Muhammadian religious institutions.

Mr. President : The honourable member must not criticise the decision which the Council has come to. The Bill was passed by the whole of the Council.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar (continued in Urdu) : Sir, I realise that the Bill was passed by the Council, but it is not reasonable to forget the facts especially when Malik Firoz Khan Noon suspects the intentions of the Sikhs. It is therefore, necessary to say that the willingness of and acceptance by the community for which this Bill is being passed is highly essential.

Mr. President : Order, order, I have already indicated that the Council as a whole passed the Bill and that the honourable member must not criticise that point. He will be in order, no doubt, in saying that the Sikhs outside the Council did not approve of that. But he must recognise that it was passed by the Council and he must not divide the Council into sections.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar (continued in Urdu) : Sir, I do not mean to divide the House, what I mean to say is that the generality of the Sikhs has not accepted this Bill; hence they cannot be expected to act upon it.

If, Sir, anybody has any suspicions, why not ask for an assurance from the Sikhs, but what wisdom is there to withhold a friendly hand without explaining actually the nature of the doubts? Moreover, nobody is in a position to give any assurance, for the only assurance one can give is through his deeds, and Sikhs have asserted it more than once that this is a religious movement. It behoves us, therefore, that we should help them so long as their movement is religious, and after the Gurdwara reform has been carried out in accordance with the wishes of the Sikhs, if anything is done by them which creates or strengthens the suspicions of person or body of persons, he or they may not extend a helping hand to the Sikhs. But, before this it is not proper to harbour any suspicions.

[Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar.]

Mr. Craik has complained of the waste of money in discussing this reduction of Rs. 1. But, Sir, this is not a question of money, it is rather a matter of principle and policy, and if the Government consider that the reduction of one rupee is so small a matter as Mr. Craik would have us believe, he should rather advise the Government to accept the cut.

Pandit Nanak Chand : Sir, I beg to move —

“ That the question be now put.”

Mr. President : I must allow the member for Government to give his reply.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, the question in this debate has narrowed itself down to this, whether it is right and politic to continue the prosecution which has been begun. There is no question of making a complete statement of the Sikh situation in connection with this limited question. I could not make such a statement on the Sikh situation on such a limited question as this even if the whole Sikh situation were within the jurisdiction of this Government which as members of this House are well aware is not the case. I limit myself thus to considering merely whether it is right and politic to continue with this prosecution which has been begun. Normally, of course the natural course is to finish what has been begun. If there is an intention of not finishing what has been begun then there must be very good reasons for altering the course and there must be some good and tangible alternative to put forward. The practical question which should have been answered by those by whom the suggestion of dropping the prosecution is, put is, what are the practical alternatives to its continuance and completion? Very few suggestions of a constructive character have been put forward in the course of this discussion. It was quite evident however that what many members who supported the amendment had in view was that Government should simply drop the prosecutions and so to speak accept a policy of general release. That appears to be in the minds of many of the members. Now when we are considering an alternative policy of this kind, it is natural to look to the near past and see whether that particular policy has actually been adopted on former occasions and if so what the results of it have been. Now, Sir...

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Sir, the honourable member is making a reference to another incident. Is he in order?

Mr. President : Yes, he is perfectly in order in bringing it forward to illustrate his argument.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, whenever a man has to consider whether a particular course is a wise one it is necessary for him to ask, “ What have I done in the past and what was its result?” Therefore before considering the question of release of these prisoners it is necessary to consider what was the effect of a similar step in the past. It so happens, Sir, that we have an excellent example of the policy of releases in connection with the members of this very community and we know what was the result of that policy. At the beginning of 1921 after an incident which is usually known as the ‘ keys controversy ’ an incident in the course of which the keys of the treasury connected with the Golden Temple were first of all taken over by Government and under the orders of a civil court restored to a particular body, after that incident Government desired to hold out a

Friendly hand of conciliation and friendship, and therefore decided to release all persons who had been convicted in connection with certain speeches made on the subject at meetings held contrary to law. A considerable number of persons were released and I well remember (since it was I who read out the announcement to this House) I well remember with what satisfaction the former Council received the announcement. I recollect that every one of that Council . . .

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Sir, I rise to a point of order. When I raised this very point I was asked by the Chair to sit down and not to touch on these points. I ask for a ruling from the Chair as to whether the present reference by the Honourable the Finance Member is in order.

Mr. President : I will stop the Finance Member if and when I consider that he is out of order. At present I consider that he is in order.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I said, Sir, that at that time the Council received this proposal of conciliation with satisfaction and welcomed the prospect of a termination of the trouble with the Sikh community. Unfortunately our experience did not justify our hopes. The Akalis in armed bands began to traverse the Central Punjab and to indulge in many lawless extravagances. They entered railway carriages and travelled by railway without buying their tickets and disturbed the passengers generally. Their behaviour showed that they had completely lost their heads and because they had been treated with leniency they believed that they were completely triumphant and could do whatever they pleased. If anybody wants to know the kind of things which were done at that time by these people, who had so completely lost their heads, I would refer him to the description given by the late Minister of Agriculture of an incident which occurred to himself when he was travelling in his own special carriage by railway. A body of Akalis without tickets rushed into the station, entered his carriage and refused to go out when asked to do so and explained that there was no necessity for them to take tickets and there was no necessity to pay respect to reserved carriages, because they were rulers of the country and they were the owners of the railway. This sort of thing continued until numerous arrests were made in March 1921 and order restored.

So much, Sir, about our actual experience as to the result of a policy of releases. There is another course which has been referred to by honourable members when speaking on this subject, and that is, I say very distinctly, a course which the Government has favoured for a long time past and which it still favours. The course is that of suitably amending the law about shrines. My friend opposite, Professor Ruchi Ram, if I caught his words correctly, said that Government never took a single step to put the law aright. Well, Sir, some days. . .

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : It is section 92 of some code.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, I quote the actual words of my friend opposite. He referred to the law bearing on the subject of shrines and said Government had not taken any step to deal with that. Well, Sir, if my friend Professor Ruchi Ram will some time come to my house I shall be glad to show him a certain file which is now in my possession which shows the various drafts which had been prepared by patient and hard working officers, with the object of dealing with this particular difficulty and of amending the law in such a manner as to satisfy those who are interested. I do not know how many drafts were prepared, but I can

[The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.]

tell the House that my own record of the drafts goes so far as draft H. I have gone through drafts A, B, C, D, E, F, G and I have now come as far as draft H. All these drafts were prepared, mostly by my friend the Honourable Minister for Education in attempting to find something which this community would be satisfied with and which would at the same time commend itself to other communities also. I well.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: Is the Honourable Member referring to the Gurdwara Bill or is he referring to the drafts of that particular section, section 92 of the Procedure Code?

Mr. President: I think it will be better to leave the Honourable the Finance Member to continue his speech.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: Sir, the Honourable Member's remarks were not quite clear.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I shall be most happy to be quite clear. Every draft of the Gurdwara Bill which was prepared, from A to H, every one of them had the effect of modifying the application of that section 92 "of some code or other" which the honourable gentleman has recently been studying. Every one of them were designed to have that effect.

I myself well remember, Sir, that a number of Sikh members of the Council came to me and said to me: "We have certain suggestions to make; will you put them into shape? In this particular form they happened to come within my province and not in that of the Minister for Education, and therefore I was asked to prepare the draft? In accordance with the request of these members, I prepared a draft and brought it before them. But by the time that the draft was read out to them, they had altered their minds and said: No, we do not want this draft; we wish to go back to yet another proposal which was put forward by the Honourable the Minister for Education at an earlier stage. Did we, Sir, then say: That we were wearied of this vacillation, that we were tired of it and that we could not hope to satisfy them. No, Sir, we said: Very well, we will go back. My honourable friend the Minister for Education said: We will go back to the draft which was formerly prepared, and bring it again before the Council. When this new draft was put before the Sikh members, by that time, would it be believed, Sir, they had altered their minds and they said: No, we cannot have this either. Finally, it was thought that it was better to pass something which might appeal to reasonable Sikhs outside the Council and for that reason a Bill was ultimately passed by this Council. As honourable members are well aware that Bill which was passed by this Council was not of a kind which appealed to the general body of the Sikh community, but we did not even then despair of meeting them and of finding a method of satisfying their requirements. Almost immediately we reopened the discussion with the leaders; I myself, helped by the Honourable the Minister for Agriculture, sat down for four days together and went over the question of possible arrangements with the leaders. One of the things we then said was this: Will you yourselves give us the outline of the Bill which you propose to be accepted by the Council? If so, we shall be most happy to consider it. Unfortunately they did not accede to our proposal. They did not put forward any suggestions, in fact they declined to put forward any suggestion except on conditions which seemed to be altogether unreasonable.

Sardar Gurubaksh Singh : Because the Government went on arresting the people in breach of faith and former agreements.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, I am in possession of the House and trust that the honourable member will not interrupt me any further. He has not raised any point of order. If amending legislation is to be undertaken since the Sikh community has not accepted the proposals which were hitherto been before them, it is evident that some Sikh must come forward and tell us precisely what is wanted. If he cannot prepare the Bill himself, he must at least formulate the principles which will enable us to prepare the Bill for him (Hear, hear). But we have not ceased to attempt to persuade the Sikhs to act in this manner. Even since this Council began to sit and even during the present budget session the suggestion has again been put to one of the Sikh members that a Bill should be framed and brought forward before the Council by a Sikh. I regret to say that he has not up to the present time acted upon the suggestion. It has been suggested that there is a reason why no Sikh will come forward to formulate a Bill or to suggest the principles upon which a Bill could be prepared. It has been stated that unless we promise beforehand to release certain persons or to do certain other things which are conditions to be dictated to us for the occasion, unless that is done, no Sikh would be prepared to bring forward a Bill. Is it not obvious, Sir, that if the sole object be to achieve a certain religious liberty and if a Gurdwara Bill would be the means of attaining that liberty, then those Sikhs whose sole desire is the attainment of religious liberty should without any regard to any other considerations be prepared to produce a Bill before us so that we may know precisely what they require? In conclusion, Sir, let me say this : We have made so many efforts but they have been infructuous. We have not lost our patience, we have not lost our hope; we do not despair of some wise and reasonable man yet acceding to the suggestion which has been put forward and coming before us with proposals of his own (Hear, hear). May the news we have received to-day be a happy augury of future peace.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh, Urban) : I rise to a point of personal explanation, Sir. I did not advocate the policy of releasing all prisoners. . . .

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Is the honourable member entitled to make another speech.

Mr. President : It is not a speech.

Sardar Jodh Singh : The reply of the Honourable Finance Member was based upon the fact. . . .

Mr. President : I do not want a speech. If you just explain clearly in what respect you did not say what has been ascribed to you, that will do.

Sardar Jodh Singh : I do not advocate the policy of releasing all prisoners as has been tried in the past. I said along with the releasing of prisoners, the whole question should be settled. That is quite different from what was attempted in the past.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepur (Sikh) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, before placing before the House the facts of the case, it is better that I should reply to the remarks of the Honourable Finance Member. He has said that

[Sardar Tara Singh.]

we should not leave undone a work which we have once begun. I would like to ask if it is not better to leave taking poison, if we have once begun taking. Similarly, now that we know that this policy of repression is bad, as bad as poison, is it not then wise to leave it. My friend Sardar Jodh Singh has made a couple of proposals. They have my sympathy. A perusal of the constitution of the S. G. P. C. will show that nobody, not even the President has any right to spend any penny out of the Gurdwara funds on any purpose but religious, and Master Jodh Singh has now given a further assurance that a condition may be laid down in the Bill that no money shall be spent on politics.

Secondly, Sir, can anybody mention any political work that the Committee has done in the Punjab. Why, then, give the dog a bad name and hang it? Sir, I have the pride to mention that the Committee does not even mean to expel the Mahants good or bad. They only want to reform and bring the Gurdwaras under Panthic control and for that end they give good Mahants quite decent salaries for their lifetime. In many Gurdwaras the same Mahants have been appointed; Durbar Sahib, Amritsar, is an example.

Again the Finance Member has remarked that after the general release last time the Sikhs lost their head and they began to create all sorts of troubles. But, Sir, I would like to know if that release was spontaneous and voluntary, or that was done when the hands of the Government had been forced and they had tried every means of escape. Even Government servants, zildars and pensioners had been offered the keys of the Durbar Sahib, but every one refused to accept them, it was then and then alone that the Government had to return the keys to Sardar Kharak Singh and release the prisoners. But, Sir, this remedy of the trouble was imperfect and delayed. I want the Government to adopt a sure and speedy means of solving this difficulty. A historian has written that justice should not only decide, between right and wrong, but it should also convince the parties of its findings. I therefore, Sir, inquire whether the Sikhs or the public in general are being satisfied as to the justice of the action taken. What to say of satisfying the parties, I know that every obstacle is being placed in the way of the counsel of the accused getting necessary instructions from his clients. A lawyer waits for 4 hours to see his clients, but although he has the permission of the Deputy Commissioner he cannot see them till late in the evening. Not this only, but the houses of the lawyers are searched.

Mr. President: It appears to me that these matters are brought forward only as grievances not for the purpose of making good the point which the honourable member suggests to be his point. My point is that these statements appear to be made merely in order to ventilate some alleged grievances. These grievances do not seem to be relevant.

Sardar Tara Singh: Sir, my question is that the public should be satisfied that justice is being done and that no obstacle is being placed in the way of justice being done. My point is that public is not satisfied? While the Government is spending large sums of money for justice the public is not satisfied with it.

(Then continued in Urdu); Sir, when Government spends so much on justice, on one hand and on the other they create obstacles in the way of those who seek justice, the people are bound to doubt the bona fides of the Government. The people think that Government takes its revenge.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, isn't the speaker now reflecting upon the court ?

Mr. President : I presume that these obstacles are being placed in the way of the counsel, if they are placed at all, by the court. You cannot reflect on any court of justice in respect to its conduct of a judicial case. That seems to be what you are doing.

Sardar Tara Singh : No, Sir, these obstacles are being placed by the police.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, wouldn't that reflect on the court if it doesn't take proper steps to see that obstacles are not placed by the police in the way of the accused getting justice ?

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Yes, if the court comes to know, not otherwise.

Sardar Tara Singh (continued in Urdu) : Sir, it has been further stated that after the release of the prisoners convicted in the keya trouble, the Akalis began to travel without tickets, and an example has been given of the incident which happened to the late Minister for Agriculture. But, Sir, to blame the whole community for the action of a few individuals is not reasonable. Government has used such tactics many a time before. In connection with *Kirpan*, they made so many false statements about Akalis murdering people, which almost all of them proved to be false. Similarly these complaints about travelling without tickets may also prove to be baseless.

In fact the reason of all this is this policy of repression adopted by the Government. Even the aged persons of the villages do not like this repression. And this whole trouble can be avoided by following the advice of Sardar Jodh Singh which in fact is only a personal opinion. Otherwise it would be equally bad for the Government as well as the Sikhs.

Mr. D. J. Boyd : Sir, I move—

"That the question be now put."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That the question be now put."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,55,000—
Total Other Allowances and Honoraria—Law Officers—Mofussil Establishment—(24-B—Administration of Justice)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided : Ayes 24, Noes 31.

AYES 24.

Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.

Sardar Jodh Singh.

Sardar Tara Singh.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.

Sardar Mangal Singh.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.

Manvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq.

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.

Sardar Har Chand Singh.

Sardar Partab Singh.

Pandit Nanak Chand.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.

Lala Sham Lal.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.

Lala Bodh Raj.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.

Lala Banke Rai.

Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.

Diwan Nariojan Das.

Lala Mohan Lal.

Chaudhri Ram Singh.

NOES 31.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
 Lieut.-Col. E. L. Ward.
 Mr. E. R. Abbott.
 Mr. C. M. King.
 Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
 Mr. E. A. Scott.
 Sir George Anderson.
 Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
 The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chaudhri
 Lal Chand.
 The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian
 Fazl-i-Husain.
 The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar
 Sundar Singh, Majithia.
 The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
 Mr. A. Latif.
 Mr. Miles Irving.

Mr. D. J. Boyd.
 Mr. H. D. Craik.
 Dr. C. A. Owen.
 Lt.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
 Mr. J. Coldstream.
 Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
 Sardar Jowahir Singh.
 Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
 Sayad Husain Shah.
 Khan Bahadur Sardar Jamal Khan.
 Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
 M. Haibat Khan.
 Mr. V. F. Gray.
 Lieut. Malik Muzaffar Khan.
 Chaudhri Duli Chand.
 Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
 Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 5,950 with respect to the item of Rs. 23,800—
 Travelling Allowance—District and Sessions Judges (24-D—Administration
 of Justice)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 11,250 with respect to the item of Rs. 45,000—
 Travelling Allowance—Subordinate Judges (24-D—Administration of Jus-
 tice)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 75 with respect to the item of Rs. 300—
 Travelling Allowance—Courts of Small Causes (24-E—Administration of
 Justice)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced Rs. 1,867 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,470—
 Travelling Allowance—Honorary Magistrates (24-E—Administration of
 Justice)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,44,483 be granted to the Governor in Council
 to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year end-
 ing the 31st of March 1925 in respect of Administration of Justice."

The motion was carried.

JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS GRANT.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,44,000 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 1925 in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,44,700 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 1925 in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements."

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 600 with respect to the item of Rs. 2,400—Travelling Allowance—Superintendence. (25-A—Jails and Convict Settlements.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 800 with respect to the item of Rs. 3,200—Travelling Allowance—Central Jails. (25-A—Jails and Convict Settlements.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,550 with respect to the item of Rs. 6,300—Travelling Allowance—District Jails. (25-A—Jails and Convict Settlements.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 75 with respect to the item of Rs. 300—Travelling Allowance—Reformatory Schools. (25-A—Jails and Convict Settlements.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar [East and West Central Towns (Muhammadan), Urban] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the total grant be further reduced by Rs. 1."

(Urdu) : In moving this amendment I take the opportunity to make a few general remarks in regard to the jails in this Province.

To begin with the object of punishment awarded to a culprit, which in most cases means imprisonment, is twofold besides any other minor ends. One of them is to reform the criminal himself and the other is to make him an example and warning to all persons of the same type with him. But when we see the condition of the jails here, which profess to reform the evil-doer, and make a comparison with the conditions prevailing in jails in other civilised countries of the world, we are simply shocked. That a man may be able to reform himself while in jail, it is necessary for the Government to create such an atmosphere there as may create in the man feelings of self-respect, so that when he has served his sentence and is out of the jail, he may not repeat his offence. But so far as the jails in this country are concerned, the state of affairs is simply lamentable. When a

[Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.]

man has once to undergo all the processes of one of these jails, he begins to hate himself and ultimately all humanity.

The food, dress and the place of abode are the three chief factors on which the reformation or retrogression of a criminal in a jail depends, but the standard of all these things in the jails here is shockingly low.

I will take dress first of all. There are three things that are supplied to a prisoner by way of dress—*Pajama* up to knee, shirt and a cap. When the prisoner has worn this dress, he looks more like a wild animal than a human-being. Instead of lifting the prisoner up, the dress merely makes him a moving joke and he begins to laugh at himself. The cap above all is worthy of note. As to shoes the prisoner is never supplied with them whether it is summer or winter. He may have to remain bare-footed in the heat of summer, the cold of winter and the rains of the monsoon days, no matter if his health suffers in any way. In the case of a prisoner who has to serve a long sentence the difficulty about shoes becomes all the more serious, because his relatives cannot and often do not look after him so much as the relatives of a prisoner do if his term of imprisonment is short. With regard to bedding that is supplied to a prisoner the condition is equally bad. The prisoners in these jails are provided with warm blankets and a coarse mat. There are the only things which he has to use in winter as well as in summer. The worst of all is that the prisoner must sleep inside the room and under the roof throughout the year. The result is that in summer, the prisoner has not only to put up with the heat of the weather, but the mosquitoes also add to his troubles. In short there is nothing in the whole of the dress and the bedding that might minimise the miseries and troubles of a prisoner, and it is high time that the authorities concerned should take immediate steps to bring about a change (for the better) in this direction. Next comes the question of food, but I am sorry to inform the House that the arrangements existing in the jails to supply food to the prisoners are in no way better. No regard is paid to the fact that food is the mainstay of human life. It is claimed that rules regarding diet to the prisoners have recently been amended, but what is the use of amending the rules when these amendments are not carried out in practice and when the old system is not given up. So far as my knowledge goes the same kind of food, rotten and not well-cooked, is supplied to the prisoners. It is said that certain fresh instructions have been issued in regard to vegetables. It might be so, but the experience tells us that only one kind of vegetable and that too of the lowest standard is supplied. Another difficulty about the food is that wheat and gram are mixed and the food cooked from this mixture becomes unpalatable. It may be that in some parts of the country gram is liked, but generally in the Punjab gram is very little used for purposes of food. It will not be out of place to mention that those who are in charge of food arrangements are also to some extent responsible for this bad kind of food. They are generally dishonest and make much profits by buying stuff worse and lower than that of the prescribed standard. The fact that there is only one kitchen for say 2,000 prisoners adds to the difficulty. Even if the stuff is good, one cannot expect to get good food when it is to be cooked in one or two big vessels for so many men and when the fuel available for the purpose is not more than six chhataks per head. Even the prescribed amount of fuel fails to reach the kitchen on account of the intermediate tolls that must be paid, and the result is that the men entrusted with the baking of loaves heat

the iron too much, so that the surface of the loaves appears well cooked whereas the interior is not. The result is indigestion and other cognate troubles.

Light is another essential for a man to live and especially in a congested place, but light, too, is sparingly provided. In barracks, where 50 or 60 prisoners are put together, only one or two lamps are supplied and the light from them is so dim that very often it becomes very difficult to find the pot provided for answering the calls of nature. The difficulty in this matter is aggravated in a day when any criminal is to be hanged, for on such days the prisoners in the barracks as well as in the cells remain shut up till 8 o'clock in the morning, and the calls of nature have to be answered inside the cells and barracks. As regards the cells, the condition is still worse, for no light is supplied in these cells, and prisoners remain without light throughout the night. Though it sounds very unpleasant to the ears, I cannot refrain from mentioning that it is simply barbarous to compel a man to eat, drink, offer his prayers and live in the same room where he is to answer the calls of nature and in pots whose location he cannot judge on account of the total absence of light.

Mr. President : I think the honourable member has dwelt upon this point long enough. The subject is an unpleasant one.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar (continued) : The subject no doubt is unpleasant but the people who are living there are faring very bad. That is why I am dealing with this point at such great length.

Mr. President : It is not necessary to dilate upon the point any longer.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar (continued in Urdu) : When such is the state of affairs and when the Indian Jails Committee, appointed some time back to investigate and report on the jail administration, recommended that early steps be taken to provide even electric light in the Central Jails, I do not understand why matters have been delayed so long and why this reasonable demand has not so far been acceded to.

The population in jails consists of different types of men. There are young and there are old; there are educated and there are uneducated. In jails facilities ought to have been provided for imparting education for those who desire or are capable of receiving it. Such facilities already exist in jails of the civilised countries, but none so far exist in the Punjab, and even if a prisoner is prepared to pay the expenses, he is not provided with such facilities. The Indian Jails Committee recommended in their report that education should be given compulsorily to prisoners who are below 25 years of age and in the case of others, periodicals and other books should be supplied, but with the exception of having supplied books to a few political prisoners, the recommendation has not so far been given effect to at all.

Now that the mention of the Indian Jails Committee has incidentally come in, I would like to refer, in a few words, to some of its other recommendations, although, I am aware, it will prolong my speech.

The Committee recommended that, in order to reform the evil dcer, it was necessary that he should be given religious education. I understand that this matter is already engaging the attention of authorities. I will, therefore, not discuss it further.

[Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.]

The Committee further recommended that at the time of offering prayers, all should be allowed to offer them and those who happen to be working, should be allowed to leave the work. They also recommended that the *Jumra* prayers may be allowed, but the facts tell us that this concession has not been granted, and it is not known how long it would take to make matters easy in this direction.

In the report submitted by the Committee they emphasised the point regarding the kind of labour exacted from a prisoner. In order to elevate and create high ideals in a criminal, the Committee held that the nature of the labour should not be degrading. The working of a well and the turning of flour mill are both degrading and less useful. The Committee opined that better and more useful forms of labour could be substituted which will not only elevate the criminal, but will also make the Jail Department more profitable but so far nothing has been done in the matter.

The Committee also recommended that separate rooms should be provided for interviews with relatives, for they realised that the present system of interviews was very defective and could not commend itself to the meanest intelligence. Then they recommended that the prisoners should be allowed two hours in the evening to recreate and to refresh themselves and recreation rooms be attached to the barracks, but all these recommendations seem to have fallen flat on the ears of the indifferent authorities. They perhaps do not realise that recreation in the evening will work like a charm for those who have been in their cells for hours together and who have been working hard for the rest of the day, and who for lack of any recreation would spend their evenings in gambling, relating immoral stories, playing cards and other like things.

One more point to which I draw your attention, Sir, and which will finish my speech is that the imprisonment to an evil-doer is awarded in order to punish the wrong-doer himself. It ought not to involve his dear and near ones. But that is exactly what is being done here. The convict is imprisoned in a jail which is far off from his native place sometimes in a different province, and if any of his relatives desire to see him in the jail, they are forced to travel long distances in order to achieve their end. They are forced to suffer the hardships and difficulties of the journey and heavy expenses before they can see the prisoner. This is a practice which the authorities ought to take note of to discourage forthwith.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the total grant be further reduced by Rs. 1.”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Chaudhri Duli Chand [Karnal (Non-Muhammadian) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, so far as I have been able to make out from the speech of the honourable member Maulvi Mazhar Ali I think he means to equip the jails with all the necessaries and conveniences of human life. In other words he means to convert the jails into regular guest rooms, but perhaps he is unaware that, if his proposals are carried out, there will be few amongst the villagers and petty zamindars who would not like to get into the jails, and the result will be that the number of crimes will increase and disorder will prevail. As to why these people would prefer jail life, the reason is obvious. These villagers and petty zamindars are so poor and badly off that it is

with great difficulty that they can provide themselves with even a shirt of khaddar and a cap worth two or three pice. With regard to shoes only 25 per cent. of them are able to get shoes for themselves, but if in jails all these things are going to be supplied according to the proposal of my honourable member, I think there is nothing that will withhold the villagers from flocking to jails. If I am not mistaken, my honourable friend has in view the convenience of the non-co-operators, for fewer the troubles in the jails, the greater the number will be of those who will be persuaded to court imprisonment, otherwise the miseries that he has described in the jails are not greater than those of the villagers outside the jail. The honourable member has said that the prisoners do not get suitable vegetables, they are not provided with lamps and the labour exacted from them is of the worst kind, for example grinding of corn and working of the well, but is he sure that people outside the jails are leading comfortable lives and that they have to do nothing of this sort? Had he had the opportunity of even once visiting a village, he must have found out that the villagers had seldom taken vegetables. He must have seen that the villagers had no lamps and that majority of the women daily had to grind corn before they could get food for themselves. I say that the condition of the villagers is no better than that of the prisoners. It is rather worse. I think if any class of people deserves our consideration, first of all it is the villagers and poor zamindars and not the prisoners. If we begin to devote so much of our attention on the prisoners who are mostly criminals, I think we will be encouraging crime. If on the other hand we go on punishing the evil-doers with heavy sentences because the nature of the crime is serious, we will be doing service to humanity at large, as this procedure is sure to discourage crime. My honourable friend has also advocated that separate rooms should be provided for interviews. I ask if this system of interviews will not eliminate the element of isolation in the punishment, which is necessary for

A. R. M.

punishment to have the desired effect. I think the proposal will certainly eliminate that element and if it is intended to convert jails into comfortable places of sojourn, I think provision will have to be made in the budget for the construction of new jails. For my part I am opposed to this sort of expenses and especially I am opposed to increasing the number of criminals. I therefore, strongly oppose the amendment.

Chandhri Afzal Haq (*Hoshiarpur-cum-Ludhiana, Rural*) (Urdu) : Sir, I am also one of those who belong to villages and besides I have had a personal experience of life in these jails and as such I can assure the honourable member Chandhri Duli Chand that had he been to jail (I do not wish that he should go to the jail), he would have hesitated to make such an eloquent speech, as he has delivered just now before the House. The jails in India are a kind of hell and in this twentieth century of civilisation and self-determination the condition of the jails in India is not better than that of the jails of England a century back when Government of England took over the charge of English jail on April 1st, 1878.

My honourable friend has said that life in villages is no better than that of jails. I would ask if this is his honest belief? I think not. A man who had ever seen a prisoner with his cap, shirt and pajama on and seen him

[Chaudhri Afzal Haq.]

working the well with two lambardars to give him a thrashing if he relaxes in his labour, I think, if he is sensible, he would not even compare that life with any other life.

I want to ask whether it is a sin to taste sugar or anything of the sort throughout the life of a man. I think no one will say that it is a sin, but if a prisoner were to strictly follow the rules and regulations prescribed for the jails here, he cannot expect to taste sugar for the whole term of his sentence.

It is claimed that the British Raj is a blessing to India and under this Raj nothing but justice is to be seen everywhere. Is it also justice that, according to the Jail Manual, the vegetable to be bought for Indian prisoners should be such as is available in the market at the lowest price, but for a European prisoner, never mind even if he is an ordinary class prisoner, the food should consist of meat, ghee, butter, sugar, potatoes and what not? Is it also justice that an Indian prisoner whether he happens to be a Minister for Agriculture who has preferred to go to the jail perhaps because of his love for his country, is not accorded the same treatment in the jail as an ordinary European felon is accorded. I know it is provided in the rules that if an Indian prisoner can assure the authorities concerned that his mode of life has been like that of a European, he is admitted in a European ward, but such a provision cannot satisfy the Indians, for in the first place there are very few Indians who can afford to live in that style and if some of them can and do live, they are seldom believed to have lived such a life by the Jail Superintendents and other officials concerned. I repeat that even Mahatma Gandhi, who is believed to be the greatest man living not only in India but in other countries too, cannot expect to have the same treatment as an ordinary European criminal can have, simply because Mahatma Gandhi is an Indian and not a European.

I know from my personal experience that we are treated in the jails no better than barbarians, for when I was in jail I had to make ropes out of *wan* for six hours together.

Mr. President : Order, order. The honourable member must not go into his own history. We are now considering the administration of jails.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq (continued in Urdu) : I bow to your ruling, Sir. I was making mention of my personal history simply to show the conditions in the jails.

As to the supply of newspapers and periodicals to the prisoners, the state of affairs is simply lamentable as compared with other countries. It is after constant agitation that the political prisoners here are now supplied newspapers and periodicals, but in other countries not only newspapers and books are supplied to read, but other materials for writing purposes are also provided. If one is to describe the arrangements for sleeping at night, the description is sure to bring tears in the eyes of every man who can feel for others. During six months of imprisonment (it was summer) I was allowed only 15 days to sleep outside, otherwise I had to sleep in the cell throughout the remaining period although it was very hot in those days. This is not all. While a prisoner is sleeping, he has to respond to the call of the warder on his round after every three hours, which means that the prisoner is disturbed even when sleeping and is not allowed complete rest.

With regard to the washing of the clothes, no satisfactory arrangement exists. The prisoners have to labour throughout the day and sleep in the same dress and consequently the dress becomes dirty very soon. Very often it is very difficult to stand by the prisoner because of the bad smell from his clothes and even if under such circumstances my honourable friend is enamoured of jail life, I think he must be more than a man.

I must express my gratitude towards the Honourable Member for Revenue, for during the period he was in charge of the jail department, there were few complaints, but since he handed over the charge, all the prisoners, whether political or ordinary, are simply tired and the complaints about the jails are increasing day by day.

Mr. President : If the honourable member directs his voice in the direction of the Chair, I shall be able to hear the whole of his sentence. At present he aways from one side to the other ; at one moment I hear one part of the sentence and at another moment the other part but never a full sentence. It is better that one part of the House should not hear at all than none should hear a full sentence.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq (continued in Urdu) : I think I am addressing the Chair.

Mr. President : It is a matter of hearing. I cannot hear when the honourable member directs his voice to the other side.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq (continued in Urdu) : My honourable friend Chaudhri Duli Chand has said that for a serious crime the punishment should be heavy in exact proportion. I think this view of the honourable member is peculiar to himself. I have read various reports of various commissions in regard to jails here and elsewhere, but I have never read a report in which a similar view has been expressed. If it is desired to raise the standard of the country, it is necessary that reforms should be brought about in jails here immediately.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I have listened to so many speeches delivered by the honourable member Chaudhri Duli Chand during this session and from these speeches I sometimes used to think that he was here to plead the cause of the people he was representing, but from what few words he has uttered to-day I find that I was mistaken. From his speech of to-day it appears that he has not the welfare of the villagers in view but something else.

The honourable member has had to spend a good deal of eloquence in showing that the villagers are no better than the prisoners in these jails and that therefore no improvements should be carried out in the gaol life. I admit and whole-heartedly endorse his view that more attention should be paid to ameliorate the condition of these villagers, but I do not wish it to be carried out by continuing the miseries of other people. It is a fine line of argument that is put forward by my friend, and I hope that no honourable member in this House will take it seriously. He also seems to be unaware of the fact that the population in the jails consists mostly of villagers. Besides in comparing the villager and the prisoner he has counted without a foe. The honourable member represents perhaps only one district, namely, Karnal, but I have the honour to represent here the whole of the Ambala Division, Karnal being one of its districts, and I know from my personal experience that there is no comparison between villagers of any of these districts and the prisoners in the jails. Although one cannot say that

[Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.]

villagers in these districts are very well off, yet to say that they are no better than prisoners is totally wrong. The honourable member has further said that he would advise all the villagers to flock to the jails if the proposed improvements are carried out. I may assure him that even if the proposed improvements are carried out even then he will not be able to persuade a single soul to court imprisonment though he may himself very much like to do it. Even after the improvements are carried out there would be left flogging, beating and chiding and other humiliations and in these circumstances no respectable soul would prefer life in jail. Besides, there is no proposal to supply *charpais* which is within the competence of every villager to obtain for himself. Moreover the sleeping space allowed in jails cannot ever compare with that available at home and as it is I do not think any sensible man would like to go to jail even if he is persuaded by the honourable member.

There is another point that my honourable friend has overlooked. Supposing for a minute that the conditions of the villagers are no better than those of the prisoners, in spite of that more attention is paid to better the conditions of the prisoners. The honourable member has not been able to see that this betterment will ultimately result in the improvement of the conditions of villagers. With the better atmosphere around the prisoner, better and self-respecting feelings will be created in his mind. He will come out of the jail reformed and a better man. The result will be that crime will decrease and the people will attend whole-heartedly to better occupations and better means of livelihood. And if all this can be brought about there will be an end to all these complaints of the honourable member.

While talking about the jails in this country my honourable friends Maulvi Mazhar Ali and Chaudhri Afzal Haq have forgotten to mention the weekly parade and compulsory salute that every prisoner must offer to the officer inspecting the parade. These practices are other factors that are sure to degrade a man.

Before I resume my seat I would refer to another point in this connection. India has got one advantage over all other countries. The people of this country love religion more than anything else and it is religion that appeals most to an Indian mind, and under the circumstances it is not very difficult to reform an Indian evil-doer if the Government are prepared to take a little trouble in this wise. Getting up early in the morning and offering prayers to Almighty is ordained by all Indian religions and if it be made compulsory in the jails that every prisoner must get up early in the morning and after he has answered the calls of nature must devote an hour or so in prayer to his Creator, if this is done I am sure it will not take very long when crimes will decrease to a minimum.

Much has been said before and to a certain extent done by way of differential treatment to political prisoners, but I must repeat that much remains to be done in this direction and it is time that matters should be expedited. Could this Government in this twentieth century of civilization feel proud of the treatment meted out to the cream of this country who went to gaols for no fault of theirs, but simply for the love of their country. The matter has already been delayed too long and a very wide gulf has been created between the Government and the people by the treatment of Sikh prisoners in Attock, Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan gaols and the treatment of

political prisoners in Arhala and other gaols in the Province. The Government should hasten to redress the injury thus done to the manhood of India and revise its rules as regards the treatment of political prisoners in its gaols.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] : Sir, much has been said on this subject by those who are better experienced than I am, having spent part of their life in jails. More may be said by Dr. Narang who has also had this experience. I only want to make a few suggestions which are of some importance. First of all, I beg to say that bribery and corruption still prevail to a great extent in the jails of the Punjab. I was a member of the Committee that enquired into bribery and corruption and it was admitted before the Committee by the head of the jails department that corruption does exist in this department to a great extent. I beg to submit, Sir, that no attempt whatever has been made to eradicate that evil from the jails. The sooner it is eradicated the better, for it is a great blot on the administration of jails in this Province.

The second thing I want to say is about non-official visitors. The question of non-official visitors is such that it should engage the attention of Government. Usually visitors are appointed who cannot read or write or who are Honorary Magistrates trying to get higher powers or else they are men of the type of zaildars, some of whom haven't any moral character or moral strength. Sir, I submit that men of strong moral character and literate men should be appointed visitors of jails. I know some of the non-official visitors personally and I know that one visitor had the courage of saying something and he was asked by the Superintendent not to enter the compound of his jail. This is a point which should engage the attention of Government, and in future only such non-official visitors should be appointed who have the courage to give the true state of affairs in the jails. I had the honour of once being appointed a visitor sometime ago, but whatever statement was given by me was not even considered as good as the report of the Superintendent in charge of that jail. This is how a non-official visitor who gives an independent opinion is treated. In the face of such facts educated people whose time is valuable may not be forthcoming.

The third point I want to mention is that there is a standing resolution of this Council that jailors should not remain in one jail for more than two years. I remember it because it was passed in the last Council of which I had the honour of being a member. This resolution has been thrown in the waste paper basket.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No, Sir. I deny that charge. That is not a correct statement.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Even now, Sir, there are jailors who have been in one place for more than two years.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Does the honourable member know that orders have not been issued for their transfer?

(There was no reply.)

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : There is no answer to my question.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : In future, Sir, it should be made a rule that no jailor should remain in any jail for more than two years as was decided by the resolution of this Council.

[Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.]

Then, Sir, there is another point which I wish to bring to the notice of Government, and that is the question of treatment of political prisoners. I have made personal enquiries from several political prisoners of great eminence, men like Lala Lajpat Rai, and they all say that the treatment meted out to political prisoners in jails is not what it should be. It is the service to their country that has taken them to jails and their position is not thereby lowered, that they should be treated like ordinary prisoners in jails. I know a pleader myself who has been practising in one of the courts at Lyallpur and he was treated like an ordinary prisoner. Political prisoners should be given better treatment.

Then, Sir, it is a pity that some supporters of Government like Lala Duli Chand.

Chaudhri Duli Chand : Not Lala, but Chaudhri.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : support Government in season and out of season. He said in his speech that rural life is worse than jail life. That statement has already been refuted and I as a representative of rural areas refute it with all the emphasis in my power. If he wants to have an experience of jail life let him come to Lyallpur, where I have magisterial powers and I can send him to the place which he prefers to rural life (laughter).

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : If you do so, your powers will be withdrawn (laughter).

Raizada Bhagat Ram [Jullundur-~~and~~-Ludhiana (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I had no mind to speak on the subject under discussion but the speeches delivered by my friends on the right and the left have induced me to say a few words. In the first place I would contradict the honourable member who has remarked that most of the non-official visitors to jails are illiterate. I myself am a non-official visitor to jails. Moreover my experience goes contrary to what my friend has expressed pertaining to Superintendents of Jails that they should not remain posted for a period of more than two years. This limit would serve no good purpose for the Superintendent of Jails would not be able to gather even local experience in such a short period. I admit there are difficulties in jails. I admit this as well that my experience cannot correspond to that of a prisoner for he can better judge the situation than I. At the same time I would not hold that jails are like hell. There are troubles pertaining to clothing and food of the prisoners but circumstances and rules of the jails are such that no body can do without observing them. The rules can be amended but to say that the sufferings of prisoners are unbearable is out of place. My clients who are in jail, do not complain of food or clothing but what they resent is the humiliation they are put to. I understand that jail life really imparts a lesson of self-respect and honour to a prisoner. My friend Chaudhri Duli Chand said that there was no trouble in jail but that the rules were so strictly observed that they were compelled to speak falsehood. There is corruption prevalent in the jails. I understand that some members would argue that the same is the case with other departments as well. Yes I admit this much but what I want to say is this that prisoners are put to great trouble in order to compel them to offer bribes. In other departments one bribes the officers of his own accord and for his own benefit but here the case is quite different. The prisoners are wholly at the mercy of jailors. This is what needs remedy. I saw a prisoner (a B.A., I.L.B.), standing at the door of a cell for the last five days. On enquiry it was found that the man was quite innocent and was under-

going that punishment simply because he was not on good terms with the jailor. I cannot wholly agree to what Chaudhri Duli Chand has said that there are all badmashes in jails because I see a good many gentlemen there as well.

Chaudhri Duli Chand : My reference was to malefactors.

Raizada Bhagat Ram (continued in Urdu) : I am glad that Chaudhri Sahib has withdrawn his words. I admit there is a majority of badmash people in the jails and their company certainly produces a bad effect on others. These are the difficulties in jails but the question is how to overcome them. I suggest a proposal to solve these difficulties. If we want to put a stop to jail corruption, we ought to reduce the powers of the Superintendents and jailors as far as possible. If there is any breach of discipline on the part of a prisoner he can be put to task in the presence of some non-official visitor. The Superintendents of Jails cannot dare to take any steps against the will of jailor for the Superintendent has also to keep up his own position. There is no other remedy except what I have suggested. I would ask the authorities concerned to adopt this proposal.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I must say that I have been quite agreeably surprised by the tone of this debate. I was particularly struck with the moderation and reasonableness of almost all the speakers, and when I remember that one or two of them had actually seen the jail from inside and therefore had good cause to know where the shoe pinches and what the weak points are, I feel and I say that I am agreeably surprised that there has been so little of bitterness shown in the speeches.

Sir, the truth of the matter is that all the speakers perhaps with the exception of one or two urged upon us matters precisely of the kind which the Government and the Administration of the Jail Department itself has in mind. We also desire improvement of the Jail Administration. We also desire to humanise it and make it better (hear, hear) and that is why we appoint Jail Commissions, that is why we appoint non-official visitors, that is why we hold enquiries when the circumstances seem to call for enquiries. But, Sir, there are certain practical considerations and certain practical limitations which those who are actually entrusted with the administration of a department such as this must inevitably bear in mind. In the first place, Sir, the jail is a place of discipline, a place where discipline must be maintained. That is an inevitable necessity and when honourable members remember the enormous mass of violent men and dacoits and others congregated in these jails, leaving out of account for the moment those political prisoners whom some of them have in mind, they must realise that when a small body of officers has to control this great mass of bad material that a certain amount of rough discipline is absolutely unavoidable. That is the first of the limitations, that is the first preliminary condition which must be understood if it is to be realised what the real task of those responsible for the jail administration is.

In the second place, honourable members will surely not forget that they themselves have to vote the money which is necessary for all these purposes. We have to consider what the expenditure is to be. We cannot say electric lights should be supplied here, there, everywhere, in order that prisoners may have some amenities. We cannot say we will increase the scale of diet or greatly improve the kind of clothing without considering what the cost of all these to the tax-payer is going to be.

[Honourable Sir John Maynard.]

In the next place, honourable members must recollect what the human material is. We work through men, we work through the men whom we find available to us in this country. Is it reasonable to expect us so to refashion that material, so to eliminate the evil in it, that our system shall be suddenly humanised and become utterly different from what it has been for centuries past? It is not possible that that should be done and when we are told that corruption flourishes in the jails and when we are told that that is only what happens in every department, then surely honourable members should ask themselves, what are the reasons why corruption flourishes? Is it not something in the character of the people of the country, is it not something in the effect which the temptations of authority have upon them, is it not the too great facility with which other people give them what they require or put temptation in their way, are not these the real reasons why corruption flourishes to so great an extent? I believe candid men when they consider these matters will understand that the task of dealing with corruption in a great department of this kind is extraordinarily heavy and if they look at the matter with an unbiassed mind they will understand that these difficulties are not with any rapidity overcome.

As regards the actual steps which are taken to overcome this great evil of corruption—a great evil which I am the last to deny the existence of—honourable members must recollect that we are bound by certain canons of justice. We cannot say to a man: I believe that you are corrupt, go away, begone; we punish you without having any proof to show that you are guilty. As regards his guilt, we are limited by the difficulty of obtaining any sort of evidence on which we can place any reliance. It has only recently been decided in connection with the 'Corruption Committee Report' that we shall possibly be prepared to take serious action when a particular individual is shown to have a general reputation for corruption. That is an advance in the direction of more summary treatment of the corrupt. But, Sir, there is a great danger which attaches to such summary methods; so soon as we begin to relax the rule which compels us to produce evidence of specific acts on the part of any individual, so soon do we open the door to the possibility of false accusations.

It is not possible to go in detail through all the suggestions which have been put forward by various honourable members. I can only say that taking them as a whole and speaking in particular of the remarks made by my honourable friend Mazhar Ali Azhar, I regard them as matters to which it is perfectly reasonable that we should give our attention. But at the same time, as I have already said, I have to remind the House that considerations of money which this House is called upon to vote, the interest of the tax-payer and the interest of discipline which must be maintained, stand in the way of our carrying out certain of the suggestions. Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar is, however, himself a member of the Jails Committee of this Council and he will no doubt as opportunity arises put forward these suggestions and we shall all be quite ready to give them reasonable consideration.

On a few points, I must deal somewhat more at length. I think that the most telling criticisms that were offered were those of my honourable friend Raizada Bhagat Ram. What I understood him to say is that the present jail system does not maintain the self-respect of the prisoner and that

it has no reformatory effect in its action. Sir, the honourable member Raizada Bhagat Ram holds up and quite properly holds up a very lofty ideal at which we should aim in our jail administration. It is quite proper that this ideal should be held up, but the actual attempt to work to this end with such human materials as we possess is a matter of extraordinary difficulty. It means a steady and patient effort of administration extending over long periods. It is not a matter which can be achieved by a few words in an Assembly of this kind. I doubt whether there is any country in the world in which the true reformatory objects of jail discipline have as yet been in any considerable degree attained or the self-respect of the prisoner in any way diminished by his sojourn in jail. Now, Sir, as regards matters which may be called matters of detail, and particularly the suggestions put forward by Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar, I should explain that a good many changes in matters of diet and other things of that sort have quite recently been made and are now being made. He seems to be under the impression that the same kind of *dal* is given every day or given on two successive days and that for that reason, prisoners with delicate constitutions find it rather difficult to eat. I may tell him that is not the existing system. The existing system is one by which a very large variety of *dals*, four in number, is given to the prisoners. They are never the same on two successive days. He also said a good deal about the vegetables. I suppose he will hardly believe it, but I have myself gone into the jails and seen quite a large variety of vegetables supplied there. Probably he will say that those were vegetables brought there for the occasion, but that is a statement which can hardly be taken seriously because many of the vegetables which I saw would take some months to grow. When I went and saw them they could not have been grown in one night for the sake of my seeing them. In the jail garden they were growing very excellent vegetables.

There was one complaint as I understood him on the subject of the grain which is given to prisoners. It was suggested that there was gram in it and this would impair the digestion. That particular question has been recently examined in the Jails Committee and in consequence of their deliberations, the decision was arrived at to diminish the proportion of gram which is put into the wheat flour on a certain number of days in each week. I think I must at this point touch briefly upon the remarks which fell from the honourable member Chaudhri Afzal Haq on the subject. He made what purported to be a quotation from the Jail Manual and he said that instructions in that book were to buy the "cheapest grain" in the market. That is the expression which he made use of. This is a very misleading quotation, but the actual fact is this. It is not that bad grains are bought in the market and supplied to the prisoners. The orders prescribe that whatever may happen to be the cheapest grain in the market at certain seasons should be purchased. The meaning is that the tax-payers' money must not be wasted by giving luxurious kind of grain to prisoners. We must select that kind which is at the season the cheapest available.

Chandhri Afzal Haq : But the rules are not carried out by the Jailors.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I understand the honourable member means that the rules are not carried out, but I may say that the rules are enforced by supervision and by inspection. There was another complaint on the subject of wood. There again, I do not think we were fairly

[Honourable Sir John Maynard.]

treated in the remarks made by him. It is true that a certain quantity of wood is allowed in each Central Jail. But in the smaller jails where a larger average for prisoner is reasonably necessary the rules provide for giving a larger quantity.

Certain remarks were made on the subject of facilities for reading and on the subject of libraries. On that subject I should like to say that a library has now been started in several jails, and religious books are made available in almost every one of them. Of course at a time when only a very small proportion of our prisoners can read and write, it would be an absurdity to spend large sums of money in providing libraries which can never be used. As the number of literate prisoners grows larger and larger, this particular matter will be dealt with and libraries will be provided.

It was stated that the kind of tasks on which the prisoner is employed is such as to degrade him. I understand that particular reference was made to certain things which might as well be done by machinery. The reason why up to the present time the jail administration has not been able to make very large use of machinery, is the desire of the Government not to do anything which can possibly injure private trade and industry. For that reason for many years there was a virtually complete prohibition against the use of machinery in the jail. That has recently been reconsidered, and at the present time the jail administration is at liberty to make use of machinery except in those cases where some nascent industry may possibly suffer from competition. We have not yet had time or money to give effect to it, but the tendency now will be to introduce machinery in jails on a much larger scale, so that it may enable us to employ prisoners on tasks which are more economically valuable and incidentally also I presume less degrading to the men who undertake them. It is very likely that a question such as the application of power to the manufacture of jail cloths and blankets will shortly come under consideration. I mention that as an instance of the kind of things which are being done at the present time.

One speaker complained of the differentiation of treatment between the European and the Indian. I should like to make it plain to the Council that generally speaking the reasonable thing is to treat a man in respect to food, clothing, and other matters of a similar kind, in a manner not differing too widely from the kind of treatment which he will get when he is out of jail. The discipline must be there, to a certain extent the isolation must be there, and the lack of freedom must be there, but it is not intended to make food and clothing and so forth very different, except in so far as the discipline may require, from the actual conditions as they are out of jail. Now, Sir, everybody knows that the European lives in a manner quite different from an Indian. The kind of food he eats is different, possibly the quantity of food is greater; at all events the kind of food and clothing is different. That everybody is aware of. Thus the differences which the honourable members find in the treatment of Europeans and Indians in the jail must be considered alongside with the actual facts of the different kind of existence which is lived by the European and the Indian outside the jail.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Punjab University) : Is the Honourable Finance Member sure about the fact? Is it not a fact that a great many of Indians who are in jail were living in a much better style than Europeans?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : That is so. It was for that very reason that Government instituted the so-called special class. A prisoner of the special class is treated so far as food and clothing and some other matters go in the same fashion so far as possible, as he can be treated outside the jail. Apart from that there has always been a provision that Indians of a certain class are to be treated in the same manner as Europeans are treated. This has always been provided for, and it will be understood from that that the distinction which is referred to is not a racial one. This is carried even so far that Indians of a particular class actually come within the definition of 'European' for the purpose of rules under the Jail Manual.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : That is more a dead letter than anything else.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : That may be the opinion of the honourable member. Surely that is not a point of order, and I hope he will not contradict me any more. I come next to the question of non-official visitors of jails. An attempt has been made with such materials as exist to appoint the best, the most impartial and the most reasonable non-officials to visit the jails. One honourable member referred to an incident in which the Superintendent asked a non-official visitor not to attend the jail again in consequence of certain remarks which he made. That particular case came before me and I gave instructions that the Superintendent was to be told that non-official visitors had certain definite rights under the Jail Manual, and that those definite rights must not be interfered with. Therefore this matter, which was made a grievance of, was actually dealt with in the most effective way in which it was possible to deal with it.

In conclusion, I should like to say one thing. One honourable member quoted certain remarks of a Nationalist leader whose character is everywhere regarded with respect. As his name was mentioned before, I will also mention that. It was a reference to what was said by Lala Lajpat Rai who was himself in jail and who has himself seen the kind of life which was lived there. Now, Sir, it so happens that I have in my hand a quotation from a speech which Lala Lajpat Rai delivered in his presidential address at Jaranwala Conference. With your permission Sir, I shall read it. It shows what a man of really high character who has seen what jail is like tells people when he comes out.

He said :

"Once inside the jails, we forgot ourselves, committed many follies and were guilty of much pettiness and meanness which comes out of lack of discipline and lack of training for such a high mission. It is a privilege to suffer for a great cause, but it is a greater privilege to suffer nobly and uncomplainingly, preserving at the same time an attitude of humility and selflessness in the course and period of that suffering. The suffering was there, the sense of pride in that suffering, but the sense of humility and selflessness was rather lacking. *We were guilty of many aberrations. We broke every rule, we spoilt the discipline of all life, we abused the best and kindest of officials.* In short we left nothing undone to provoke them into an attitude of hostility."

Mr. President : I think this motion has served a very useful purpose. It has enabled the Council to bring their point of view before the Government and also enabled the Government to state its point of view and the difficulties with which it has to contend, and I imagine that the honourable the mover will hardly wish to press the motion to a division. The objects of such a motion may be various. One object might be to bring forward grievances, another to bring forward suggestions, another to criticise policy or finally, possibly to convey a censure on the department the vote for which is under discussion. As far as I am able to judge from the tone of the discussion that

[Mr. President.]

has taken place, I do not think the object of the motion was to convey censure, and the natural inference is that it is correct to assume that the motion is not intended to be pressed.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar : Sir, my object in putting forward this amendment was not to attack certain persons, but my object was to point out that the general administration of jails was defective. I have pointed out certain defects and I would like to have the opinion of the House as to whether there is room for reform and whether the House thinks that something more should be done or whether the House is satisfied that the present conditions in jails are as they ought to be.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No one says that there is nothing to be done. There will be for ever and ever improvements to be made.

Mr. President : I think we may take it that the honourable member does not intend this in any way as a vote of censure. I wish to get it clear because a motion of this kind may have different objects.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar : I have explained my object quite clearly.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the total grant be further reduced by Rs. 1."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided : Ayes 26, Noes 23.

AYES 26.

Sayad Husain Shah.
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
Subedar Major Farman Ali Khan.
Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
Sardar Partab Singh.
Sardar Buta Singh.

Pandit Naoak Chand.
Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang.
Lala Ruohi Ram, Sahni.
Lala Sham Lal.
Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Lala Banke Rai.
Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.
Raizada Bhagat Ram.
Diwan Narinjan Das.

NOES 23.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Lt.-Col. E. L. Ward.
Mr. E. B. Abbott.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
Mr. E. A. Scott.
Sir George Anderson.
Lient.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand.
The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.
The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
The motion was carried.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard.
Mr. A. Latifi.
Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. D. J. Bcyd.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
Lt.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
Mr. J. Coldstream.
Chandhri Ali Akbar.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Lient. Malik Munzaffar Khan.
Chaudhri Duli Chand.
Mr. E. Maya Das.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,40,974 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 1925 in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements."

The motion was carried.

POLICE GRANT.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,04,36,000 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st March 1925 in respect of Police."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,04,36,000 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 1925 in respect of Police."

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,500 with respect to the item of Rs. 10,000—Travelling Allowance—Superintendence. (26-A—Police)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,31,288 with respect to the item of Rs. 2,25,150—Travelling Allowance—District Executive Force (26-B—Police)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,375 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,500—Travelling Allowance—Central Office—Reclamation of Criminal Tribes (26-B—Police)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 75 with respect to the item of Rs. 300—Travelling Allowance—Reformatory Settlements under Government (26-B—Police)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Lala Buchi Ram, Sahni : Sir, will it be in order if we withdraw all the amendments except amendment No. 158 ? Otherwise we will have to ask for extension of time for to-day's debate.

(Voices from the official benches : No, no)

Mr. President : Do you propose to leave alone the travelling allowance items ?

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Yes, Sir.

Mr. President : Very well.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq [Hoshiarpur-cum-Ludhiana Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move—

“ That the total grant be further reduced by Re. 1.”

Sir, I do not think there is any member in this Council who is ignorant of the atrocities committed by the police or who looks upon the present administration of the police with satisfaction. Even the official benches, I hope, would not be unaware of this fact. Many a time Police Commissions were appointed to enquire into the prevalence of bribery, and they arrived at the same conclusion at which I am driving now. If the House finds any truth in the assertion that bribery is prevalent in the Police Department, I would then request the House to make the required reduction in the original demand. The report submitted by the Police Commission appointed in 1920 throws ample light on the subject. Even high officials in the Punjab hold the same view of the matter as I am expressing. With the permission of the Chair I read out the opinion of the Commissioner of Jullundur to the House in this respect. ‘ Commissioner of Jullundur writes warmly on the subject of bribery, who is of opinion that if the pay of the officers be raised it would be possible to put down bribery though not in police but in other departments also. ’ Three years ago the same question was placed before the Legislative Assembly where it was said that 50 per cent. of the Police officers were dishonest. My personal experience goes a step further, that is, 95 per cent. officials are dishonest and the remaining 5 per cent. are those who do not take bribes in the form of money but never hesitate to accept corn and faggots.

A police officer goes to a place to investigate a case, but leaving aside the investigation, he himself commits a double crime of beating the people under suspicion and receiving bribes from them. If I do not mistake, every year about 198 police men are dismissed from service for this offence. Sir, the police is the only machinery responsible for the maintenance of law and order. If such an important machinery is not in working order what can possibly be the state of a country where it exists? Sir, we do not only complain of corruption but if one happens to witness a police investigation going on in a village he would mark unspeakable atrocities committed on the people. This is the real state of affairs. A police officer would not abstain from taking bribes unless he is given a temptation of special promotion in rank. I left my service after a continuous thinking for three months, for I could not find any other way to get rid of this evil. I think there is only one remedy for this prevailing evil, that is, that the post of Inspector of Police should be abolished and honesty should be considered the only qualification for special promotion in grades. Sub-Inspectors should be given gazetted rank provided they are honest; otherwise, these Sub-Inspectors like starving wolves would never mind clutching anything that comes in their way. With these remarks I move the amendment.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural (Urdu)] : Sir, ample light has been thrown on the unspeakable corruption and atrocities committed by the police. I would very briefly describe one more

drawback of this Department, and that is that the Police in this country is inefficient and quite incapable of performing their duties just as they ought to. Investigation by the Police of this country is never carried out on scientific lines but is always done by torturing. People are afraid of getting their complaints registered simply because they know that it will mean nothing but oppression and torture, and it is not very infrequent that innocent people, terrified and oppressed by the police, are wrongly entrapped and convicted. The reasons for the present state of affairs are that the department does not recruit candidates possessing requisite educational qualifications, and that it is not properly supervised and full efforts are not made to check the evil tendencies of the profession.

It is admitted on all hands that the great machinery of oppression to the rural population is Thanadar and Tehsildar, and I therefore appeal to my honourable friend, Chaudhri Duli Chand and hope that he will vote in favour of this amendment.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I move Sir—

"That the question be now put."

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I think, Sir, the question ought to be further ventilated. A snap vote should not be forced on the House. I object to the suggestion that the question be now put.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : The time for discussion may be extended.

Sardar Jodh Singh : As regards the extension of time I rise to a point of order. Some time was taken for the answering of questions on the 13th and that time may be deducted.

Mr. President : The House has been very lucky in having so few days on which any time was taken up in the answering of questions. I do not think the House can say that a great deal of the three days devoted to this group has been taken up with questions.

Chaudhri Duli Chand : [Karnal (non-Muhammadian) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I hold this position that if the Government is in the wrong I will never side with them. There are two forms of bribery. First the people offer bribes of their own accord; secondly, bribes are extorted from people. The second form of bribery knows no bounds in the Police Department. I remember of a Thanedar who boastfully said "I do not care for promotion. The question of my promotion lies in my own hands. Through bribes I am in some months financially equal to my Deputy Inspector-General and in the other month I may extort an amount equal to the salary of my Superintendent of Police, but I never fall financially below the rank of a Deputy Superintendent of Police." How shameful it is for the Police Department! These Police officers are chiefly responsible for the heavy loans of the poor agriculturists. In a case of murder a Thanedar can earn thousands of rupees. I, therefore, strongly support the amendment that reduction be made in Police grants by way of protest against corruption that prevails in this department.

Lala Sham Lal : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the question be now put."

Mr. President : It must be admitted that the question has not been discussed properly. I cannot accept the motion for closure. It is not my practice to accept it when the Government member has not answered. After the Government member has answered, then it will be in order for the honourable member to move for closure. I cannot accept this closure motion subject to the answer of the Government member. A further motion for closure must be put forward.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Will you please extend the time, Sir.

Mr. President : That cannot be done.

Subedar Major Farman Ali Khan [Rawalpindi (Muhammadan) Rural] (Udu) : Sir, I do not like to dilate on this evil as weeping never looks pleasant. Yet I say a few words in this connection. I have also moved a resolution to this effect but nothing has yet been done to remove this evil. The Courts are open to deal with every sort of lawlessness but no one cares to meet these educated and civilised dacoits, I mean, the Thanedars (Sub-Inspectors) who loot the poor zamindars unmindful of consequences. The zamindars take loans from the money-lenders and bribe these officers. In many cases of murder the police challan the innocent people and the real culprits are let off. Why talk of the Babbar Akalis, take the case of my own Thana Jalle, where eleven murders have been committed but the Police have not been able to find out the murderers. Why so, only because the real culprits offer handsome bribes to the Police. A pensioner Thanadar of Gujrat District told me that he earned Rs. 45,000 through unfair means and still he was known as a very honest official (Laughter). Sir, even we, the military men, are compelled to give savings of our lives as bribes to these cruel officers.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard [Finance Member] : Sir, to those who have expressed their very strong feelings on the subject of corruption in the Police, I want to put three questions. Whose brothers are they who are guilty of these offences?

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : The system is to blame.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Who are the people from whom they are drawn? In what respect does their character differ from the people from whom they are sprung?

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : The system is to blame.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, the longer honourable members continue to interrupt me, the more likely it is that the guillotine will fall before the amendment is put to vote.

Mr. President : The amendment anyhow goes to vote.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Then, Sir, I continue my speech. I ask first, whose brothers are they who are guilty of these offences?

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Order, Order.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I ask again, whose brothers are they?

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : To whom is the question addressed?

Mr. President : It is merely a rhetorical question not requiring an answer.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I ask again my honourable friends opposite who thoroughly understand the use of the rhetorical ques-

tion, whose brothers are they who commit these offences and who are those who offer them the money? (Several voices: Order, Order). That is my first question, whose brothers are they?

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni: They are the brothers of both Europeans and Indians.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I ask again, whose brothers are they? Who offers them money? Who presses the money on them? Who offers that temptation?

Dr. Gokal Chand Narang: Whom they torture.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: My third question is this: What happens in private business firms and in private business of every kind in this country? Is that not also full of this same vice which honourable members attribute solely to one particular department.

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni: Not to that extent.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The truth is, Sir, the police are like the people from whom they are drawn. (Cries of No, No.) If they have the faults, so have they the virtues of those people. They have the courage, they have the devotion of the Panjabees, and they have that invertebrate character which when they are placed in a position of authority causes them to take the line which offers them the least resistance.

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni: Read the report of the Police Commission and it will be found who are to blame.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Sir, every country has the police which it deserves. If there are faults in the police of this country, it is because the character of the people of this country has brought that about.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the total grant be further reduced by Rs 1."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,02,00,761 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 1925 in respect of Police."

The Council then divided: Ayes 26; Nos. 26.

AYES 26.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Lieut.-Col. E. L. Ward.
Mr. E. R. Abbott.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
Mr. E. A. Scott.
Sir George Anderson.
Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster
The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chaudhri
Lal Chand.
The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian
Fazl-i-Husain.
The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur
Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.

Mr. A. Latifi.
Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
Dr. C. A. Owen.
Lt.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
Mr. J. Coldstream.
Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
Sardar Jowahir Singh.
Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Sayad Hussain Shah.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Lieut. Malik Muzaffar Khan.
Mr. E. Maya Dass.

NOTE 26.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
 Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
 Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
 Sardar Jodh Singh.
 Sardar Tara Singh.
 Sahib Gurbakhsh Singh.
 Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
 Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
 Rana Firoz ud-Din Khan.
 Sardar Partab Singh.
 Sardar Buta Singh.
 Pandit Nanak Chand.
 Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang.

Lala Kuchi Ram, Sabai.
 Lala Sham Lal.
 Captain Dhillon Raja, Bhaini.
 Lala Bodh Raj.
 Rai Bahadur Lala Sewan Ram.
 Lala Banke Rai.
 Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
 Lala Mohan Lal, Bhataagar.
 Rai Bahadur Lala Dhampal Rai.
 Ratan Lal, Bhataagar.
 Diwan Narinder Das.
 Chaudhri Duli Chand.
 Chaudhri Kesar Singh.

Mr. President: I give my vote with the ayes for this reason, that there is no special rule to guide me in this case and the money is demanded for carrying on the ordinary administration of Government.

The motion was carried.

The Council then adjourned till 2 P. M. on Monday, the 17th March 1924.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

2ND SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 17th March 1924.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ATTOCK DISTRICT.

280. Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan : Will the Government be pleased to state if it is in possession of any information regarding agricultural development in Attock District which would justify an enhancement of land revenue on grounds other than increase in prices of the produce ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Yes.

Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan : Will Government be pleased to give that information to the House ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : I am afraid I cannot give that information now. But it will be published when the settlement report is published.

UNCULTIVATED LAND IN THE ATTOCK DISTRICT.

281. Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan : Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that a considerable area in the Attock District remained uncultivated during the War, owing to a large number of cultivators having enlisted in the army, and that a large portion of this area, mostly in the Pindigheb and Fatehjang Tahsils, is still uncultivated ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Government have no information to this effect, but enquiries are being made from local officers.

POSTPONEMENT OF SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS IN PINDIGHEB AND FATEH-JANG TAHSILS.

282. Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan : (a) Is it a fact—

- (1) that a very large number of cattle perished in the Attock District, particularly in the Pindigheb, Talagang and Fatehjang Tahsils, during the severe drought in 1921 ;
- (2) that the people in the affected areas, particularly in the Pindigheb and Fatehjang Tahsils, have not yet fully recovered from the effects of the drought and in many cases have been unable to replace the cattle necessary for cultivating their lands ?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to put off the settlement operations and postpone the re-assessment of these two Tahsils till the conditions improve ?

[Lt. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.]

(c) In case the Government is not prepared to postpone the re-assessment, will it be pleased to give a trial to Mr. Cowan's scheme in these two tahsils ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Enquiries are being made from the local authorities as to (a) and (b) and a reply will be furnished later.

EXTRA ASSISTANT SETTLEMENT OFFICERS.

283. Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan : Is it a fact—

(a) that a settlement allowance is given to the Settlement Officers ;

(b) (1) that the Government has refused to grant this allowance to Extra Assistant Settlement Officers ;

(2) if so, will the Government be pleased to reconsider their decision and give an allowance to the Extra Assistant Settlement Officers ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The attention of the honourable member is drawn to the decision of the Legislative Council at pages 1170 to 1173, Volume IV, No. XI, of the printed proceedings for March 1923, and page 221 of Volume V of Council Debates, dated 23rd October 1923.

Government is giving effect to the recommendations of Council expressed therein.

Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan : Is it a fact that there is only one officer who does not get the allowance ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : I should like to have notice of that question.

INDUSTRIAL LOANS.

284. Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan : Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) the number of applications received for grant of Industrial Loans, since the enactment of the Industrial Loans Act ;

(b) the total amount of loans granted during the same period ;

(c) (1) the name of each grantee with the amount lent ;

(2) the nature of security furnished in each case ?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand :

(a) Sixteen.

(b) Nil.

(c) 1 and 2. Do not arise.

BENCH OF HONORARY MAGISTRATES IN ROHTAK DISTRICT.

285. Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan : (a) Is it a fact that the bench of Honorary Magistrates at Beri, Rohtak District, consists of three members, two of whom were Hindus and one Muhammadan ?

(b) Is it a fact that a vacancy having occurred last year in the said bench by the death of its Muhammadan member Khan Sahib Yaqub Ali Khan, his son Muhammad Mushtaq Ali Khan was recommended by the then Deputy Commissioner as being the most suitable candidate for the post?

(c) Is it a fact that after a long delay the Commissioner, Ambala Division, has recommended another gentleman, a non-Muslim, for the said post of Honorary Magistrate?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to enquire if there were any special reasons against the appointment of Muhammad Mushtaq Ali Khan, son of the late incumbent, or some other suitable Muhammadan, and further, to consider the desirability of appointing a Muhammadan in place of a Muhammadan?

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.

BHAKKAR MUNICIPALITY.

286. Diwan Narinjan Das : Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) if it has received any representation from the Hindus and Sikhs of Bhakkar in Mianwali District for the addition of a Hindu or a Sikh member in Bhakkar Municipality;
- (b) if so, whether the figures given in the representation are correct;
- (c) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter? If it does not propose to take any action, will it state its reasons for not taking action?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) No. The advantage of the equal fraction was given to the minority.

WATER-LOGGING OF THE LAND ON SIDES OF THE UPPER CHENAB CANAL.

287. Diwan Narinjan Das : Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the land on either side of the Upper Chenab Canal is water-logged and has become unfit for cultivation or habitation;
- (b) whether they would be pleased to state the number of deaths that occurred last year and in the one preceding the construction of the canal, in Ghartal, Kang, Chheloke in Sialkot District;
- (c) what steps they propose to take to safeguard the interest and health of the people owning and residing on the land on either side of the Upper Chenab Canal;
- (d) whether they would be pleased to consider the advisability of having a drainage channel on either side of the canal;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the Government is contemplating the levying of water tax on such lands;

[Diwan Narinjan Das.]

- (f) whether it is a fact that in 1914 or thereabout the Government proposed to compensate such persons in Gujranwala District whose lands had become unfit for cultivation owing to the canal, irrespective of their being agriculturists or non-agriculturists;
- (g) whether it is a fact that some of these persons have now been refused compensation on the ground that they are non-agriculturists? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reason for this distinction now?

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF TAKAVI MONEY.

288. Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan : (a) Will Government be pleased to issue instructions that "Takavi" money should be distributed in future by officials of gazetted rank personally?

(b) Will Government be pleased to consider the question of paying "Takavi" loans through the agency of Co-operative Credit Societies, and only to the members of such societies, in order to encourage and accelerate the formation of new societies in the Province?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The officers empowered to grant loans will be found detailed in paragraph 3 of Financial Commissioners' Standing Order No. 32. Government is not prepared to withdraw the limited power to grant loans there delegated to Tahsildars.

As regards the payment of loans money to the borrower, Government is of opinion that the borrower would be put to inconvenience if it were ordered that he should only obtain the money from a gazetted officer.

Takavi loans may under the rules be granted to Co-operative Credit Societies. Government is not prepared to restrict the lending of Takavi to members of such societies.

PUNJAB VILLAGE PANCHAYAT ACT.

289. Bana Firoz-ud-Din Khan : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if any steps have been taken to put in force the Punjab Village Panchayat Act in any part of the Province?

(b) Will the Government be farther pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

- (1) the districts in which panchayats have been constituted;
- (2) the number of panchayats in each district;
- (3) the number of cases referred to such panchayats in each district?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Yes.

(b) A statement showing by districts the panchayats so far constituted placed on the table. Item 3 of part (b) of the question is not clear.

*Names of districts in which
panchayats have been con-
stituted to take effect
from the date of con-
firmation of the elec-
tion of panches.*

*Number of panchayats
in each district.*

1.	Gurdaspur	...	...	...	4
2.	Ludhiana	...	...	...	19
3.	Lahore	...	...	...	12
4.	Forozepore	...	...	...	28
5.	Jullundur	...	...	...	19
6.	Ambala	...	...	...	10
7.	Jhelum	...	...	...	12
8.	Sheikhpura	...	...	...	7
9.	Amritsar	...	...	...	3
10.	Gujrat	...	...	...	22
11.	Muzaffargarh	...	...	...	2
12.	Jhang	...	...	...	15
13.	Sialkot	...	...	...	7
14.	Rawalpindi	...	...	...	15
15.	Karnal	...	...	...	10
16.	Hoshiarpur	...	...	...	49
17.	Gujranwala	...	...	...	3
18.	Rohtak	...	...	...	10
19.	Mianwali	...	...	...	1

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan : Has any attempt been made in other districts ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Oh yes.

LEGISLATION EMPOWERING REVENUE OFFICERS TO RECOVER ADVANCES OF MONEY FROM HALIS.

290. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Is the Government aware that the agriculturists in this province are put to great difficulty by the *Halis* often running away with the advances of money made to them? If so, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of introducing legislation to give powers to Revenue Officers which may enable the landlords to recover their advances without recourse to civil courts?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative; and the second part does not arise.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE PROVINCE.

291. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Is the Government aware that the number of unemployed educated persons in the Province is increasing day by day? If so, what does it intend to do in the matter, and also please state further what it has done or intends to do in order to check unemployment?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Government are not aware of any marked increase in unemployment in the Punjab. If the existence of such an increase is definitely brought to their notice, the question of alleviating unemployment will be considered.

EXCISE INSPECTORS AND SUB-INSPECTORS.

292. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Will the Government be pleased to state the number of persons appointed as Excise Sub-Inspectors and Excise Inspectors in 1920, 1921, 1922 and 1923 and the number of Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs, others—agriculturists and non-agriculturists?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : Statement showing the classification by communities of Excise Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors appointed during the last four years (1920-23).—

Muhammedan Zamindars.	Muhammedan Non-Zamindars.	Hindu Zamindars.	Hindu Non-Zamindars.	Sikh Zamindars.	Sikh Non-Zamindars.	Others.	Total.
EXCISE INSPECTORS.							
1	1	1	2	1	1	None	7
EXCISE SUB-INSPECTORS.							
2	1	1	1	2	None.	None	7

DEATH OF BAKHSI PRABH SINGH'S SON.

293. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : (a) Is it a fact that the son of Bakhshi Prabh Singh of Gujjar Khan was run over by the motor car of Mr. Green? If so, will the Government be pleased to state what action it has taken in the matter?

(b) Is it a fact that the case was struck off the police register, under the orders of the Deputy Commissioner and that the copy of the order striking off the case was not provided to Bakhshi Prabh Singh?

(c) Is it a fact that Bakhshi Prabh Singh has sent a telegram to the Commissioner saying that the police has taken no action in the matter? If so, will the Government be pleased to state what action it has taken in the matter?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Reference is invited to the reply given to question No. 216.*

CATTLE-LIFTING IN ROHTAK, HISSAR, KARNAL AND GURGAON DISTRICTS.

294. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Is the Government aware that cattle-lifting is raging in the districts of Rohtak, Karnal, Hissar and Gurgaon? If so, will the Government be pleased to take early steps to meet the situation?

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.

PERSONS ARRESTED AND RELEASED WITHOUT TRIAL.

295. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Will the Government be pleased to state (a) how many persons were arrested during the last three years and

released without trial, and (b) also state further in how many cases it has paid compensation ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : (a) The information asked for is contained in statement A, Part II, columns 6 and 7, which forms an appendix to the Report on Police Administration in the Punjab.

(b) So far as Government is aware no compensation has been paid in any case.

FIRST GRADE FEE FROM SCHOOLBOYS.

296. Chaudhri Ali Akbar : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that first grade fee will be charged from those schoolboys whose parents' annual income amounts to Rs. 2,000 or above ?

(b) If so, does this income of Rs. 2,000 include zamindars' income on which local rate is charged and out of which the zamindars pay their share for education ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of so defining the word 'income' that it should include all kinds of income other than zamindars' income ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Yes,

(b) & (c) Are under consideration. The honourable member's suggestion will be borne in mind.

GRANT OF LAND TO RAJPUTS OF THE GURDASPUR DISTRICT.

297. Chaudhri Ali Akbar : With reference to the answers given to my question No. 22* put in the Council on 25th February 1924 and my supplementary question thereon, will Government please give the information with regard to Rajput inhabitants of the Gurdaspur District as called for ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The labour of collecting the information would be too great.

HAQQ-I-ABPASHI FOR DELHI GARDENS.

298. Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan : (a) Is it a fact that the *haqq-i-abpashi* for the Delhi gardens is six times their area, and in the Karnal and Rohtak Districts of the Punjab it is only four times, and in villages only twice their area, while the gardens both in Delhi and in the two districts are irrigated by the same Western Jumna Canal ?

(b) Is it a fact that the *abiana* charged in these two districts and in Delhi is the same ?

(c) If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to fix the *haqq-i-abpashi* for the gardens in both the places as equal ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : (a) The gardens in Delhi are mainly public or private ornamental gardens which for their proper maintenance as such require a larger allowance of canal water than less well kept gardens in such places as Rohtak and Karnal or ordinary village gardens in the district.

This fact has always been recognised and a larger allowance of canal water given where there are extensive residential and public gardens. The allowance given in Delhi is similar to that given in Lahore.

[Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.]

(b) The water rate per acre is the same, but it should be borne in mind that in the case of gardens in a place like Delhi there is seldom any income from the garden from which to pay the charge, whereas there is usually a large income from gardens in small stations and in the district.

(c) The request is an impossible one as there is not the supply available for distribution to all gardens on the same scale as is necessary for Delhi.

RIGHT OF IRRIGATION ON HANSI BRANCH DISTRIBUTARIES AND DELHI BRANCH DISTRIBUTARIES.

299. Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan : (a) Is it a fact that the Canal Department has fixed the right of proposed irrigation as 75 per cent. of the culturable area on some of the Hansi Branch Distributaries of the Western Jumna Canal while on many Delhi Branch Distributaries of the same canal it is only 45 per cent. or 33 per cent. ?

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to explain this difference and in case there is no particular reason, to issue order that in future the right of proposed irrigation will be 75 per cent. of the culturable area on the Delhi Branch as well ?

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

(b) The Distributaries on which the higher percentages are fixed have a vested right to such irrigation.

The different percentages of proposed irrigation are explained by the fact that when irrigation was extended to new areas such as those on the Bhalant Distributary and the tail distributaries of the Butana Branch it was necessary to maintain irrigation on the older channels at its existing level. This was done by fixing the proposed irrigation in accordance with the area averaged over a series of years prior to the extensions.

The capacity of the Canal and the supply in the River Jumna are limited. With present percentages the available supply is fully utilised and it is impossible to increase the percentage of proposed irrigation on the Delhi Branch.

FACILITIES TO AGRICULTURISTS FOR ENTERING GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

300. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : Will Government be pleased to state whether they are prepared to consider the desirability of so arranging that a list of all agriculturist boys who pass the Matriculation or some higher examinations be kept in the office of the Deputy Commissioner of every district, and to take steps to secure such boys a share in the subordinate and higher grades of the various branches of Government services ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : Government does not consider that the preparation of such a list would serve any useful purpose. Anything which might give to any class of boys the impression that a large proportion of them have a chance of obtaining service with Government, would be likely to have unfortunate social and economic effects by diverting them from the attempt to

make a livelihood outside of Government service, which can at the most suffice only for a very small number. It is understood that all Deputy Commissioners maintain a list of candidates for the public service and it is open to any one to apply to be entered on that list. There are also standing instructions regarding the appropriate proportion of appointments to be secured for the zamindar class.

NILI BAR CANAL.

301. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) how much capital outlay will be necessary for constructing and completing the Nili Bar Canal ;
- (b) how much area will be commanded by the said canal ;
- (c) how much of the commanded area is proposed to be sold by auction or otherwise, and what is the probable estimate of the sale-proceeds ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : A copy of the Sutlej Valley Project (1920) estimate* is being laid on the table which contains all the information that is wanted.

GRANT OF LAND TO OWNERS OF SMALL HOLDINGS, ETC.

302. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : (a) Is Government aware—

- (i) that in several very densely populated districts of the Punjab the holdings of a very large number of zamindars whose traditional occupation is agriculture, are so small that they are literally unable to support themselves and their families ;
- (ii) that in a large number of districts of the Punjab the lands of agriculturists have been rendered unfit for cultivation as the result of water-logging ?
- (b) Whether Government is prepared to consider the desirability of—
 - (i) making a small free tenant grant in the Nili Bar or elsewhere to every owner whose proprietary holding is one acre or less ;
 - (ii) making compensatory grants to all such land-owners whose lands have been rendered unfit for cultivation by water-logging ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : (a) (i) No, but it is true that in the more densely populated districts holdings are too small to be economically profitable, and cultivators have to get other land on lease or else have to eke out their existence by means other than agriculture.

(ii) No, only in a few.

(b) (i) No.

(ii) Deserving cases will receive due consideration.

UNPAID APPRENTICES IN SECRETARIAT OFFICES.

303. Lala Mohan Lal : (i) Is it a fact that in the various branches of the Secretariat Offices of the Punjab Government there are working at present a number of unpaid apprentices ?

[Lala Mohan Lal.]

(ii) If the answer to (i) be in the affirmative, will the Government kindly state—

- (a) what is the total number of such unpaid apprentices;
- (b) for how long a period has each of these apprentices been working without pay;
- (c) whether the work entrusted to these apprentices is of the same nature as is usually done by men holding paid appointments;
- (d) whether Government work will suffer if this unpaid agency is forthwith abolished;
- (e) whether this system of using unpaid apprentices is dictated by ideas of economy and retrenchment;
- (f) whether Government contemplate an early revision of the cadre of clerical establishment in the Secretariat Offices;
- (g) whether they contemplate any reduction in the present routine work of Secretariat Offices?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : (2) The reply is in the affirmative.

(ii) (a) 13.

(b) For period varying from four months upwards but several of them are provided in acting arrangements from time to time.

(c) Yes.

(d) Some temporary inconvenience would certainly be caused.

(e) No. The object of the system is to train clerks for permanent vacancies.

(f) No.

(g) It is not clear what is meant by routine work. Any suggestion that would lead to a real curtailment of work would be welcomed.

EUROPEAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN ASSISTANTS IN THE SECRETARIAT.

304. Lala Mohan Lal : Is it a fact that a European or an Anglo-Indian candidate for an appointment in the assistant grade of the Punjab Secretariat and other headquarters offices of whatever qualifications, is now usually given a start of Rs. 120 per month while an Indian graduate is often given a start of only about Rs. 50 per month in the clerical grades?

Mr. D. J. Boyd . Only Europeans and Anglo-Indians who have passed the High School or Senior Cambridge Local Examinations are admitted in the Assistants grade of the Punjab Civil Secretariat with a start of Rs. 120 per mensem. Indian graduates who are strongly recommended by the Punjab University Appointments Board are also taken on in the same grade. Indian graduates, who are not recommended by the above Board, are taken on in the Lower Division on a starting pay of Rs. 50 per mensem.

The practice in some of the Headquarters offices is similar.

NON-GRADUATE INDIAN CLERKS IN THE SECRETARIAT OFFICES.

305. Lala Mohan Lal : Is it a fact that a non-graduate Indian clerk in the Secretariat Offices has now no prospects of promotion to the assistants' grades?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : The reply is in the negative.

Lala Mohan Lal : May I know whether any promotions have recently been made ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : In the absence of Mr. Craik I am sorry I cannot give the information.

PROVISION FOR LEAVE RESERVE IN THE SECRETARIAT.

306. Lala Mohan Lal : Is it a fact that in the present establishments of the Secretariat and other headquarters offices there exists practically no provision for leave reserve, and that consequently in cases of leave vacancies no acting allowance is given to office clerks working in place of assistants going on leave ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : The question of providing a leave reserve is under consideration. Since the introduction of the time-scale of pay acting allowance is inadmissible under the Fundamental Rules to junior and senior clerks officiating in leave arrangements. But this matter is also under consideration of Government.

PROVISION OF SALARIES IN SECRETARIAT CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT.

307. Lala Mohan Lal : Is it a fact that an Indian Civil Service official has been placed on special duty to revise the salaries and cadres in the Secretariat clerical establishments ? If the answer be in the affirmative, will Government kindly state the points referred to him for report ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The reference presumably is to the appointment of Mr. Stow, I.C.S., on special duty, to examine the principles on which the enhancement of pay granted to the subordinate clerical establishment in 1920 were based, and to consider generally how far the recent fall in prices makes any reduction possible in the scales of pay sanctioned in 1920. The question has been raised by the Government of India in connection with paragraph 10 on page 284 of the Indian Retrenchment Committee's Report.

INCREASE IN SALARIES GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE ALL-INDIA SERVICES, PROVINCIAL SERVICES, ETC.

308. Lala Mohan Lal : Will Government kindly state—

(a) what percentage increase on the salaries existing in 1919 have been given during the last five years to—

(a) Members of the All-India Services in the Punjab;

(b) Members of the Provincial Services;

(c) Members of the Subordinate Services;

(d) Members of clerical establishments drawing more than Rs. 100 per mensem;

(e) Members of clerical establishment drawing less than Rs. 100 per mensem ;

(f) Members of the menial services;

(b) the factors on the basis of which they recommended or sanctioned increases in the salaries of Government servants mentioned in each of the classes in (a) above ;

(c) to what extent were increases based on dearness of necessities of life ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : The Accountant-General is now compiling information to show—

- (a) The average cost of the pay of all Provincial establishments on 1st April 1924.
- (b) The actual cost of the same on that date.
- (c) The actual cost of the same on 1st April 1920.
- (d) Number of Government servants on provincial establishment on 1st April 1920 and 1st April 1924, and is now being asked to obtain it also for the Imperial Services. The preparation of the answer will take some time, but it will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

CLOSING THE SECRETARIAT ON HINDU AND MUHAMMADAN HOLIDAYS.

309. Lala Mohan Lal: Is it a fact that the Punjab Secretariat and other headquarters offices are totally closed on Christian holidays like Sundays, Easter and Christmas, while on Hindu, Muslim and Sikh holidays some of the clerks have to attend office? If so, will the Government consider the desirability of totally closing the offices on Indian holidays?

Mr. D. J. Boyd: The only days which are treated as close holidays in the Civil Secretariat are Sundays (but by no means all Sundays), Good Friday, King's Birthday and Christmas Day. On all other holidays a small special staff is retained on duty, but clerks are not required to attend on festivals of the religions to which they belong. It would not be in the public interest to close the office completely on all holidays.

In other headquarter offices the practice is believed to be generally similar to that of the Civil Secretariat.

GOVERNMENT DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS GRANT.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I beg to move—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,800 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 1925 in respect of Scientific Departments.”

Mr. President : The question is—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,800 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 1925 in respect of Scientific Departments.”

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 13,900—Total Hydro-Electric-Survey (30-A—Scientific Departments).”

In moving this amendment, I wish to say that this year this item is practically repeated under five different heads. They are travelling allowance, Rs. 900; contingencies; Rs. 650; tools and plant, Rs. 1,050; unforeseen items Rs. 500; and five per cent. contingencies Rs. 662. Practically all these items taken together mean the same thing, that is, contingencies. Therefore I propose a small reduction of Rs. 1,000.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 18,900—
—Total Hydro-Electric Survey (30-A—Scientific Departments). ”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, the sum of Rs. 630 is for the office contingencies. The sum of Rs. 500 under unforeseen items is provided for observing the discharges of different streams and the other sum of Rs. 662 is for other requirements and contingencies. For a work like this, it is very difficult to foresee the actual requirements for the year. I got this thoroughly examined and I am satisfied that this is the absolute minimum that can be provided for. The details for the amount have also been given in the memorandum that has been supplied. I am not prepared to accept the amendment.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 18,900—
—Total Hydro-Electric Survey (30-A—Scientific Departments). ”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division, (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move :—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 560 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,600—
Contingencies—Provincial Museums (30-B—Scientific Departments). ”

Sir, this amendment is based on the general principle of taking on one-tenth from the contingencies.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved :—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 560 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,600—
Contingencies—Provincial Museums (30-B—Scientific Departments). ”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. E. R. Abbott (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, every honourable member of this House knows the Central Museum and how popular it is with the general public not only of Lahore but of the whole province. I may point out that the total cost of the museum is only Rs. 15,500 ; this includes a sum of Rs. 1,000 for lantern lectures at the Central Museum which was previously in the education budget but which has been transferred to this budget for the last two years. The amount that is now provided for the Central Museum for this year is actually less than the sum spent in 1922-23. I think honourable members will agree that the amount we spend on the museum is far less than what ought to be spent on so popular an institution. Under the circumstances, I hope the House will reject the amendment.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 560 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,600—
Contingencies—Provincial Museums (30-B—Scientific Departments). ”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : The question is—

“ That a sum not exceeding Rs. 80,800 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 1925 in respect of Scientific Departments. ”

The motion was carried.

EDUCATION (RESERVED) GRANT.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,77,000 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 1925 in respect of Education (Reserved).”

Sir, in moving this demand for Education (Reserved), that is for European education, I want to give to the House some information on a point which is generally a matter of some interest in dealing with this particular grant. The point to which I refer is the extent to which it is possible for Indians to obtain entrance into these European Schools. Up to the year 1921, the rule was that Indians may be admitted into aided European Schools up to 15 per cent. of the total roll of the school concerned but they were not taken into account in calculating the average attendance for assessment of grants, nor were they eligible to European School scholarships. This distinction drew the attention of the first Council and a change was made in the rules on the subject. Now the rules provide that the attendance of Indians should be reckoned in calculating the average attendance for grant purposes, so that the fact that a school admits a certain proportion of Indians does not reduce the eligibility for grant. In the second place it has been ruled that Indians admitted into the European Schools must have a sufficient knowledge of English to benefit by the instruction that is given there. That of course is an obviously necessary rule. The next point on which the rules have been changed is this. Now, no difference is made on the ground of nationality in fees which are charged, and finally another change is that Indians are now eligible alongside with others for scholarships in these schools. These scholarships have considerably encouraged the number of Indians and at the present time the number of Indians in European schools is 197. Three years ago the number was only 81. It will be seen therefore that there has been a marked increase in the facilities for entrance of Indians in schools of this type. Some schools have actually reached the limit of 25 per cent. in their admission. Some schools have even applied for the extension of this limit. Quite recently on account of special difficulties in the case of those who do not know the local vernacular and who therefore found it difficult to enter their children in the ordinary schools of the province, the Director of Public Instruction has been authorised to sanction the treatment as Europeans of Indian Christians and Indians whose vernacular is not the local vernacular, up to a limit of 10 per cent. of the enrolment of these schools, subject to a maximum of 25 per cent. of the total on the roll. The result of this is that virtually we now have a 25 per cent. limit for the Indians to be admitted into these schools. Of course the schools have waiting lists and the entrance is regulated by these lists, otherwise I can give the assurance that there is no limitation within the operation of the percentage rule. Except so far as the obvious necessity to retain these schools as European schools, there is no limitation in the entrance of Indians into these schools.

Mr. President : The question is :—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,77,000 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 1925 in respect of Education (Reserved).”

Diwan Narinjan Das (Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Division North (Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 9,864 with respect to the item of Rs. 79,764—
Total pay of establishment—Lawrence School, Ghora Gali (31-R.B. (a)—Education)."

Sir, if we look at page 186 of the Budget, we find that in the column Accounts for 1922-23, there is absolutely no entry, but in the column, Revised Estimate for 1923-24, we find a sum of Rs. 69,000 entered. That has been increased this year to Rs. 79,764. In these days of financial stringency unless there is very sound reason for increasing the expenditure of the province, I think no increase should be made. I have therefore asked for a reduction of that amount that is over and above the amount provided in the Revised Estimate of 1923-24.

Mr. President. Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 9,864 with respect to the item of Rs. 79,764—
Total pay of establishment—Lawrence School, Ghora Gali (31-R.B. (a)—Education)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): Sir, I welcome the opportunity which this amendment has given me of explaining to the House the very remarkable economy which my honourable friend Sir George Anderson has been able to introduce into the management of European reserved education. This particular item which my honourable friend has pitched upon is only a part of the whole expenditure and I should be much obliged if I am given the permission of the Chair to go into the question of expenditure on this school in order that I may lay before the House the complete facts in connection with it.

In the first place, I should explain that there was prior to the Reforms a certain scheme known as the Training Class scheme at Sanawar. This was a matter in which the Government of India took great interest and towards which they made large contributions which were paid to the Government of the Punjab before the introduction of the Reforms. The grant which were actually paid by the Government of India to the Punjab Government on account of this particular scheme amounted to Rs. 2,37,000 of which a very large portion was to be expended on buildings for the proposed Training Class at Sanawar, which as I daresay most of the gentlemen here know is a place in the near neighbourhood of Kasauli, at a great distance from Ghora Gali which is in the near neighbourhood of Murree. When my friend Sir George Anderson examined this project of expenditure, he found that it was very expensive and that it would in future involve the Province in considerable expenditure and notwithstanding the fact that the Government of India had made very large grants for the purpose of this scheme he thought that it would be better to modify it and to adopt a scheme more simple and more economical in lieu of it.

When it was explained to the Government of India after the introduction of the Reforms that it was not proposed to proceed with the scheme for which it had made these very large grants of Rs. 2,37,000, the Government of India, I suppose naturally enough, said: "If you do not propose to carry out the scheme for which this money has been given by us, we should like to have the bulk of that money paid back to us."

Well, Sir, the Finance Department of this Government did not see its way to acceding to this suggestion of the Government of India because it

[Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.]
 was considered that the grants which were made prior to the Reforms had been taken into account in determining what is known as the Meston Settlement between the Imperial Government and the Punjab Government. Therefore it was not considered right to return any portion of this grant of Rs. 2,87,000 to the Government of India and at the present moment the Punjab Government has benefited to the extent of retaining this sum which had been granted for the purposes of the Sanawar Training Class.

The Director of Public Instruction proceeded, as I have said, to devise a scheme which was considerably more economical than the one which was contemplated by the Government of India and he contrived this by amalgamating the project of the Training Class at Sanawar with the existing Ghora Gali School in the neighbourhood of Murree. The scheme as modified by him provides for no new buildings except the enlargement of the hospital at Ghora Gali. That is an item which is not on the page which is before you but I mention it so that everyone may be aware that there is a certain amount of expenditure involved for this amalgamation though it appears elsewhere in the budget.

The amount is Rs. 30,925 for the enlargement of the hospital at Ghora Gali. In addition to this expenditure certain modifications in the establishment were necessary. In other words there was thus an amalgamation of the establishment of the Training Class at Sanawar with the ordinary school at Ghora Gali and this excess of expenditure under the head of Staff to which my friend opposite has drawn attention is merely the apparent increase which was made by the amalgamation of two different things. Now alongside of this amalgamation between the Training Class and the school at Ghora Gali certain economies have been effected in expenditure at Ghora Gali with the result that the total shows only an increase of Rs. 1,000 on last year's budget in spite of the inclusion of a large non-recurring item of science equipment. If you deduct this non-recurring item of Rs. 8,000 on science equipment, you will find that the recurring expenditure on the school has been very substantially reduced. The sum which is provided for science equipment is only Rs. 8,000. There is another illustration of that very remarkable gift of business-like economy which my friend Sir George Anderson has shown. It had formerly been proposed to introduce science teaching at Ghora Gali at an expense of Rs. 90,000 on extra buildings there. By a reorganisation of the classes and the consequent saving of certain rooms for other purposes it was made possible by the Director of Public Instruction to do without this heavy expenditure on buildings altogether. He gave up altogether the proposed expenditure of Rs. 90,000 on buildings and all that we have to spend in order to introduce the system of science teaching at Ghora Gali is Rs. 8,000. Possibly there are some members who have not succeeded in understanding all that I have said because these things are somewhat difficult to follow, but the principal point is this that we have received Rs. 2,87,000. We are going to spend on buildings Rs. 30,000—we proposed to spend formerly Rs. 90,000 on science buildings at Ghora Gali. We are not going to spend on buildings that sum; we are going to spend Rs. 8,000 on science equipment which is a non-recurring item. There is only an increase in expenditure of Rs. 1,000 in the present year in all and there will be an actual reduction in the expenditure of the next year on this school in consequence of the omission of this non-recurring item. However even this is not the whole story of the economies which have been effected at Ghora Gali. Besides the improvement on the expenditure side there is a substantial

improvement on the revenue side. The income in 1918-20 was Rs. 70,110 from the fees. For the next year we are budgetting for an income of Rs. 1,40,000. That is an improvement in three or four years of over Rs. 60,000 in the income due mainly to the enhancement of the fees. Altogether I think I may claim that the amalgamation of the Training Class at Sanawar with the Ghora Gali school is a very remarkable instance of business-like management which does the very highest credit to Sir George Anderson.

Diwan Narinjan Das : Sir, in the circumstances explained by the Honourable the Finance Member that the increase in expenditure is not real, I beg to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Diwan Narinjan Das [Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Division North (Non-Muhammadian) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 6,100 with respect to the item of Rs. 6,100—Local Allowance—Lawrence School, Ghora Gali (31-R. B. (a)—Education.)"

With regard to this item, Sir, my submission is that a local allowance allowed in a place where most of the people would like to spend their summer is absolutely unjustifiable.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : May I explain, Sir, that it is only the subordinate Indian staff who receives this local allowance.

Diwan Narinjan Das : Very well, Sir, in that case I withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 21,331 with respect to the item of Rs. 21,331—Total Contingencies—Lawrence School, Ghora Gali (31-R. B. (a)—Education (Reserved))."

This amendment is based on the main principle of a cut of one-tenth in contingencies.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 21,331 with respect to the item of Rs. 21,331—Total Contingencies—Lawrence School, Ghora Gali (31-R. B. (a)—Education (Reserved))."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : I think it very natural, Sir, that members should assume that because the word 'contingencies' is used therefore it always means exactly the same thing in every case, and I have no doubt that the honourable member who moved this amendment took it to mean postage stamps, telegraph charges, fires, lighting and so forth. In this particular case that is a mistake. The 'contingencies' of this school, which of course is a boarding school, represents all the charges of the school with the exception of the charges for tuition. It includes the charge for the food of the boys. It will naturally be said that boys should pay for their own food. But so they do to a very great extent, as the figures on the income side show. The receipts come to a sum of

[Hon. Sir John Maynard.]

Rs. 1,40,000, and as I pointed out in dealing with the last amendment this revenue has very nearly doubled in the course of the last three or four years. It would not be safe to reduce the item so called 'contingencies'. I understand that there are people who think that the scale of diet is not as liberal as it ought to be. At all events it would not be safe to make a reduction, and I trust that on hearing this explanation, my friend will be willing to withdraw this amendment.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 21,331 with respect to the item of Rs. 2,13,310—Total Contingencies—Lawrence School, Ghara Gali (31-R. B. (a)—Education (Reserved))."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 10,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 40,000—Building Grants—New Expenditure—Non-Government Secondary Schools (31-R. B. (b)—Education (Reserved))."

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 10,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 40,000—Building Grants—New Expenditure—Non-Government Secondary Schools (31 R. B. (b)—Education (Reserved))."

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, there appears to have been some mistake when Rs. 10,000 were allotted under this head at the time when the separation of reserved and transferred education took place on account of the Reforms. At the moment when the Reforms were introduced the demand for building grants for European education appears to have been very small. But since then it has been found necessary to increase the grant very substantially. At the present time although we ask only Rs. 40,000, the demands put forward, and which we should have wished to meet if funds permitted, amount to two lakhs. We have cut down the applications to one-fifth of the amount, and this is the least sum with which we can try to carry on the administration in a satisfactory manner.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 10,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 40,000—Building Grants—New Expenditure—Non-Government Secondary Schools (31 R. B. (b)—Education (Reserved))."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 325 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,300—Travelling Allowance—Inspection (31 R. B. (b)—Education (Reserved))."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,73,675 be granted to the Government in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1925 in respect of Education (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

EDUCATION (TRANSFERRED) GRANT.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education): Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,18,000 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 1925 in respect of Education (Transferred)."

Mr. President: The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,18,000 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 1925 in respect of Education (Transferred)."

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved,—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,125 with respect to the item of Rs. 4,500—Travelling Allowance—Government Arts Colleges (31-A (b)—Education)."

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education): Sir, the grants for travelling allowance in the department stand on a different footing from those in others. In the first place, because there are no fixed grants at all in the department. It is not a question of fixed horse allowance of Rs. 40, or Rs. 30 or Rs. 15. Most of the grants are for railway journeys, some are for halting allowance and for journey by road. There are amendments with reference to these items where reductions have been proposed and they will be considered in their usual course. There are some demands which are entirely for journeys by rail and no reduction can be made therein. The present item belongs to the latter class. When I saw the Council was anxious to separate the items where any reduction was possible from those where no reduction was possible, I took pains as far as possible to have the two items shown separately. This particular grant refers to Government Arts Colleges and it is meant for transfers of professors from one place to another. I am therefore afraid that no reduction is possible in this item.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,125 with respect to the item of Rs. 4,500—Travelling Allowance—Government Arts Colleges (31-A (b)—Education)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided: Ayes, 23; Noes, 41.

AYES 23.

Sardar Sangat Singh.
Sardar Narain Singh.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Sardar Mangal Singh.
Sardar Bakhtawar Singh.
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Sardar Har Chand Singh.
Sardar Partab Singh.
Pandit Nanak Chand.
Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Lala Sham Lal.
Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Lal Banke Rai.
Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
Lala Diwan Chand.
Diwan Narinjan Das.
Lala Mohan Lal.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.

NOES 41.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
 Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. Ward.
 Mr. E. R. Abbott.
 Mr. C. M. King.
 Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
 Mr. E. A. Scott.
 Sir George Anderson.
 Lient.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
 The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chaudhri
 Lal Chand.
 The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian
 Fazl-i-Husain.
 The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar
 Sundar Singh, Majithia.
 The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
 Mr. A. Latifi.
 Mr. Miles Irving.
 Mr. D. J. Boyd.
 Dr. C. A. Owen.
 Lt.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
 Mr. J. Coldstream.
 Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-
 ud-Din.
 Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.

Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr
 Shah.
 Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
 Mir Maqbool Mahmood.
 Sardar Jowahir Singh.
 Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
 Mian Muhammad Sharif.
 Rai Shahadat Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
 Sayad Husain Shah.
 Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
 Khan Bahadur Sardar Jamal Khan.
 Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
 Lient. Sardar Sikandar Hayat
 Khan.
 Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
 Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan.
 Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali
 Khan.
 Mr. V. F. Gray.
 Lient. Malik Muzaffar Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir.
 Chaudhri Duli Chand.
 Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural]; Sir, I beg to move—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,476 with respect to the item of Rs. 34,760—
 Total Contingencies—Government Arts Colleges (81-A (b)—Education). ”

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,476 with respect to the item of Rs. 34,760—
 Total Contingencies—Government Arts Colleges (81-A (b)—Education). ”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain [Minister for
 Education] (Urdu) : Sir, In order to avoid

3 P. M.

speaking on contingencies again and again I would take this opportunity to draw the attention of the House to the speech just delivered by the Hon'ble Sir John Maynard in which he has stated very clearly the various means adopted by the Government to cut the expenditure as far as possible. If the Budget Estimate for the next year be examined carefully it would be clear that no stone has been left unturned to curtail our expenses. A comparison with the Budget of 1921-22 will prove the validity of my statement. With the help of Mr. Tydeman, a file was also prepared to reduce contingencies as far as possible. The honourable mover of the amendment is mistaken if he thinks that the contingencies are being utilised just in the same manner as it was done four years ago. On this account I cannot accept the amendment.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved —

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,476 with respect to the item of Rs. 34,760—
Total Contingencies—Government Arts Colleges (31-A (5)—Education)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni [Punjab University] : Sir, I beg to move —

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 62,320 with respect to the item of Rs. 62,320—
Opening of Intermediate Colleges at Lyallpur, Campbellpur and Gujrat—
Government Arts Colleges (31-A (5)—Education)."

(Urdu) : Sir, at the very outset I should like to say frankly that in moving the amendment. I do not wish to object to the opening of the proposed colleges nor have I anything to say against their location at particular stations. I heartily welcome all proposals regarding the opening of schools and colleges in every village and town of the province provided we have money enough for them. What I object to is the opening of schools and colleges of the old type. Let schools and colleges of the new type be opened everywhere. There is a real demand for such institutions in the province. I am sorry we have not sufficient funds to proceed with all our schemes, and therefore we should be careful that we make the best use of the money we have in extending the primary education on proper lines. I am grieved to note that the beneficent departments, such as Education and Industries, are not provided with sufficient money. I would desire that more money may be budgetted for these beneficent departments. In any case we should try to make the best use of what we have got already. I should prefer to spend this money on the extension of primary education, but if it is considered absolutely necessary to have more colleges then let them be of the type that I have suggested to the Syndicate of the Punjab University. What I want to be done is that a practical side should be added to the curricula of the existing type of intermediate colleges, so that these institutions might be bi-lateral.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : For instance, please.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni (continued in Urdu) : For instance, Agriculture may be taught as a separate subject of study in one of the proposed colleges and Commerce may be included in the scheme of studies of another college. Applied Chemistry may be included in the courses of the third college. In the College of Commerce, Economics will be a compulsory subject. At the same time the course of studies in History will also be adapted to the needs of students taking up Commerce as their 'practical' subject. In like manner, in the agricultural college the courses of studies in Chemistry will be so designed as to be specially useful to students of agriculture. Sir, I want this type of college with a practical side to the courses of studies for the province. Deafening cries have long been coming to our ears asking for practical instruction in place of instruction which is entirely literary and theoretical. Sir, my object is this that our future graduates should have some practical training so that they may be able to earn a modest living even if they cannot get Government service. I would insist that students passing out of these intermediate colleges should be permitted to join degree classes. In Agriculture, we have degree classes at Lyallpur. In Applied Chemistry an inferior kind of course of studies is

[Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.]

pursued for the pass degree at the Forman Christian College. Later on I should like Commerce being included as a subject of studies in the degree classes also.

Sir, in conclusion I would urge that the standard of the proposed colleges should be equivalent to that of the present intermediate colleges, that is, the students after passing the examination from the proposed colleges may be admitted to the third year class of the present degree colleges. I may also submit that two of the proposed colleges be opened on new lines and one college at Campbellpur be started on old lines if the Hon'ble Minister for Education desires so. With these words I would request the House to support my amendment.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (non-Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, I hope that all my friends who put a communal colour to the amendment put before the House by my learned friend Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni have now eradicated that idea from their minds after listening to the speech of the learned professor, because the object of this amendment is not at all communal. I would oppose the opening of secondary colleges whether in Hindu centres or in Muhammadan centres. I am opposed to the opening of second grade arts colleges, and therefore I support the amendment moved by Professor Ruchi Ram. First of all I must remove any false idea from the minds of my Musalman friends who think that I am supporting this amendment on communal basis. Not at all. I say that arts colleges of the type that are being opened should not be opened anywhere, because these secondary colleges will produce graduates who cannot find any living outside.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : They are not meant to be degree colleges.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : They will be later on. This is a beginning, and in course of time these colleges will be made degree colleges. It is for this reason that I submit that when you cannot give these young men any living, what is the good of giving them that education? That education may be given by private colleges but not by Government colleges. I know that at Ambala a second grade college was going to be opened by Government, but it has since been opened by a rich gentleman and it has been working very well. So I submit that there is a standing illustration before the Education Department that second grade colleges opened by private agencies are working all right, and I submit that grants-in-aid should be given to these colleges and by such means Government will be able to support a larger number of colleges with the same amount of money. That way the object of Government will be served. After all you will always find people who can give subscriptions for such colleges. I am sure that in a place like Campbellpur Sayad Mehdi Shah is a very rich man and he can give a large subscription. In Gujrat, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali can give a good deal of support. . . .

Sir George Anderson : But who will assist Lyallpur?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I will give every kind of help I can (Hear, hear). So in that way second grade colleges will be opened by the help of private agency and the money which is proposed to be spent on starting new colleges should be spent by Government in giving grants-in-aid to various other colleges. Also, Sir, there are several schools which need a grant-in-aid from

Government and those schools will be closed if no grant-in-aid is given to them. The money which is now proposed to be spent on these second grade colleges can very well be spent on secondary schools.

Now I come to the main question of the three colleges. As regards Lyallpur, of course a college might be opened there because there is no college near by. But as regards Campbellpur, Rawalpindi is quite close and I think it is unnecessary to open a second grade college in a place which is only two hours run from Rawalpindi. Then there are two colleges at Peshawar in addition to the one at Rawalpindi. Then coming to Gujrat we find that there is a college at Sialkot, one at Jammu and another one at Gujranwala. Gujrat is so situated that it is within two hours run from all these places. It is unnecessary to spend money at Gujrat. Therefore I have an amendment which cannot be moved and which is to the effect that a college may be opened at Lyallpur and not at Gujrat and Campbellpur.

But if the idea is to give agricultural and industrial education, then some arrangements should be made and new colleges opened. Lyallpur has one such college, but it is so overcrowded that students from the surrounding districts cannot get admission. A secondary college of the same type as the Lyallpur Agricultural College or the Moghalpura Technical College may be opened at different places, because the young men who pass out of that college will be able to get some job. I think that students who pass their Intermediate examination will be nowhere because they will be able to get no jobs, nor will the graduates be able to secure any jobs. I think therefore that the policy of second grade colleges is not based on foresight or wisdom, and I hope that the Hon'ble Minister for Education will reconsider this question of secondary colleges in a committee of experts and come to some decision because after all it is a life-long experience of Professor Ruchi Ram which he has related to-day and my friend the Minister for Education should learn something from him.

Pandit Nanak Chand (Hoshiarpur (non-Muhammadian), Rural): When I proposed my amendment,* Sir, I had absolutely no intention of any kind of moving a vote of censure or in any way reflecting on the policy of the Minister for Education. The object of my amendment was merely to offer certain suggestions which might very well be considered by the Minister for Education and by my friend Sir George Anderson. Had this important point been discussed in the Education Committee of this Council, perhaps there would not have been so much need for me to speak on this motion. But as there was no occasion for me to offer certain suggestions with regard to the opening of these colleges, this is the only occasion when I can place some of my considered views on the subject before this House. I also wish to guard myself against any impression that may be created on the other side that I am opposing the opening of the colleges because I am inspired by any communal feeling. Undoubtedly it is true that the opening of these colleges at Lyallpur, Gujrat and Campbellpur has created a certain amount of impression amongst the Hindu public that these are the result of communal policy. But I have satisfied myself that there was no such idea at the back of the mind of the Director of Public Instruction

* That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 82,320—Opening of Intermediate Colleges at Lyallpur, Campbellpur and Gujrat—Government Arts Colleges (51-A (3)—Education).

[Pandit Nanak Chand.]

and that it was merely certain facilities which existed in these districts that led him to the opening of these colleges at these three places, and the idea that the population of these districts was preponderantly Muhammadan never entered his mind at all. I accept that assurance and I am very glad that Sir George Anderson has promised me that he will be prepared to consider if there is any other scheme of colleges, and that he will be prepared to place the same before the Education Committee.

Now, Sir, as regards the merits of this question, I submit that this question is indeed a very large and a very vital one. The idea of these intermediate colleges really developed with the Sadler Commission which wrote a very lucid report. There were four or five defects in the existing system and these defects are given in that report. But we find that those defects have not been done away with in the colleges that have recently been opened at Ludhiana and Multan. For example, reading the report I find that the idea in the mind of the writer of the report was that the system of cramming up should be done away with and that students should learn how to think independently, and it was with this object based upon a very large scheme that the idea of opening intermediate colleges was evolved. Unfortunately these colleges which have been opened at Ludhiana and at Multan are merely a poor imitation of the existing system.....

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : But when were they opened ?

Pandit Nanak Chand : Last year.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : No, they were opened four years ago, before the Sadler Commission Report came out.

Pandit Nanak Chand : I do not know.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : You can take it from me.

Pandit Nanak Chand : I had the advantage of reading the note by the Minister for Education when this matter was placed before the Finance Committee, and I think some of the reasons given for the opening of these Colleges were the same as given in the Sadler Commission Report and therefore my criticism applies to the existing colleges. We do not know the lines on which they are going to work, but if they are going on these lines, I submit there is room for great improvement.

Then my second submission is that I have looked into this budget and I find that the Principals in these colleges are getting very high pay. I absolutely fail to see why a Principal of a college at Multan or at Ludhiana should be paid Rs. 1,500 or Rs. 1,000 and so on. We could surely effect economy in these colleges and make more effective arrangement for a larger number of students. I wish to place this view before the Minister for Education for his consideration that surely in one or two or three colleges the Education Department may employ very highly paid Principals, but there is absolutely no reason why in an outside station such as Campbellpur or Lyallpur or Ludhiana there should be such a very expensive staff. Surely economy could be effected on that ground and more colleges could then be opened with the same amount of money.

Then, Sir, the third suggestion that I would offer is that if you read the report of the Sadler Commission you find that they had in their mind the idea that there should be some sort of vocational training and that the course of the Arts Colleges should ultimately lead to vocational and industrial training. I think a similar provision should be made in these colleges so that when pupils come out of these colleges they should be fit to take up some profession. The Government should open large technical and industrial colleges.

An objection may be brought forward that private individuals and private institutions should give the lead in this matter. I submit, Sir, that it is the duty of Government to give the lead. There is a feeling all round that a large body of educated men are now unemployed, and that some provision should be made for training them so that they may be fit for some technical or industrial work instead of their going about hunting for places as clerks. It is very pathetic to see these graduates going about the streets in search of posts as clerks and not being able to secure any. There are two under-graduates sitting at my door imploring me to get for them even the post of peon somewhere. This, I submit, is a very bad state of affairs, and Government ought to take a lead in this matter by opening some sort of vocational and technical training.

One of the reasons advanced against opening such colleges is the prevalence of caste system, that the high caste Hindus are not prepared to take to industries and that caste stands in their way. I may assure you, Sir, that this feeling does not exist and people are really anxious that they should be given an opportunity to train themselves in some sort of vocation so that they may be able to earn a decent living instead of earning a pittance as they do at present after graduating themselves. On these grounds I submit that the Honourable Minister for Education should make provision for people to train themselves in some sort of vocation.

My further submission on this point is, that if our friends on this side of the House want colleges of the type of Lyallpur and Ludhiana and Multan, they may be given such colleges. But there are other districts which have progressed greatly in education, and here perhaps I may be permitted to speak from an interested point of view, because my district (Hoshiarpur) has made rapid strides in education, and there is one society which maintains seventy schools of its own unaided and without any grant from the Government. There are Muhammadans, Hindus and Sikhs in that district who have also greatly progressed, and they should not be punished because they have been making big strides. I submit that if there is a desire on their part to own a college which would fit the students of that place for some vocation in their after life they should be allowed to do so. While the Government tries to give a push forward to backward districts, it is the duty of the Government to reward those districts which have by their own efforts tried to advance the cause of education. They should be given such colleges as they desire, and where this desire exists to a very great degree the Honourable Minister for Education as representing the electorate should give preference to their views over any other view which might exist in any other quarter.

Now, Sir, I would like to offer one or two suggestions. From a talk with some of my friends I was informed that these colleges could easily solve the question of village sanitation and village medical aid. It is

[Pandit Nanak Chand.]

impossible at present for a graduate of the Medical College to settle in a village and be of help to the villagers. But if you open colleges imparting instructions in *Unani* or *Ayurvedic* systems it is possible for a graduate, a *hakim* or *vaid* to live in a village and help the cause of sanitation and medical aid. The opening of such classes in the colleges will be quite welcome, and I may say from personal experience that such classes opened by the D. A. V. College has been working very successfully. It has been a little hampered by want of funds. If such classes are opened in colleges, B.As. and B.Scs. and F.Scs. who join those classes will afterwards become *vaid*s and go about the villages and practice there. There is a keen desire on the part of people to earn some sort of independent living and if this assistance is given to them they will live in villages and contribute their share towards the relief of the suffering there.

Then, Sir, there can be an agricultural college not of the type in Lyallpur which has been spending large sums of money, but an agricultural college which would be of great help to those who take agriculture as a sort of vocation. For instance, if there were a college in the Hoshiarpur district for giving training to students in the art of furniture making and other kinds of wood work that would be of great help to the residents of that district.

These are the various suggestions, Sir, which I offer to the Honourable Minister for Education for his kind consideration. This is the time when the policy should be changed, when we should not go on multiplying graduates and under-graduates who are unable to earn a decent living, but give a lead in the matter of fitting people for struggle in life. With these words I resume my seat.

Mr. E. Maya Dass [Representative of Indian Christians] (Urdu : Sir, I regret that Hindu-Muslim question has been brought in the discussion. Both are brothers, and it is our duty to do them good wherever possible. Why, then, should this question at all be raised. But, Sir, when it has been admitted that there are already a large number of unemployed graduates and undergraduates, will it not increase unemployment by opening new colleges? In my humble opinion it would be better to provide for the already unemployed than to start any other college. I do not say that nothing has been done for them, but I would like to know what exactly has been done for the unemployed thousands. Moreover, in the face of a financial stringency it is not advisable to start these new colleges. We should wait for another year, and then start some colleges on the lines suggested by the learned Professors. I, therefore, oppose the opening of new colleges.

Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan [Rawalpindi (Muhammadan). Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I stand to say something concerning the views expressed by my friends, the Lalas, regarding education. Lala Ruchi Ram has advised us to start more primary schools instead of these colleges. Sir, my submission is that primary schools are already enough, but where these colleges are intended to be opened, hardly any facilities exist for higher education. Sir, these suggestions are meant to create obstacles in the way of education in these backward and Muslim districts. Industrial and technical education has also been suggested as an alternative for these new colleges. But the population of these districts consists of a large number of retired soldiers who look down upon such professions. Again, an introduction of some industrial courses has also been suggested, but all these suggestions are for the only purpose of retarding the education of these districts.

Where these colleges are intended to be opened, I admit that Muslims are overwhelming, but, Sir, we know that Hindu students will have greater benefit out of these institutions. There are, no doubt, two colleges in Rawalpindi, but one of them is an Arya College and the other is a Mission one, both of which are shunned by Muslim students, for they do not like to become Aryas or Christians. I admit, it is a folly to believe so, but the fact is there. Moreover, even those who go there do not study with their heart in it, and consequently they fail. Sir, this Hindu-Muslim question, too is not the cause of the opening of these colleges.

Another gentleman has remarked that the number of unemployed graduates being large, no new colleges should be started. But, Sir, if this is true, then all the existing colleges should be closed. But, Sir, at the bottom of this whole objection is the question of Hindu-Muslim differences. Hindus do not like the opening of these colleges. But, they do not realise that it is they who profit the more from these colleges, because, every officer that comes to our districts belongs to the central districts. There is a saying in our *Ilaqa*, that every trouble comes from below, and we mean that every officer who is almost in every case a source of trouble to us, comes from the lower districts. I do not understand why they do not like education in the districts of Lyallpur, Rawalpindi and Campbellpur, when all the lawyers in these districts are Hindus. Perhaps, they are afraid, that these people, if educated will share their income. Sir, in my humble opinion there ought to be four colleges instead of three, one at Rawalpindi as well, should be started.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din [Sialkot (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, stress has been laid by some of my friends on the importance of Applied Chemistry and Physics in the education of our young men; others prefer industrial and technical education to the teaching of Arts subjects while a third group advocate the teaching of vocational subjects. I do not deny the importance of any of these. But, I take the technical education in the Punjab as an example. We have in the Punjab 10 per cent. urban population to 90 per cent. of rural, and there are technical schools where they teach how to make high class furniture. I do not deprecate the value of such instruction, but I would like to know how many institutions there are which teach how to make good *belnas* and *harts*, *charpais*, *ploughs* and all other necessities of every day village life. Undoubtedly no attention has been paid to this very important side of the rural education.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : In the matter of primary education here in this very House, suggestions were made on these lines.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din (continued in Urdu) : I know it. Now I revert to the question of industrial education. This is only possible when we have a corporate life in our province, and people know how to live a corporate life for the good of all. Is it not a fact that many young men went to foreign countries such as America, England, Japan, for learning the manufacture of dyes, glass, etc., but on their return to India they are sitting idle, only because they cannot get any capital for starting industries. Without a corporate life I maintain we cannot obtain capital to open industries, and without industries in the country industrial education cannot be of much use.

Then, comes the question of vocational training. I know it is necessary, but the number of such institutions is very small. Now remains the educa-

[Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.]

tion in arts subjects. I would like to know, who would supply our Executive and Judicial officers without these arts colleges. Will our knowledge of Chemistry, Botany or Physics help us in it or our vocational training supply our demands ?

Education is like a stream of water, mighty and strong, rolling on unchecked and uncontrolled : It makes its own way and takes its own course. In Europe, there are thousands of such men who start professions after obtaining the degree of Master of Arts. Therefore, to say that in India we do not require arts colleges is wrong.

Some gentlemen have brought in the unpleasant question of communal favouritism : In this connection I have to submit that their information is wrong. I have gathered some figures about these districts and am in a position to state that though Muslims form an overwhelming majority in the Campbellpur District, they are not so large in numbers in the other two districts, and again, we cannot say if Muhammadans or non-Muhammadans will profit the more from these institutions. In all probability the latter will derive the greatest benefits from them. Therefore, this complaint about favouring one community is wrong.

It has been stated that private arts colleges should be opened and encouraged. When there was already a Mission College in Rawalpindi where was the necessity of opening an Arya College ? The idea of opening these colleges is to extend the facilities of education to the farthest corner of our province and to the poorest men. I am sure, if such facilities had not been at hand, most of us would have been as illiterate as others are. Like hospitals, schools should be very near at hand.

It is not good to have all the institutions in one part of the province. All the 29 districts of the province form a single body, and any development in one of these districts to the exclusion of the others will not help our general progress. There should be an all round progress. Is it not unfair that the whole Multan Division should have grant-in-aid to the value of 38 thousands only while Lahore city alone should have more than 3 lakhs of rupees ? If we want any material progress in the Punjab, we should try to advance all its component parts. It is, therefore, necessary that we should study the needs of backward districts as well. Why then, should we create obstacles in the way of education in these districts ? If Arts colleges and schools are not required, then people who have in their one single college 1,200 and odd students should close them and then make objections against any further opening of the Arts colleges. They should themselves start technical institutions and set an example for others. Our actions should be according to our words.

Let us suppose, for instance, that Muhammadans only will be profiting by these colleges. Is it not then your duty to help them ? You can attain Swaraj only if both the communities are advanced. If Swaraj is a bird which can be caged only by the joint efforts of the Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs, and if the Hindus possess aeroplanes, Sikhs motor cars, and Muslims only camels, how can they all go together and catch the goose of Swaraj ? All of them should ride on a similar conveyance to reach in time. I, therefore, request the honourable members of this House not to oppose the grant.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, this introduction of Hindu-Muslim question in this debate has

pained me much. I have throughout my life been trying to conciliate the two communities and see them live a peaceful life.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : You are a peace-maker.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : Certainly. All my forefathers have been peace-makers. (Then continued in Urdu.) This communal misunderstanding in such an important matter pains me. The secret of our progress lies in our combined efforts, efforts of not Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs only, but I go farther still, I say, the efforts of *chuhars* as well. Unless we all advance together, we cannot attain Swaraj.

There is nothing of communal tinge in the question of starting these colleges. This is entirely an economic question that has helped in the selection of these places as the centres of these new institutes. We can start colleges there with a very little extra expense while in other places it would have required perhaps three times the money and even more to have a single college. In Lyallpur, the building is already there, and we are going to have J. A.-V. classes as well along with the already existing agricultural classes. This should satisfy the objection of the Hon'ble Professor, for vocational training will be provided along with general education. Moreover, these are backward districts and the presence of such colleges is absolutely necessary.

The second objection is of having some centres of technical and industrial education to meet the unemployment question. In reply to this I have to say that we should improve slowly, steadily our already existing institutions, for any radical change is likely to lead to revolution.

In the Lyallpur College Agriculture can also be a subject of study. Already facilities exist there for the study of that subject and all practical demonstration can be made. Moreover, after taking their preliminary education in that college, they can proceed further either to the Agricultural College for further professional training or they can go to some other Arts College to have degrees in B. A. and M. A. Similarly subjects, vocational or other, can be introduced in the other two colleges as well. In Lyallpur the new agricultural machinery has not been introduced because it costs large sums to repair them, and if any institution be started for technical education, I think it would be received well by all parties.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram has made a mistake in determining the geographical position of these places. Campbellpur is a junction where different lines meet and hence is a central and a most easily accessible place for the country people round about. Moreover, its climate is the best and most healthy in the Punjab, and I am sure, even the Rai Bahadur would grow fatter if he were to sojourn there. Students from all places would like to go there and improve their physical as well as mental health.

Then comes the case of Gujrat. There the number of students is very large and they have to come to Lahore for higher education and, if, any college were to be opened in that place, even the poorer people who now cannot afford to spend much on their children's education at Lahore will avail themselves of these colleges. No doubt, some improvement and alterations are necessary in the system of education in these colleges. I, therefore, support the scheme for opening these colleges.

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir [Weest Punjab Towns (Muhammadan) Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, I would fail in my duty towards the people of the constituency which I represent, if I were to keep silent on this question, which affects three of the districts of my constituency. The first point I have to mention is that so far as I have been able to ascertain the views of the people of Campbellpur, Lyallpur and Gujrat about this scheme of locating the three proposed intermediate colleges there, I am sure, the scheme would be welcomed in those districts. Secondly, from an educational point of view this scheme is sure to prove of great help to the cause of education. The introduction of the communal question in this discussion does not appeal to me at all. To my mind the education of Hindus, Muslims or Sikhs is not the concern of any one of these communities alone, but is a common question to be jointly solved for the common good of all.

There were three amendments to the original demand for a grant under this head, and it is very gratifying to find that all the three speakers, Professor Ruchi Ram, Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram and Pandit Nanak Chand, while moving the amendments have spoken very sympathetically about the scheme itself. They do not at all seem to oppose the principle of having intermediate colleges. The only thing they recommend is some sort of useful improvement in the system of education to be imparted to our young men in these colleges. This, then, is no divergence from the real principle and it may be safely assumed that this House is practically agreed on the principle underlying the scheme. Coming to the question of the usefulness or otherwise of arts colleges, what must be remembered is that people are willing to have this form of education. Thousands of students every year after passing their matriculation examination seek admission to our Arts colleges and in many cases fail to get admission. This shows clearly the keenness of the demand, and on the simple principle of demand and supply, we have to provide for this increasing number of students.

The parents find it very expensive to support their boys when they come to Lahore for their studies. If any institution is available right at their doors, surely, their burden will be less, and they will have at or near their homes the same facilities which only the rich can have in Lahore. Moreover, you will be creating new centres of intellectual progress and enlightenment, and an atmosphere will be created through these educational institutions which will enhance materially the progress of the province. I, therefore, hope that this scheme will have the approval of the House.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Urdu) : Sir, if I get a few minutes for an explanation, I think much of the time can be saved.

Mr. President : You cannot make a second speech.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I should like to withdraw the amendment after a word of explanation.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : No explanation is necessary to withdraw the amendment. Don't you want me to offer any remarks?

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Yes, Sir, I should like to hear his remarks.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, it is with great pleasure that I welcome this amendment. I welcome it for two reasons; first, because a discussion on the floor of this House is always one in which both parties to the discussion can have a

free say and know each other's points of view and refute each other's arguments. We are thereby bound to benefit by such a discussion. I welcome it for another reason as well. Unfortunately for sometime past a campaign of false and malicious representations is being carried on in a section of the Punjab Press which makes it impossible for any matter in dispute or rather under discussion from being discussed on its merits. (Hear, hear). This section of the Press takes hold of a catchword such as communalism, vested interests and things of that description, and proceeds to make false statements or distorts facts, and these devices have no other effect except that of embittering the feelings between different communities.

From the speeches made one would think that three new colleges are being started. It is not really so. The proposal really amounts to converting certain schools into different sorts of institutions, thus, for instance, in two cases omitting four Middle School classes and adding in their place two intermediate classes, and in the third case simply adding two intermediate classes and changing the name of the institution. It is in keeping with this exaggerated notion of the problem that certain members of this House are still under the impression that a man drawing a salary of Rs. 1,500 or Rs. 1,000 will be in charge of each of these institutions. A glance at the Budget and especially the memorandum which accompanies it will show that in the case of Gujrat, the annual recurring expenditure would be Rs. 7,000 odd. If the additional staff is going to cost Rs. 7,500 in round figures in one year, how could it be possible to engage a Principal on Rs. 1,500 a month? If the honourable members had devoted some time in research work on this problem, that is to say, opening of an intermediate college in the Punjab—they would have found in the proceedings of the Legislative Council for the year 1918 and for the year 1919 that when the proposals of opening intermediate colleges were placed before the Council there was a non-official member who, like the present members who have taken part in the debate, condemned that policy in no ordinary terms. It was there that it was put down that an I. E. S. officer would be in charge of those institutions and the whole staff was calculated to cost several thousands of rupees, probably Rs. 30,000. He pointed out in the course of that discussion that it was possible to run three colleges with the expenditure which one college was supposed to require. Is it possible that that member when he became Minister for Education was going to permit the same atrocity which he so strongly condemned? In other words, I claim, Sir, that these three institutions that we are going to open, all put together will not cost as much as one of those colleges discussed in 1918 and 1919. I have been told that there are two colleges in Multan and Ludhiana.

Pandit Nanak Chand : I meant, Sir,

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : I do not know what he meant when he said that there are two colleges which cost a lot. What justification had he for saying that? Had he any data whatsoever on which to base that accusation?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Ultimately.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : There is no question of ultimately in this matter. As a matter of fact, as I say, the whole thing is looked at through coloured spectacles by the honourable member. With reference to other members I have not much cause to complain.

[The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

Proceeding, Sir, the honourable member for the University said that he had certain ideals. Well, I welcome those ideals and I can assure you, Sir, that Sir George Anderson and myself are inspired by those very ideals, and in the course of my speech I hope I will be able to develop those ideals for the benefit of this Council and for others. It is not our intention that these four-year institutions should be ordinary Arts colleges. Our ideal is not a negative one, that is to say, omit the entrance examination and the ideal is achieved. Our ideal, on the other hand, is that this four-year course should be so constructed as to make it useful. Our ideal is that the education imparted should be vocational as well as literary. It is to be literary for those belonging to leisured classes, and for those who are destined to walk the floor of this House as politicians, and vocational for those who are looking forward to make a living. When the honourable member offered his suggestion, the very first subject he mentioned was agriculture. As a matter of fact the House will be interested to know that Sir George Anderson is already consulting the Director of Agriculture with a view to explore the possibility of so arranging an agricultural course in these four-year institutions, that it may lead to agricultural college on the one hand and agricultural career on the other. Already in answer to some questions put to me, I believe they were by Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din, I stated that so far as the middle school education is concerned agriculture is already being taught in vernacular schools. So far as primary education is concerned, after holding a conference of experts and of those interested in this matter, we have refused to put in vocational teaching in the primary course because we are of opinion that primary instruction should be entirely concerned with acquiring literacy and some facility in adding up figures. If within these four or five years that are allowed for boys in primary classes, vocational teaching is introduced, even though it may be agriculture, the proficiency of the boys in acquiring primary education will be hindered.

Then, Sir, besides agriculture, we have already decided upon having in these colleges courses for training of teachers, teachers who are required in larger numbers for middle schools or rather anglo-vernacular middle schools. Boys who pass the matriculation examination will after taking two years course and those who have passed the intermediate examination after one year's course will become trained teachers, teachers that are technically called J. A.-V.'s. Besides training teachers and agriculturists, the third alternative that I have already in mind is the production of that invaluable thing in the British administration or the administration according to British ideals called clerks. Already in consultation with the special officer who is studying the requirements of offices, a clerical department of our college may come into being. We are also exploring the possibility of giving vocational training to the products of these Intermediate colleges.

Besides clerical, there is also the commercial requirement. It is unfortunate that on account of the unwillingness of our academic experts, we were not able to push our Institute of Commerce to the Degree stage, and we had to part with that institute itself on account of the keen desire of the Retrenchment Committee to reduce expenditure, but we trust that it will reappear in some of these intermediate colleges that we hope to start now and in the near future. Besides these three subjects, agriculture, commerce the training of teachers and clerks, a suggestion was also made about Applied Chemistry. Well, Sir, I have very great respect for all applied sciences whether chemistry or other subjects, but personally I am very diffident about

these things because I know so little of them. I dare say Applied Chemistry will be very useful in the matters of agriculture, but I do not know whether it will help very much in the matter of training of teachers. If there is any chance of one of the Punjabees discovering the art of turning base metals into gold—because the East has always been fond of it—it will be very good indeed. I feel very diffident when I say that that was the principle on which our National College at Gujranwala was started and it was widely proclaimed in Congress organs that it was destined to achieve wonderful results. For three years it made strenuous efforts to show how Applied Chemistry in an up-to-date national vocational institution, in an institution which was to develop into a University for the Punjab, an institution which was to set the example to the benighted Punjab University, can be developed, but unfortunately it did not result in any very great success. But I trust that that experiment had had its advantages. If it has not resulted in anything else, it has certainly resulted in persuading the promoters of that institution to look forward to the betterment of their country's future through roads of co-operation and not of non-co-operation. Therefore, you will see, Sir, that so far as the ideals of these four-year institutions are concerned, the honourable member for the Punjab University, Sir George Anderson, and I stand together and are ready to proceed hand in hand. I am glad to say, Sir, that he is now a member of the Standing Committee on Education. I look forward to securing his co-operation and I have no doubt that whenever I place matters of importance before that body, he will give his most valuable advice to me.

Now, Sir, one word more and it is this. It is just by way of reminding my honourable friend that he and I were very keen on developing this vocational side of education in the Punjab. I am tired of talking of the pre-1920 days. In those days the matriculation was hopeless and we were quite enthusiastic about the course which is called the M. S. L. C. course. We have got something like 20 alternatives. I can assure the House that I devoted hours and hours of my non-official time, of my professional time in those days, for about three years with the object of having as complete a list of alternatives as one could devise. We wanted our matriculation to develop on lines which are more vocational than literary. We wanted our schools not to multiply thousands and thousands of matriculates with a smattering of classics, of geography and history and a little bit of mathematics and no more. We thought that our scheme was going to put an end to that evil. But, Sir, I for one confess, I do not know whether the representative for the University agrees with me that I have not really been able to detect much improvement since then. Why is it so? Why is it that even when we gave an excellent scheme with a number of alternatives, a large number of them being vocational, the schools continue to run the same unfortunate course of making their education literary not vocational and not practical. For that, Sir, I hold responsible men like the honourable member who in such pathetic terms appealed to me to make education more vocational than it is at present and less literary than it is at present, I mean my honourable friend, Pandit Nanak Chand. Why is it that they do not make education more vocational with regard to the 80 or 100 schools that are under their control? What prevents them from doing it? Why is it that the Intermediate College at Jullundur is made a base copy of the institutions that abound in Lahore and elsewhere? Who makes it so? Is it the department of education? No. It is the lack of initiative, the lack of character and the lack of determination. These

[Hon. K. B. Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

"Schools want only boys to come to them and the students will only go to those schools where they can learn to become clerks and perhaps officers in the civil department of the Government later on. The students will not go to other schools. As it does not pay to start classes in subjects which are not the favourites of students, such classes are not at all opened in these schools. What is the result? When opened they do not pay and so they are closed. My honourable friend said that it was the duty of the Government to start such institutions in the beginning. I accept that responsibility. I trust that the department of education under me will not be so mercenary as not to try the experiment simply because it will not pay. I hope private institutions possessing the requisite character and the requisite self-sacrifice for the good of the country will follow when the education department of the Government sets the example.

The honourable member for the University and Pandit Nanak Chand think that education in the present day is a failure. They are discussing the general propositions of educational importance, how experiments can be made in education and how education can be made more useful for the young men and so on. Before I leave that subject, I will make one observation. It has been said that our educational system is no good and that a great deal of advance can be made and so on. I am, Sir, one of those who believe that the future holds out hopes for advancement, but the complaint that is being made in the Council and outside the Council in India is a complaint which any one will find repeated in every country, however educationally advanced that country may be. Any reader of the "*Times Educational Supplement*" if he were to go simply by what he reads would believe from the complaints appearing there that the educational system prevailing in England was rotten. The same is true about other countries also. I am not making that observation with the object of shirking responsibility so far as improving the system prevailing in the Punjab is concerned. But I do claim, Sir, that when the Director of Public Instruction, when the Inspectors of Schools and the Headmasters do their very best to make things what they call colloquially 'hum' to put their hearts into their work then they deserve some appreciation; and I feel sure, Sir, that that appreciation would be forthcoming, but for those unfortunate, malicious and false representations in a certain section of the press. I trust, Sir, that we will have many more discussions of this sort, if for no other object, at all events for the object of clearing the air so that the people outside may have a view of what our ideals are, what work is actually being done and to judge whether any honourable member who adorns the benches opposite, if he had been in my place would not have done in most cases the same things which I am doing.

It is urged that there is a good deal of literary education already and that it is a bad thing and that the result of opening these three new colleges will be to increase the number of the educated unemployed. Remember, Sir, this arts education which is so much cried down, does develop the critical faculty as the honourable members opposite know very well and we on this side of the House know that if they do not make constructive suggestions they excel in the art of criticism which they display to perfection in the discussions in this House. Now, Sir, these backward parts of the province do feel that it is not a bad thing to be employed in administering the affairs of their own country. It has at all events its own virtues. They would like to share the burden of administering the country along with those who are

already doing so. This was the view which was strenuously expressed by the people in those districts though perhaps not in the same way as has been expressed by the honourable member for Rawalpindi, Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan. He really meant no offence. What he meant was that the administration of the country was a responsibility, and that he would like to share that responsibility along with others.

Pandit Nanak Chaud stated that grave suspicions were entertained by the Hindu public as to the reasons for opening these colleges. I trust, Sir, that after this discussion they will be dissipated soon. He says that the Hindu public believes that these colleges are being opened on communal lines. I believe he meant to convey that these institutions are being opened in places, the population of which is largely Muhammadan. Well, Sir, as a matter of fact, I cannot claim that for this reason these institutions are being opened there. These places were selected, as has already been pointed out by some speakers, because their buildings attracted us for the reason of economy. But supposing there were no buildings there at all and I had to open three colleges, equal expenditure had to be incurred in every place. Well, Sir, considering that Multan Division possesses but one second grade college, I certainly would have selected it for one and perhaps for two more colleges. What do we find in the Central Punjab? You can hardly travel from one station to another without coming across some college or other. Here in Lahore, we have a number of intermediate colleges. I would welcome increase in Lahore in first grade, but not in intermediate colleges. You proceed to Amritsar, there you have a college. You proceed to Jullundur, there you have another. Why did the Managers of the Jullundur D. A.-V. College open a college when next door you have the hospitable Kaparthala College? And on this side Amritsar, and not far off you have Patiala where pupils can get education and on lower fees. You proceed to Ludhiana, there is a College, you proceed to Ambala, there you have a college, then come back to Jullundur and proceed to Ferozepore, there you have a college. You have got every one of these colleges at short distances. Surely these are arguments which one can advance with a fairly good show of reason on both sides. I do not think that that argument is really a genuine one. Really and truly a false impression has been created that the object of opening these colleges was to open them in Mussalman areas. I say it is not at all the object. Even if it were the object, surely that is not an object to be ashamed of (Hear, hear). That is surely an object to be borne in mind by every administrator. Educational facilities ought to be given to the province as a whole and they should not be centralised in one part.

That is certainly an object which should be borne in mind that the educational facilities are to be given to the province as a whole and not to be centralised. That is a statement of policy which we must make and we are compelled to make it in view of the public money being wasted on secondary education to-day. What do you see? Small places having two or three high schools. It is true that they are not spending Government money. It is true that the Education Department refuses to give them any grant-in-aid, but still it is public money which is being spent on those schools. Why not have one good school instead of three tiny schools? Now, Sir, by way of example I have in my hand the names of places where there are more schools than one and in some places more schools than two. Here are some of the places: Moga, Muktsar, Dasuha, Shahpur, Jalalpur

[Hon. K. B. Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

Jattan, Sangla and other places which really would be well served if there were one good school, and I trust that in the initiation of this policy the member representing the University will sympathise with me that public money is being squandered in the opening of a number of schools where fewer would have done equally well. It is therefore essential that we should not allow this vice to grow into the higher stage of secondary education, that is to say the intermediate college instruction.

(At this stage Mr. President left the chair and the Deputy President occupied it.)

Now, Sir, I will conclude my remarks on this subject by thanking the honourable member who moved this amendment as I assure him that it has been full of interest and full of advantage to me and I trust that he will continue to show this interest not only in the Council but also in the Standing Committee, of which I am very glad that the House elected him as a member.

Khan Bahadur Chandhri Shahab-ud-din: Sir, I beg to move—

“That the question be now put.”

At this stage Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh expressed his desire to speak.

The Deputy President: I think there has been a sufficient discussion on the point, and the question for the closure has been moved. On the other hand, the honourable mover of the amendment wants to withdraw and just wants to explain why he is withdrawing. That may be done.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: Sir, it is with very great pain that I have listened to some of the speeches on the other side. Not the least the speech of honourable....

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: Sir, on a point of order. Is any speech allowed at this stage?

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: I am just giving an explanation....

The Deputy President: The honourable member will confine himself to this explanation and come to the withdrawal without any speech.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: I wish to be permitted to withdraw my amendment, not because I feel myself in the slightest degree in the wrong but simply because things have been imported into the discussion which were farthest from my mind. Communal considerations, the consideration of the Gujranwala college which would have done credit to any province, all these things have been quite unnecessarily drawn into the discussion.

The Deputy President: The honourable member is drifting into a speech.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: Sir, I am not going to make a speech. I am only giving reasons for withdrawing the amendment. I wanted it to be distinctly understood that I withdraw because a deliberate attempt has been made to give the matter a communal colouring. These things were farthest from my mind. I even said that because Campbellpore is a Muhammadan district, let a college of the type proposed be started there. Things have been said which were farthest from my mind. I made my proposals purely on economic ground, but as those grounds are unacceptable to the Honourable the Minister for Education and his following, I beg permission to withdraw.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 875 with respect to the item of Rs. 3,500 Travelling Allowance—Government Professional Colleges. (31-A (d)—Education.)”

The Deputy President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 875 with respect to the item of Rs. 3,500—Travelling Allowance—Government Professional Colleges. (31-A (d)—Education.)”

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) (Urdu) : Sir, as already explained the professional colleges mean the training colleges and none other. The sum of Rs. 3,500 represents travelling allowance purely by railway. It does not include mileage or halting allowance, and as sufficient reduction has already been effected in the travelling allowances by railway, I cannot agree to a further proposed cut in this item.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural] : Sir, I wanted to ask one question. The other day our objection to travelling allowance was as regards the whole rates of travelling allowance. The railway, road and halting allowances are to be treated on the same scale in all the departments. When a cut of 25 per cent. in travelling allowance was accepted by all other departments, I do not know why the Honourable Minister for Education is trying to defend the travelling allowance for his department. My submission is that the rates should be brought to the same scale as the rates in other departments. Let the Finance Committee go through the whole question and decide what is to be done.

Mr. Miles Irving (Financial Secretary) : I think that the honourable member has possibly not understood that this item refers to travelling allowance by rail. He may not have been present in this House on the last occasion on which the House was informed that travelling allowance by rail had already been cut, for whereas formerly two fares were admissible now only 1½ are admissible. Therefore the 25 per cent. reduction had already practically been made, and it is the understanding of Government that this has satisfactorily met the wishes of the honourable members on the other side. The only cuts that can be made must be made on daily allowance and mileage allowance by road, but not on rail.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh, Urban] : Does the Honourable the Financial Secretary mean that the understanding that was reached the other day was that no cut in the railway journey will be proposed? We thrashed out the whole question and we decided to make this cut of 25 per cent. subject to this condition that all the cases will be thoroughly thrashed out in the Finance Committee, and if it is found impossible to make the cuts, Government is to come up for supplementary grants. I think that that was the understanding.

Mr. Miles Irving : The railway rates have been reduced already. Does the honourable member want another 25 per cent.?

Sardar Jodh Singh : That is a question which I answered that day.

Mr. Miles Irving : Let us have it now.

Sardar Jodh Singh : The other day it was decided that the whole question of railway journey, journey by road and the halting allowance will

[Sardar Jodh Singh.]

be considered in the Finance Committee. If the Finance Committee comes to the conclusion that the cut already made in the railway rates is sufficient, and that no more is desirable, then no further cut will be made.

Mr. Miles Irving : There is nothing to prevent our doing so now, but it seems to me rather unnecessary and misleading to make a cut. It is practically certain to a man of any sense that no further cut in the railway rates will be made.

Sardar Jodh Singh : What I was going to say is that it is just possible that some of the cuts made already may be restored by the Council later on when it is found that the amount now granted is insufficient. But from the very first day we were making these cuts and Government accepted them on the understanding that if the amounts sanctioned by the Council did not suffice, they would come up with supplementary grants. I do not understand why in the case of this particular department that understanding should not be maintained. Let the cuts be made nominally. The whole thing will come up before the Finance Committee, and if there is no ground for making the cuts, we will simply have to sanction supplementary grants.

Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din [Sialkot (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I think it was never the desire of the House to make reductions indiscriminately in all kinds of travelling allowances and as to the travelling allowance by railway in regard to which we were definitely told that reduction had already been effected, we never meant to reduce it by another 25 per cent. As far as I can say the object of our discussion the other day on the subject was that the Finance Committee should thoroughly thrash and examine all kinds of travelling allowances and wherever it was found possible the Committee might reduce expenditure in this direction by 25 per cent. To this reasonable demand of ours the Government readily acceded and agreed to a general reduction in the travelling allowances by 25 per cent. on our giving an undertaking that we would heartily give our support to supplementary grants if, in the opinion of the Finance Committee, these were necessary, and as it is, I do not think it worth our while to press this point any further.

I find by calculation that the reduction made in the travelling allowance by railway is only at the rate of 20 per cent. and not 25 per cent. as we have been made to believe on our repeatedly putting this question, but even then it does not behove us to waste any more time on the subject when we know that the question of the travelling allowance as a whole is to be examined by the Finance Committee. I would, therefore, ask the honourable mover to withdraw his amendment.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, my honourable friend Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din has admitted that it was decided to make a general reduction in the travelling allowances, but as the amendment under discussion aims at cutting the travelling allowance by railway, it cannot be accepted. Why, because he says that the principle of reduction by one-fourth was never meant to apply in the case of railway travelling allowance. I think no such discrimination was made and I, therefore, request that the principle be strictly adhered to.

Malik Firoz Khan Noon [Shahpur East (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, there is no doubt that the object the amendments moved so far had in view was to make a general reduction in travelling allowances by 25 per cent., but when the question of similar reduction in the Education

Department comes, one is reminded of a vital point which ought not to be lost sight of, and which I think it necessary to present before the House. The point is that the subjects so far discussed are reserved subjects in regard to which the Government can resort to certification if necessary, but in the case of Education and other transferred subjects the decision of the Council is final

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, there is a very serious mistake. There is no question of certification here. It is a question of making supplementary grants.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon (continued) : Am I right in holding that in the Reserve Department, if a cut is made in one item, Government can restore it, but in the transferred department such a thing is not possible?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : It is not right. We have nothing to do with this point at all.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon (continued in Urdu) : Leaving that aside there are other reasons on the strength of which I oppose the amendment.

From an examination of the budget it will appear that under this particular item a reduction has already been made by 30 per cent., as compared with the figures of the year 1921-22 under the same item. Besides in the last two years the number of students has risen by 70 or 80 thousands and as a consequence the strength of inspecting staff must have been increased, and if we reduce the travelling allowance as proposed, it will certainly mar the efficiency of the working.

Before I sit down I think I can request the Honourable the Minister for Education to satisfy the House that the grant demanded is not more than what is actually required, otherwise we can compel him to reduce his demand.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) (Urdu) : Sir, I really wonder why a cut of 25 per cent. is being demanded when the item, as already explained, represents purely the travelling allowance by railway. The principle of general reduction by 25 per cent. can be very well applied in a case where it is found that the grant includes mileage as well as halting allowance, but to apply it everywhere, as in the present case, is, if I am allowed to say so, unreasonable.

As to satisfying the House I am prepared to do so, if the honourable Sardar Jodh Singh would please tell me as to what he really means by his insisting on reduction in this particular item, for to insist on one thing and to hesitate to state the reasons for insistence is a procedure which I fail to appreciate.

Sardar Jodh Singh [(Sikh), Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, my point is that we want a reduction of 25 per cent. in all kinds of travelling allowances whether it is by railway or by road or whether it is halting allowance, and if a reduction in the railway allowance has already been made to the extent to which we want, it is very good, but if reduction has not been made equal to one-fourth, as is really the case, we want that it should be done now. We want that the rate of travelling allowance by railway should not be allowed to stand at 1½, but at 1¼. That is exactly what we want.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) (Urdu) : Sir, now that the honourable member Sardar Jodh Singh has explained what he exactly wants, I rise to assure the House that an attempt would be made to reduce the travelling allowance by railway if feasible in the Education Department earlier than similar reduction is made in any other department.

The Deputy President : What is the wish of the honourable mover of the amendment ? Does he press the amendment or does he desire to withdraw it ?

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Sir, I beg leave to withdraw the amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,550 with respect to the item of Rs. 6,200—
Travelling Allowances—Secondary Schools for Boys and Girls. (31-B (a)—
Education.)"

The Deputy President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,550 with respect to the item of Rs. 6,200—
Travelling Allowances—Secondary Schools for Boys and Girls. (31-B (a)—
Education.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) (Urdu) : Sir, I cannot agree to this amendment too and my reason for disagreeing is the same, namely that the item represents purely the travelling allowance by railway.

Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan [Attock (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, as already explained, the Education Department is one of transferred subjects and the cuts made by the House cannot be restored like those in the reserved subjects, therefore, we must think before we effect any reduction in this department. I, for one, cannot support the amendment.

Sardar Jodh Singh [(Sikh), Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, the question before the House is not that the Government have got certification power in regard to the reserved subjects, while that is not possible in the case of transferred subjects. The question before the House is one of principle that reduction is to be made in the travelling allowances by 25 per cent. Again even in the case of reserved subjects as was just explained by Honourable Sir John Maynard that power is not easy to exercise. Certification is to be resorted to according to the rules in certain specified cases. In the case of these cuts I think the reserved subjects will also have to come with supplementary estimates. I wonder why the mentality of certain members has changed now when they have come to discussing Educational Budget. I find from the amendments tabled by them that they have altogether changed the standard which they have been supporting up to this time. Should we pay higher rates in this Department ?

The Deputy President : That point has already been explained. Sir John Maynard pointed out that that was not correct. So you can leave that alone. Have you anything to say about the present item ?

Sardar Jodh Singh : I have nothing to say about the present item.

The Deputy President : What is the position of the honourable member who moved the amendment after this explanation?

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : I do not want to withdraw. I do not see why the principle that was accepted in the case of travelling allowances under previous heads should not be adopted in the present case also

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Is the honourable member asked to explain why he does not withdraw?

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : I am speaking with the permission of the Chair.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Sir, I should like to point out that a great deal of unnecessary journey is being performed. I may illustrate it by referring to the Medical Department.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Cannot the remarks of the honourable member await the Medical Budget? There are amendments tabled in connection with that grant and the honourable member may offer his remarks when those amendments come up for consideration.

The Deputy President : The honourable member will do well to confine himself to the amendment now under consideration.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin (continued) : I am discussing it from the point of view of travelling. Travelling is done unnecessarily and I may quote as an example the transfers made in the Medical Department.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The amendment before the House relates to the Education Department. Can the honourable member quote the example of another department?

The Deputy President : He is making some general remarks to fortify his arguments.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : A reference to the *Punjab Gazette* will show how much unnecessary travelling is done in this province. Fortunately or unfortunately for this province, an Indian officer of the I.M.S. having become available for duty in the civil department was sent to Kangra, relieving the Military Assistant Surgeon who was transferred to Mianwali in place of a Civil Assistant Surgeon posted to Hoshiarpur and the Civil Assistant Surgeon, Hoshiarpur, was ordered to Dera Ghazi Khan in place of an officer who was to go to Dalhousie. All this travelling could be easily avoided by sending the I.M.S. officer straight to Dalhousie. I wish to impress upon the House the fact that all these transfers were made simply to provide European members of the Service, stations where they could get good allowances.

The Deputy President : That has nothing to do with the case we are discussing. Please confine yourself to the amendment under discussion.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Where was the necessity of making so many transfers? All these transfers could have been avoided and so much of travelling allowance could have been saved. For these reasons, I submit that a reduction of 25 per cent. should be made in the travelling allowances.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : I move, Sir—

"That the question be now put."

The Deputy President : The question is—

"That the question be now put."

The motion was carried.

The Deputy President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,550 with respect to the item of Rs. 6,200—
Travelling Allowance—Secondary Schools for Boys and Girls. (31-B (a)—
Education.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided : Ayes 19, Noes 38.

AYES 19.

Sardar Narain Singh.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Sardar Mangal Singh.
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
Sardar Partap Singh.
Sardar Buta Singh.
Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan.
Sayad Muhammad Husain.
Pandit Nanak Chand.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang.
Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Lala Diwan Chand.
Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
Diwan Narinjan Das.
Lala Mohan Lal.

NOES 38.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Lieut.-Col. E. L. Ward.
Mr. E. R. Abbott.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. A. D. Blascheek.
Mr. E. A. Scott.
Sir George Anderson.
Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chaudhri
Lal Chand.
The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian
Fazl-i-Husain.
The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar
Sunder Singh, Majithia.
The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
Mr. A. Latifi.
Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.
Dr. C. A. Owen.
Lieut.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
Mr. J. Goldstream.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-
Din.
Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
Sardar Jawahir Singh.
Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
Rai Shahadat Khan.
Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
Sayad Hussain Shah.
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat
Khan.
M. Haibat Khan.
Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
Chaudhri Nur Din.
Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Lieut. Malik Muzaffar Khan.
Chaudhri Duli Chand.
Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural]: Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 11,656 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,16,560—
Total Contingencies—Secondary Schools. (31-B (a)—Education.)”

The Deputy President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 11,656 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,16,560—
Total Contingencies—Secondary Schools. (31-B (a)—Education.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Sir, cannot accept this amendment either. I do not understand why a further reduction is demanded, when the grant for this year is far less than that of the preceding year.

(Referring to certain members speaking without rising in their seats.)

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Sir, I rise to a point of order. Honourable members are addressing the House without rising in their places.

The Deputy President: Honourable members should address the Chair and not speak without rising in their places.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh: The Honourable the Minister for Education was doing exactly the same thing and we were simply following him.

The Deputy President: Honourable members should remember that two wrongs do not make one right.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: The Honourable Minister should also be told to observe the rule.

The Deputy President: Honourable members will please note that what happened in this instance is this. One honourable member pointed out the mistake that some honourable members were committing in not rising in their places when they spoke. It was not pointed out by anybody in the case of the Honourable Minister. If he had committed the mistake, it was a mistake just as in the case of any other (Hear, hear).

Now I will put the amendment to the House.

Grant under consideration, amendment moved:—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 11,656 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,16,560—
Total Contingencies—Secondary Schools. (31-B (a)—Education.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Diwan Narinjan Das [Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Division North (Non-Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, I beg to move:—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 12,66,500—
Secondary Schools for Boys and Girls. (31-B. (a)—Education.)”

Sir, it appears customary in this House when dealing with any amendment concerning the grant for which the Honourable the Minister for Education is in charge to make it perfectly clear in the very first instance that the amendment is not being moved as a sort of censure on the department. I will not fail in that courtesy, Sir, not because I am afraid that the Treasury Benches or their associates on the other side of

Diwan Narinjan Das.]

the House will not vote with me in this very inoffensive amendment, but because in moving this amendment, I am only actuated by one motive and that is to ventilate the grievances with regard to female education in this province. Sir, whilst reading the report of last year on Education, I was surprised to find that out of 100 pages of the report only four pages—may 2½ only, are devoted to female education. That shows the great interest exhibited by the department in the cause of female education. Chapter. VII deals with the education of girls. There we find the heading 'Steady Progress.' I want to tell the House what that steady progress is with regard to female education in this province. I will not quote any authority excepting that of the Education Report.

It says: "In last year's report, it was pointed out that the rapid expansion recorded in boys' schools has not yet been extended to girls' schools. The same remark obtains again this year." Is that, Sir, the steady progress?

The next paragraph says: "A set-back in the progress of unaided primary schools is reported." Is that, Sir, again a steady progress? Further on we find: "The time has not yet come when, as in the case of boys there is a fairly uniform advance throughout the province." Is that Sir, again a steady progress? Further on, Sir, in the same paragraph we read: "The record of the latter (Ambala) Division is very distressing. The absence of an inspectress may be a contributing factor."

Coming again to paragraph 3 we find: "The figures reviewed above may seem disappointing at first sight, but the Chief Inspectress reports that the work is progressing, though slowly." There is no mention even in the report of that so-called slow progress.

Now, Sir, after reading this report, I feel convinced that the heading of this chapter should not have been "Steady Progress," but it should have been "No progress." Not only has very slow progress been made as my honourable friend remarked, but I think no progress has been made at all. In fact there is a set back. My submission is that in this country unlike other countries, marriage is the normal course of life of an Indian girl....

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: That is exactly the difficulty.

Diwan Narinjan Das: I hope that the Honourable Minister for Education will find some solution of that difficulty.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: Raise the age of marriage.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: To 40.

The Deputy President: Order, order.

Diwan Narinjan Das: Sir, in other countries like England, France, &c., women play a very important part not only in the home but also in public life. Great many of them are employed as clerks, several of them in big offices and others again in big shops. Many of them do exactly the kind of work that men in this country and in other countries are accustomed to do. Therefore the education in those countries can very well be given on the lines of men's education. My complaint is that in the first instance the amount spent on female education here is hopelessly disproportionate to the amount spent on the education of boys, and secondly, that the little that is actually spent on girls' education is not only ill-spent, but is merely

wasted and in many cases that education does more harm than good. I was pointing out to the House that married life is a normal thing in this country unlike other countries where it is considered a sort of luxury. You see people there marrying at the ages of 30 or 40 or 50. Here even a person earning Rs. 10 or Rs. 15 a month considers it his religious duty to marry whether he can support his wife or not. Therefore we have to see whether the education that is imparted to girls in this province is exactly the one that makes them better wives and better mothers. Men and women may be compared to the two sides of the budget which we are dealing with at present. One is income

Sir George Anderson : Men representing income and women representing expenditure. (Laughter).

Diwan Narinjan Das : Exactly, Sir. The education that we give to a man must be such as to befit him to be able to increase his resources and the education that is imparted to women must be such as to enable them to be able to retrench as much as possible and to spend as little as possible according to their circumstances. (hear, hear). My submission is that to give the girls of this country the very same education that we give to the boys is making men of the women. There is a complaint in other parts of the world that their system is making men of their women and that it should be discouraged. But in a country like India where married life is a normal thing, such a system should be brought in that would give them a little more insight into their household affairs by teaching them a little more of nursing, cooking and such like subjects. I find that the courses that are prescribed for boys and for girls are practically the same. The average period in which we can educate girls in this province is ten years. So we should see how best we can benefit the girl during those ten years. I calculate these ten years of study as beginning from the 6th year and to the marriageable age of 16. That is the usual age of marriage in these days. I do not say that they ought to get married at the age of 16, but what I say is that in most cases girls do get married at the age of 16. We have therefore to see how best to utilise the ten years at our disposal and if during those ten years we go on giving them the same kind of education that is given to boys then we shall make them entirely unfit for a married life. I do not say that the education given to the boys is not necessarily interesting to the girls or that it should not in all cases be given, but my submission is that first of all those subjects should be taught which make a girl a better wife and better mother.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : For instance ?

Diwan Narinjan Das : Music, cooking, domestic economy, hygiene, nursing, first aid, &c.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Not sewing ?

Diwan Narinjan Das : That is included in domestic economy. My submission is that instead of making English a compulsory subject, instead of making Mathematics compulsory which includes Algebra, Euclid and other subjects which are not at all necessary for girls, we should make domestic economy and kindred subjects as compulsory subjects and treat all the rest as optional subjects. I do not say that it is unnecessary to teach girls other subjects but I do say that we should see to it that we have provided the girl with education that will carry

[Diwan Narinjan Das.]

her well through her married life. What I submit is that a knowledge of Shakespeare alone will not teach the girl to stop the baby crying. The present education that is being given to the girls merely makes them a sort of ornamentation for the drawing room.

Sir George Anderson : But, Sir, all these subjects are taught to girls. Everyone of the subject that the honourable member has mentioned is included in the curriculum.

Diwan Narinjan Das : My submission was not that you are not including these subjects in the curriculum of girls' education, but my assertion was that in practice you are giving much more time to subjects that are not necessary for the girls.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : That was not what you meant, but that is what you say now.

Diwan Narinjan Das : I am perfectly aware that some haphazard education is given in sewing but cooking is not taught.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : It has recently been introduced. Cooking is taught once a week.

Diwan Narinjan Das : We do not eat once a week, Sir. My submission is that the education that is necessary for girls is not being given to them. The second point that I want to bring forward is that we spend very little on female education as compared to education given to boys. In the interests of the boys as well as of the girls a little more money should be spent on female education because the better of the two educations is the home education. At present we find boys only trained in schools and they are not having home education. The reason is that girls are not educated and therefore they cannot impart that education to their children which is most necessary. If you spend a little more time and money on female education you will be able to educate the girls who will then become good mothers to teach their boys in the home education. Therefore by spending more money in that direction you will also be helping boys' education. I submit, Sir, that what we do lack in this country is the home education and not the school education. I have seen our boys competing in other countries with English boys and I find them to be not only equal match but even superior. The only thing they lack is the same refinement, the same polish and the same manners that are found in other countries, and the only way to make them accomplished scholars is to increase female education. (Hear, hear).

The Deputy President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 12,86,500—Secondary Schools for Boys and Girls. (31-B (a)—Education.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Punjab University) : Sir, I rise at this early stage to refer to a little incident which took place in connection with the Queen Marys College some years ago. I think things have very much improved since. But if the condition of things remains as it was some years ago, then I would ask every respectable and self-respecting parent to keep his daughters at as great a distance as possible from that college. Sir, some years ago, when I was in England, my son Dr. B. J. Sahni wanted my daughter to join that college and the answer that he got was, an insolent, arrogant, impudent answer, *viz.*, that he should produce a certificate

from the Director of Public Instruction before she could be admitted to the college. If that is the state of things at that college, as I said, keep away from that college.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: May I rise to a point of order? The honourable member does not seem to understand that he is talking on a different amendment. No doubt that subject may be uppermost in his mind and he is very excited about it, but that is no excuse for talking on an amendment which is not before the House.

The Deputy President: The honourable member will note that the subject he is talking about is on a different amendment.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: Well, Sir, I am sorry I made a mistake.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (Aside) I hope next morning the honourable member will be more calm.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: Is the Honourable the Finance Member allowed to make that impudent remark, Sir?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Sir, I did not make any remarks at all. (Laughter).

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: I am very sorry for the slip. I meant the Minister for Education.

The Deputy President: It would be more appropriate if honourable members refrain from making any side remarks which may be misconstrued.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: If there is no one to speak on the amendment, I think within the few minutes now remaining we can try to get through this amendment. It seems to me that we have gone through about one-third of the budget of our Department during the four hours and there are only two days more left.

The Deputy President: Nobody seems to come forward to speak. You may therefore offer your reply to the amendment.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (Minister for Education.): Very well, Sir, I am really glad to hear the interesting observations that have been made by the honourable member who took up the question of female education. I am in entire agreement with him that the cause of female education is not progressing as rapidly as it ought to. I am also in agreement with him in holding that the amount of money spent is not at all in proportion to the importance of this section of my department. But there are reasons why this department or rather this section of my department is not making rapid progress. First is the very institution to which the honourable member has referred—marriage. Our normal condition is married life. The result, as the honourable member claims is that they have to look to the household and the children. If so, who is to teach the girls in schools? You get educated girls trained in the art of teaching and before they attain perfection they are snatched away, that is to say, married. He says that the reasonable age of marriage is sixteen, but we cannot expect girls below sixteen, to be efficient teachers to teach in secondary schools. Therefore it is the lack of qualified teachers that hinders progress in female education and I am afraid money is not the only solution of it. That is so far as progress is concerned.

Then the honourable member referred to curriculum. I am afraid the honourable member has not had opportunities of studying the curricula-

[Hon. K. B. Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

of girls' schools. We might claim this much that our ideal of female education is not to develop ladies who would be spendthrifts. Our ideal is to educate them in such a way that they may become good wives and good mothers; the ideal is quite sound but what we do want is to discover some method of having lady teachers who would take to teaching as a profession, and thus help the cause of female education in India. That we have not yet been able to do and I shall be very glad indeed if the honourable member, if he has any ideas on the subject, will communicate them to the Department so that we may try to develop his ideas.

My friend said that too much time is devoted to English, Mathematics, History, etc. Well, it is intended for those who want to have higher education after completing their secondary education. The honourable member wants us to educate girls to become good housekeepers and good nurses, but he has not yet developed the ideal of having good companions. When he does that he will find that the study of literature and fine arts and so on must also be included in the curriculum. The subject is an exceedingly difficult one and I am very glad the honourable member has shown an inclination to interest himself in it. I shall be very glad to put him in the way of studying the various problems which are related to this subject so that he may study them and acquaint himself by actually visiting some girls' schools to which he may be admitted, and then next year he will probably be able to make some useful suggestions which I shall be very glad to place before the Chief Inspectress of Schools for consideration. At present I can only thank him for having drawn the attention of this Council to the need of developing female education at a more rapid pace than we have been able to do.

Diwan Narinjan Das: In view of the remarks of the Honourable Minister, I beg leave to withdraw the amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

The Deputy President: There are only a few minutes left and it is not worth while taking up any other amendment. We will therefore adjourn.

The Council then adjourned till two o'clock on Tuesday, the 18th March 1924.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

2ND SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 18th March 1924.

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

GOVERNMENT DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

EDUCATION (TRANSFERRED) GRANT (CONCLUDES).

Diwan Narinjan Das [Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Division, North (non-Muhammadan), Rural]: Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 33,103—Queen Mary's College. (31-B (a) —Education.)”

Sir, my honourable friend, Professor Ruchi Ram very nearly said yesterday what I wanted to say on this subject. All that I want to bring to the notice of the House is that the Queen Mary's College is the only institution for girls that is giving the right type of education and that therefore it is not proper that its doors should be shut to the general public. My submission is that when you create an exclusive college for a certain class either that class should pay for the upkeep of the college and the poor taxpayer relieved. . . .

Sir George Anderson: Sir, I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is using the word ‘you.’

Diwan Narinjan Das: I do not hear the honourable member's point of order.

Mr. President: The honourable member has objected to the use of the word ‘you.’ Instead of saying ‘you created,’ say, ‘the college or institution was created.’

Diwan Narinjan Das: Sir, I did not refer by using the word ‘you’ to any particular department. I used the term in a general way. What I mean to say is that when a particular institution or college is started for a particular class then its doors should either be thrown open to the general public or to those who are willing to pay the fees required, or if a special college was brought into existence for the sake of certain wealthy and privileged classes, then those classes should pay entirely for the upkeep of the college. With regard to the Queen Mary's College, the position now is this. Even well-to-do families who would like to send their girls to the college are denied the privilege in spite of the fact that they are absolutely willing to pay the high fees demanded in the college. My submission is that the poor taxpayer should not be called upon to pay for the upkeep of this college. The only way to reserve this college for a certain class will be to increase the fees of the college so that only certain classes will be able to enter the college. In this way we should also reduce the expenditure on the college and leave it for the purpose of higher education to a certain class of people. Already in the case of European education, the same principle is followed

[Diwan Narinjan Das.]

and we have a separate institution. There is some justification in their case because they can come forward and say : we want a special kind of education for the Europeans. But in the case of an Indian college for girls, there is no justification whatsoever. Therefore I submit that either of the two alternatives should be adopted. Either the taxpayer should not be called upon to pay anything towards its upkeep or its doors should be thrown open to those who are willing to pay the fees.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Re. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 39,100—Queen Mary's College. (SI-B (a)—Education.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. President : Does any honourable member wish to speak ?

(Nobody got up).

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, I very much sympathise with the point of view which the honourable mover of the amendment has placed before the Council. A great deal can be said in support of it, and I wish I could undertake on behalf of Government the responsibility of creating a few more colleges of this description in the near future. But, Sir, the circumstances which led to the foundation of this institution were very peculiar. This country missed the chance of starting another college like it three years ago. This institution was founded after the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales in 1905—who are the present King and Queen. When they visited this country, a lakh of rupees was given by way of donation by the States of Patiala, Jind and Nabha as their *Sirwana*, and later, half of that amount was earmarked for starting a school for girls of “good families.” Later on an appeal was made to the public asking them to supplement this donation so that girls of good and respectable families of all classes may receive a sound education in this institution. The public gave as much as Rs. 50,000 towards it. This sum was further supplemented by another donation of Rs. 40,000 from “ladies of rank” in this province. These “ladies of rank” came from the States of Malerkotla, Faridkote, Jind and Patiala. So, it will be noticed, Sir, that as much as a lakh and forty thousands were collected with that particular object in view and this sum was earmarked for the upkeep of the institution which was intended for a particular class, fortunately not a class based on communal lines. Then later on the Government of India gave a grant of Rs. 50,000 towards that scheme. Now, Sir, when this institution was completed, the rules were framed more or less in accordance with the terms of the endowment which led to its foundation. A committee was constituted to see that these terms were carried out. The committee consists of the Principal of the institution, Principal of the Chiefs' College and the Director of Public Instruction, but they are in a minority, as we have three highly respectable and public-spirited gentlemen of position and wealth and intellect also on the Committee. One of them is sitting to my right. The other is now a member of the Council of State. The third of them is the Leader of the Opposition in this House whose absence from this House at present I very much regret—I mean Raja Narendra Nath. I cannot think that a committee on which three non-official public-spirited gentlemen—one of whom the Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh is a member of the Government, another being the Leader of the Opposition in

this House, and the third the Honourable Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan—can do any very great wrong in the matter of excluding anybody who can come within the terms of the endowment. I can assure the honourable member that a request will be made by me to the committee, to be inclined as far as possible to interpret the statute of the institution in as reasonable a manner as possible. It is very difficult, Sir, in an institution like that to lay down any hard and fast rules. As I have already said my sympathies are all for the point of view which my honourable friend is pressing. But, Sir, in this world when an institution created is for a particular class, and when the financial stringency does not admit of any very great expansion, some limit of some sort has to be placed on it and in this case, it happens to be of this sort. I believe it has not worked very badly up till now and if it has been badly worked, I hope in future it will be worked well. This is the best that I can do, namely, to sympathise with my honourable friend and to tell him to what extent it is possible to give relief.

Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni (Punjab University) : Sir, I said something about this matter yesterday owing to inadvertence. The fact of the matter is that I was absent from the Council for some time when amendment No. 14 was taken up. When I came in, in the course of the discussion, I found my honourable friend Diwan Narinjan Das introducing certain matters with regard to this particular institution and I wrongly came to the conclusion that it was amendment No. 15 that was being discussed. I began to say a few words regarding that institution. I was very sorry for this slip and I also expressed my regret yesterday. But I have not one word to withdraw from what I said yesterday. I am extremely sorry that the Honourable Minister for Education has put in an apologetical expression for things which . . .

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member if he wanted to speak was to have spoken when you, Sir, asked whether any one was willing to speak. You were pleased, Sir, to look especially towards the present speaker but he did not show any inclination whatsoever to attack. Am I to understand, Sir, that the honourable member's intention is to attack after I had spoken? If you allow him to make a speech, Sir, I request I may also be given an opportunity to refute his arguments.

Mr. President : I asked whether anybody desired to speak and I was under the impression that nobody had the desire to speak. Obviously the Honourable Minister for Education wanted to reserve his speech until he knew what the attack was. In the circumstances, I shall allow the Honourable Minister to speak again if necessary.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni (continued) : Sir, the circumstances which I spoke of yesterday in my remarks showed clearly how the institution was being run. Here is an institution supported by public funds which refuses admission into its portals to people of a class which, as the Director of Public Instruction will tell us, is a class of people who have a right to receive instruction there if they so desire. My only objection is that if that is an institution where respectable and self-respecting men are not to seek admission then. . .

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, the honourable member is under a misapprehension. This is a ladies school (laughter).

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I know the institution very well, Sir. I am only sorry that it is connected with royalty. It is that fact which

[Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni.]

prevents me from saying more. I have reasons for believing that things have improved since the time I was speaking of, although under very different conditions. Hardly some improvements are being made under the pressure of the Director of Public Instruction. I wish that a franker, freer and fuller admission of the defects in the methods of admission about which I spoke yesterday was made by the Honourable Minister for Education. Sir, here is an institution for girls of a certain class. Here we find distinction made of social standing of this kind and of that kind. I believe, Sir, that public money ought not to be wasted on institutions of that kind, if respectable and self-respecting men are not allowed to send their daughters if they wish to do so, to that school. That is the position, Sir, which I have taken. Otherwise as everybody knows, I would like to have schools and colleges for every class of persons, as many as public funds can allow. This institution was started with a certain object, but that object does not exclude, I make bold to say, does not exclude people who have a right to seek admission to that institution, if they so desire.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: What is that right? What does the right consist in?

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: The right consists in the fact that they consider themselves to have the right (laughter). I make bold to say that there is no other social right under the heavens. The time is gone when people assumed airs and when distinctions were made even at public places like the railway stations between men and gentlemen. In that sense I would not care to be a gentleman. I would much rather like to be a man than a gentleman—

“When Adam delved and Eve span,

Who was then the gentleman” (laughter).

You may laugh, but what is the position which a plain man like myself must take up. I find that something similar to what I mentioned yesterday happened again recently, but the difficulty was got over by the tact and the kindness and the spirit of fair play of the gentleman who now rules over the destinies of the Education Department, I mean the Director of Public Instruction.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: Might we know some instances in which admission into this college has been refused?

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: I have mentioned two, Sir. My honourable friend was absent yesterday, it seems. I mentioned one instance yesterday and I have referred to another case to-day of a gentleman who is in the Indian Educational Service.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education): Sir, I still am in the dark why so much feeling is imported into this discussion. The incident that was referred to yesterday in an irregular manner was an incident of four years ago.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni: Six years.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: I thought that time was a great healer but apparently the wound has festered. My difficulty is how to meet the spirited attack so full of feeling and sentiment. The honourable member himself admits that the institution is for a certain class. He heard me say how the terms of endowment were

laid down. Does he want me to say that those terms of endowment are of no value whatsoever? Are they simply a "scrap of paper"? I am afraid, Sir, I do not see why the terms of endowment to which Government agreed should be lightly set aside now, and it is not right that I should throw away the word given by my predecessors to those who endowed this institution. What is more, Sir, is, that this is not the only institution which is to serve a particular class. Only three years ago we had the Hindu Widows' Home due to the beneficence of the father of the member sitting opposite (Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram). He desired to have an institution for the benefit of Hindu widows, and he gave this Home by way of endowment. The entire maintenance cost of this Home is borne by this Government and that Home forms part of my budget. Now supposing a member gets up and asks, why don't we admit respectable and self-respecting Christian widows or Muhammadan widows into that Home who wish to enter the portals of Sir Ganga Ram's Home? The argument would be absolutely sound according to the member who has taken objection to the rule. As I have said this is not the only institution of this kind. Therefore to indulge in idealism of this kind is not businesslike. That is not a thing that one expects from men who are going to shape the destinies of the country in the near future. Therefore, Sir, though I sympathise with the sentimental part of it, on rational grounds, on grounds of sound administration, on grounds of the word given by my predecessors and on grounds of justice and fair play, I do not think it is right to say "Change the rule so as to substantially interfere with the terms of endowment of this institution." I am glad that the action taken from time to time by Sir George Anderson has found favour with members opposite and I trust that this co-operation they will continue to extend to the department.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 39,100—Queen Mary's College. (31-B (a)—Education.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Lala Ruohi Ram, Sahni (Punjab University): Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,23,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,23,000—Provincialisation of Board High Schools, Government Secondary Schools. (31-B (a)—Education.)"

(Urdu): Sir, before I proceed to advance any arguments in support of my amendment I would request the honourable members present that they would try to avoid making any unpleasant remarks or importing into the discussion communal bias and representation as they were brought to bear on the discussion the other day. I can also assure the House that communal bias and communal representation are things which are furthest from my mind and I am one of those who deprecate these views in strongest terms. I am not moving my amendment because one community is suffering and the other is being benefited unjustly. My object in moving this amendment is totally different from that and as it is I do hope that the honourable members will accede to my request.

The question of provincialisation of local schools is not one of recent growth. This scheme of centralisation of education was first introduced by Lord Curzon and from that time onwards it has been operating on education in this country. This scheme was introduced in the time of

[Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.]

Lord Curzon quite contrary to the wishes of Lord Ripon, who, while granting local self-government, had not only considered it wise to localise the education, but had left the management of towns and public works in the hands of the local bodies. But the times have now changed. In these days of general awakening and self-determination it is desirable that the rights of the people should expand and not that they should be further limited. The time is come when we should proceed to decentralise every department and education above all. We should not degenerate while the world is progressing.

I do not say that we are quite satisfied with the working of local bodies. I do not say that the high schools under the management of district boards and municipalities are working as well as we expect them to work, but what I say is that if there is any defect in the schools of the local bodies, we should take steps to remove that defect, we should see that their working is improved. We ought not to take over the charge of the high schools under the local bodies simply because these bodies are not capable of working them well. I would rather suggest that the second grade colleges that are being started in the near future should also be localised and to achieve this object necessary grants-in-aid should be given by the Government.

It is an admitted fact that there are grave defects in the scheme of provincialisation of the high schools. This scheme will lead to uniformity everywhere, which is most despicable. This provincialisation will leave no scope for the local bodies to open schools according to the needs of the localities. Another grave defect that is sure to crop up is that teachers, under the scheme, will not be allowed to remain at one place for a long time and as it is they would not be able to do what is expected of them. During the short stay at one school, the teachers would not be able to acquire knowledge of the character of their pupils and of the conditions of their parents and in the absence of that knowledge the teachers cannot be expected to perform the best part of their duties, for they are not only meant to give lessons to the school boys, but their most important duty is to look after the character of their pupils. And when the scheme fails to achieve these most important objects of education I do not see any reason why it should not be given up.

Before I resume my seat I would again request the House not to import anything unpleasant in the discussion but I hope that the question would be considered from purely an academic point of view.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,23,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,23,000—Provincialisation of Board High Schools—Government Secondary Schools. (81-B (a)—Education.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural ? (Urdu) : Sir, my honourable friend Professor Ruchi Ram has shown that the question of provincialisation is not a question of to-day, but a long-contested one and as it is I do not think it necessary to dilate on the point any more.

I would next proceed to show that the object of the latest circular issued by the Education Department in regard to the provincialisation scheme is not, as it would apparently appear to be, to share the burden of the local bodies and to allow them to devote more attention to the expansion of

primary education, but, it in fact smells of something else. Had the real purpose been the release of financial burden from the local bodies, the Government should have first relieved them of many other unnecessary expenses which it is not their duty to bear and which the Provincial Government has thrust on them without any justification for doing so. If it was really desired to help the local bodies, the management and the maintenance of provincial roads, courts tahsil and other such like buildings and rest-houses should have been taken over from them. The grants-in-aid now paid to the district boards for their services are quite insufficient even to meet a very small fraction of expenditure incurred on them by the boards. There is the burden of the establishment of the District Inspectors of Schools which is weighing heavily upon the district boards, and if it was really meant to relieve the local bodies of their expenses, some means could have been devised to reduce those expenses. Then there is the newly-imposed burden of Assistant Epidemiologist which has recently been appointed in some districts.

Mr. President : I think the honourable member has been developing this point too long. I understand the honourable member's point is that in the matter of provincialisation of schools Government urges that it wishes to relieve local bodies of their expenses and the honourable member is trying to show that Government does not adopt the same policy in other directions as well. This he could point out in a few sentences instead of taking so much time on it. He must come to the original subject before the House soon.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh (continued) : I will certainly be very brief on this point. What I was driving at was not that more burden is being placed on the district boards, but that the real policy of the Local Government in provincialising these schools is not, as a matter of fact, releasing the district boards of the burdens as is expressed in so many words in the circular. It is quite otherwise. If that had been the real aim of Local Government, it would have seen its way to release the district boards from very many other great burdens that are unjustifiably imposed upon them.

Mr. President : I think the House has seen that point about five minutes ago. That is my point. You are spending too much time over it.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh (continued in Urdu) : My point is that this policy of centralisation that is being adopted in education is defective. All other civilised countries have accepted the principle of imparting education under private control and I see no reason why we having once adopted the same principle should now go back on it.

I would next point out, Sir, that this scheme of provincialisation is costly. It is an admitted fact that the cost of maintaining a Government school is much more than that of maintaining a board school or a private school, and when we can have high schools with Rs. 5,000 or so as grant-in-aid from the Government, why then the Government should spend 23 thousands or so in taking over charge and maintaining a school and that also in these days of financial stringency ?

I may be asked a question that no one is going to compel the local bodies to hand over their schools to the Government when in the circular it is stated that provincialisation is not compulsory and is only discretionary. I admit that the circular says so in one of its former pages but the fallacy at once becomes apparent when we look towards its end, which clearly says that no

[Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.]

district board or municipality shall be entitled to a grant-in-aid for the maintenance of high schools or even the middle class of a high school, if the school is kept on by it and not handed over to the provincial control. I think this is more than compelling the local bodies to hand over their schools when we know that they have not got sufficient funds to stand on their own legs without the Government grant-in-aid. Besides, this scheme of provincialisation has created a lot of discontent and dissatisfaction. A civil suit is pending in the Ambala District civil courts about the provincialisation of the Rupar M. B. High School and factions have been created in the district.

Under these circumstances I strongly deprecate the scheme of provincialisation of schools.

Chaudhri Duli Chand [Karnal (non-Muhammadian), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, the question before the House is as to where lies the necessity of provincialising the schools which are under the control of the local bodies and what has led the Government to introduce this system, and it is to answer this question that I have got up.

All the educational committees that have met during the last one or two years have emphasised the necessity of starting high schools in all the different tahsils of the province and have expressed that it is high time that primary schools be started in all the villages and the system of primary compulsory education be introduced. Besides these, committees have laid special stress on the point that primary schools be converted into lower middle schools. That English be made an optional subject and that the pay of the teachers be increased are also amongst the recommendations of these committees.

And if these proposals are to be carried out, as they must if we are to keep pace with the times, the Government must come to the help of the district boards and municipal committees. We cannot expect local bodies to bear all this heavy burden especially when these bodies are not to increase the taxes and have to work with the funds at their disposal. It is with this view that the local bodies have been relieved of the burden of high schools on their coffers and the Government have thought it wise to provincialise the high schools. It is only to share the burden and not any other motive that has actuated the Government to accept the responsibility of high schools. This provincialisation of schools is sure to give sufficient scope to the local bodies to devote their attention to the spread of primary education in the villages which is most desirable and which is the universal demand of the day.

The next point to be seen is whether the provincialisation of schools is compulsory or discretionary. My honourable friend Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh has tried to prove that the local bodies are compelled to hand over the high schools under their control to the Government. But I will show that he is quite mistaken; I will show by quoting a sentence from the circular letter that the intention of introducing this system is quite the other way. In the circular it is stated that "Provided that funds are available and that provision has been made to the satisfaction of the Education Department for the requirements of compulsory education, local bodies will not only be permitted to open high schools of their own in areas where a distinct demand exists, but will be encouraged to do so by the ordinary grants-in-aid." This quotation clearly shows that the

Government are prepared to encourage localisation of high schools when and if such a request is made to them. Besides the honourable member must have noticed, if he is really interested in this subject, that nearly all the local bodies have requested the Government to relieve them of the burden of high schools and it is on their request that some schools have recently been provincialised.

It is contended that the scheme of provincialising the schools will fall heavily on the coffers of the Government and this is a thing which is most undesirable in these days of financial stringency. I will show that the honourable members need not be afraid even on this score. On page 74 of the memorandum, it is given that "calculations show that the cost of provincialisation minus fees which would accrue to Government after provincialisation is equal to, and possibly less than, the payment of grants which was provided in the original circular." The passage makes it sufficiently clear that the scheme is not costly, but, if matters are carefully handled, it will bring about some savings to the Government.

The honourable member, Professor Ruchi Ram, has said that the scheme of provincialisation, if not put an end to, will certainly limit the rights of the people. I would, in reply say that if these rights consist in the fact that education be not extended to the villages, I would be glad if such rights are taken away from the people.

As to the honourable member's second argument that it is most necessary in the interest of school boys that teachers should remain for a fairly long time at one place and that under the new scheme this would not be possible. I would say that it is my personal experience that in some cases, when complaints arise about certain teachers the system of localisation of schools begins to weigh heavily upon the authorities concerned. In such cases they get discontented with the system and wish to get rid of it. When it happens that there are complaints against a teacher in a certain school, the district board or the municipal committee, whichever is concerned, finds it very difficult to transfer him to a school belonging to another local body, the pay and certain other conditions being different, and in such cases the authorities are handicapped and cannot do away with that teacher. This, I think, is what nobody would desire.

3 P. M.

Before I sit down I would point out that there is one defect in the introduction of the new scheme which I would request the Honourable the Minister for Education to remove forthwith. That defect is that with the provincialisation the number of non-zamindar teachers is on the increase. I would again request that before a school is provincialised, it must be seen as to how many of the teachers in that school are zamindars and how many of them are non-zamindars, and if the number is not according to the proportion prescribed, the non-zamindar teachers should be asked to take leave.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh, Urban] : Sir, the speakers that have preceded me have sufficiently discussed one point of view in connection with the provincialisation of the board schools, I mean the point of view that the power of supervising education is being taken from the local boards into the hands of the central department of Government. I am not going to dilate on that point any further. I am just giving a few figures which I hope the Honourable the Director of Public Instruction will please note which will show that this provincialisation scheme is very dear, that it is going to cost

[Sardar Jodh Singh]

us more than was being spent on this very thing before that. I have culled these figures in connection with something else from the latest report of the Education Department and I find, Sir, that the total cost of educating a scholar in a Government high school is Rs. 61 per year. In a board school it is Rs. 44-5-0 per year.

Sir George Anderson : Does that include primary pupils?

Sardar Jodh Singh : I have taken the figures from the report. There are high schools, there are middle schools and there are primary schools.....

Sir George Anderson : There are no primary classes in the Government high schools.

Mr. President : The point is that in Government high schools there are no primary classes at all and in the local board schools there are, and that statistics given for the cost of local schools include the cost of the primary classes. Therefore your argument is fallacious.

Sardar Jodh Singh : What I want to say is that even if I take that argument into consideration, I can just see from that very report that the cost of primary school boys is not so much, and when I take the expenses that fall directly on public funds—and in the public funds I include the Government funds as well as the district board funds—when I calculate the cost per boy in these schools that directly falls upon the public funds and are not met from fees and other sources that cost per scholar comes to Rs. 35 and Rs. 25, Rs. 35 in a Government school and Rs. 25 in a local board school. I have also calculated the cost of maintaining these schools and I find, Sir, that in the case of Government schools the cost is Rs. 22,733 per year per school whilst in the case of local board schools it is Rs. 16,633. I am very sorry that I did not notice in this report that these figures contain primary boys also, otherwise I would have corrected my calculations accordingly but what I now say is that the annual cost of a Government school is Rs. 22,000 whilst that of a local board school is Rs. 16,000. And if the latter figure includes the cost of primary classes also, it should be reduced still further. What I am driving at is that public funds whether they belong to the local boards or whether they belong to Government are the same. Chandhri Duli Chand has pointed out that the department is taking over these schools simply to help these people. I accept that explanation, but I think that if instead of Rs. 22,000 only Rs. 16,000 were spent for the maintenance of the school, the remaining Rs. 6,000 could be spent on primary education as well. What I mean to say is that this Government school agency is very expensive. I admit, Sir, that Sir George Anderson has decreased the expenses. I have calculated and compared the expenses. They come down from Rs. 24,000 last year per school to Rs. 22,000 this year. I admit that, but still the difference between the two agencies is great. I should have thought that the Government agency would be cheaper because it has a centralised department, whereas the district board schools are scattered everywhere but the fact is there that every Government school is costing Rs. 22,000 whilst every local board school, Rs. 16,000. Therefore, I ask, Sir, "Is it wise in these days of financial stringency to take these board schools under the control of an agency which is dearer than the agency under whose control they now are?" That is the only point that I want to bring to the notice of the department and the Honourable Minister. I simply want that we should devise the cheapest way of spreading education in the province.

I might have to say something later on in another connection on this point but comparing the two agencies, the Government and the local board; I think the local board agency is the cheaper. I would therefore just ask him to reconsider the case if not here then in the Education Committee where we can correct our figures and go through the matters again and see whether this policy is not based on wrong data.

Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan [Attock (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, under the circumstances that are prevailing at present most of the district boards and municipal committees are insolvent and it would be unwise to compel them to bear the burden of maintaining high schools under their control. As far as my knowledge goes there is only one district board in the province (*viz.*, Lyallpur) that is solvent, all the other district boards have incomes which are less than their expenditure.

I really wonder why my honourable friend Sardar Gurbakhs Singh is pressing the point so much when he was present in the District Board Conference and where it was decided that it was not wise to increase the taxation.

If the taxes are not to be increased and the high schools are at the same time to be maintained, I cannot see how we are to surmount the financial difficulties of the local bodies. We find that already some of the other departments, for example, Medical, under the control of local bodies are being starved, and if the burden of high schools is also placed on them, I think still less money will be forthcoming for these departments. I, therefore, strongly oppose the amendment, and appeal to the House to do likewise.

Sir George Anderson (Director of Public Instruction) : Sir, I only want to make one remark in reply to Sardar Jodh Singh. I am extremely sorry, that the figures which he has quoted are very fallacious for the reason that I have just given. A Government high school does not include primary pupils, while a board school usually does so. The average cost of a pupil in a high school is Rs. 136, while the average cost of a primary pupil is Rs. 18. Therefore, it is easy to understand that a school which does include primary pupils must appear far cheaper than a school which does not include such pupils. I have tried to make a comparison between the two types of schools; and the results of my investigation have already been quoted by Chaudhri Dili Chand. I do not think there is much difference between the two types of schools in expenditure.

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. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved —

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,23,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,23,000—Provincialisation of Board High Schools—Government Secondary Schools. (B-1-B (a)—Education.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Sir, so far as the next amendment is concerned I should like to point out that the first item relating to Secondary Schools for Boys and Girls has been discussed as also the items relating to Queen Mary's College and Provincialisation of Local Board High Schools. The only subject that remains is the Victoria Girls' School, Lahore. I think the amendment must be with reference to this last subject.

Mr. President: The amendments on the first three items have been lost, have they not?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Yes, Sir.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh: Sir, the amendment which I propose to move is a little different from the one moved by Professor Ruchi Ram, inasmuch as the amendment of the Professor referred only to provincialisation of schools and mine covers the total demand on Government Schools.

Mr. President: The point is this. You can discuss a totally different aspect of the question, but you cannot touch on matters that have been already discussed. There is only one matter which has not been discussed at all so far and that is a sum of Rs. 29,500 for the Victoria Girls' School, Lahore.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh: Sir, I only want to dilate a little on a matter of principle which has not already been brought forward.

Mr. President: I allow you to move the amendment on the understanding that your argument will be based on matters of an entirely different character.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural]: Very well, Sir. I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 14,78,100—Total Government Secondary Schools—Voted. (31-B (2)—Education.)"

(Urdu): In moving this amendment I have absolutely no idea of moving a vote of censure on either any officer in charge of the Department or the general system of control of the Government secondary schools. My object is only to bring a point or two to the notice of the Honourable the Minister for Education and Sir George Anderson.

I have a high opinion about the management of Government high schools and see no serious defects in them. What I want to urge is that in some cases the selection of staff is not commendable. It is an admitted fact that the teachers of schools mould the character of their students.

If teachers of good conduct and excellent bearing be selected, it would have a far reaching effect on the character of students. I do not deny the fact that usually the authorities concerned do try to select good staff for Government high schools but in some cases it is not done so which indirectly means the waste of Government money. It would not be irrelevant to mention the name of Government High School, Ambala. This school has neither shown good results nor any increase in the number of students, for some years past, but nobody cares to look into the matter thoroughly. The people of Ambala complain that the principle of good selection is totally ignored in the case of Government High School, Ambala.

I am sorry to say that nothing has yet been done to remove this school to some other place or to improve its condition. The second point, Sir, that I want to urge is that of the introduction of religious instruction in these schools. I know that a short prayer is sometimes read in the morning; but there is no satisfactory arrangement for religious instruction in these schools. I would request the authorities concerned to look to this need of the people. If effect is given to this suggestion of mine, parents and students will have great attraction for these institutions, which are then certain to turn out better citizens and patriotic men in the future. It will create a high sense of *esprit de corps* in the students of these institutions.

I am prepared to withdraw my amendment if the Honourable the Minister for Education satisfies me on these points.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 14,78,100—Total Government Secondary Schools—Voted. (31-B (a)—Education.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) (Urdu) : Sir, I admit that whatever Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh has said is quite sound and proper. Really the selection of staff should be a sound one; but at the same time, I may point out that man is fallible. Selection of permanent servants no less than of wives is a difficult task. Some turn out to be successful while others prove unfortunate. The same is the case with servants as well. We like to employ angelic persons and we do succeed in this respect to some extent, but we cannot be always successful. These are the difficulties in our way and I hope the Education Department would try its level best to overcome them so far as circumstances permit.

The next point is imparting religious instruction in Government high schools in the province. My heart always longs to lay down a prayer for the use of students. People of all shades of opinion agree on this question as far as the principle is concerned, but is there a prayer prepared which the critics have not striven to pull to pieces. Such is my personal experience as a member of the Punjab Text Book Committee for several years. I have a mind to lay this matter before the Standing Committee for Education so that a prayer may be prescribed for the use of students.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Sir, I beg leave to withdraw the amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 11,85,700—Total Direct Grants to Non-Government Secondary Schools. (31-B (b)—Education.)"

(Urdu) : Sir, by moving this amendment also, it is not my intention to bring forward a vote of censure against the Honourable the Minister for Education or Sir George Anderson, the eminent Director of Public Instruction, or even against the system or policy of giving grants-in-aid to private secondary schools as it at present exists. I very highly value, Sir, the efforts of the Honourable Minister for Education and the learned Director of Public Instruction, Sir George Anderson towards the removal of illiteracy in this

[Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.]

province and effecting enormous economies in the department. My object in moving this amendment, Sir, is only to point out that the policy which was going to be inaugurated in connection with the giving of grants to private schools would be most prejudicial to the best educational interests of the province. By this policy I mean, Sir, the policy laid out in Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) Circular No. 10370-G., dated 6th November 1923. I know that a large number of protests against the introduction of this new policy has been sent to the Department and I therefore want to avail myself of this, the earliest opportunity, to request the Honourable Minister for Education that he may be so pleased as not to put this policy into practice at all and cancel it, before it may raise a ferment of public agitation in the province. I would be very glad and in fact highly thankful to him if he at once agrees to what I say, but I know that these few words of mine will not produce the required effect and that the Honourable Minister for Education will not be prepared to abandon the policy which he after very hard work and considerations and with the great help and incessant work of Mr. Tydeman on facts, figures, charts, plans and maps, has been able to lay out for the progress of education in this province. I therefore, Sir, feel the painful necessity of submitting through you my arguments by discussing the merits and de-merits of this circular, which I, with your permission, proceed to place before the House.

It has been the recognized principle of education in all civilized countries, that as far as possible, it should be left under the control of non-official agency. This Government, Sir, having once recognized and practised on this principle, seems now to be going back and this circular is obviously a serious step backwards. Helping private enterprise, resulted in a splendid progress in education in the province during recent years. It is due to this liberalism on the part of the Education Department that we see so many private schools in the province. The adoption of the policy in question will certainly mean a death blow to many a flourishing institution, and if applied to the very letter in practice will seriously hamper the progress of private enterprise. In this circular which I have with me there are certain points which require the attention of the House and the authorities concerned.

Previously while recognising a school the Inspectors used to see whether the school had a good teaching staff or not or there was any real necessity for the school at that particular place or it fulfilled all the conditions laid down by the Department for this purpose. Usually recognition of a school was followed by grant-in-aid. This circular lays down quite a distinct policy in matters of recognition. It says that recognition may as a general rule be given but requires the authorities to be careful while giving grants-in-aid and to enquire as to the necessity or otherwise of the institution at that place. I say, Sir, that this procedure is wrong. The necessity for the existence of the school is a point to be examined at the time of recognition and not at the time of awarding grant-in-aid. This change in policy reveals the anxiety of the Department for bringing in every institution under its fold and stamping it with the seal of its recognition without undertaking the liability of giving grants-in-aid on such recognition which is its natural result. I ask, Sir, why should these institutions get themselves recognized and thus subordinate themselves completely to the Department without any prospect of getting financial help from the Government? This shows the anxiety of

authorities to centralize education without incurring any liabilities and is certainly a wrong policy. I have studied the circular thoroughly and after full consideration have arrived at the following conclusions. I, however, am subject to correction and open to conviction.

5 The Honourable Minister for Education, I think, bases his policy on presumptions and the consequent inferences from them. The population of the province is divided into two classes, *i.e.*, 'backward communities' and say 'normal' or 'forward' communities. In doing so the authorities concerned say that these so-called 'backward communities' are backward in education and from this fact draw the inference that this backwardness is due to the lack of educational institutions, and that therefore these backward communities deserve special help at the hands of the Government. The other fact at which they arrive is that the distribution of schools in the province is not fair and equitable and think that at certain places there are larger number of schools than are required and that these therefore are superfluous and are thus causing waste of public money. I admit the first fact, *viz.*, that certain communities are backward in education though the statistics supplied by the Education Department go to show that this complaint is not now so serious as before and that the number of students from this community has fairly considerably increased but I hold the other fact, namely, that the inferences are based on fallacious and wrong impressions and calculations. I do not want to give this question a communal colouring, although the circular does so to some extent and it is farthest from my mind to raise any communal controversies in this connection. I know from experience and I think every one having the least connection with education knows fully well that institutions in the province are not yet overcrowded, and that the capacity of a large number of them to take in students has not been used to its full extent, and that most of them can take in more students. This, however, does not mean that they are superfluous because by being scattered here and there and in large numbers they bring education to the very door of the population and provide great facilities in this direction and produce temptations in the minds of the public to avail themselves of their existence. I therefore hold that the dearth of educational institutions and lack of educational facilities are not the real cause of these so-called 'backward communities' lagging behind in education. I would request the educational authorities to look for some other reasons for the backwardness of the community and it is quite possible that there may be some religious, political or social reasons at the background. I also consider that there is not a single institution in the province which may be taken as superfluous. It is not the distribution of institutions which is to be considered to see whether a certain school is superfluous or not. It is the school-going population of that part of the country which is to be taken into account. I know of no district, or tahsil or even of a smaller sub-division in this province, where the entire school-going population are at school and I don't think if any honourable member in the House can name a single such area. So long therefore as we do not exhaust the possible supply of students in a given *ilaga*, we cannot consider any institution in it as superfluous. Sir, we should not look to the schools as belonging to Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs separately but we ought to take care of the general progress of the whole nation, and endeavour to remove illiteracy from all. We should have the national point of view before us when we deal with such questions. The Education Department is not to care for some creed, sect or community but it is its duty to look

[Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.]

to the general betterment of the whole nation and the welfare of the aggregated population. If the educational authorities adopt the policy in question, they will be responsible for every wrong resulting from it. Sir, most of the people believe that there is no satisfactory arrangement for educating our Muslim brethren and that they are incapable of starting their own educational institutions. I also believe that the first thing is true to some extent and wholeheartedly wish my Muslim brethren to go forward in education and am prepared at all times to do everything possible in that direction, but I do not believe the second assertion to be quite a fact. A look at the efforts of the Sikhs, a community equally rich or equally poor as the Muhammadans and yet far smaller in numbers, towards education will at once prove that Muhammadans are quite fit to look after their own educational needs, and that if they so desire can do whatever they please in this direction. But at the same time I am not one of those who hold that in order to encourage the backward community the progress of the forward community should be checked.

My friend the honourable Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din told us the other day that every body should ride the same camel and also represented the Hindus and Sikhs as going on in aeroplanes and motor-cars. If by this policy, Sir, it is intended to take the Sikhs and Hindus out of their motor-cars and aeroplanes and seat them on camel backs I am constrained to say that it is seriously wrong and highly prejudicial to the national development. The real remedy, Sir, is not to stop or even retard the progress of these communities but it is to accelerate the pace of progress of the backward ones by taking them in degrees to bamboo-carts, tongas and then to motor-cars and aeroplanes with their fellow brethren. There are certain concessions already given to Muhammadans in the form of scholarships and admissions of their students to schools and colleges. I do not grudge these concessions, though I hold the latter to be wrong on principle and I am for giving all possible facilities to them for the future consistently however with the preservation of the welfare of other communities, and without destroying the existing institutions.

Sir, I want to point out another blunder committed by the educational authorities in this circular, that is, they have only dealt with the question of grants-in-aid leaving all other expenditures incurred on the education of different communities in the Government high schools, out of consideration.

Sir George Anderson: Sir, I am afraid he has not read the circular. This matter has been carefully explained in the second and third paragraphs of the circular.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh: I have read the circular very many times but still I hold that this point has been left out. It is just possible that after listening to the Honourable Minister for Education or the Director of Public Instruction I may be able to change my views but at present I hold the view that this point has been left out while considering all these things.

Sir George Anderson: What things?

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh: The expenditure which is being incurred on the education of backward communities, *viz.*, Muhammadans, in Government schools has been left out and that it is only the point of giving the grants-in-aid which has been reckoned—so many thousands to Sikhs, so many to Ambala District—while the question of expenditure on Government schools

in which Muhammadan, Sikh and Hindu students are reading at the same time has been ignored and these backward...

Sir George Anderson : Sir, I want to say one word.

Mr. President : I do not think you should interrupt him now. Let him go on. You can refute his arguments in your speech.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh (continued) : Sir, I am open to correction but at the present moment I hold that this particular fact has been ignored. The second point I want to urge, Sir, is that the educational authorities have calculated how much is being spent on Ambala District or on the education of Muhammadans, as a separate community but have never cared how much each community or each district pays up by way of taxes. It is quite unjust on the part of Government to spend Rs. 5,000 on the education of a community from which it receives Rs. 10,000. I assert that if the expenditure is to be accounted per community, it is right to ask that revenues should also be collected per community. I know that this is wrong on principle of democratic institutions but, Sir, these principles are to be applied universally and on all heads and not for the benefit of certain communities and to the prejudice of others. I will be the first man to follow them if they are applied without distinction of class, creed or race.

4 P.M.

Another point that I want to urge in this connection, Sir, is that only the receipts of different communities by way of grant-in-aid have been taken into consideration and that the consequent sacrifices that these communities, at the expense of great communal and individual inconveniences, undertake, and the help which they thus extend to the Government in the spread of education have been totally ignored. For example, Sir, a man who starts a Khalsa High School and receives Rs. 6,000 from the Government as a grant-in-aid, has himself to spend Rs. 10,000 from his own pocket. The Department ought to encourage such people who undergo every sort of trouble and incur a lot of financial liability for the sake of public schools and reward them instead of ignoring them and deliberately aiming at destroying them as the present circular aims at. It has been set out in the circular that the Sikhs receive so much grant but it has not been shown what contributions they are making to meet these grants.

It has been said that the communities are backward because they have not got educational institutions, but has it ever been noticed that a school belonging to one community has refused admission to a student of another community. I need not quote facts and figures to show that a large number of students of communities other than the managing community is actually receiving instruction in these institutions; Khalsa College, Amritsar, and the Khalsa High School in Rawalpindi Division, which can without any fear of contradiction be called the pioneers of education in that division, can be cited as two amongst many of such institutions. There are about 40 schools belonging to the Sikh community which are the outcome of their hard labour and great sacrifice and if the managers of these schools come to you for help it is not proper, if you are reluctant in giving the required help and it would be suicidal to the national development if you pursue the policy of wiping out some of these schools. Moreover, I can predict that a fair and just distribution of schools can never be made. This policy would give the widest powers and latitude to the Inspector who would try to secure the good-will and pleasure of the Minister in charge and endeavour to check the advancement of some communities and reasonably or unreason-

[Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.]

ably, justifiably, or unjustifiably help the community stamped with the departmental seal of backwardness.

The policy aimed at, in addition to closing a number of existing schools will put a dead stop to further educational progress of the communities unfortunate enough to be considered as backward; for knowing full well that they will not get any grants-in-aid, they will not dare open new institutions.

I would request the educational authorities to encourage private enterprise and instead of opening new Government schools at the expense of thirty thousand rupees, they should try to open schools at the same expense with the help and co-operation of the people. The only remedy and the right remedy therefore is not to open many Government Schools but ask the backward community to come out in the field of education and start vigorous propaganda for this purpose and with the funds at your disposal start five times the number of private managed but Government recognized and aided schools. A number of the existing Government high schools are serving no useful purpose. These may with advantage be stopped where not required and with the savings thus effected suitable middle schools be raised to high standard.

Now, Sir, leaving the question of grant-in-aid, I would like to say a few words pertaining to the grades of fees. The annual income limit has been fixed at Rs. 2,000 for charging first grade fees. This limit is very low in these days when living has become so very costly. A man of family can hardly keep himself up with this income. A man having Rs. 2,000 income per annum is not the man to be classified under first class. He hardly deserves it, because as a matter of fact he cannot be considered anything higher than third class in society. The limit, I think, should be raised considerably higher so that it may touch the right person only.

There is another strange point in the circular and that is the new grading of the boarding house fee at first and second class. This grading never existed before and its introduction practically means making the fees four times to a particular set of students. This is on the very face of it quite unfair. It will make education very costly.

This grading of fees in the present form practically means new taxation on particular communities in the province and it does require serious consideration and necessary revision.

Another change to be brought about is that grant-in-aid will hence forward be paid for two years instead of three years for untrained graduate teachers. I do not know of any valid reason to effect this change. It will not do any good but will result in raising the expenses of private schools inasmuch as they will be forced to employ persons on higher salaries and increase the unemployment in the province. Teaching experience of 3 years used to make these future teachers take a deep insight into the course of training at the Training College and the shortening of this period will certainly mean lesser development in that direction. Forcing a two year training on Gyanis and other language teachers also seem to be quite unnecessary. It seems necessary that we should revert to the old system.

Now Sir, I turn to the question of building grants on which this circular brings about such changes as can very well be called a breach of faith on the part of the Government. It would be very unfair to lower the rates of

building rents. It is a fairly well known fact that private schools did not, in the hope of getting a recurring permanent aid in the shape of building rents get building grants in the past. Is this, Sir, the right sort of treatment to be meted out to those who left the entire amount in the hands of the Government and were contented to get a part only of the interest of that amount which accrues to the Government? Is the diminution of the rates in building rents a reward to them for their being so economical from the Government standpoint of view and making sacrifices in putting up their own buildings? The institutions which snatched the principal out of Government hands will necessarily laugh at the wisdom or folly of the schools which did not do so. This decrease in the rates, Sir, will mean a very great obstacle in the continuation of many schools, which with the present rates of grant-in-aid are making their budgets balance with great difficulty. It is only fair, just and equitable not to introduce these revised rates and I hope that the authorities concerned will please see their way to continue the old rates. Previously there were only two classes of schools, satisfactory and fairly satisfactory for purposes of giving grant-in-aid but now another classification in the shape of "excellent" and "satisfactory" has been introduced. This new 'excellent' is to be the sum total 'excellent' of all the 'excellents' in each and every department of school management. The schools will under this classification receive full grant-in-aid only if they earn the sum total 'excellent' while they used to get it only on "satisfactory" under the previous arrangements.

The remark 'excellent' Sir, is so very high sounding that an ordinary human being is averse to making it unless in exceptional cases.

This change also, Sir, will result in the private institutions earning less than the full amount of grants-in-aid and will also give very great discretion and wide latitude to the Inspectors, which may if so desired by any particular individual be abused in the case of any particular institution. I am of opinion, Sir, that the old classification was far better than the present one and will request the Honourable Minister for Education to continue it.

In the very beginning, Sir, I pointed out that it was not my desire to bring in any communal controversies in this matter and I have scrupulously avoided any such thing and I believe that this circular is not based on any communal bias and prejudice, but it solely rests on educational principles, pure and simple, which I have, however, shown to be erroneous. But I request that if there be any the least reason underneath this policy, which may in any way be tinged with communal matters then I appeal to the authorities with the following few lines of a great English poet and request them to abandon it.

'Small souls enquire, belongs this man

To own race or class or clan?

But large-hearted men embrace

As brothers all the human race.'

In conclusion, Sir, I will request the Honourable Minister for Education, that in the betterment of the national advancement of this province, he should reconsider this new policy and bring about the requisite alterations.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 11,85,700—
Total Direct Grants to Non-Government Secondary Schools. (31-B (2)—
Education.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali [Gujrat East (Muhammadan) Urban]: Sir, I am afraid I may not be able to answer all the arguments advanced by my friend Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh in his long lecture. However I will take the main arguments. To me his whole speech smacks of communal bitterness. It has been stated that hardly any school will be fortunate enough to be styled 'excellent.' But there were already two classes of schools recognised in the official registers and if there was a chance for a school being termed as 'satisfactory,' there is every likelihood of some schools coming in the 'excellent' category. We should not mistrust the Inspectors or credit them with any prejudice.

My honourable friend wanted to know which the backward community is. I do not think it is for me to name that community. Every one who goes with his eyes open can see which that community is. A perusal of the registers of school and colleges will show the backwardness of the zamindar community.

Sir, my submission is that I am surprised to see a zamindar ignoring the interests of zamindars. I want to remove this curtain from the eyes of the zamindars that there are those who, though they profess to be their well-wishers, are not so in fact. This community of zamindars is heterogeneous in its composition; and is very backward. I am sure if this community were to be taken out of India, there will be very little misery left in it. Zamindars are the only backward community in India. It has been alleged that the Honourable Minister for Education has done much for this class. I do not think so, it must be only on paper. But the greatest sin which the Honourable Minister has committed is that he has tried to uplift a really fallen community and it is really a very great sin in the eyes of those who profess themselves to be zamindars. They are, I think, wolves in the disguise of angels.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Sir, I resent these remarks. I hold the zamindar interests more sacred than my honourable friend.

Mr. President : The honourable member must not impute motives of this kind. I think he might withdraw his words.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali : Sir, I withdraw them. (Then continued in Urdu) : It has been stated that the rate of grant is unjust, and the treatment meted out to backward communities unfair. But, Sir, if the old system be pursued only those who are already advanced and in receipt of grants can get any aid to the exclusion of backward and less advanced communities. The quarrel is about the shortness of income in the face of an increased expenditure, and the sum to be spent on grants is also limited. If the old system is to continue, how can new institutions get any grant? The only trouble about this new system is that, according to it, new schools also will get a share of these grants. But my friends opposite want that only those who are already in receipt of aid should continue to have more aid.

Why is the Honourable Minister for Education being made a target of all these criticisms? Only that he has dared to go against the practice of

the world. Everybody oppresses the oppressed, and why should the Honourable Minister for Education do the opposite and try to help the outcast and low. This has been the way of the oppressors. They try to achieve their ends by flattering people, but when they see that this thing does not go, they then use oppression.

This is really very unjust. How long will you keep the low oppressed and the tyrant high? In fact, this is what they are doing in urging the Honourable Minister for Education to adopt the course suggested by them. Undoubtedly, at present, he is resisting all such pressure, but how long can this go on? He may have to yield at some moment.

Again, he has been threatened with a strong and unprecedented agitation. I wonder how they can ignore the agitation of the 90 per cent. and overawe us with the agitation of the 10 per cent. only. But, Sir, I curse my own community for this who are worthless and without any power.

Again angelwise, we are asked to be liberal. It is really strange. They spend the money which another man has earned by great toil and labour, and when he cries against this waste he is told that this is narrow-mindedness. But let us look at their own conduct. They themselves obstruct all efforts of one who wants to help a backward community.

They say, that regard should be had to the tax-payer. I wonder when I hear this word used with reference to another community. Can there really be any other tax-payer in India than the poor zamindar? They are the men who fill the coffers of the wealthy usurers in the cities and if these usurers have to pay income-tax, ultimately it is the zamindar who has to pay it in the shape of exorbitant rate of interest. Even the municipal taxes are paid by the poor zamindar who cannot carry his products to a market without first paying the octroi duty. Still they are crying against Rs. 2,000 annual income being charged first grade fees. What loss is it to you? It is the poor zamindars who have to suffer. But, Sir, the only grievance against the Minister for Education is that the zamindars have also been placed on the same level as the citizens are.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Sir, I rise to a point of order. I want to ask one question which may, if the reply to that be what I think it might be, avoid much discussion. The question is: Is the backward community referred to in the circular, the zamindar community? I want to ask what is meant by backward community? Is it the zamindar class without any distinction between Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs? Can the Honourable Minister for Education say that the backward community is the zamindar community without differentiation of religion?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Will you withdraw your speech then?

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : The speech is there. It cannot be withdrawn.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali (continued in Urdu) : I will take the districts in which there is less Muslim population. I would like to know if the grant there would be stepped for Hindus.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, I rise to explain that in the circular the classification of grants is made under the headings, Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs, not zamindars and non-zamindars. If the honourable member cares to read the circular he will find it.

Chaudhri Duli Chand : In practice the Hindu Jats are classified as backward.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali (continued in Urdu) : Sir, cannot the other backward communities take advantage of this circular and ask for grants? It does not matter that Muhammadans are greater in number in the northern districts, the Sikhs are in a similar position in the southern districts. Still the Sikhs of the Rawalpindi district, though only 5 per cent. of the population get 90 per cent. of the whole grant distributed in the district. We want that all communities should progress together. As I have already remarked somewhere we will not allow others to fly unless we also have wings and we are not prepared to allow any other to overlord us after we have done away with the one. We want to uplift other depressed classes as well.

5 P.M.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Minister for Agriculture) (Urdu) : Sir, I do not rise to speak on the circular under discussion but I have to draw the attention of the House to the unpleasant turn the debate has taken. It is very unfortunate that the Hindu-Muslim question has been brought in this debate. We should try to settle all matters on their merits.

I think I may here mention how the policy is working with special reference to pre-Reform days. The figures relate to a Hindu district to which I belong. They would clearly illustrate my point. I have been connected with a high school for many years. In fact, I was the manager of the school. I have worked for it, have raised public subscription for it and have been approaching Government for grants. I have also been the Vice-President of a District Board for the last decade or so. Realising the backwardness of the Ambala Division, I got together some figures in 1921, to draw the attention of the Education Department to the backwardness of the division. During five years' preceding 1921 a sum of 14 lakhs of rupees was spent for the building of primary schools in the province; Ambala Division should have got Rs. 5 lakhs out of this. But the House will be surprised to learn that only Rs. 50,000 was spent on primary school buildings in that division. I moved a resolution about this fact in the District Board and sent a copy of the same to the Government and other district boards for information. The result was that in 1922, when this Council sanctioned a grant for primary school buildings and authorised the Honourable Minister for Education to spend that, we got more than our share. We were entitled to about Rs. 15,000 but I am glad to say we got something nearing Rs. 45,000. Sir, this fact becomes significant when you remember that Rohtak District possesses perhaps the largest percentage of Hindu population in the Punjab.

I, therefore, would request the House not to raise this Hindu-Muslim question in matters like this. We should always work for the joint good of the country. We should take care not to create bad precedents for generations to come. We have spent two full days in discussing two departments only. In this way others will have to be run through hurriedly and the legitimate cuts which could have been made would not be made. I, therefore, again request the honourable members to sink these differences and go ahead with the work before us.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, as a matter of fact the speech made by the honourable

member who moved the amendment was of a very controversial nature and was full of observations which would hardly do credit to any one who had the least regard for justice. He excelled in attributing motives of the worst possible sort against the Minister in charge of the department. The language which he used—which of course being Urdu was not intelligible to everybody present here—was such that would not pass even in an ordinary school debate. However in view of the observations made by my honourable colleague, I feel that it will serve no useful purpose if I were to take the points raised by him and show him that in spite of the fact that he has read the circular half a dozen times, he appears to have read it with strong communal glasses on (Hear, hear) and also read into it things which have not been put into it. As a matter of fact as I have already said, I have no intention of dealing with any of the points raised by him, as the exposition of his fallacious arguments and malicious observations, is I take it, considered undesirable by the House which by its vote will show what value it attaches to the honourable mover's views.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 11,85,700—Total Direct grant to non-Government Secondary Schools. (31-B (b)—Education)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,375 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,500—Travelling Allowance—Training Schools. (31-D (a)—Education.)"

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,375 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,500—Travelling Allowance—Training Schools. (31-D (a)—Education.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) (Urdu): Sir, I object to this reduction because this item is for the travelling expenses by rail in connection with training institutions.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,375 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,500—Travelling Allowance—Training Schools. (31-D (a)—Education.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad [Dera Ghazi Khan (Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 200 with respect to the item of Rs. 3,200—Travelling Allowance—General Direction. (31-E (a)—Education.)"

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 200 with respect to the item of Rs. 3,200—Travelling Allowance—General Direction. (31-E (a)—Education.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education): Sir, I am prepared to accept this amendment and not the other amendments which propose a reduction of Rs. 800. This sum of Rs. 200 which is proposed to be reduced represents approximately one-

Hon. K. B. Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

fourth of the sum which does not cover railway fare. For this reason I accept this amendment.

Mr. President : I hope honourable members have understood that the Honourable the Minister is prepared to accept this amendment and not the other amendments for the reason that a greater part of the sum of Rs. 3,200 represents actual railway fares and that Rs. 200 represents approximately one-fourth part of the item which is not railway fare. I will put the motion to the House.

Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 200 with respect to the item of Rs. 3,200—
Travelling Allowance—General Direction. (31-E (a)—Education.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,250 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,000—
Hill Journey and Hill Allowances—Direction. (31-E (a)—Education.)"

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,250 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,000—
Hill Journey and Hill Allowances—Direction. (31-E (a)—Education.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : We now come to item No. 46.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Sir, I am prepared to accept the amendment No. 45 for a reduction of Rs. 9,500 in the same item, but not No. 46.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move my amendment No. 46 which runs as follows :—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 25,235 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,00,940—
Total Travelling Allowance—Inspection. (31-E (b)—Education (Transferred)."

Sir, the Honourable Minister for Education says that he is prepared to accept amendment No. 45 which is for a smaller reduction than the 25 per cent. about which an understanding was arrived at the other day. We are not prepared to go back on our own understanding, any body else may.

Mr. President : I must put item No. 46. Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 25,235 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,00,940—
Total Travelling Allowance—Inspection. (31-E (b)—Education (Transferred)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) (Urdu) : Sir, the same reasons are to be given for the refusal of this item. I can accept only No. 45 which is about Halting Allowance but I cannot accept No. 46.

Mr. President : If I put this No. 46 to the vote, I am afraid the effect will be that I shall not be able to put the other amendments afterwards.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: May I suggest, Sir, that item No. 45 might be put first. If it is carried, then the difference between items 46 and 45 might be put to the Council.

Mr. President: May I point out to the mover that if this amendment for reduction of 25 per cent. is lost, then he stands to lose the whole amount. If he accepts the assurance given by the Honourable Minister for Education and withdraws his amendment and allows Malik Firoz Khan, Noon, to move his amendment for a reduction of Rs. 9,500, there would be a saving of Rs. 9,500, otherwise he stands to lose the whole amount.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh: I do not care, Sir, if the whole amount is lost. It is not my pocket alone that is touched one way or the other. I stick to the understanding that was arrived at the other day. This reduction of 25 per cent. has been made in all the other departments, and I really see no reason why I should differentiate between

Mr. President: Order, order.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: May I once more try to place before you my submission? There is one item of Rs. 1,000 being attacked to the extent of Rs. 500 and

Mr. President: The point is this that the House agreed to a general reduction of 25 per cent. You say that this travelling allowance happens to be chiefly railway fares and therefore you cannot make any reduction on that. At the same time, won't it work out all right supposing the Finance Committee deals with the matter?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: What I cannot understand is this that if I cannot make a reduction of Rs. 500 in an item of Rs. 1,000 and I can make a reduction of Rs. 100, why should the President be precluded from putting that Rs. 100 to the vote?

Mr. President: I do not say I am precluded from doing so. What I say is that there is an understanding that I must put 25 per cent. I will therefore put item No. 46.

Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 25,235 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,00,940—Total Travelling Allowance—Inspection. (31-E (5)—Education (Transferred))."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided: Ayes 22; Noes 36.

AYES 22.

Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Sardar Mangal Singh.
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Sardar Partab Singh.
Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan.
Dr. Gokul Chand, Naring.
Lala Ruchi Ram, Sabni.

Pandit Nanak Chand.
Lala Sham Lal.
Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Lala Banke Rai.
Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
Lala Diwan Chand.
Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
Diwan Narinjan Das.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.

NOES 36.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
 Lt.-Col. E. L. Ward.
 Mr. E. R. Abbott.
 Mr. C. M. King.
 Mr. A. D. Blaschek.
 Sir George Anderson.
 Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
 The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chaudhri
 Lal Chand.
 The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian
 Fazl-i-Hussain.
 The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar
 Sundar Singh, Majithia.
 The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
 Mr. A. Latifi.
 Mr. Miles Irving.
 Mr. D. J. Boyd.
 Dr. C. A. Owen.
 Lt.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
 Mr. J. Coldstream.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
 Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr
 Shah.
 Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
 Sardar Jowahir Singh.
 Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
 Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
 Sayad Husain Shah.
 Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
 Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
 Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
 M. Haibat Khan.
 Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
 Chaudhri Nur Din.
 Lieut. Malik Muzaffar Khan.
 Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
 Chaudhri Duli Chand.
 Rao Pohap Singh.
 Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : The general rule is that when there are two amend-
 ments to the same item, as is now the case, the larger amendment is put
 first as it covers the lesser one. If it is carried the lesser amendment is
 not put. But if it is lost the lesser one is put. Now that the bigger
 amendment is lost, I shall put the smaller one.

Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 9,500 with respect to the item of Rs. 99,500—
 Travelling Allowance—General Inspection. (31-E. (5)—Education.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Sir, that amendment is in my name and
 I have not yet moved it.

Mr. President : I am trying to save the time of the Council by putting
 these amendments myself, as I announced I would do some days ago.

The motion was carried.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Sir, I do not propose to move the next
 amendment in my name, but I should like to offer a few remarks as to why I
 do not move it.

Mr. President : I am afraid you cannot do so.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Then I will move my amendment.

Mr. President : I wish to explain to the honourable member that if he
 wishes not to move the amendment he must simply say so. He cannot
 explain why he does not move it. But if he moves the amendment and then
 asks for leave to withdraw it he will be in order provided he only explains
 why he withdraws and does not enter into the merits at all.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Punjab University) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,800 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,800—
 Travelling Allowance of non-official Members of Educational Conferences—Edu-
 cation—General—Miscellaneous. (31-E (2)—Education.)"

Sir, I do not wish to press this amendment for the simple reason that the House is charged with communal electricity. (Hear, hear). It is not therefore possible for this House to discuss this question without bringing in communal feelings. I therefore beg to withdraw the motion.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Sir, are you permitting the honourable member to withdraw this amendment on the ground that the House is incapable of dealing with the question except with communal feelings?

Mr. President : Is it the wish of the House that leave should be given to withdraw the amendment?

Nobody dissenting, the amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. President : The question is—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,06,800 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 1925 in respect of Education (Transferred).”

The motion was carried.

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH GRANT.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, I beg to move—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 35,55,000 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 1925 in respect of Medical and Public Health.”

Mr. President : The question is—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 35,55,000 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 1925 in respect of Medical and Public Health.”

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 950 with respect to the item of Rs. 3,300 — Travelling Allowance—Superintendence. (32-A.—Medical).”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided ; Ayes 22; Noes 36.

AYES 22.

Sardar Jodh Singh.

Sardar Tara Singh.

Sardar Mangal Singh.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq.

Mr. V. F. Gray.

Sardar Partab Singh.

Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan.

Pandit Nanak Chand.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.

Lala Sham Lal.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.

Lala Bodh Raj.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.

Lala Banke Rai.

Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.

Lala Diwan Chand.

Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.

Diwan Narinjan Das.

Chaudhri Ram Singh.

NOES 36.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
 Lt.-Col. E. L. Ward.
 Mr. E. R. Abbott.
 Mr. C. M. King.
 Sir George Anderson.
 Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
 The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand.
 The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.
 The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
 The Honourable Sir John Maynard.
 Mr. A. Latifi.
 Mr. Miles Irving.
 Mr. D. J. Boyd.
 Lt.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
 Mr. J. Coldstream.
 Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
 Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr Shab.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
 Sardar Jowahir Singh.
 Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
 Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
 Sayad Husain Shah.
 Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
 Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
 Lieut. Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan.
 M. Haibat Khan.
 Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
 Chaudhri Nar Din.
 Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan.
 Lieut. Malik Muzaffar Khan.
 Rai Sabib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
 Chaudhri Duli Chand.
 Rao Pohap Singh.
 Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
 Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President: It was suitable that I should put amendments relating to travelling allowance from the chair, as long as the motions were not of a controversial nature, but motions under this grant appear to be of a controversial nature, for some of them are for a reduction of 25 per cent. and others are for lesser sums and so I will leave them to be moved in the ordinary way by the members. I will now take up amendment No. 5 standing in the name of Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan.

Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan (Ambala Division, North-East (Muhammadan)) Rural: Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 200 with respect to the item of Rs. 8,800—Travelling Allowance—Superintendence, (32-A—Medical).”

Mr. V. F. Gray Punjab Chamber of Commerce and Trades Association, Commerce): I understood, Sir, from the arrangement that we came to the other day that 25 per cent. of the travelling allowances should be cut all along. I cannot understand why this change has occurred to-day. The explanation given is that a good deal of these items refers to railway fares. Do not the others which we have been reducing till now consist of railway fares? I do not at all understand why this change has come and why the travelling allowances are no longer allowed to have this cut without a division as usual. The arrangement was that we should cut the travelling allowances by 25 per cent. and that a committee should be appointed to go into the whole question and that we should agree to Government coming forward later on with a supplementary grant, if necessary.

Mr. President: I am simply following the House. I have no authority myself either to make these cuts or not to make them. It is a matter entirely for the House and perhaps the Honourable Minister will put his point of view before the House.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education): Sir, I am extremely sorry if up till now the point of view which seems to be extremely simple has not been put by me before the House or if it has not been understood by the House. The point is this. There are travelling allowances and travelling allowances. In some cases the travelling allowance is pure and simple railway journey allowance. Is there any honourable member of the House who wants to cut 25 per cent. of the already reduced railway journey allowances? Am I right in thinking so? Or is it the wish of the honourable members of this House that we should now cut 25 per cent. of the already reduced rate although it is not going to be given effect to, and later on come again with a supplementary grant? This does not seem to me to stand to reason. If there is an item where it is not possible to say which portion of it consists of railway fare and how much of it consists of other items such as halting allowance, allowance for road journeys and so on, we might cut 25 per cent. of that sum. In order to avoid proceeding in that way and in order to proceed in a businesslike way which would commend itself to all members of the Council, and having had sufficient time since the convention of an all-round cut of 25 per cent. was started, I made enquiries from the various heads of departments, the extent to which the various items consisted of railway journeys, road journeys and halting allowance. When the committee which is going to be appointed decides to reduce items other than railway journeys up to an amount not exceeding 25 per cent. then there would not be too much on the budget side of these departments kept locked up as it were without being utilised. It was only to simplify matters that I made enquiries from the heads of departments.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadian) Urban]: Sir, may I say just a few words in respect to this matter? The explanation that the Honourable the Minister for Education has given does not seem to be satisfactory. So far as I could follow him, he has given two reasons why he is not prepared to accept any cuts in the travelling allowance in his department. The first reason is that so far as these amendments are concerned, they relate to railway fare. If that is so, as has been pointed out by Mr. Gray, the cuts which have been made already in other departments would also affect travelling by railway. There does not seem to be any reason why the officers of the transferred departments should be more addicted to travelling by railway or should have greater necessity for travelling by rail than the officers in other departments. I think on the whole, all things being equal, such travelling will be done by railways as much in other departments as in these departments. The second reason given by the Honourable Minister for Education was that this had already been cut by 25 per cent. and that there was no room for further reduction. If I have been correctly following the proceedings with respect to the reductions in travelling allowance, I have been under the impression that similar reductions are to be made in travelling allowances so far as journey by railway is concerned in other departments also. The Honourable the Minister for Education put a question to the House whether there was any member who thought that a further reduction of 25 per cent. could be made in the travelling allowances so far as they related to travelling by rail. My answer is that it all depends upon this. If the officers who belong to the department of which the Honourable the Minister for Education is in charge while travelling by rail receive only the actual railway fare, then it would be foolish to ask for any proportionate reduction in the travel-

[Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.]

ling allowance so far as it related to travelling by rail. The Railway is not going to show any concession to officers of Government simply because a majority in this Council want the travelling allowance to be reduced by 25 per cent. But are the officers who travel receiving only the actual railway fare? So far as I know, there is hardly any officer who receives only the actual railway fare. If there were any such officer, then no member of this House would insist on any reduction in his travelling allowance so far as the journeys by rail were concerned. I take it that a majority of the officers whether in the departments which are under the control of the Minister or in other departments are paid more—may be a little more or much more—than the actual railway fares that they pay to the railway company.

Mr. President: Is it necessary to go into such details?

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: My submission is that the explanation offered by the Honourable Minister is no explanation at all. There is no valid distinction between officers belonging to this department and the officers working in other departments. The whole question is whether the Government after having given an undertaking that the whole question will be considered by the Finance Committee so far as the reduction of the rates is concerned can now make any exception with consistency and fairness in so far as the transferred departments are concerned. What we really notice is that the Honourable Minister is too partial to his department. It is by itself not a thing of which he ought to be 'ashamed,' using the expression which he himself used the other day. It is to a certain extent very commendable that the head of the department should be patronising towards his department. But we have to take the province as a whole. We cannot make any exception or any invidious distinction between officers of one department and the officers of another department, because this would surely lead to grumbling on the part of the officers in other departments and they would justly feel aggrieved.

Mr. President: That is not the intention at all.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: Whether it is the intention or not, the question is, what will be the result? If I were an officer belonging to another department, I would wish the Honourable Mr. Fazl-i-Husain to be the head of my department and would feel discontented with the present head of my department. That is the point that has to be considered. My submission is that no room should be given for the creation of such a feeling in the minds of officers.

I wish to say only one word before I sit down. It is very well to possess a giant's strength, but it is not always politic to use that strength. I would appeal to the honourable members on the other side to be more discriminating than they are at present. I need not go any further into this matter. I have kept absolutely silent on every point till now, because it would serve no useful purpose to go into the matter at length.

Mr. President: As I am quite impartial in this matter, the House may like to hear my impression. My impression was that we were to have no more discussion on travelling allowances. That is to say, I was to put all proposals for a 25 per cent. reduction which came from a certain group and there was to be an end of it. No doubt the course adopted by the Honourable Minister will save a certain amount of cutting and then restor-

ing. As far as I can see, it will be absolutely necessary that these cuts should be very largely restored in so far as they relate to journeys by rail. But still I am inclined to think that we did not contemplate making any difference at that time between journeys by road and journeys by rail. At any rate it did not get into my head. No doubt it will cause extra work to come later on with supplementary grants. I think the better course will be to allow the thing to run its normal course of 25 per cent. reduction all round and then come with supplementary grants.

Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan [Attock (Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, there seems to be some misunderstanding in regard to these allowances. The honourable member, Dr. Gukul Chand, Narang, was not here yesterday when the Honourable the Minister for Education gave the assurance that if the Finance Committee recommended a reduction in the rates and if his colleagues in the other departments accepted that reduction, he would be the first to abide by that reduction. The only difference is that we are passing the grants of the transferred departments because we take the assurance of the Honourable Minister that he will reduce later on if it was found necessary and we are confident that he will abide by that assurance. In the reserved department we first cut the allowances by 25 per cent. and then ask them to come with a supplementary grant and we promise to support that grant later on if found necessary. In this case we are doing exactly the same thing. We feel we have got a certain amount of control over the transferred department, and that is why we are passing the grants without cutting them at present. We do not have the same control over the reserved departments.

Mr. President: Why do you make any distinction between reserved and transferred departments?

Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan: I do not make any distinction at all.

Mr. Miles Irving (Financial Secretary): May I point out to the House that these grants are distributed in whatever form they are passed by the House and the Heads of Department will have to act upon them as they are distributed to them? At any rate the Ministers of transferred subjects will be responsible for keeping the total expenditure during the year within whatever the House votes. They are taking a serious responsibility if they assume that the House will later on vote for a supplementary grant. The Accountant-General will probably draw the attention of the Minister when he finds that the monthly rate of expenditure on travelling exceeds the grant voted by this House.

Mr. President: That is a point which should have been thought of earlier.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education): You have asked me, Sir, whether I would move with a view to your convenience than for any other reason agree to your moving yourself the amendments on larger figures on the basis of one-fourth of the total amount. In view of the fact that it is taking a very long time and that you desire that course.....

Mr. President: I merely stated that that was my impression of the decision arrived at a few days ago.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: If it is on the basis of the decision to which various members of Government were not parties, I am afraid that is not the ground on which I can agree to it. If, on the other hand you, Sir, say that there is going to be a general day for supplementary grants for everybody and that it would be more convenient if these are taken on the supplementary grant day, then I am quite willing to say: All right, let us all have a fresh day for supplementary grants.

Mr. President: That is not my point at all.

Lala Diwan Chand [Amritsar City (Non-Muhammadan)] (Urdu): Sir, the real question of Dr. Gokul Chand, whether the actual railway fare will be touched by this reduction of 25 per cent. has not been answered. If we get an answer to that, whether the actual fare is touched or not, we will be able to form some opinion.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner): I think, Sir, it would be well if we adjourn now so that we may come to some decision before the House again meets.

Mr. President: I think that would be a suitable course.

The Council then adjourned till two o'clock on Thursday, the 20th March 1924.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

2ND SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 20th March 1924.

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

OATH OF OFFICE.

The following member was sworn in :—

Mr. V. Stainton—Official, nominated.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ACTION ON RESOLUTION REGARDING EXTINCTION OF PROVINCIAL CONTRIBUTION.

310. Lala Mohan Lal : (a) Will Government kindly state what action has been taken on the resolution* passed by the last Punjab Legislative Council recommending the reduction of provincial contribution of 175 lakhs payable to Government of India ?

(b) Will Government kindly state whether this matter of provincial contribution came up for consideration before the conference of Finance Members of different provinces ? If so, did the Punjab member in that conference press for reduction of contribution from the Punjab and with what results ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) Government has represented to the Government of India on several occasions the desirability of making a reduction of the contribution.

(b) The question of reduction of provincial contribution did not come up for consideration before the conference of Finance Members in November last, but was discussed at a previous conference in April 1922. Government is not at liberty to disclose the proceedings.

ALLEGED DESECRATION OF SRI AKAL TAKHT BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

311. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : (a) Is it a fact that Government officers and men while attempting to arrest members of the *Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak* Committee tried to go up to *Sri Akal Takht*, despite the protests of *Sewadars* and other Sikhs present at the time ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what action it has taken or proposes to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The honourable member is referred to the answer given to Sardar Tara Singh's question No. 190.†

*Vol. III, pages 39—44, 68—73.

†Vol. VI, page 398.

SARDAR KHARAK SINGH.

312. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Is it a fact that Sardar Kharak Singh, late President of the *Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak* Committee and P.P.C.C., now undergoing imprisonment in Dera Ghazi Khan Jail—

- (a) has been debarred of the right of interviews ;
- (b) has been confined in a cell for nearly one year ;
- (c) has considerably decreased in weight ;
- (d) has not been wearing clothes for more than one year ;
- (e) has been awarded sentence after sentence since his confinement ?

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.

AKALI PRISONERS IN MULTAN CENTRAL JAIL.

313. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Is it a fact that the Akali prisoners in Central Jail, Multan, are given filthy abuse, beaten with shoes and otherwise, and that their sacred *keshas* are dishonoured, and that there are serious complaints against the officials of this jail ? If so, will the Government consider the appointment of a committee of enquiry consisting of three non-official members of this Council to make a full enquiry into the matter ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

SEARCH OF THE OFFICE OF THE *Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak* COMMITTEE.

314. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Is it a fact that only recently the search of the office of *Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak* Committee at Amritsar was carried out at night time without any warrants for search, and in doing so several Sikhs were beaten and badly injured and several others detained inside the office and not allowed to go out even for calls of nature and that no lists of articles taken away were prepared ? If so, will the Government please state what action has it taken or does it intend to take against persons who were responsible for these irregularities ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The search was carried out in the early morning. No warrants were required by the Police who were investigating a cognizable offence. No Sikhs were beaten and injured. Men inside the building were detained till it was ascertained who they were. Lists of the papers seized have been prepared. They were packed in boxes which were closed and sealed by the Officer in-charge, his signet ring being handed over to the Committee. Thereafter the seals were broken in the presence of representatives of the Committee and the lists prepared, signed by the representatives, and copies provided.

ANBALA DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

315. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : With reference to question No. 2573* put by Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram in the last Council, will the Government please state whether it has considered the suggestion made by that Honourable member; if so, please state further as to the result which it has arrived at ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : As promised in part (c) of the reply to Council question No. 2573,* put by Rai Sahib Lala

Ganga Ram in the last Council Government have carefully considered the suggestion made by that honourable member, but in view of the possibility of litigation foreshadowed by the questions on this subject Government do not consider it advisable to give the information asked for.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONGST PUBLIC PROSECUTORS.

316. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Will Government be pleased to state the number of Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs employed as public prosecutors in January 1924?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : In January 1924, public prosecutors were divided among the different communities as follows :—

14 Hindus, 10 Muhammadans, 1 Sikh and 1 Christian.

In addition to the above 4 Hindus have been temporarily appointed as special public prosecutors.

PANCHAYATS IN THE PROVINCE.

317. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Will the Government please lay on the table the answer to question No. 2597* put by Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das in the last Legislative Council and also state at what further places in the province have panchayats since been established and also state further as to the work done by them?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Copy of the answer to question No. 2597* is laid on the table.

The attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer given to Council question No. 289†.

*Answer to Council Question No. 2597.**

The following statement gives the information required :—

<i>Name of District.</i>	<i>Name of Panchayat Village.</i>	<i>Number of cases decided by each Panchayat.</i>
Sheikhpura ...	Chhinne ...	Nil.
Do. ...	Obamke ...	"
Do. ...	Karkan ...	"
Lahore ...	Chung Panj Garan ...	"
Do. ...	Manga ...	"
Do. ...	Kir Kalan ...	"
Do. ...	Machiala Khurd ...	"
Do. ...	Jaman ...	"
Do. ...	Tera ...	"
Do. ...	Rukhanwala ...	"
Do. ...	Daftuh ...	"
Do. ...	Kanganpur ...	"
Do. ...	Khokhar Ashraf ...	"
Do. ...	Shamasabad ...	"
Gurdaspur ...	Kalanaur ...	"
Do. ...	Kanjrar ...	13
Do. ...	Jaura Singh ...	Nil.
Do. ...	Kala Afghana ...	"
Amritsar ...	Varpal ...	"

*Volume V, page 122.

†Volume VI, pages 646-647.

[Hon'ble K. B. Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

<i>Name of District.</i>	<i>Name of Panchayat Village.</i>	<i>Number of cases decided by each Panchayat.</i>
Ludhiana ...	Gill ...	7
Do. ...	Dhandari Khurd ...	2
Do. ...	Chapar ...	7
Do. ...	Andlu ...	10
Do. ...	Mohi ...	27
Do. ...	Kot Mana ...	3
Do. ...	Kaonke ...	26
Do. ...	Lilon ...	2
Do. ...	Mallah ...	25
Do. ...	Mandiala Kalan ...	13
Do. ...	Kotala ...	2
Ferozapore ...	Deputy Commissioner says that elections of panches have been held in six villages only, but no cases decided as yet. He does not give the names of the panchayats elected.	

EXPENDITURE ON THE MAINTENANCE OF CIVIL STATION ROADS BY DISTRICT BOARDS.

318. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Is it a fact that District Boards in the province spend large amounts on civil station roads in headquarters to the sacrifice of the interest of rural population ; if so, will the Government please issue instructions to the District Boards on the subject in order to minimise the expenditure under this head ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : It is a fact that some District Boards in the province spend money in varying amounts on civil station roads at headquarters. This item of expenditure is one of those for which the consolidated grant is given to District Boards by Government. In view of this the second part of the question does not arise.

CORRUPTION IN MUTATION CASES IN THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

319. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Is the Government aware that a lot of corruption is practised in mutation cases in the Revenue Department ? If so, will the Government please state what steps does it intend to take to check this practice ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Government is not aware of any complaint of corruption such as is suggested in the question.

If the honourable member will bring any specific cases to the notice of Government, action will be taken to investigate them and to secure the punishment of those proved to be guilty.

ASSISTANTS AND CLERKS IN THE CIVIL SECRETARIAT AND HEADQUARTERS OFFICES.

320. **Lala Bodh Raj** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the system of recruitment and standard of qualifications for assistants and clerks in the Civil Secretariat and Headquarters offices ?

(b) Is it a fact that in certain Headquarters offices qualified Indians are passed over for promotion to superior grades in the interests of Anglo-Indians?

(c) Is it a fact that an Indian Graduate and an Anglo-Indian candidate who has studied up to the high standard which is equal to the Matriculation examination of an Indian University generally get the same pay, while in some cases Indian graduates are even entertained at lower rates?

(d) Will the Government please state if the rules allow any opportunity to an Indian Matriculate qualified for work of a more responsible nature to rise to the scale allowed to assistants?

(e) Is it a fact that in Headquarters offices and in the Secretariat, Indian Matriculates having office experience have qualified themselves for work involving greater responsibility and have actually discharged the duties to the entire satisfaction of their superiors but they have not been selected for promotion? If so, does the Government consider it desirable to assign a definite proportion of vacancies to men having office experience in the higher grade? Will the Government please lay on the table answers to the above questions?

Mr. H. D. Craik : The information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member in due course.

LAMBARARS IN THE MUZAFFARGARH DISTRICT.

321. Lala Bodh Raj : Is it a fact that a large number of lambarars in the Muzaffargarh District realized revenue and instead of paying it into the Government Treasury used it for their own purposes?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : No such information has reached Government.

Lala Bodh Raj : Will Government care to enquire into the fact?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Unless the honourable member makes some specific statement, I cannot undertake an enquiry.

SAFEGUARDING THE INTERESTS OF HINDUS IN DISTRICT BOARDS.

322. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please state if it intends to take any measure to safeguard the interests of Hindus in view of the results of the elections to District Boards in accordance with which a great majority of the members are Muhammadans?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member's attention is invited to paragraphs 10 and 12 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 him.

ARREST OF PERSONS IN HOSHIARPUR AND JULLUNDUR DISTRICTS.

323. Sardar Tara Singh : Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) the number by community of persons taken in police custody in 1923 in Hoshiarpur and Jullundur Districts;

(b) the number by community of persons arrested by the police in Hoshiarpur and Jullundur Districts in 1923 but let off without a chalan;

[Sardar Tara Singh.]

(e) the number by community of persons challaned by the police in Hoshiarpur and Jullundur Districts in 1923 but discharged by courts ;

(d) the number by community of persons challaned by the police in Hoshiarpur and Jullundur Districts in 1923 and convicted by courts ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Police and judicial statistics are not kept by communities and therefore an answer to the question would involve an excessive expenditure of public time and labour. In the circumstances it is regretted that the information required cannot be supplied.

SUPPLY OF CONVEYANCE TO INDIAN PRISONERS.

324. Sardar Tara Singh : With reference to the answer to question No. 2165,* asked on the 27th February 1923, will the Government please consider the advisability of removing the distinction between European and Indian prisoners in the matter of providing conveyance to them ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The cost of abolishing the distinction will be calculated, and the suggestion for its abolition placed before the Standing Finance Committee for advice.

ENGLISH PAPER OF THE PUNJAB EUROPEAN HIGH SCHOOLS EXAMINATION.

325. Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Will Government be pleased to state —

(a) why was the English paper in the annual High School examination of the Punjab European High Schools held in November 1923, corrected by a person other than the examiner who set it ;

(b) whether these papers were scrutinized a second time ; if so, by whom and for what purpose, and what was the effect of this action on the number of passes of the various schools ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) Yes, in consequence of serious illness on the part of the first examiner.

(b) The Inspector of European Schools scrutinized the papers with a view to seeing whether the marking was reasonable and whether the two examiners had maintained uniformity in the standard. The effect of the scrutiny was that the marks were slightly raised all round.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : What I wanted to know was the effect of this action on the number of passes. Did the scrutiny make any difference in the number of passes in the various schools ? Is it a fact that the number of passes in some schools was less and that it was raised a little and in some schools where the number was more it was reduced as a result of this scrutiny ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I think it was probably so because the marks were slightly raised all round. I cannot answer the question as to the number of passes which were due to this scrutiny.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Has this procedure ever been followed in any other case ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I am afraid I must ask notice of that question.

PROFESSIONAL TAX ON RESIDENTS OF VILLAGES IN THE SHAHPUR DISTRICT.

326. Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether a professional tax has been imposed on the residents of villages in the Shahpur District, and whether such tax gives them a right to vote at the District Board elections;
- (b) whether the lists of voters were completed before the imposition of the above-mentioned professional tax was announced;
- (c) whether the persons paying this professional tax will be able to exercise their votes at the next elections of the District Board in the Shahpur District;
- (d) whether the residents of towns have been deprived of the right of voting at the District Board elections;
- (e) whether it is contemplated to revise the lists of District Board voters so as to include the residents of towns and those residents of villages who have been assessed to the newly-imposed professional tax?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Under the rules every male British subject or natural born subject of a State in India residing within the district, of sound mind, and not less than 21 years of age, is entitled to be registered as a voter if he pays in the district Rs. 4 per annum or upwards in the form of any cess, rate or tax other than the local rate to the District Board.

(b) and (c) Yes.

(d) Not where they had the right to vote.

(e) Lists of District Board voters are revised annually, and all those who are entitled to vote have a right to get registered as voters.

CANAL IN PIND DADAN KHAN SUB-DIVISION.

327. Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: Will the Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken by it to carry out the promise made to the Council on 10th of November 1922 by the Revenue Member to have a committee appointed to consider the question of the construction of a canal in the salt-affected area of Pind Dadan Khan Sub-Division?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: A committee to consider the construction of Jalalpur Canal, was duly appointed, and had a meeting on 30th April 1923. The committee recommended that a detailed contour survey should be undertaken at once. This was accordingly arranged, and an estimate amounting to Rs. 9,000 was sanctioned on 4th August 1923, to cover the cost of carrying out a rectangular and soil survey of the Jalalpur Canal tract between Jalalpur and Khushab. Another for Rs. 2,058 was sanctioned on 22nd October 1923, to cover the cost of obtaining surveying instruments. Survey work was begun in the first week of October 1923, and is in progress.

REVENUE RECORDS OF THE ATTOCK DISTRICT.

328. Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan: Will the Government kindly state—

- (a) if the revenue records of the Attock District, particularly the "Jamabandis" and the "Khasta Girdawaris" are reported not to be dependable;

[Lt. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.]

(b) if the village notes and other records prepared during the previous settlement have been found to be defective or in need of special revision ;

(c) if the answers to (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the defects and the circumstances necessitating special revision ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia : The Survey of India have drawn attention to certain inaccuracies in the existing maps of the Attock District. The extent to which a revision of these maps and of the other revenue records may be necessary is engaging the attention of the Financial Commissioner.

CIVIL SUITS RELATING TO DISPUTES OVER VILLAGE BOUNDARIES, ETC.

329. Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that there have been no cases (civil suits) (1) relating to disputes over village boundaries, (2) due to incorrect plans and village records and (3) disputing the rights as laid down in the "Wajib-ul-arz" during the last 20 years, in which the plans, village records or "Wajib-ul-arz" were held by the courts to be incorrect?

(b) If there have been any such cases, will Government please lay on the table a list of all such cases ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : (a) The Government believe that there have been many cases in the province of the three classes mentioned in the last 20 years.

(b) The list would be a long one and the honourable member's purpose would probably be served by limiting the information to a specified district. If he would specify a district, Government will make enquiries but cannot undertake to extend the scope of them over so long a period as 20 years.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : I wanted this information particularly in the case of the Attock District. It has somehow been inadvertently left out.

Mr. D. J. Boyd : Enquiries will be made, Sir.

TRANSFER OF THE AMBALA CITY GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL TO NARAINGARH.

330. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : (i) Is it a fact that there is no high school in Tahsil Naraingarh of Ambala District ?

(ii) Is it a fact that the Government High School, Ambala City, is going to be closed ?

(iii) If so, will the Government please, acting under paragraph 12 of the Government of the Punjab (Ministry of Education) C.M. No. 13070-G., dated 6th November 1923, transfer the Ambala City Government High School to Naraingarh ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (i) No.

(ii) and (iii) The attention of the honourable member is invited to part (c) of answer to question No. 157.*

TEMPORARY BRIDGE AND TEMPORARY ROAD IN GHAGGAR NEAR MUBARIKPUR.

331. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that a lot of money is spent every year in building a temporary bridge on and a temporary road in Ghaggar near Mubarikpur, Ambala District? If so, will the Government please state the amount of money spent during the last five years, giving the figures for each year on their construction and maintenance?

(b) Is it a fact that proposals were under consideration to build a permanent bridge on Ghaggar at Mubarikpur? If so, will the Government please state the estimated cost of this bridge and state further as to when does it propose to start the work?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : (a) The expenditure incurred on the maintenance of the road over the main bed of the Ghaggar River and also over the adjoining new spill channel (about $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile beyond the Ghaggar River) down which the main stream of the Ghaggar River is trying to flow is as follows for the last 5 years :—

	Rs.
1919-20	1,341
1920-21	2,948
1921-22	7,992
1922-23	2,847
1923-24	2,126
Total	17,254

Average per annum 3,450

The above sum includes the expenditure incurred on the fascine road (earth and grass with twigs) as well as the work done on the temporary bridging and protective repair work. Separate accounts have not been maintained.

(b) Yes, proposals have been under consideration for some years. The cost of a high level bridge has been estimated at about 15 lakhs, and cannot be considered in present circumstances. The possibility of building a "Submersible bridge" i.e., a permanent bridge which would be submerged only by extraordinary floods, is under consideration. This would be cheaper. As to starting work, when funds are available the many delayed improvements to the communications of the province will have to be considered and classed in order of urgency, and it is not possible to say what place the Ghaggar bridge will take on the list.

DRY FARMING STATIONS IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICTS.

332. **Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of experimental agricultural farms in the Punjab and the places where they are situated?

(b) Is it a fact that there are no agricultural farms of any kind in the northern districts of the province (*vis.*, Jhelum, Rawalpindi, Attock, Mianwali)? If so, will Government consider the advisability of establishing a dry farming station at a suitable place in any of the northern districts at an early date?

[Lt. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.]

(a) Is it a fact that Government contemplated establishing a dry farming station at Hasan Abdal in the Attock District some years back? If so, will Government be pleased to give effect to that proposal now?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : (a) Four. They are situated at Lyallpur, Gurdaspur, Hansi and Kahuta, respectively. The Kahuta farm is for Bara Reclamation. The others are general experimental farms.

(b) (1) There are no farms under the Agricultural Department in these districts.

(2) Government has already approved of the establishment of a dry farming station in the northern districts. A site has not yet been found.

(a) Government did consider such a proposal, but the site was not considered very suitable and the acquisition of land involved some hardship on the owners of the land.

Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan : Is it a fact that the Honourable the Finance Member (when he was Financial Commissioner) and the then Director of Agriculture, approved of the Hassanabad site?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : I will make enquiries.

Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan : Will Government be pleased to open a farm at Hassanabad, if the owners of land there did not object to part with their lands for the purposes of opening an experimental farm?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : I will enquire from the Head of Department.

AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANTS, ETC., FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PROPAGANDA PURPOSES IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICTS.

333. Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan : (a) Is Government aware that while most of the districts other than northern districts in the province have Agricultural Assistants and other staff of the Agriculture Department for development and propaganda work, the northern districts have been entirely ignored in this respect?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state their reasons for the above?

(c) Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of extending these facilities to the aforementioned districts?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : (a) There are no Agricultural Assistants in the districts of Simla, Kangra, Ludhiana, Jhelum, Rawalpindi, Attock, Mianwali and Gujranwala. All other districts have Agricultural Assistants. Most of them have one Assistant each.

(b) The reasons are financial.

(c) The desirability is undoubted; the only difficulty is the want of funds.

CULTIVATION BY MACHINERY.

334. Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan : Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to encourage cultivation

by machinery? Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of keeping agricultural machinery including motor tractors at suitable centres for hire to the public?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : Government is experimenting with such machines in order to ascertain whether it would be advisable for farmers to adopt them. The information available up to the present is insufficient to justify Government in definitely recommending them. Results indicate that steam tackle is likely to be useful for large estates, and in such cases cultivation by steam tackle is cheaper than by motor tractors, though probably not as cheap as by bullock power. The steam tackle at Kahuta will be made available to farmers on hire if applied for.

TRAINED AGRICULTURISTS AS MANAGERS OR ASSISTANT MANAGERS OF ESTATES UNDER THE COURT OF WARDS.

335. Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan : Is it a fact that most of the estates under the Court of Wards own extensive agricultural property? If so, will Government be pleased to consider the question of employing trained agriculturists as Managers or Assistant Managers of such estates?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Yes.

Yes. As far as possible endeavours would be made to employ as Managers men with agricultural training.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES IN GUJAR KHAN TAHSIL.

336. Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan : Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact —

- (i) that a Bench of Honorary Magistrates consisting of retired military officers was constituted at the time of the Coronation Darbar in Tahsil Gujar Khan, and that four of the members of this Bench were *Musalman*s and the remaining two were Khatri Sikhs ;
- (ii) that 90 per cent of the Muslim population of Tahsil Gujar Khan consists of soldiers who are at present engaged in agriculture ;
- (iii) that the Khatri Sikhs form about 15 per cent of the population of Tahsil Gujar Khan ;
- (iv) that two Khatri Sikhs are already working on the Bench of Honorary Magistrates ;
- (v) that a third gentleman who is a money-lender has been nominated a member of the Bench? If so, will Government be pleased to state their reasons for passing over the names of Muslim military officers ;
- (vi) that the inhabitants of Gujar Khan have made representations to the Deputy Commissioner, the Commissioner and the Local Government against the Khatri Sikh Honorary Magistrates? If so, will Government be pleased to lay a copy of these representations on the table?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : (i) Yes.

(ii) Eleven per cent. of the able bodied male population of the tahsil was in the Army at the close of the war. The proportion of the Muslim population is not known. It is probable that nearly all Muslim soldiers of the tahsil are engaged in agriculture.

(iii) The Sikhs of this tahsil are nearly all of them Khatri Sikhs ; they form about 7 per cent. of the population of the tahsil.

(iv) Yes.

(v) No.

(vi) Not so far as Government is aware.

EXCESSES IN MULTAN JAIL.

337. Sardar Jodh Singh : (a) Is the Government aware that complaints are being circulated by the prisoners lately released from the Multan Jail to the effect that excesses have been perpetrated on the Akali prisoners in that jail ?

(b) If so, what action does the Government intend to take in that matter ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to allow such of the non-official members of this Council, who want to do so, to visit the Multan Central Jail and verify the truth or otherwise of such allegations ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) Government is aware that complaints have been circulated.

(b) The officer who was Superintendent of the Multan Central Jail till recently has been invited to take legal proceedings. It is hoped therefore that the facts will be judicially ascertained.

(c) The course suggested in this part of the question is not a satisfactory method of enquiry.

SUB-TAHSIL AT AHMADPUR SIAL.

338. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Arising out of the answer to my question No. 37,* dated 23th February 1924, will Government be pleased to state—

(a) how far Ahmadpur Sial is situated from the headquarters of Jhang District ?

(b) is it a fact that a number of serious dacoities and disturbances have taken place during the last few years ? If so, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of establishing an entirely separate sub-tahsil at Ahmadpur Sial ?

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.

BHAI UDAM SINGH JI, JATHEDAR, SRI AKAL TAKHT.

339. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : (a) Is it a fact that Bhai Udam Singh Ji, Jathedar, Sri Akal Takht, was arrested on the evening of the 8th February 1924 and kept in the Amritsar Kotwali lock-up for the night ?

(b) Is it a fact that the *Pagri* (turban) of Bhai Sahib was forcibly removed from him by some police officials and returned to him in the morning after tearing the half of it away?

(c) Is it also a fact that Bhai Sahib Ji was not taken out for call of nature till nine in the evening and the lock-up where he was kept was dirty?

(d) Is the Government aware that the *Jathedar, Sri Akal Takht*, is held in great esteem by the Sikhs?

If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will the Government please state what has been done or it intends to do in the matter?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) No. A sweeper is employed to look after the lock-up, which is always kept clean.

(d) As Bhai Udam Singh has been arrested for a cognizable offence, *viz.*, section 17 (2) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act (XIV of 1908), Government is not prepared to interfere in the matter.

GOVERNMENT DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT.

Mr. President : I would invite the honourable members to a notice which will be put up this afternoon on the notice board relating to a supplementary demand for Rs. 50,000 which will be brought forward on Monday, the 24th or Tuesday, the 25th March next. I draw the attention to the notice so that members may have time to put in amendments. The notice has only just been received and it has not been possible to print it up.

GOVERNMENT DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH GRANT—(concluded).

Mr. President : The House will now resume the discussion on Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan's amendment for a reduction of Rs. 200 in respect of the item of Rs. 3,800, Travelling Allowance.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Sir, before we begin the discussion to-day I would like to draw the attention of the House through you to the fact that this is the last day of the budget and all that remains of the demands will have to be rushed through this afternoon before 5 o'clock. The day before yesterday the House spent a good deal of its time in discussing the items of travelling allowance, a matter which had already been discussed in the Council and about which an agreement had been arrived at. Now, Sir, I would request the Government members and especially the Ministers to accept the cut of 25 per cent. with regard to these items and allow the House to proceed with the other more important items on the agenda.

If the Ministers want more money for travelling allowance later on they may come forward with supplementary demands just as is going to be the case with the other departments. That will, I think, save a good deal of the time of the House. (Hear, hear.) I think the Honourable Ministers will accede to this request.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Sir, I have no objection to act in the way suggested by Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : It must be understood that the responsibility for the waste of time of the House does not lie on anybody else except the Honourable Minister for Education.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: No, Sir. I must protest against that view. It appears to me that surely many members of the House are responsible for the waste of the time.

Mr. President: The motion before the House is—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 200 with respect to the item of Rs. 3,800—
Travelling Allowance—Superintendence. (32-A—Medical)."

The motion was carried.

Sardar Tara Singh [Feroz e pere (Sikh) Rural]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,200 with respect to the item of Rs. 4,800—
Hill Journey and Hill Allowances—Superintendence. (32-A—Medical)."

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,200 with respect to the item of Rs. 4,800—
Hill Journey and Hill Allowances—Superintendence. (32-A—Medical)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education): Sir, is this an item which comes under those about which an understanding has been arrived at?

Mr. President: No.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Does the honourable member seriously move this amendment?

Dr. Gokul Chand. Narang: When a member has moved an amendment, does the question arise whether he moves it seriously or not?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) (Urdu): Sir I regret, I do not find any room for further reduction in this item for hill journey and hill allowances. I, therefore, cannot agree to any reduction.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,200 with respect to the item of Rs. 4,800—
Hill Journey and Hill Allowances—Superintendence. (32-A—Medical)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided; Ayes 26; Noes 35.

AYES 26.

Chaudhri Najib-ud-Din Khan.
Sardar Narain Singh.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.
Sardar Mangal Singh.
Sardar Bakhtawar Singh.
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
Sardar Harchand Singh.
Sardar Partap Singh.
Captain Malik Mumtaz Muhammad
Khan, Tiwana.

Khan Muhammad Abdulla Khan.
Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang.
Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra
Nath.
Lala Sham Lal.
Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
Lala Diwan Chand.
Lala Mohan Lal.
Chandhri Ram Singh.

NO. 35.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
 Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. Ward.
 Mr. V. Stainton.
 Mr. C. M. King.
 Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
 Mr. E. A. Scott.
 Sir George Anderson.
 Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. H. Forster.
 The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Chaudhri
 Lal Chand.
 The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian
 Fazl-i-Husain.
 The Honourable Sardar Bahadur
 Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
 The Honourable Sir John Maynard.
 Mr. A. Latifi.
 Mr. Miles Irving.
 Mr. D. J. Boyd.
 Dr. C. A. Owen.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. M. Davidson.
 Mr. J. Goldstream.
 Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-
 Din.
 Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
 Sardar Jowahir Singh.
 Mian Muhammad Sharif.
 Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
 Rai Shahadat Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
 Subedar Major Farman Ali Khan.
 Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
 Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
 Chaudhri Muhammad Shad Ali Khan.
 Mr. V. F. Gray.
 Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
 Chaudhri Duli Chand.
 Rao Pohap Singh.
 Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was lost.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin (East and West Central Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban): Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 500, with respect to the item of Rs. 5,000—Contract Contingencies. (32-A—Medical.)"

Sir, under the head 'Contingencies' are included contract contingencies, cost of books, hill journey charges, pay of menials, telephone charges, liveries of peons, rents, rates and taxes and other miscellaneous items. Of these items, I propose to reduce the items of contract contingencies and those which come under the head 'other items' and 'miscellaneous'. I know that these names are given, as contingencies of various kinds cannot be grouped under specific names, but I submit that it is here that the budget forecast is generally most exaggerated and extravagant. Departments generally want to have a good surplus under these items. I propose to reduce these only by ten per cent. of their forecast which would seem to be most moderate....

Mr. Miles Irving: Sir, is the honourable member allowed to read his speech?

Mr. President: The honourable member is not entitled to read his speech except with the special permission of the Chair.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin: I request your permission, Sir.

Mr. President: I believe the honourable member is quite capable of speaking without reading his speech.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin: Sir, I am not accustomed to speak from memory. But I have said all that I wanted to say. My amendment is a very moderate one and I hope the House will accept it.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 500 with reference to the item of Rs. 5,000—Contract Contingencies. (32-A—Medical.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) (Urdu): Sir, the sum which has been fixed this year at Rs. 5,400 stood at Rs. 5,900 in the actuals of 1922-23. I regret I cannot find any room for reduction.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] (Urdu): Sir, we have been referred to the sum spent in the year 1922-23. But the actual expenditure in that year under total contingencies stood at Rs. 11,510, whereas for the next year a sum of Rs. 12,030 has been provided for. I, therefore, submit, Sir, there is ample room for reduction.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon [Shahpur East (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, this item concerns the contingencies and my friend Lala Bodh Raj has counted menials as well in his calculations. In fact, there is hardly any scope for reduction. I, therefore, ask that the House will let it stand as it is.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 500 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,000—Contract Contingencies. (32-A—Medical).”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin [East and West Central Towns (Non-Muhammadan)] Urban: Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 16,200 with respect to the item of Rs. 16,200—Medical Inspectors of Schools. (32-A—Medical).”

Sir, at present there are no Assistant Surgeons as medical inspectors of schools. The medical inspectors of schools were considered to be of no use by the department and their use has been abandoned since last summer. As far as I know at present there are no medical inspectors of schools. I therefore submit that no money should be allotted for this demand.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 16,200 with respect to the item of Rs. 16,200—Medical Inspectors of Schools. (32-A—Medical).”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Chaudhri Duli Chand [Karnal (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, formerly Assistant Surgeons were employed for the medical inspection of the students in schools. But on the reports of the Headmasters that these medical inspectors were not doing much good to the students, these posts were abolished. But now the demand has again been put forward for some suitable medical inspection. Instructions have, therefore, been issued by the Education Department to engage Local Assistant Surgeons for such inspections and they will be paid some allowances.

I submit, Sir, that this inspection serves much useful purpose and they gather very useful figures about our young students.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: May I ask the Honourable the Minister for Education whether as a matter of fact there are no medical inspectors of schools at present?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education): Sir, I have not been able to follow the honourable mover of this amendment in the reasons that he has given for omitting this item. Is it that he is opposed to school students being inspected medically with a

view to detect whether they are suffering from such infirmities as ought to be looked into as early an age as possible in order to secure their removal? Or is it that he is objecting to the machinery of employing medical inspectors with a view to do this work? He read his speech so hurriedly and so indistinctly that I am afraid I have not been able to follow him.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Sir, what I meant was that these medical inspectors of schools proved to be of no use to the departments and therefore they were removed. I therefore submit that unless some other scheme is brought forward to work this, this item should not be allowed now.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Sir, I entirely agree with my honourable friend. He is quite right when he says that the medical inspectors of schools whose duty it was to inspect the boys in the various schools were not found to be as useful as it was believed they were going to be. The Director of Public Instruction went into the matter very carefully last year when he was trying to effect economies in the expenditure which was being incurred in the department under his care. As a result of his investigations it was found that the medical inspectors were useful in pointing out the defects in the health of various boys. The medical inspectors gave them notes stating what the defect was in each case. To have a record of the defects in boys is not of much use unless there is a machinery for the removal of those defects which have been detected by the medical inspectors. Now, Sir, in countries more advanced than India there is legislation which makes it incumbent on the parent or the guardian of pupils to see that the defects which have been pointed out by the medical inspectors are removed, and on their failure to do so stringent measures are taken under the Public Health Act or similar Acts to force them to do it. In order to devise a machinery suited to the conditions in the Punjab, the Director of Public Instruction, in consultation with the medical authorities, has come to the conclusion that it would be best to allot various schools to a dispensary which is in the neighbourhood of these schools; in other words it is intended to make the dispensary a sort of centre round which to cluster the adjoining schools and give the officer in charge of that dispensary an allowance to inspect these schools which come within his jurisdiction. The medical officer not only examines them and records their defects but if such defects require treatment, he has subsequently on the request of the headmaster to attend to the pupils as well with a view to remove the defects. This is an improvement that is certainly worth trying and it is for that reason that the amount has been put in the budget to try the new scheme.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : It is the pay of the medical inspectors of schools that is asked and not the allowance.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath (Punjab Landholders General) : What arrangement is proposed to be made for the work of the dispensary when the assistant surgeon goes out for inspecting the schools? Who does the work of the dispensary? While he is doing work for the boys in the schools, the dispensary is deprived of his services. Is that a satisfactory arrangement?

Lala Mohan Lal [North East Towns (Non-Muhammadian) Urban] : Sir, with regard to this amendment, I wish to submit a few observations. As regards the medical inspection of boys in Simla we have been trying a new scheme. We dispensed with the services of the Sub-Assistant Surgeon who used to inspect the boys because we found that he had cost us annually

[Lala Mohan Lal.]
 a sum of Rs. 500 and that it was purely a waste of money. What we have now done at Simla is this. We have put the whole system under the Health Officer of Simla. There is a Sub-Assistant Surgeon employed by the municipality. There is a system called the 'card indexing system' by which the name of each student as well as that of his father is written on that card. The result of the inspection is intimated to the father of the boy and it is made compulsory for the father of the boy as soon as he received that intimation to send the boy to the Ripon Hospital at Simla. The Municipal Committee has issued instructions to the hospital authorities that such boys who are sent there must be treated. The result of that treatment is again sent back to the Health Officer of Simla and for the information of the committee. What I wish to suggest to the Honourable Minister for Education is that if possible in places where there are Health Officers the same system as is being followed in Simla may be followed in those places also. That will save a good deal of money to the tax-payer.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 18,200 with respect to the item of Rs. 18,200 Medical Inspectors of Schools. (32-A—Medical)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 22,075 with respect to the item of Rs. 22,075 Travelling Allowance—District Medical Officers (32-A—Medical)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,600 with respect to the item of Rs. 21,780—Total Contingencies—District Medical Officers (32-A—Medical)."

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,600 with respect to the item of Rs. 21,780—Total Contingencies—District Medical Officers (32-A—Medical)."

The question is that that reduction be made—

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : I regret I cannot accept the amendment.

The motion was lost.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,830 with respect to the item of Rs. 19,450—Pay of one Assistant Surgeon at Rs. 550 per mensem for seven months—Mufassil Hospitals and Dispensaries (32-B—Medical)."

Sir, this amount is intended to be paid to the Military Assistant Surgeon who is working in Mashobra dispensary near Simla. At that place there are 50 Indians and about 154 Europeans. This is all the total population in that place and for that. . . .

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : How does the honourable member make out that this sum is intended for the hospital he refers to ?

Sardar Tara Singh : The Honourable Minister is speaking without rising from the seat.

Mr. President : It was a sort of aside remark, and I took the remark as not requiring any attention. If the Honourable Minister had meant it as a serious interruption, he would have risen from his seat.

Captain Dhan Raj Bhasin : I was saying, Sir, that this locality was inhabited by about 200 persons. There is one Gabel Hotel. For this population of 200, I do not think it is necessary to have a costly Military Assistant Surgeon on Rs. 350 per mensem with a special allowance of Rs. 200 per mensem. Even if we take one per cent. as constantly ill, there will not be on the whole 3 or 4 persons every day for the Assistant Surgeon to attend to. For these reasons, I move that this item be reduced by Rs. 3,850.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : May I now seriously interrupt, Sir? The honourable member is probably referring to the item of Rs. 550 for one Assistant Surgeon in page 211 of the budget. I do not find Mashobra or any other place in connection with it.

Captain Dhan Raj Bhasin : Is it not in connection with the Mashobra dispensary?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : If I had known it, I would not have asked the honourable member.

Captain Dhan Raj Bhasin : That it is in connection with Mashobra dispensary is not denied by the Honourable Minister.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,850 with respect to the item of Rs. 19,450—Pay of one Assistant Surgeon at Rs. 550 per mensem for seven months—Mufassil Hospitals and Dispensaries. (32-B—Medical).”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Captain Dhan Raj Bhasin : I have not yet finished my speech, Sir.

Mr. President : The honourable member sat down and I thought he had finished.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, the matter is exceedingly simple. But I do not know whether it is the pay of the Assistant Surgeon or the Military Assistant Surgeon of Mashobra, that the honourable member does not like to sanction, or whether it is the pay of an Assistant Surgeon somewhere else. So far as his question goes, I am not in a position to say whether it is one way or the other. Assuming that it is the Mashobra dispensary, then really it seems to me that it is not fair to urge that Mashobra should not be supplied with an Assistant Surgeon of a good rank to look after the visitors there. To say that there is a very small population and that therefore there is no necessity for a man does not seem to be quite a sound argument to urge. I do not wish to lose our reputation for looking after people who come to Mashobra from other provinces. There are a large number of people who come to that place because they cannot stay in Simla and seek rest in Mashobra. Therefore it is necessary that a place like Mashobra should have a competent Assistant Surgeon to attend to the needs of the invalids who visit that place.

Mr. V. F. Gray (Punjab Chamber of Commerce and Trades Association, Commerce) : Sir, in this connection I want to say that the hospital was built by Mrs. Hotz on the express promise that Government would supply an Assistant Surgeon. I have been there and I know that that man is extremely busy. People come to Mashobra from all round the District. He is a very hard worked man. I have seen that myself. Mashobra may be a small village, but this is the only means of medical service for many miles round, otherwise people have to go absolutely into Simla.

Lala Mohan Lal [North-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] : Sir, so far as I know there was only a Sub-Assistant Surgeon in Mashobra and not an Assistant Surgeon. So it must be a new appointment. I know Mashobra quite well and I know that there is no need for an Assistant Surgeon; a Sub-Assistant Surgeon would do quite well. The Simla Municipality has provided another Assistant Surgeon at Basantpur for the hydro-electric scheme area and I do think that a Sub-Assistant Surgeon would do quite well in Mashobra.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon [Shahpur-East (Muhammadan) Rural] : I think, Sir, with regard to a great many amendments affecting the European and the Anglo-Indian communities there is a sentiment which always forces me to incline a little bit in their favour. We shall soon be having Swaraj and we should do all in our power to make our European and Anglo-Indian sister communities feel that their interests will be looked after. I think these are the sort of things which

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I respectfully submit, Sir, that this is irrelevant to the matter before the House because the amendment was not based on any communal grounds at all.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : I am only discussing the danger of moving such amendments. Let the Europeans and the Anglo-Indians see that the Punjabis or rather the Indians will in no way interfere with their comforts or their medical needs. Mashobra has a population of about 150 or 200 Europeans and I hope that the honourable mover will not take away medical relief from them. I hope that the honourable member will withdraw this amendment.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] : Sir, I had no intention of speaking on this amendment, but Malik Firoz Khan Noon's remarks have made it necessary for me to say a few words. So far as I can gather from the honourable mover's speech there is not a word with respect to the community which is likely to be

Mr. President : Unfortunately the mover made a mention of it.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : So far as the speech of the mover is concerned, he did not say that no hospital at Mashobra was necessary because it served the European or Anglo-Indian community. What he said was that the number of people was not sufficiently large and it was too small to require a hospital there. That is what he said without any

Mr. President : But is there any reason why the matter introduced by Malik Firoz Khan, Noon, was irrelevant whether the mover said anything about it or not? It is unnecessary for any speaker to just reply to the mover. He can bring forward his own arguments.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I only wanted to say that Malik Firoz Khan, Noon, should not have brought in the question of community into the

matter. It is only the number of the population which is to be considered and there should be no need of dispensaries for places with a population of 200. There is no reason why one place should be preferred to other places.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,850 with respect to the item of Rs. 19,450—
Pay of one Assistant Surgeon at Rs. 550 per mensem for seven months—
Mafassi Hospitals and Dispensaries (32-B—Medical). ”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 325 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,900—
Travelling Allowance—Mafassi Hospitals and Dispensaries (32-B—
Medical). ”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 233 with respect to the item of Rs. 950—
Travelling Allowance—Mayo Hospital, Lahore (32-B—Medical). ”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin [East and West Central Towns (Non-Muhammadian) Urban] : Sir, I beg to move—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 7,889 with respect to the item of
Rs. 1,02,270—Contingencies—Mayo Hospital, Lahore (32-B—Medical). ”

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 7,889 with respect to the item of
Rs. 1,02,270—Contingencies—Mayo Hospital, Lahore (32-B—Medical). ”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : I cannot accept the amendment, Sir.

Mr. President : Is there any member who wishes to speak ?

(No one stood up).

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : I think the figure Rs. 19,800 in item 37 includes travelling allowance.

Mr. Miles Irving : Yes, it does.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin [East and West Central Towns (Non-Muhammadian) Urban] : Sir, I beg to move—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 19,800 with respect to the item of Rs. 19,800
—Total Maternity Hospital, Lahore (32-B—Medical). ”

Sir, I only want to say a few words. The maternity hospital is supposed to be for those who want to have their ladies confined in the

[Capt. Dhan Raj, Bhasin.]

maternity hospital and to act as a teaching institution. At present the hospital is situated on Temple Road. I submit that this is a locality where the ordinary people of the town cannot go, and unless the hospital is shifted to a place near the town within their easy reach, the grant should be disallowed.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved —

" That the grant be reduced by Rs. 19,800 with respect to the item of Rs. 19,800—
Total Maternity Hospital, Lahore (32—B—Medical). "

The question is that that reduction be made.

Dr. C. A. Owen (Representative of Anglo-Indian community) : With regard to this, Sir, I should like to point out that in this hospital several cases of Indian ladies have been admitted and even one serious operation has been performed. If the hospital is not required, I do not know what is.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din [Sialkot (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I rise to remove a misunderstanding by giving a piece of information. I wish to place a fact before the House. The present is only a temporary Maternity Hospital and it cannot be denied that it is really very far from the city, but you cannot deny its importance and the service it is doing. The new site for a permanent building of the hospital has been selected near the Badshahi Mosque.

This hospital is a long-felt need, Sir, and many representations on the subject have been received by me in the Lahore Municipality. I, therefore, hope the House will not favour any reduction in the item under discussion.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : If that assurance comes from Government, I will withdraw my amendment.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Of course, it is intended to shift it into its permanent building when it is ready.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : When will it be ready?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : If the funds for the maternity hospital are allowed this afternoon, the building will be commenced at once.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Where is it intended to be shifted?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : To the site that has been chosen for it.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : But where?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din explained just now that it is near the Mosque near Taxali Gate. You said you would withdraw your amendment if the hospital is shifted to a more convenient place.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Yes, I wanted this assurance from your mouth. In view of the assurance I beg to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

" That the grant be reduced by Rs. 75 with respect to the item of Rs. 300—
Travelling Allowance—Maternity Hospital. (32—B—
Medical). "

3 P.M.

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin [East and West Central Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 100 with respect to the item of Rs. 10,020—Total Contingencies—Maternity Hospital, Lahore (32-B—Medical)."

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 100 with respect to the item of Rs. 10,030—Total Contingencies—Maternity Hospital, Lahore (32-B—Medical)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : No reason has been advanced why this reduction should be made.

The motion was lost.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin [East and West Central Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 9,800, with respect to the item of Rs. 9,800—Special pay—Itinerating Dispensaries (32-B—Medical)."

Sir, there are 32 itinerating dispensaries in the province and the money budgetted for this is Rs. 1,40,000 of which about Rs. 51,000 is supposed to be spent on travelling, Rs. 34,320 for contingent and carriage charges and Rs. 9,600 for special pay. The remaining Rs. 45,000 is meant to be spent on actual medical relief. The theory of itinerary dispensary is to take medical relief actually to every villager at his home. But what happens in practice is quite different. These people who are in charge of these dispensaries have to go to a large number of villages and they have to tour day after day. They visit a village for about a few hours or a day at the most and consequently they are not able to give adequate medical relief. With the medicines that they carry they are able to give only first aid, at the most, in cases of exigencies. First aid is required only in accidents, which may not occur in most of the villages just at the time when doctor visits them. For treatment of acute cases, no patient will come to such doctors whose whereabouts will be unknown in the evening. They are not in a position to treat chronic cases as they will not stay in any village for any length of time, nor can they give sufficient medicine for prolonged treatment, which chronic diseases generally require. This sort of treatment will not be of any use to villagers.

I submit, Sir, that this expenditure on itinerary dispensaries could more usefully be spent on stationary dispensaries. If stationary dispensaries are located in villages people will be able to take advantage of them. Stationary dispensaries will become more and more popular as the time passes, but itinerating dispensaries can't make any such reputation even after a long time, as they are constantly on the move and they can't do anything more than distributing quinine and tincture iodine. For these reasons I suggest that this amount be disallowed.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 9,600 with respect to the item of Rs. 9,600—Special Pay—Itinerating Dispensaries (32-B—Medical)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din [Sialkot (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I agree with most of what the Doctor has said. Undoubtedly the good work of this establishment has not been in proportion

[K. B. Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din].

to the amount of money spent (Hear, hear), but we have to see if any good is done at all. It is the duty of this Council as representative of the people and it is also the duty of the Government as custodian of the welfare and prosperity of the people to see that medical aid reaches even distant and remote corners of the province. People die in many places like rats as if they do not live in a civilized country. Even an occasional visit of these itinerant dispensaries is a blessing and a boon to these villagers specially in the days of epidemics like influenza, cholera and plague, which take every year a heavy toll of human life, particularly the rural life. I concede that villagers do not derive the maximum advantage out of these dispensaries. But, Sir, something is better than nothing. It is therefore not wise to dispense with what little good we can obtain out of these.

I would welcome the establishment of stationary dispensaries throughout the provinces, for it is no doubt the right of those who pay for so big and well equipped hospitals in the cities to have at least small dispensaries in or near their own villages. If we have enough money for it, open permanent dispensaries at once. Sometimes, these doctors do not stay in a village for more than a couple of hours. This is true. They distribute a few quinine pills to the zaildars and panches and go away. But, they do some good after all.

I would like, therefore, that instead of sanctioning one lakh, we should grant 40 lakhs of rupees for stationary dispensaries. If we cannot spend forty lakhs there is no reason why we should not do what we can. I, therefore, oppose the amendment.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] : Sir, when my honourable friend Chaudhri Sahib began his speech I said 'Hear, hear,' because it seemed he was going to support the amendment. But afterwards when he began with the word *lekin* I understood that he began to oppose it. I submit, Sir, there is no institution under Government which is so useless as itinerant dispensaries. These dispensaries are doing absolutely no good whatever in the *shaqa*. My friend Sayad Mehdi Shah, whether he supports this amendment or not, knows that in the Lyallpur District we have found these *gashti* hospitals absolutely of no use and so the district board which kept up these dispensaries from the Killa Gift Fund has ceased to help them with grants or rather has considerably reduced the contribution to these hospitals. I do not understand why this system of moving dispensaries is being continued by Government at an expenditure of as much as one lakh and forty thousand. These dispensaries are not required by the rural people. My friend Chaudhri Duli Chand may again fight with me and say that the rural population do require them. But I may assure him, Sir, that the rural people do not like them. These *gashti* hospital-wallas give more trouble than comfort to the people. Whenever they go to a village with two or three *tum tums* and five or six persons they ask the people to supply them provisions which are supplied free. They are, therefore, rather a burden to the villagers. The money spent on these dispensaries is therefore a waste. If the same amount of money is spent on some stationary dispensary, that will be more useful. For these reasons, Sir, I submit that the money should not be spent on itinerant dispensaries.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon [Shahpur East (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, we, no doubt, feel the need of hospitals in the villages where none already exist. As far as my information goes, I have never heard

of any such itinerant dispensary round about my village. Thirty-two Sub-Assistant Surgeons have been shown to be working on this cadre, and this number ought to provide for every district in the province, but we have never heard of any such doctor. There may be these doctors running through the villages.

Still, Sir, instead of stopping what little good these are doing, it would be better to think of some such way as may add to the utility that these dispensaries yield. I would propose something on these basis. Generally these qualified doctors from the Medical College demand high pay and are very expensive, and though they are good surgeons they cannot compete with our *Vaid*s and *Hakims* in medical treatment of ordinary diseases. Seventy years have passed after the annexation of the Panjab by the British, but I would like to know what has been done to advance the indigenous system of medicine. The Government should have started a College to teach the *Unani* or *vaidic* systems of treatment of human ailments. They would prove a blessing to the villagers with their cheap prescriptions. We should increase the number of qualified and certified *Hakims* and *Vaid*s. A College should be started with an expenditure of a lakh or two of rupees. But before that, I submit, Sir, we should not lose this little service that we get now a days. It would be better, therefore, to move a reduction of one rupee only which can enable us to ventilate our grievances without hampering in any way the little good we are having. I, therefore, hope the House will not oppose the grant of the sum.

Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan [Muzaaffargarh (Muhammadian) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, much has been said in regard to the itinerating dispensaries, but I think there remains a good deal to be said about them. I am a villager and know well what these dispensaries are doing. Whenever any occasion for medical advice has arisen the villagers have had to go to the towns where there are permanent dispensaries or hospitals to obtain that advice. It is but rarely that I have seen the doctors in charge of the travelling dispensaries attending to any sick in the villages. Some time ago influenza prevailed in our village and there was and is no dispensary or hospital near by. At that time I approached the authorities and requested them to send medical help to the poor villagers. I was told that doctors attached to the itinerating dispensaries were already travelling; but, I never came across any of them except Doctor Malhotra whom I saw only once in our village.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : I think it is against the etiquette of the House to discuss personalities.

Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan (continued) : I will not mention any name if he thinks it against the practice of the House. (Some voices go on). But, Sir, these big doctors are not wanted in the villages. Instead of rendering any help to the poor people, they become a sort of burden to them. These big doctors require well furnished bungalows to stay at; they require fine carriages to convey them from one place to another and so many other things. Besides they claim fee amounting even to Rs. 10, Rs. 15 and Rs. 20 which the villagers cannot afford to pay. As I have said before there was influenza in our village some years ago. No medical help was forthcoming when so many were dying daily. But when influenza subsided, a medical officer came to our village. When he had inspected the village and perhaps seen some cases

[Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan.]

and when he was leaving, I happened to put to him one question. I enquired from him as to what opinion he was able to form about the village from a medical point of view. In reply to my question he showed me a bottle in which he was carrying a number of lice and said that he would dissect those lice to see what harm they were doing to the villagers. He promised while leaving to inform me of the result. But I am sorry to tell you, Sir, that no result has so far been communicated to me. If on the prevalence of an epidemic or any other disease the people cry for medical aid and if in reply they are to be advised that they should burn their clothes no matter if they be poor, I think there is absolutely no use of these travelling dispensaries. In my opinion it is mere waste of money and I, therefore, support the amendment.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar [Kangra-cum-Gurdaspur (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I too represent a part of the rural population and am fully aware of the usefulness of the itinerating dispensaries. The honourable member Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan perhaps does not know what amount of help these dispensaries render in the malaria season. In the months of September and October, when it is the proper time for ploughing and sowing the cultivators are prevented from attending to their work by malaria and the like diseases and it is in these days that itinerating dispensaries come to their rescue. The villagers find it difficult to get quinine from hospitals in the far away towns and if these travelling dispensaries are refused them, I cannot imagine what will be the state of affairs in the villages.

It has been argued that the itinerating dispensaries and the doctors in charge of them do not pay regard to the necessities of the poor people and that they distribute quinine and what they have got amongst the zaildars, lambardars and other men of influence in the villages. It may be so, but even then the quinine so distributed is not wasted. Either it is used by the members of the families of these zaildars and lambardars or if they are not ill and do not require the medicines, they are used by other villagers who can get them from the zaildars and lambardars. Directly or indirectly the medicines distributed by these dispensaries serve exactly the purpose for which these are meant. I confess that the townsfolk can not realise this point for they are not used to help their neighbours so much as the villagers are.

Under the circumstances I consider it quite unreasonable if we are asked to deprive the villagers of this benefit. I would rather suggest that the number of itinerating dispensaries ought to be increased.

Chaudhri Nur Din [Lyalpur South (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, as the honourable member Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din has said the medicines that are distributed by the itinerating dispensaries are mostly distributed amongst the villagers and as such they achieve an object which is most dear to us all, that is, the welfare of the rural population. I agree with what my honourable friend, Malik Firoz Khan, Noon, has said and I also say that these dispensaries have not been worked so well as they ought to have been. I confess that there are certain defects in them which I should like the authorities concerned to remove, but that they are in spite of these defects, doing a lot of good to the poor people one cannot deny. These dispensaries are most useful when malaria and the like diseases

are prevalent and when the villagers cannot travel long distances to obtain medicines from the town hospitals. In my opinion these itinerating dispensaries are indispensable until permanent dispensaries are provided in all the big villages. I would rather suggest that steps should be taken to increase the number of the existing travelling dispensaries.

If it is not out of place I may point out that the dispensaries attached to the railway stations, where so many people can and do come, do not attend to the sick other than those who are railway employees. I know of the case of the dispensary attached to the Shorkot railway station. I live quite near by that station. It was after many requests that I succeeded in persuading the authorities to open the doors of that dispensary to all alike, although it has not been possible for me so far to prevail upon the authorities to admit in-door patients other than the railway employees.

Mr. President: I do not think the honourable member is relevant. He is talking of railway dispensaries and not itinerating dispensaries.

Chaudhri Nur Din (continued in Urdu): Sir, what I want to arrive at is that these itinerating dispensaries are indispensable so long as funds do not allow us to open permanent dispensaries in a number sufficient to meet the demands of the villagers and I, therefore, oppose the amendment.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education): Sir, we had a very interesting discussion on itinerating dispensaries two years ago, the first year of my office. I had an open mind then and I have an open mind now. Some members assured me that these itinerating hospitals were good, others assured me that they were worse than useless in the sense in which Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram takes them.

I went very carefully into the figures supplied to me by the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals. The figures he supplied me indicate that every year no less than 1,60,000 people are attended to by these travelling dispensaries.....

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: They can report as many as they like.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: My friend believes that the sub-assistant surgeons in charge of the dispensaries have given wrong figures. Well, he is a man of business and he knows what he is talking about. I am however not sure whether he wants the misconduct of these officials to be enquired into.....

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin: That number may be attended to in one stationary hospital.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Perhaps, the gallant Captain can supply the means of transit to the poor people who are about 50 or 60 miles away from the city. Motor bicycles would be very useful, but unfortunately these people do not possess them and even if the gallant Captain took his motor bicycle to transport them to the hospital, he will find that the roads are not quite suitable for that purpose. Therefore, Sir, the advice for which I am always very grateful does not lead me to any really very satisfactory result. So far as these dispensaries are concerned, therefore, I am in a difficult position to make up my mind on the reports received. Under the circumstances I am very much impressed by the appeal made to me by a large number of speakers to the effect that unless I can substitute something better for these itinerating dispensaries it will not be

[Hon. K. B. Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

wise on my part to close them down. What is there that can be substituted in their place? It has been suggested to open permanent hospitals. Now, do the honourable members realise what that means? We have 29 districts in the Punjab. We are so badly served that at least 20 hospitals will be required in each district. That means nearly 600 hospitals. And if even the honourable mover of this amendment will concede that he won't serve in a dispensary unless there is a dispensary worth mentioning, there is a building, there is an indoor patients' ward in it.....

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Rs. 95,000 saved from travelling allowance and contingencies, will be utilised for that purpose.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : These Rs. 95,000 will supply these six hundred hospitals in the whole of the Punjab! It appears to me that the honourable member's knowledge of arithmetic is much weaker than his professional knowledge. However, Sir, it is obvious that schemes which are not carefully considered and not really matured are very dangerous. As a matter of fact we know that medical relief is the primary concern to a large extent of the local self-government administration. The district boards and municipalities have to look after them. We contribute something towards them. The district boards cannot possibly build the required hospitals or finance them. Those who have studied the proceedings of the District Board Conference know that the finances of the district boards are in a bad way. What is the alternative? The alternative is that I have had in mind for the last three years a scheme which is being developed and it is something like this. I want to introduce in the province a system of private practitioners settling down in rural areas ready to accommodate their taste to rural environments having very small dispensaries built kutchra pucca with about a couple of rooms, with a third room for the hospital assistant or the assistant surgeon to live in and with perhaps a small verandah. The total cost is not to be above in any case Rs. 10,000. These sub-assistant surgeons or in course of time assistant surgeons will have their private practice and have a sort of honorarium of something like Rs. 25 or Rs. 30 a month to attend to the poor without fee. They will have a room in which they keep a few medicines and attend to that locality. If I am fortunate enough to find enterprising enough young men who have taken their degrees or obtained their diplomas willing to go out to make a living for themselves and to serve the people of their country the scheme ought to succeed. But as I have said that again is a scheme a part of the cost of which we will have to bear, and the rest will have to be borne by local bodies. That again is likely to require a large sum. However, I trust that we will in the course of this year develop this scheme, and see how much it costs. If the finances of the province are in a prosperous condition next year, this scheme will perhaps be discussed in this Council next year, and carried. I am indebted to some members of this Council for the suggestions they have made as to encouraging indigenous medical relief through indigenous medicine. I do not know how far the honourable mover of this amendment is in sympathy with the idea. Perhaps he is, perhaps he is not.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : It is a very good idea.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : I do not know how far he is prepared to recommend that idea to be put into practice, because I have heard medical men saying that it is a very good idea, but they would rather not associate themselves with the carrying out of it. In any case I

am very much indebted to the members who have taken part in the debate. I will try to carry out such suggestions which the Head of Department finds practicable. In any case all the suggestions will be carefully examined.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 9,600 with respect to the item of Rs. 9,600—Special pay—Itinerating Dispensaries. (32-B—Medical)".

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 12,750 with respect to the item of Rs. 51,000—Travelling Allowance—Itinerating Dispensaries. (32-B—Medical)".

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,482 with respect to the item of Rs. 34,820—Contingent and Carriage Charges—Itinerating Dispensaries. (32-B—Medical)".

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,482 with respect to the item of Rs. 34,820—Contingent and Carriage Charges—Itinerating Dispensaries. (32-B—Medical)".

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, I do not think it is the intention of this House that the means of locomotion of these dispensaries should be reduced.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : The next two items (items 50 and 51) of travelling allowance do not correspond to 25 per cent. The first amendment proposes a reduction of Rs. 240 with respect to an item of Rs. 520 and the other of Rs. 30 with respect to an item of Rs. 520.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : I should make it 25 per cent.

Mr. President : I am not entitled to do so. It is not so simple. The amendment is there as it stands. The House cannot alter it, and I cannot allow anything to be moved without notice. The only thing that I can put is Rs. 30. Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 30 with respect to the item of Rs. 520—Travelling Allowance—Medical School. (32-D (a)—Medical)".

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin [East and West Central Towns (Non-Muhammadian), Urban] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,250 with respect to the item of Rs. 39,800—Contingencies—Medical School. (32-D (a)—Medical)".

The motion was lost.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin [East and West Central Towns (Non-Muhammadian), Urban] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 19,225 with respect to the item of Rs. 19,225—Clinical Assistants to Professors—Medical College. (32-D (b)—Medical)".

[Capt. Dhan Raj, Bhasin.]

Sir, here are three reasons given for the creation of three posts of Clinical Assistants. First of all it is said that they are meant for the efficient teaching of students of the Medical College; secondly, they are meant for the post-graduate training of Assistant Surgeons; and thirdly, they are meant for conducting the post-graduate class for Sub-Assistant Surgeons preparing for the Membership examination of the Punjab State Medical Faculty. I will consider these one by one.

1. I shall take the question of Clinical Assistant to the Professor of Medicine. As regards efficient teaching of the students of the Medical College. Up to 1917 or a little later, there used to be only one professor for medicine who used to give lectures on the subject of medicine and clinical medicine and used to lecture on skin diseases, nervous system and other allied subjects. In 1921 a separate professorship for clinical medicine was created. There was absolutely no justification whatever for the creation of that post when the work was already being carried on satisfactorily. It may be argued that the number of students had very much increased. But it must be borne in mind that with increase in number of students the number of lecturers on medicine and clinical medicine had not increased. On the other hand the number of lecturers continued to be the same as it was before the increase in the number of students. As regards practical classes the students could easily be divided into batches when they were working in the wards and demonstration could be given in the wards as before.

Coming to the second reason, namely, that these assistants are for giving post-graduate training to Assistant Surgeons, I may point out that post-graduate classes are held only for three months in the year when certain Assistant Surgeons come to the Mayo Hospital for working in the wards. They were meant to revive their practical knowledge in the light of new methods of treatment. This can even now be accomplished by putting these Assistant Surgeons along with the other Medical College students. This system has been working efficiently since 1921 and absolutely no difficulty has been experienced till now. I do not know what new factor has now come in and why these Assistant Surgeons cannot be trained efficiently as hitherto. Moreover, the number of demonstrators for each subject has been increased. Formerly there used to be one in each subject, now it has been increased and brought from three to six.

The third reason given is the post-graduate training of Sub-Assistant Surgeons preparing for Membership examination of the Punjab State Medical Faculty. First of all I would point out that this class will never be a big one, because no attraction is afforded to students to appear for Membership examination. As far as it has come to my knowledge the Honourable Minister for Education wants to promote some of these Sub-Assistant Surgeons to Assistant Surgeonship and I hear he has fixed the maximum number of six, who can be thus promoted. Two have already been thus promoted and four more are to be promoted. After these promotions have been made, there will be no further promotions, because all of these Sub Assistant Surgeons are young men and they are not expected to retire within the next ten years. So there is practically no attraction whatever for people to go for the Membership examination. They have to take privilege leave or some other kind of leave without pay to appear for this examination and they will have to go back to their original appointment after the course is over. In these circumstances, Sub-Assistant Surgeons will never come in large

numbers for this course and the few that will take up the course can very well be put with ordinary students of the College and the class can be conducted efficiently as before. The system has been in vogue ever since 1921 and there has been no difficulty experienced in training these people. I submit, Sir, that no new factor has come in which has made it necessary to open separate classes.

As regards the Clinical Assistant to the Professor of Surgery practically the same arguments hold good except this difference that instead of one additional professor of clinical medicine we have now an additional clinical Professor of Surgery.

As regards the Clinical Assistant to the Professor of Ophthalmology, it is true that no additional professor has been allowed for the subject, but the number of assistant surgeons who work in the out-door hospital where people are expected to work and learn clinical ophthalmology has been increased from one to three. Therefore if the professor of ophthalmology who now-a-days attends out-door just for the sake of Europeans comes regularly in out door for two hours and divides students in batches for clinical training he should be able to teach classes with the aid of three assistant surgeons attending the outdoor. I therefore submit that there is no necessity whatever for these additional posts being created.

I am told that these Clinical Assistants will act as understudies to the professors and when a vacancy arises, they will be appointed professors in the same subjects. This may be, but I submit that the machinery now existing is enough. Numerous instances can be quoted where demonstrators have been promoted to professorships in England; why cannot this be done here? There are demonstrators for instance. Why should a new machinery be created for purposes of promotion to professorship when one already exists? I can hardly understand. It will be really a matter of great pleasure to me if Indians could be appointed as professors of the Medical College, because there are deserving M. D.'s and M. B.'s in our province, but this cannot be unless there is a change of heart. It is for this reason that I propose a compromise. Already there is not enough work for the demonstrators as I have shown, and if these three new posts are created there will be still less work. If, however, the Honourable Minister will give me an assurance that he will decrease a corresponding number of demonstrators as the number of clinical assistants is increased I am prepared to withdraw the amendment.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 19,225 with respect to the item of Rs. 19,225—Clinical Assistants to Professors—Medical College. (32-D (b)—Medical.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education): Sir, the honourable member informed us earlier in the day that he was not quite used to speak in the House yet. Well, I am not quite used to hear speeches half delivered and half read at such a long distance especially when they deal with matters of detail. What does the honourable member want me to do? He wants me on the data supplied by him to hold that the Medical College, Lahore, is overstaffed. He wants me to hold that many of the posts created in the past were created without sufficient necessity, that there are a number of men employed for the College walking about the College and the hospital who really do not give the country an adequate return for the pay that they receive.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : I ask, Sir, is the work being carried on efficiently at present ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : - I hope so, Sir.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Even now ?

Mr. President : Order, order. Let the honourable member continue his speech.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : If the honourable member had sufficient data on which he based his recommendation, I would have been only too glad to go into the details of his criticism and do my very best to determine whether additional staff was needed or not and whether the staff already employed had some superfluous men on it or not. It was an unpleasant surprise to me when I found that the honourable mover of the amendment after having been returned by this House to serve on the Public Health Standing Committee resigned his seat and thus refrained from giving me assistance on such matters as I can place before him.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : I could not go against the decision of my party.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I don't understand why the Honourable Minister should raise side issues and not go straight into the merits of the case.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Sir, I protest against the honourable member on the front bench passing such remark condemning my mode of dealing with amendments. I hope it is the right of this Council to know why the member whom this Council has returned to serve on the Standing Committee has resigned it especially as he happens to be a professional man and has knowledge of the subject which the committee has to deal with. To say that it is irrelevant, is casting a reflection on my discretion as to how best to conduct the debate in which I am interested.

Well, Sir, the honourable member has said that his party has ordered him to do so, otherwise it appears he would have been willing to serve on the committee. I am very glad that the honourable member is of the opinion that the right thing for him to do was to serve on the committee, and that it was only in obedience to the orders of the Swarajya party that he had to submit his resignation. I trust that the party system here will not develop into that hard-and-fast system, which crushes personal and individual discretion and freedom of action.

Mr. President : I think I must ask the Honourable the Minister to get to the point.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Otherwise, we must have the right of reply.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member can have twenty-four hours' notice to make the necessary preparations for his reply. Now, Sir, coming to the amendment, I hope my difficulty will be realised in meeting an amendment which goes into the details of the administration of hospitals and colleges. It is easy enough to say there are too many professors and too many medical officers and

on each question, namely whether there are too many professors and whether there are too many doctors, this Council is expected to divide. What I mean is that the services of men like the mover on the committee would be invaluable. The object is that the members of this committee should not only be members of the Legislature but they should have opportunities of being trained in the administration of the country and learn its methods. It is open to the Minister or the Member in charge of a particular department to place the files relating to the different cases before the Standing Committee. Thus I would have had an opportunity of making everything known to the members of the Council on the Standing Committee so that they may know all the facts relating to any point placed before them. Now, Sir, I can assure you that I for one am prepared to place this matter of the adequacy or inadequacy of the staffing of this college before the Public Health Standing Committee on which there are some experts so that I may obtain their advice whether the particular institution is overstaffed or understaffed. So far as the college and hospitals are concerned, I have the advice of my expert Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals. He has assured me that what the Principal demanded was necessary and with a view to economy, I cut down the demand by one half. With a view to economy they were not employed this year as the Inspector-General told me, and I am advised if I continue in this way, the efficiency of the institution is bound to suffer thereby. It is for this reason that I beg the House to reject the amendment placed before it for disallowing the clinical assistants.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : I just want to ask the Honourable the Minister whether he can give us an assurance that he will go into the question whether there is a larger number of demonstrators in the Medical College than is necessary and whether he will decrease the number if it is found to be in excess. If he gives that assurance I am prepared to withdraw the amendment.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : So far as the assurance is concerned, I am prepared to bring under reduction the staff of any department as soon as I am convinced that they are unnecessary. No assurance on that point is needed at all.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : I beg leave to withdraw the amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 432 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,730—
Travelling Allowance—Medical College. (32-D (b)—Medical)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin [East and West Central Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,800 with respect to the item of Rs. 4,450—
Total Contingencies—Medical College. (32-D (b)—Medical)."

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, I oppose the amendment.

The motion was lost.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 5,790 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,790—
Temporary establishment—Lunatic Asylums. (32-F.—Medical)."

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

" That the grant be reduced by Rs. 5,790 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,790—
Temporary establishment—Lunatic Asylums. (32-F.—Medical)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Is it the intention of the honourable member by abolishing the temporary establishment that some of the inmates of the Lunatic Asylum should be let loose in this Assembly ?

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : This is not the Assembly.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

" That the grant be reduced by Rs. 5,790 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,790—
Temporary establishment—Lunatic Asylums. (32-F.—Medical)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

" That the grant be reduced by Rs. 432 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,730—
Travelling Allowance—Lunatic Asylums. (32-F.—Medical)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

" That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,955 with respect to the item of Rs. 11,820—
Travelling Allowance—Public Health Establishment. (33-A.—Public Health)."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muham-
madan), Rural] :** Sir, I beg to move—

" That the grant be reduced by Rs. 100 with respect to the item of
Rs. 8,90.80—Sanitary Grants—Grants for Public Health purposes. (33-B.—
Public Health)."

Sir, the reason why I move this amendment for a reduction of Rs. 100 is that I want to submit through you, Sir, that there are certain principles involved in this sanitary grant. This sanitary grant is now administered by the Sanitary Board which, I see consists of 15 members, out of which eight are officials and seven are non-officials. My first submission is that that there should not be an official majority in such boards. There should always be a non-official majority, because if there is an official majority, they will do things in whichever way they like. This is my first objection.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Is the honourable member quite sure of the fact that there is an official majority on the committee ?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Altogether there are 15 members on the committee, out of whom 8 are officials and 7 are non-officials.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : I am afraid the honourable member is wrong. It is just the other way.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Is not the Secretary one of the members of the committee ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Yes.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Then there are 15 members, out of whom 8 are officials and 7 are non-officials. I have got a list with me.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : I have also got a list of members. Am I a non-official member of this Council or not ? That is the issue. I am an elected member. My honourable friend is wrong in thinking that I am an officer of Government. I am not.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I treat the Honourable Minister as an official member of the Board.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : No, I am not an official.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : That is a matter of opinion.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : No, that is a matter of fact.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Then, Sir, coming to the personnel of the Board, I find that there are two official members who are absolutely unnecessary for this Board. The Secretary to the Government, Punjab, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch, has no business to be a member of the Sanitary Board. There are already on the Board the Sanitary Engineer to the Government and the Secretary to the Government, Transferred Departments, and I fail to see the necessity for the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, to sit on the same Board. His place could be more usefully filled by a non-official member.

The second objection that I wish to raise is the appointment of a Commissioner of a division as a member of the Sanitary Board. There are five divisions and why should the Commissioner of one division alone be represented on the Board ?

Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster : May I inform the honourable member, Sir, that it is the Commissioner of the division in which the Board sits ?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I think his time is more valuable than that of sitting on the Sanitary Board. My submission is that the Board should consist of more technical people and non-official members. There is no reason why Lahore Division should be represented by four members on the Board, three members and the Commissioner. While in the case of Rawalpindi Division, none represents it on the committee. I submit, Sir, that members of this Board should all be members of this Council so that these members may when touring in the *ilaga* see things for themselves and recommend to the Board if any sanitary grant is required for the locality. My submission is that each division should be represented on the Board and whichever division, like Multan, is backward it should be represented by more than one member, because more grants are required for backward divisions. One more point that I wish to say about the constitution of the Board is that the Minister should not appoint heads of departments and also his personal friends as members on the Board with the idea of getting their support in every possible way. Such members should be appointed as have much information about districts and divisions

[R. B. Lala Sewak Ram.]

which they represent in the Council. So much for the constitution of the Board.

Now coming to administration of this Board, I find from Appendix A of the Annual Report on the Public Health Administration in the Punjab that most of the grants have been given to the municipalities and the principal cities. I submit, Sir, that these sanitary grants must be given mostly to rural areas (Hear, hear). For big cities and towns where there are large municipalities no grant should be given; if at all only a little should be given to them. If honourable members of the Council will kindly peruse the report, they will find that large municipal cities which do not deserve any sanitary grants are given these grants. The members of the Board try to get these grants for the particular area to which they belong. My submission is that in administering the funds the Sanitary Board should notify that such and such an amount will be given as sanitary grants, and that small municipalities, small town committees and rural areas which require grant should apply to the Board. At present out-of-the-way rural areas and small municipalities are not aware of the fact that as much as 4 lakhs of rupees are disbursed annually in the shape of sanitary grants; while those members who are connected with certain towns get all the grants even though they are sitting in Lahore. This is a very important point that I wanted to submit to the House; that is, 80 or 90 per cent. of the money should be distributed to rural areas. I have travelled through hundreds and thousands of villages in my division and I know, as a matter of fact, that such villages do not get these grants.

Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster: Are there hundreds of thousands of villages in the whole province?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: I am talking of Multan Division. Among the list of grants, I find that only Multan gets Rs. 50,000 for Water Works and villages do not get much. Therefore my submission is that in allocating grants, rural areas must be considered first. It is for these reasons that I propose this amendment.

Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster (Director of Public Health): Sir, I shall reply very briefly to the honourable member on a point which particularly concerns me as Secretary of the Sanitary Board, that is the distribution of funds as between urban and rural areas. He has told us that the greater part of our money goes to the urban areas and he objects very strongly to that. I am heartily in agreement with him. I regret to say that the major portion of our funds does go to the urban areas and I agree with him that most of the towns ought to be able to find their own money. When the Honourable Minister for Education took over charge of the Board the very first instruction that he gave me was to see what could be done in the matter of assisting rural areas. Since that day we have worked ceaselessly to assist them. As I pointed out in the general discussion on the budget the first thing you have got to do is to establish in each district a health agency capable of drawing up schemes for district boards to which we can give funds, but in only four districts have we got such an agency. Apart from such agencies our only source of information is peripatetic tours conducted by officers of my department. We have addressed all the rural areas through the Commissioners asking them to draw up schemes, in rough or in detail, whichever way they like, but to give us

a scheme of some kind for our consideration. In this way facts more particularly in regard to water supply from a broad point of view have already come to our notice, but the whole trouble is that we get no definite schemes put up by these rural areas. The only districts from which we get definite schemes are those in which we have now separate health agencies. Looking back on the expenditure on rural areas for the last four years we have been able to finance such schemes as have reached us. Thus we have financed a scheme for the Gurgaon District, but we had the utmost difficulty in getting this rural scheme put up. Kangra is another district which we have been able to assist and Rohtak has a scheme before us. I can assure the honourable mover that every scheme for rural sanitation that comes before the Board has our sympathetic consideration. I have been given instructions to push on such schemes, and I shall carry them out most joyously. The first place they have had and the first place they will get as long as the Board is run on the present lines.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Sir, in view of the explanation given, I withdraw my amendment.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 7,750 with respect to the item of Rs. 81,000—Travelling Allowance—Expenses in connection with Epidemic Diseases. (B.—C.—Public Health).”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 35,07,738 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 1925 in respect of Medical and Public Health.”

The motion was carried.

AGRICULTURE GRANT.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I beg to move—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,56,000 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 1925 in respect of Agriculture.”

Mr. President : The question is—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,56,000 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 1925, in respect of Agriculture.”

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I only request the Honourable Minister for Agriculture to give us the assurance that he will agree to the same reductions that have been agreed to in the case of other departments. If he gives the assurance, we will not move any amendments.

Mr. President : What reductions do you refer to ?

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : The reduction of 25 per cent. in travelling allowance.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : Yes, I agree to the ordinary undertaking given by Government, but with your permission, Sir, I want to make one general observation. Last year when the Finance Department.....

Mr. President : You should have done it when you moved your motion.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : It is with respect to the travelling allowance only. Last year when a cut of 25 per cent. was made by the Finance Department, by some mistake instead of cutting down Rs. 46,700 they made a cut of Rs. 1,21,700 in travelling allowance, that is to say they made a cut of Rs. 75,000 in excess. The result of that was that most of the officers were tied down to their offices and when the requisitions were sent in they were under the impression that their share was only so much. So they made very halting recommendations. I agree to the general cut, but I may make one submission to the House that this will not be sufficient. The proposals made by the Co-operative and the Agricultural Departments were very halting and they did not get a supplementary grant till October after they had sent in their requisitions for the next year and therefore I shall have to come in again for a larger amount.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : We shall see at that time.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“(That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,400 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,600—
Total Travelling Allowance—Superintendence. (34-A—Agriculture.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“(That the grant be reduced by Rs. 8,187 with respect to the item of Rs. 32,550—
Travelling Allowance—Other Supervising Establishment. (34-A—Agriculture.)”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muham-
madan) Rural] :** Sir, I beg to move—

“(That the grant be reduced by Rs. 10,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 50,000—
Workshop Contingencies—Other Supervising Establishment. (34-A—Agriculture.)”

My reason for putting forward this amendment is this. When you have a very well equipped workshop at Lyallpur why should you not have all the implements repaired there ? On page 230 of the Detailed Budget Rs. 24,000 are asked for for purchase and repair of implements. Then again on page 238 another amount of Rs. 12,050 is demanded for the same purpose. When you have a first class workshop at Lyallpur, you should be able to have all the implements repaired there.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 10,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 50,000—
Workshop Contingencies—Other Supervising Establishment (34-A—Agriculture.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Minister for Agriculture) : Perhaps my friend's difficulty is that he does not seem to understand all about the repairs of implements. Repairs have to be done not only at Lyallpur but at Hansi, Gurdaspur, Kahuta and other places where we have experimental farms. Supposing there is a certain implement to be repaired at Hansi. Locally it would cost Rs. 5. Would my friend ask me to issue orders to get that implement sent to Lyallpur for repairs, unmindful of the fact that the railway freight may come to twice or three times the actual cost of repairs at Hansi? I think this explanation will satisfy him.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Does the Lyallpur workshop do any repairing?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : Yes.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Then I withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram (Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan) Rural) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 6,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 30,000—
Other Charges—Supervising Establishment. (34-A—Agriculture.)"

Sir, I move this amendment to deduct Rs. 6,000 out of a sum of Rs. 30,000, because last year the demand under this head was Rs. 23,450, and in deducting Rs. 6,000 I am only making it as much as last year. Therefore I submit that the Minister for Agriculture will accept this amendment.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 6,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 30,000—
Other Charges—Supervising Establishment. (34-A—Agriculture.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, the items under this head are so many and so varied that I had to get a statement prepared of them and I find that these items come to exactly Rs. 30,000. The items are—

- (1) Mulberry plantations.
- (2) Sericulture for Entomologist, *i.e.*, purchase of silk, seed, etc.
- (3) Potato experiments in hills.
- (4) Hot and Cold weather charges of Deputy Director of Agriculture, Lyallpur.
- (5) Implements, stipends and furniture for vernacular class at Gurdaspur.
- (6) Furniture, etc., of Agricultural Serai at Gurdaspur.
- (7) Tour charges of Economic Botanist and Entomologist.

[Hon'ble R. B. Chaudhri Lal Chand.]

(8) Palm experiments.

(9) Other charges of a miscellaneous nature throughout the Province.

There are many other items also including kerosine oil, carriage, etc. I got the statement prepared to find out if any reduction could be made and I find that it is the absolute minimum that is now asked for and that no reduction is possible.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : My point has not been answered. I wanted to know why the provision this year exceeds that of the last year.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : The honourable member will observe that the figures for 1922-23 was Rs. 64,000.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 6,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 30,000—Other Charges—Supervising Establishment. (34-A—Agriculture).”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 12,500 with respect to the item of Rs. 50,000—Total Travelling Allowance—Agricultural Experiments. (34-A—Agriculture).”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 8,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 18,000—Working of Lyallpur Wheat Elevator—Agricultural Experiments. (34-A—Agriculture).”

Sir, every year when the budget comes before the Council I raise the question of this wheat elevator at Lyallpur. I call it a white elephant. This wheat elevator instead of bringing in any money always results in the provincial expenditure every year. Two years ago when the Council sanctioned a sum of Rs. 25,000 the then Honourable Minister for Agriculture said that this was a necessary expenditure and that he would not come to the House every now and then for more money. On the other hand we now see that every year some amount is asked for to keep this elevator working. The wheat elevator committee went into this question but nothing practical has come out of it. I would submit, Sir, that something must be done by which this wheat elevator may not cost anything to the provincial Government.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 8,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 18,000—Working of Lyallpur Wheat Elevator—Agricultural Experiments. (34-A—Agriculture).”

The question is that reduction be made.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I must confess that this elevator has not been a success up to this time. It is an experiment, but an experiment worth trying.

It was completed at a cost of seven lakhs of rupees. It is fitted with a perfect grain cleansing machinery and the present arrangement is that it is being run under a lease by Messrs. Clements Robson and Company. Government has been paying Rs. 16,200 a year to the Company. The lease expires on the 14th May next.

Now, Sir, these years have been of exceptional fluctuation in the grain market and although it was expected that during this period grain dealers will use it and demand will be created in the market yet unfortunately on account of fluctuations, unexpected fluctuations in the prices of wheat, the elevator has not been used. Honourable members will see that the price of wheat on 14th May 1922 was Rs. 5-1-4 per maund, later in October 1922 it was Rs. 4-11-0. In February 1923 it was Rs. 4-0-6. May and June are the months when grain is stored. At that time prices were the highest and they went down in October when prices ought to have been high. Under these circumstances grain dealers could not use the elevator.

We sent wheat cleansed by the elevator to London and there it was examined and as a result we were promised a premium of four annas per maund over the best white wheat of Karachi. From that honourable members can guess the amount of addition to the wealth of the agriculturists and the amount of profit to the grain dealer if this elevator and many others like this become a success. They are a success in other countries and there is no reason why they should not be given a trial here.

The present position is this : that the present lease expires on the 14th May next. There are several proposals before Government. One is that the lease should be extended by one year at least on the same terms. Another is that Government should purchase wheat and export it on its own liability. There are several other proposals, but they have not been fully examined and it is not at present possible to say what scheme will be found profitable, but this much I can assure the House that Government is as much anxious as any member of this House to effect economy in this line. A very large amount has been spent and it is not proper to give it up without giving it a fair trial. Otherwise future generations will say : wheat elevator ought to have been tried. It is possible that they may even curse us if we do not give the wheat elevator a fair trial. (Hear, hear). We have always to spend a good deal of money in experiments. This is only in an experimental stage. We are making other agricultural experiments and I do not see why we should not continue our experiment with the wheat elevator too. I would therefore request the House to give this experiment a fair trial. If after some years it is found that our conditions do not suit our elevators, we will give them up.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : How many years have already passed since the installation of this wheat elevator ?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : It was built in 1920.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Was it a slip of the tongue when the Honourable Minister said that we pay Rs. 18,200 to Messrs. Clements Robson annually? Do we really pay this sum, if so, what for?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : Government is paying this amount for running the elevator. It is not profitable for Government itself to run the machine. The firm keeps an establishment and they spend this amount on its establishment and for the purchase of oil, etc.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 8,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 18,000—
Working of Lyallpur Wheat Elevator—Agricultural Experiments. (34-A.—
Agriculture.) ”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,882 with respect to the item of Rs. 7,530—
Travelling Allowance—Punjab Agricultural College. (34-A.—Agriculture.) ”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,750 with respect to the item of Rs. 15,000—
Travelling Allowance—Superintendence—Veterinary. (34-B.—Agriculture.) ”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 515 with respect to the item of Rs. 2,030—
Travelling Allowance—Veterinary Instruction. (34-B.—Agriculture.) ”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 10,105 with respect to the item of Rs. 40,420—
Travelling Allowance—Subordinate Establishment. (34-B.—Agriculture.) ”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 500 with respect to the item of Rs. 2,000—
Travelling Allowance—Hissar Cattle Farm. (34-B.—Agriculture.) ”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 825 with respect to the item of Rs. 2,500—
Travelling Allowance—Camel Specialist. (34-B.—Agriculture.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 22,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 88,000—
Total Travelling Allowance—Co-operative Credit. (34-C.—Agriculture.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,94,586 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 1925 in respect of Agriculture."

The motion was carried.

INDUSTRIES (REVENUE AND CAPITAL) GRANT.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,87,000 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 1925 in respect of Industries (Revenue and Capital)."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,87,000 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 March of 1925 in respect of Industries (Revenue and Capital)."

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,160 with respect to the item of Rs. 4,640—
Travelling Allowance—Direction. (35-A (a)—Industries.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,155 with respect to the item of Rs. 8,620—
Travelling Allowance—Superintendence. (35-A (b)—Industries.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 167 with respect to the item of Rs. 670—
Travelling Allowance—Inspection. (35-A (c)—Industries.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 167 with respect to the item of Rs. 670—
Travelling Allowance—School of Arts. (35-A. (c)—Industries.)"

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 662 with respect to the item of Rs. 2,650—
Travelling Allowance—Tanning and Leather Industries. (35-A. (d)—
Industries.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,175 with respect to the item of Rs. 12,700—
Total Travelling Allowance—Fisheries. (35-B.—Industries.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,79,514 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 1925 in respect of Industries
(Revenue and Capital)."

The Council then divided : Ayes 42 ; Noes 8.

AYES 42.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Lieut.-Col. E. L. Ward.
Mr. V. Stainton.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
Mr. E. A. Scott.
Sir George Anderson.
Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri
Lal Chand.
The Honourable Sardar Bahadur
Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
The Honourable Sir John Maynard.
Mr. A. Latifi.
Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.
Dr. C. A. Owen.
Lieut.-Col. D. M. Davidson.
Mr. J. Coldstream.
Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr
Shah.
Chaudhri Ali Akbar.

Sardar Jowahir Singh.
Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Mian Muhammad Sharif.
Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
Rai Shahadat Khan.
Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
M. Haibat Khan.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Sardar Partab Singh.
Sayad Muhammad Husain.
Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir.
Rai Sabib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Chaudhri Duli Chand.
Rao Pohap Singh.
Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
Mr. E. Maya Das.

NOES 8.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.
Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Lala Sham Lal.
Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.

Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS GRANT.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,82,000 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 1926 in respect of Miscellaneous Departments."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,82,000 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 1925 in respect of Miscellaneous Departments."

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,975 with respect to the item of Rs. 11,910—Total travelling allowance—Inspector of Factories. (37-A.—Miscellaneous Departments.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,500 with respect to the item of Rs. 10,000—Total travelling allowance—Inspector of Steam Boilers. (37-B.—Miscellaneous Departments.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,76,525 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 1925 in respect of Miscellaneous Departments."

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 sum not exceeding Rs. 1,15,000 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 1925 in respect of Civil Works (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS (TRANSFERRED) GRANT.

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,76,50,000 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 1925 in respect of Civil Works (Transferred)."

Sir, I wish to inform the House that I am asking for a sum which is less by Rs. 17,000 than what is put in the agenda. The reason for this is this : Honourable members will find on page 13 of the Public Works Department budget estimate a sum of Rs. 17,000, which is intended for the construction of additional barracks for 80 men at Kaithu. Since this requisition was received, the department has changed its mind and it wants to have *pukka* buildings instead of these temporary buildings. So instead of this small sum of Rs. 17,000, they will have to come for supplementary grant later on

[Hon. R. B. Chaudhri Lal Chand.]

when the sum is sanctioned by the Standing Finance Committee. So, I leave out this sum of Rs. 17,000 now.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,76,50,000 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 1925 in respect of Civil Works (Transferred)."

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh), Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 10,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 40,000—Allotment for minor works. (41-G.—Civil Works.)"

(Urdu) A reasonable reduction can very easily be effected in the demand of Rs. 1,76,50,000 in respect of Civil Works. The minor work, such as judicial lock-ups can be postponed till next year as they are not so urgent. Now as the labour is cheap we can effect a reduction very easily in the demand

5 P.M.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 10,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 40,000—Allotment for minor works. (41-G.—Civil Works.)"

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Sir, there are many more amendments to be put.

Mr. President : I am bound absolutely by the rules.

The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,76,50,000 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 1925 in respect of Civil Works (Transferred)."

The Council then divided : Ayes 36 ; Noes 18.

AYES 36.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Lt.-Col. R. L. Ward.
Mr. V. Stainton.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. A. D. Blascheck.
Mr. E. A. Scott.
Sir George Anderson.
Lt.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand.
The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.
The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
The Honourable Sir John Maynard.
Mr. A. Latifi.
Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.
Dr. C. A. Owen.
Lt.-Col. D. M. Davidson.

Mr. J. Coldstream.
Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
Sardar Jowahir Singh.
Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
M. Haibat Khan.
Mr. V. P. Gray.
Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Chaudhri Duli Chand.
Rao Pohap Singh.
Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
Mr. E. Maya Das.

NOMES 18.

Sardar Narain Singh.
 Sardar Jodh Singh.
 Sardar Tara Singh.
 Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.
 Sardar Bakhtawar Singh.
 Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
 Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar.
 Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
 Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
 Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.

Lala Ruebi Ram, Sahni.
 Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra
 Nath.
 Lala Sham Lal.
 Lala Bodh Raj.
 Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
 Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
 Diwan Narinjan Das.
 Lala Mohan Lal.

The motion was carried.

SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS GRANT.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 35,49,000 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 1925 in respect of Superannuation Allowances and Pensions."

The motion was carried.

STATIONERY AND PRINTING GRANT.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,48,000 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 1925 in respect of Stationery and Printing."

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS (RESERVED) GRANT.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,96,000 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 1925 in respect of Miscellaneous (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS (TRANSFERRED) GRANT.

Mr. President The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,80,000 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 1925 in respect of Miscellaneous (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS GRANT.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 71,000 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 1925 in respect of Miscellaneous Adjustments."

The motion was carried.

CIVIL CONTINGENCIES FUND GRANT.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,50,000 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 1925 in respect of Civil Contingencies Fund."

The motion was carried.

LOANS BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT (RESERVED) GRANT.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,64,000 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 1925 in respect of Loans by Provincial Government (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

LOANS BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT (TRANSFERRED) GRANT.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,00,000 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministries of Agriculture and Education) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1925 in respect of Loans by Provincial Government (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

REFUNDS (RESERVED) GRANT.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 53,500 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 1925 in respect of Refunds (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

REFUNDS (TRANSFERRED) GRANT.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 91,325 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministries of Agriculture and Education) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1925 in respect of Refunds (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

President's concluding remarks.

Mr. President : Now that the Council has concluded the long task of voting demands for grants, I hope members will bear with me a moment while I refer back to one or two points which have arisen. In regard to the settlement grant I pointed out that it was generally desirable to separate questions of economy from other questions so that members merely desiring to express a grievance or dissatisfaction or to criticize Government in some way should be in a position to express their feelings by voting for a nominal cut only. Again when the discussion on the nominal cut regarding jails and convict settlements was finished I made some remarks which were intended to indicate what I thought might have been the object of the mover in moving that nominal cut and I used the expression, 'vote of censure'. I did not mean

to imply that in my opinion a motion for a nominal cut did, if carried, mean a vote of censure, but from subsequent remarks made by members I am inclined to think my words were taken to convey that meaning. Such was not my intention. The passing of a motion of this character does no doubt convey an expression of dissatisfaction of some kind, but it does not amount to a formal vote of censure on any member of Government or on the Government as a whole. The proper method for raising a definite question of censure is by a motion to reduce the salary of the Minister or officer attacked. While on this subject I would say that I have observed with much satisfaction the growing tendency to leave questions of expenditure to Government and to devote the greater part of the time allotted to the discussion of cuts nominal or otherwise moved from motives other than those of economy. Discussion of this character serves a very useful purpose. Cuts made merely from motives of economy are liable, if I may say so, to do more harm than good and are rarely if ever resorted to in the House of Commons.

I now pass to the debate which took place on Tuesday, the 11th, on Sardar Jodh Singh's motion to reduce the provision for Commissioner's staffs. I regret that while going through the motions for reduction before entering the Chamber, I did not grasp the inner meaning of this particular motion, and hence was somewhat less prepared to deal with the matter as it actually developed than I could have wished to have been. However, I tried to indicate that it was not in order to attack non-voted officers by an attack on their establishments because the salaries of these officers are not on the votes, and that the real point for the House to discuss was whether the staff provided was suitably adjusted to the work to be done, and suitably paid or not, or in other words whether expense could be reduced or not on the ground that the staff provided was excessive or overpaid and I stated that the House was entitled to vote on the question for reduction. I had by my previous rulings implied that the voting ought to proceed on the permissible point of adequacy and expense of establishment, but I think it will be admitted that the decision of the House really amounted to an expression of opinion that the number of Commissioners could be cut down. No doubt the number of Commissioners is relevant to the strength of the staff to be provided, but on the other hand the position of and necessity for Commissioners are not matters which should be discussed on a budget demand but only by means of a resolution or during the general discussion on the budget. My rulings combined with the decision to put the question from the Chair amounted to taking the opinion of the House on a matter which had not been and could not be discussed. This is obviously a strange position and I have since the debate took place carefully examined all precedents which are to be found. The most relevant are three budget motions in the Bombay Council under the presidency of the late Sir Narayan Chandavarkar, a retired High Court Judge. In all three cases the President clearly indicated his opinion that not only was discussion of the position or necessity for non-voted officers out of order but the motion itself ought to be ruled out if the object was by cutting establishment to necessitate reduction of the number of such officers or to render it impossible for such officers to function by cutting their establishment. In all three cases the motions were eventually withdrawn without being finally ruled out. His opinions were based on rulings given in parallel circumstances in the House of Commons regarding the establishments of officers whose salaries are charged to the consolidated fund, i.e., are non-voted. In one case where the demand on the estimates was for the establishment of the Lord Chancellor and a member desired to move reduction of the

Mr. President.]

salaries of his establishment in order to discuss the position of the Lord Chancellor it was ruled that "it is out of order to do indirectly what cannot be done directly. The position of the Lord Chancellor cannot be discussed on the vote." In another case it was ruled "Discussion must be confined to the duties and remunerations of the officials." And in a third case where a reduction was moved on the ground that the office of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland was a sinecure the Chair ruled: "The salary of the Lord Lieutenant is placed upon the consolidated fund (*i.e.*, it is made non-votable), in order that he may not be criticised in this style." The principle of these rulings is that the House cannot cut down the votable salaries of the officials of a department on the ground that the head of that department whose salary is non-votable, is unnecessary or unfit or for such like reason pertaining to himself personally or to his office or position.

There have been somewhat similar cases in the Legislative Assembly and the President gave similar rulings, but allowed discussion to proceed on other grounds and put the question to the vote. Again the recent motion for adjournment to discuss the Sikh situation arising from the shooting at Jaito had really to be ruled out of order for similar reasons, *viz.*, that discussion of relevant matters was itself out of order. Had I expressed in that case the opinion that the matter to be discussed was in order, I should inevitably have had to refute the opinion so expressed by ruling out discussion of completely relevant points. Taking all these cases together it appears to me clear that it is the duty of the Chair to refuse to put the question in all cases where discussion of relevant points has to be ruled out because of the existence of some important principle outside the ordinary restrictions on debate as laid down in article 56. Hence as soon as it became apparent that the real object of the motion to reduce the provision for the staff of Commissioners was to force a reduction in the number of Commissioners, and that voting would in all probability take place on that point, the proper course was to have ruled the motion itself out of order and to have refused to put it to the vote.

I have thought it right to revert to this matter so as to obviate the proceedings of Tuesday, the 11th, being taken as a precedent, because in my opinion I should have ruled the motion out of order instead of putting it to the vote.

Finally I think I shall express your sentiments if I say that the Secretary and his staff have discharged with great credit to themselves the heavy task which has on this occasion fallen to their lot. (Hear, hear).

The Council then adjourned till two o'clock on Monday, the 24th March 1924.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

2ND SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 24th March 1924.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STIPENDS TO PUNJAB STUDENTS FOR COMMERCIAL TRAINING IN THE LUCKNOW UNIVERSITY.

340. Pandit Nanak Chand: Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of students who passed the Diploma in Commerce Examination of the Punjab University in 1921 and were given stipends by Government to continue their studies in the Lucknow University, and
- (b) how many of them have come out successful and have earned the B. Com. degree?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Thirty-two students passed the Diploma in Commerce Examination of the Punjab University in 1921, out of whom six were given stipends by Government to continue their studies in the Lucknow University.

- (b) Four passed the B. Com. Degree Examination in 1923.

EMPLOYMENT IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OF QUALIFIED GRADUATES IN COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS.

341. Pandit Nanak Chand: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether or not it has received any representation from the Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, Lucknow University, requesting Government to make the best use of the special and technical knowledge imparted to the students deputed to the Lucknow University for obtaining the degree of B. Com.?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if any action has been taken to give effect to the request of the Dean?

(c) If the answer is in the negative, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of taking advantage of their services by employing them in different departments?

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.

RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS FOR CERTAIN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT SHEIKHPURA.

342. Sardar Buta Singh: (a) Is it a fact that quarters have been constructed by Government for the residence of the officials of the Revenue, Civil, Medical, Public Works and Irrigation Departments at Sheikhpura?

(b) Is it also a fact that occupants of (C) and (D) types of quarters were charged rent at 5 per cent. on a salary of Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 since the quarters were built?

[Sardar Buta Singh]

(c) Is it also a fact that the officials of the Revenue, Civil and Medical Departments now irrespective of the amount of pay drawn by them are being charged rent at 10 per cent. of their salary since 6 months?

(d) Is it a fact that the officials of the Public Works Department and Irrigation Department living in the same block and types of quarters are still charged rent at 5 per cent. on salary of Rs. 50 to Rs. 100? If so, will Government be pleased to extend similar concession to the officials of the Revenue, Civil and Medical Departments living in (C) and (D) quarters at Sheikhpura? If not, will the Government please state their reasons?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chandhri Lal Chand: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

DETENTION OF TELEGRAMS ADDRESSED TO MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD,
PRIME MINISTER.

343. Sardar Tara Singh: Is it a fact that two letter telegrams were sent by Sardar Didar Singh Guru Sikh Niwas, Amritsar, to the Right Honourable J. Ramsay Macdonald, Prime Minister of England, London, on the 15th and 23rd February 1924, respectively? If so, were these telegrams allowed to proceed to the Prime Minister or were they detained in the Punjab under orders of the Local Government? If they were detained, what were the reasons for such detention?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Government has no knowledge of the two telegrams referred to beyond what has appeared in the Press.

No telegrams were detained.

SARDAR GURDIT SINGH, EDITOR OF THE "NATION."

344. Sardar Tara Singh: Will Government be pleased to state—
- whether it is a fact that Sardar Gurdit Singh, Editor of the *Nation*, has been and is seriously ill in jail;
 - the disease he is suffering from;
 - whether it is a fact that he has been given no medical treatment;
 - whether it is a fact that at present no interview with him is allowed? If so, what is the reason for such refusal;
 - whether they are prepared to allow interviews with him and release him on bail on ground of health?

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 SUCHA SINGH.

345. Sardar Tara Singh: (a) Is it a fact that Sardar Sucha Singh, Kirpan Bahadur, is on hunger strike on account of the removal of his kirpan?

(b) Is it a fact that on account of hunger strike his condition has become very critical?

(c) Will Government please consider the advisability of giving him back his *kirpan*?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard:

(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Reference is invited to the reply given to question No. 140.*

COMPENSATION TO PROPRIETORS OF LAND ON WHICH TREES BELONGING TO GOVERNMENT ARE GROWING.

346. Chaudhri Ram Singh: (i) With reference to the answer given by the Honourable Revenue Member to my question No. 36† asked in the meeting of 26th February 1924, will Government be pleased to state—

(a) what rent, if any, it pays to the proprietors of the land on which spontaneously growing trees claimed by Government as belonging to the Government and trees planted by Government are allowed to grow, thus excluding proprietors from using the land;

(b) whether the proprietors of the land on which trees belonging to Government are growing, can force the Government to remove the trees and to vacate the land for cultivation or for other use by the proprietors?

(ii) If the reply to question No. (i) (a) and (b) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state in what manner the proprietors of such lands are recompensed by the Government?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia:

(a) The question misrepresents the position. In 1869 Government relinquished its right to trees on cultivated lands and on lands recorded as private waste; in undemarcated forest Government is always prepared to consider whether the land could be brought under cultivation with ultimate advantage to the owners. In demarcated protected forest Government have decided to exercise their right to trees since it is of opinion that the land can best be kept under forest. In these circumstances no question of rent arises.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(ii) No question of compensation arises.

DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATION FOR THE CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF PUNJAB FOREST DEPARTMENT.

347. Chaudhri Ram Singh: Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) if it is a fact that the clerical establishment of Punjab Forest Department has been asked to appear in the newly prescribed examination of the said department;

(b) if the reply to the above be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state whether this examination is meant for new recruits or for all;

(c) if it is a fact that all the clerks of the Forest Department irrespective of the tenure of their employment have been asked to appear in this examination;

[Chaudhri Ram Singh.]

- (d) if it is a fact that the Forest Department insisted upon the senior clerks of about 20 years standing to appear in the lower grade examination ;
- (e) if they are prepared to take steps that this introduction of new examination does not affect those who have served in the Forest Department clerical establishment for 20 years or over ;
- (f) if any other department of the Punjab Government has prescribed such a departmental examination as the Forest Department has done ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

- (a) Examinations to test the qualifications of clerks are prescribed. Clerks were given a year's notice of their introduction.
- (b) A series of examinations provides for clerks of all grades.
- (c) Yes, there are few exemptions.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) No. Government cannot undertake to retain inefficient clerks on progressive rates of pay.
- (f) No.

CIVIL HOSPITAL, LEIAH.

348. Lala Bodh Raj : Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) if it is a fact that the charge of the Civil Hospital, Leiah, has been handed over by the District Board to the Municipal Committee ;
- (b) if it is a fact that the Municipal Committee passed a resolution refusing to take over charge of the Hospital for shortness of funds ;
- (c) if there is any bye-law of the Municipal Committee that any question once decided cannot be re-opened unless two-thirds of the members agree to its re-opening before the expiry of three months ;
- (d) if it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Muzaffargarh, who is also the President of the District Board suspended the above resolution of the Municipality against the spirit of section 239 (3) of the Municipal Act ;
- (e) Will the Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) No. The Leiah Civil Hospital is to be handed back to the Leiah Municipal Committee from 1st April 1924 in accordance with the sanction of the Commissioner and the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals.

- (b) Yes.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) No.
- (e) None.

COMPENSATION TO HEIRS OF POLICE OFFICERS AND CONSTABLES WHO HAVE MET THEIR DEATH AT THE HANDS OF BABAR AKALIS IN THE DOABA.

349. Sardar Partap Singh : Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of police officers and constables who have met their death so far at the hands of Babar Akalis in the Doaba (Jullundur and Hoshiarpur districts) ;

- (b) whether any compensation in the shape of money, jagir or land has been granted to the heirs of the killed in compensation ; if so, will the Government please state the name and designation of each of the deceased and also the amount of money, jagir or area of the land granted to his heir ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (a) The number of police officers (including constables) killed is 8.

(b) Compensation as under has been granted to the heirs of the following seven police officers :—

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| (1) Sub-Inspector Gulzara Singh of the Additional Police. | Two squares of land. |
| (2) Daffadar Ghulam Rasul of the Additional Police | One square of land. |
| (3) Head-Constable Sultan Ali, No. 523, of the Punitive Police. | Ditto. |
| (4) Lance Head-Constable Siri Ram, No. 284, of the Hoshiarpur District. | Ditto. |
| (5) Foot Constable Basant Singh, No. 296, of the Hoshiarpur District. | Ditto. |
| (6) Foot Constable Madari Lal, No. 356, of the Hoshiarpur District. | Ditto. |
| (7) Foot Constable Waryaman, No. 89, of the Hoshiarpur District. | Pensions of Rs. 15 per mensem to each of his parents. |

COMPENSATION TO THE HEIRS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO THE DOABA WHO WERE KILLED IN THE GREAT WAR.

350. Sardar Partap Singh: Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) how many persons belonging to the Doaba (Jullundur and Hoshiarpur districts) died or were killed in action during the great war 1914—18 ;
- (b) whether any heirs of the deceased have received any reward, jagir or land in lieu of the war services of the former ? If so, will the Government be pleased to give a list showing the name, regiment, name of corps, military rank of the deceased and also the amount of reward or jagir or area of the land granted to his heirs ?

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.

APPLICATIONS FOR RECOGNITION OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS.

351. Sardar Partap Singh: (a) Is it a fact that applications for the recognition of private schools are sent to Deputy Commissioners for report and recommendation ?

[Sardar Partap Singh.]

(b) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, is it also a fact that sometimes Deputy Commissioners do not recommend for recognition certain schools on the ground that some of the members of the managing committees of these schools sympathise with the Akali, Congress or Khilafat movements?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Yes;

(b) Hardly.

ILLICIT DISTILLATION IN JULLUNDUR AND HOSHIARPUR.

352. Sardar Partap Singh : Will the Government be pleased to state the number of people who were challaned for illicit distillation in the districts of Jullundur and Hoshiarpur during the last year, i.e., 1st March 1923 to 29th February 1924 and the number of those who were convicted and sentenced on this account?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : The required information is contained in the statement below :—

<i>Name of the District.</i>	<i>No. of persons challaned.</i>	<i>No. of persons convicted in the cases decided so far.</i>
(1) Hoshiarpur	27	8
(2) Jullundur	207	97

WARRANTS FOR THE ARREST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SHIROMANI GURDWARA PARBANDHAK COMMITTEE AT SRI AKAL TAKHT.

353. Sardar Harohand Singh : Is it a fact that Government, while notifying the *Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak* Committee and the *Shiromani Akali Dal* as unlawful assemblies, declared that no steps will be taken against such of the members as confined their activities to religion? If so, will Government be pleased to lay the aforesaid *communiqué* on the table and state whether the warrants for the arrest of the members of the general meeting of the *Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak* Committee which was to be held on the 7th January 1924 at *Sri Akal Takht* were issued before the meeting was held?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : A copy of the *communiqué* in question is laid on the table. So far as Government are aware, no warrants were issued for the arrest of the members of the general meeting of the *Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak* Committee held on the 7th of January, 1924. The offence with which these persons were charged was one for which the police are entitled to arrest without warrant.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE.

The *Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak* Committee which started in 1920 as an agency which aimed at controlling Sikh shrines has from time to time encouraged action contrary to the law. Since the abdication of His Highness the Maharaja of Nabha and the election of a fresh Committee, the *Parbandhak* Committee and the allied *Akali Dal* have openly encouraged bodies of Akalis to invade the Nabha State with the object of intimidating Government and to interfere with the maintenance of law and order. These associations

are, in the opinion of Government, a danger to the public peace. The managing agencies of these associations will now be prosecuted for sedition and conspiracy to overawe the Government and cognate offences.

At the same time the *Parbandhak* Committee and *Akali Dal* with their subordinate organizations have been declared to be unlawful associations within the meaning of the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1908. It is not proposed to proceed under that Act against any persons who confine themselves to purely religious activities, but action will be taken against persons covered by the declaration who continue to act in a manner dangerous to the maintenance of law and order and to the public peace.

The action taken is in no way directed against the movement for the reform of Sikh shrines, so long as that movement is conducted according to law.

Attested.

LAHORE:

(Sd.) M. L. BARNES,

The 15th October, 1923.

Senior Assistant Secretary to Government,
Punjab.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Is it not a fact that arrests of the members of the *Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak* Committee were made before the results of the meeting were made public.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I must ask for notice of that question.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES IN THE KARNAL CITY.

354. **Lala Banke Rai :** Is it a fact—

- (a) that there are three Honorary Magistrates in the Karnal City who are very near relatives of each other;
- (b) that these Honorary Magistrates own a good deal of landed and house property in the Karnal Tahsil;
- (c) that one of them is an *Ilqa* First Class Magistrate having Thana Karnal City, Karnal Sadar, Nisang, and Butana situated in Tahsil Karnal under his jurisdiction; and the other two are Third and Second Class Magistrates, respectively, exercising powers in the Karnal Tahsil?
- (d) that the Hindu Sabha, Karnal, sent a resolution to the Local Government on 19th August 1923 protesting against the treatment meted out to Hindus by the above mentioned Magistrates?
- (e) What action has the Government taken upon the resolution mentioned in question (d)?
- (f) If the Government has not taken any action as yet, will it be pleased to do so now?
- (g) If it does not wish to take any action, will it be pleased to state its reasons for not doing so?
- (h) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any other district in the whole of the Punjab in which so many Honorary Magistrates of one and the same family are exercising such criminal powers?

[Lala Banke Rai.]

(i) If the answer to question (4) is in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances in which this has been done in the Karnal District ?

(f) Is it a fact—

(i) that Government circulated a letter to the effect that Honorary Magistrates in the Punjab would no longer remain Naqa Magistrates ;

(ii) that the above letter mentioned in (i) has been cancelled ;

(4) If so, will Government be pleased to state its reasons for the cancellation of the circular mentioned in (i) ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : (a), (b), (c) and (d). The reply is in the affirmative.

(e) The resolution was forwarded in original to the Commissioner, Ambala Division, for necessary action.

(f) and (g) These questions do not arise.

(h) In another district a father and a son are both exercising criminal powers. There may be other cases, but no definite information is available.

(i) The question does not arise.

(j) (i) and (ii) The answer is in the affirmative.

(4) This circular was cancelled on the representation of several experienced district officials.

CONSTITUTION OF THE KARNAL MUNICIPALITY.

355. Lala Banke Rai : Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Local Government proposed nine elected and three nominated members for the Karnal Municipality ;

(b) whether there is any other Municipality in the Punjab having three nominated members ;

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons why an exception has been made especially in the case of Karnal Municipality ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

CONSTITUTION OF THE HISSAR AND HOSHIARPUR MUNICIPALITIES.

356. Lala Banke Rai : Is it a fact—

(a) that the Government fixed ten and eleven elected members for the Hissar and Hoshiarpur Municipalities, respectively ;

(b) that the two above Municipalities have less population than that of Karnal ;

(c) Will the Government please state its reasons for proposing nine elected members for the Karnal Municipality keeping in view its final decision regarding Hissar and Hoshiarpur Municipalities mentioned in question (a) ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to fix ten elected members instead of nine as proposed by the Government for Karnal Municipality in the ratio of six Hindus to four Muslims ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, but the difference is negligible.

(c) and (d). In Hoshiarpur there were 10 elected and 6 nominated members, and in reconstitution the elected were raised to 11, and the nominated reduced to 3, thus reducing the total strength from 16 to 14.

In Hissar and Karnal the total number of members remained the same but the elected element was raised and the nominated reduced.

The honourable member's suggestion that the elected element in Karnal be the same as in Hissar will be borne in mind.

AGE OF A CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION TO THE KARNAL MUNICIPALITY.

357. Lala Banke Rai : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state why the age of a candidate for election to the Karnal Municipality has been proposed 25 in draft rules instead of 21, which is the age limit in all other Municipal Committees in the Punjab?

(b) Will it be pleased to reduce the age to 21?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) and (b) The age limit has already been reduced to 21 in the Rules as confirmed.

PRESIDENT OF KARNAL MUNICIPALITY.

358. Lala Banke Rai : (a) Is it a fact that the Karnal *Hindu Sabha* sent a resolution to the Local Government on 10th December 1923 to the effect that the Hindus of Karnal had no confidence in the President of Karnal Municipality?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what action it has taken upon that resolution?

(c) If no action has yet been taken, will it state its reasons for not taking any action?

(d) Will it be pleased to take some suitable action in the matter?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) No.

(b) (c) and (d) do not arise.

APPLICATIONS FOR ARMS LICENSES.

359. Sardar Harchand Singh : (a) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioners call for a report from the Police as to the political views of the applicants when granting licenses for arms under the Arms Act? If so, will Government be pleased to state whether there is any provision in the rules under which people holding certain political views but otherwise eligible for licenses are debarred from getting arms licenses?

(b) If the answer to the first part of (a) be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Lyallpur recently rejected an application for license preferred by a resident of Chak No. 220, Rakh Branch, Tahsil Lyallpur, on a police report to the effect that the applicant was a politically-minded person and in spite of the fact that the applicant had been recommended by the Tahsildar as a deserving person? If so, under what authority the Deputy Commissioner did so?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) Government has no information with regard to individual cases but as a general rule Deputy Commissioners do not call for reports with regard to the political views of applicants for licenses.

(b) Government has no information regarding the particular case. A District Magistrate has full authority to grant or refuse applications for licenses under the Arms Act.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government try to get that information ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : If the question is put at the next meeting we will try to do that.

MASTER BIHARI LAL AND MAULVI ABDUL TAWAB, TEACHERS, NORMAL SCHOOL, ROHTAK.

360. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram : Will the Government please lay on the table copies of the correspondence or proceedings of the inquiry made in connection with the case of Master Bihari Lal and Maulvi Abdul Tawab, teachers, Normal School, Rohtak ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The enquiry has not yet been completed.

COOKING OF BEEF BY MUSLIM STUDENTS OF THE NORMAL SCHOOL, ROHTAK.

361. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram : (a) Is it a fact that the Muslim students of the Normal School, Rohtak, on the incitement of some Muhammadan teachers cooked beef on *Dussehra* and *Diwali* festivals, and this action injured the feelings and caused great dissatisfaction among the Hindu students and that the relations of the students became strained ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken by them to prevent such action in the future ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

CHARGE FOR BORING OF WELLS.

362. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram : (a) Is it a fact that the Government has recently ordered that Rs. 50 be charged from agriculturists for the boring of wells for the purposes of irrigation ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of withdrawing these orders ?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : (a) Rs. 50 is charged in the case of a successful boring.

(b) Not at present, as the staff and funds are limited.

SATTA GAMBLING.

363. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram : (a) Is the Government aware that in certain towns of the Punjab *Satta* gambling (wagering in connection with opium sales at Calcutta) is in vogue ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether its practice daily or periodical can be stopped by the police under its own regulations ?

(c) If not, will the Government be pleased to stop this practice or undertake suitable legislation in this matter ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : In 1915 it was ascertained that the form taken by opium *Satta* in Amritsar, where it is understood to be most prevalent, was that of a lottery which can be adequately dealt with under section 294-A, Indian Penal Code. Deputy Commissioners were requested to apply to Government for sanction to prosecute wherever opium *Satta* gambling was prevalent. In the circumstances fresh legislation does not appear to be necessary. In 1919 the attention of Deputy Commissioners was again drawn to the matter and fresh instructions will now be issued.

RECRUITMENT OF HINDUS AS POLICE CONSTABLES.

364. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram : (a) Is it a fact that Hindus are not easily obtainable by Government for appointment to the post of police constables in the Punjab ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons and to devise some measure in order to get suitable Hindu recruits for these posts ?

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.

STUDENTS OF PANIPAT SCHOOL AND RECEPTION OF THE TROOPS.

365. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram : (a) Is it a fact that the students of Panipat School are required to stand for hours during the winter season for the reception of the troops when passing by ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to discontinue this practice ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member's question is so indefinite that it cannot be answered.

TAHSILDAR OF PANIPAT.

366. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram : (a) Is it a fact that in Panipat the same Tahsildar is still in service about whom the witnesses had stated in Panipat Disturbance Case that the responsibility of the disturbance lay on him ?

(b) If so, will the Government please state the reasons of his non-transference ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The attention of the honourable member is invited to paragraph (b) of the reply given to question No. 251.*

CERTAIN APPOINTMENTS IN MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, BHIWANI.

367. Lala Sham Lal : Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Municipal Committee of Bhiwani appointed B. Muhammad Noman as an Overseer and accepted Pandit Ram Kavar as a candidate for the post of Accountant in the said municipality ;

[Lala Sham Lal.]

- (b) whether the resolutions of Bhiwani Municipal Committee regarding the appointment of the above were suspended by the Deputy Commissioner of Hissar and were ultimately cancelled by the Commissioner of Ambala Division on the ground that the above-mentioned individuals had been convicted of offences against the law ;
- (c) whether the above-mentioned individuals had been convicted under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, and if so, whether this could be taken to involve moral turpitude so as to debar them from serving the Municipal Committee ;
- (d) any rule or standing order of the Government or any bye-law of the Bhiwani Municipality under which the Deputy Commissioner or the Commissioner was entitled to take such action ?

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.

UNDER-SECRETARY TO THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC WORKS
DEPARTMENT (BUILDINGS AND ROADS BRANCH).

368. Lala Sham Lal : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any Indian has so far been permanently appointed to the post of an Under-Secretary to the Punjab Government, Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads Branch) ?

(b) If the reply be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for their not doing so ?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand :

(a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) The appointment has invariably been made by selection.

There is absolutely no bar to the selection of an Indian.

NEW CONSTITUTION OF THE LAHORE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

369. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it has come to their notice that the Hindus have abstained from participating in the election of new members for the Lahore Municipal Committee as a protest against the revised constitution of the Committee ;
- (b) the original recommendations made by the Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner, Lahore, about the revision of the constitution of the Lahore Municipal Committee ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Colonel Ferrar, late Deputy Commissioner, Lahore, expressed his opinion clearly that the new constitution of the Lahore Municipal Committee as proposed by Government would provoke agitation and not work smoothly ;
- (d) the reasons which led them to frame the new constitution of the Lahore Municipal Committee against the views of the Deputy Commissioner (Colonel Ferrar) and the Commissioner ;
- (e) if the answers to the above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to reconsider their present decision ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Yes.

(b) to (e) The correspondence of Government with local officers is confidential and it is not in the public interest to disclose it. The honourable member is not right in implying that the proposal was opposed to the views of both the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner and his attention is invited to the note on the reconstitution of the Municipal Committees and District Boards of the Punjab, a copy of which has already been supplied to him.

RELEASE OF SARDAR KHARAK SINGH.

370. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : (a) Has the Government received any communication from the Government of India informing them that the Indian Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution in its current session recommending the release of Sardar Kharak Singh, President of the *Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee*, now undergoing sentence in Dera Ghazi Khan Jail? If not, has the resolution come to its notice otherwise?

(b) If the reply to any part of the above question be in the affirmative, will it be pleased to state what action it has taken or 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.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION'S CIRCULAR REGARDING EDUCATION OF THE DEPRESSED CLASSES.

371. Lala Bodh Raj : Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) if it is a fact that a Circular No. 210-G.S., dated the 13th June 1923, has been issued from the office of the Director of Public Instruction regarding the education of the depressed classes;

(b) if it is a fact that obstacles have been put every now and then by certain members of the education staff in the way of the education of the depressed classes and that this fact was brought to the notice of the Inspector of Schools, Ambala Division, and the Principal of Government High School and Normal School, Rohtak?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Yes.

(b) The Punjab Government has no knowledge of the incidents to which the member refers.

Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government be pleased to inquire into the fact?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Which fact?

Lala Bodh Raj : The fact mentioned in clause (b).

Mr. President : The allegation you mean?

Lala Bodh Raj : Yes.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Not till the names of the members are stated.

CATTLE-TAX IMPOSED IN THE DISTRICT OF KANGRA.

372. Chaudhri Ram Singh : Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) if it is a fact that cattle-tax is being imposed in the district of Kangra where the cattle do not graze on Government lands but on the lands of private proprietors ;
- (b) if there is any other district in the province where such a tax is imposed ;
- (c) if it has consulted local officers or if it intends to consult them for the remission of this tax ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No.
- (c) No.

AGREEMENT DEED OF SHAH NAHR.

373. Chaudhri Ram Singh : Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the terms of agreement deed, dated the 16th December 1889, executed by the proprietors of Shah Nahr, Tahsil Dasuya, District Hoshiarpur, in favour of the Government ;
- (b) whether it has been complying with terms Nos. 8 and 12 of the agreement ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

- (a) A copy is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Government has no reason to think that the terms of clause 8 and clause 12 of the agreement are not duly observed.

DEED OF TRANSFER TO GOVERNMENT OF SHAREHOLDERS' RIGHTS IN THE SHAH NAHR CANAL.

Whereas we the undersigned, representing all the shareholders in the Hajipur Canal, commonly known as the Shah Nahr, hereinafter described as the shareholders, are jointly interested with Government in the said canal, and whereas the management of the canal has hitherto been in the hands of the Manager appointed by the shareholders with the approval of the Deputy Commissioner in 1871, and the receipts from the canal (consisting of (1) a water-advantage rate, which has been fixed at 1 rupee 2 annas per ghumao for the term of settlement, and (2) a water rate of 1 rupee 8 annas per ghumao, besides miscellaneous income from water mills, &c.) are collected and received partly by Government and partly by the shareholders, the water-advantage rate being received by Government and the water-rate and miscellaneous income by the shareholders ; and whereas we the shareholders are unable to manage the canal and collect the canal income without the assistance of Government, and it is desirable in the interests of the irrigators that the canal be taken under direct Government management, and that all receipts from the canal be collected and received by Government officers, we the shareholders aforesaid do hereby transfer and convey to Government all our right, title and interest in the said canal in consideration of the advantages secured to us by the conditions hereinafter specified by which Government has bound itself to abide.

(1) That the canal be managed by the Deputy Commissioner of the district, under the orders of Government and the control of the higher Revenue authorities, in accordance with the provisions of Canal Act in force for the time being.

(2) That the water-advantage rate on the canal-irrigated area remain fixed at 1 rupee 2 annas per ghumao, i.e., 757 acre, during the currency of the present settlement, and be subsequently fixed at such amount as Government may think proper.

(3) That the water-rate be fixed for the present at 1 rupee 2 annas per annum for each ghumao as aforesaid, irrigated either in one or both harvests, but that the rate be liable to diminution or enhancement at any time at the pleasure of Government, subject, however, in the case of irrigation by villages or individuals hitherto owning shares in the canal to a maximum of 1 rupee 6 annas per ghumao. Irrigators other than shareholders may be assessed to water-rate at any amount that may be thought proper.

(4) That out of the sum collected as water-rate a fixed assignment of 8 annas for every ghumao irrigated, or four-ninths the water-rate as now fixed at 1 rupee 2 annas per ghumao, be made annually to the shareholders, irrespective of the amount of profit or loss on the canal management or of the amount of any arrears of income that may be outstanding, to be divided by them among themselves in accordance with the shares heretofore existing.

(5) That a four-ninth share of the miscellaneous income from the canal e.g., receipts from water-mills, sales from wood and grass, be paid annually to the shareholders to be divided by them as above, but that payments made by owners of private canal taken out of the back channel of the Beas above or below the Shah Nahr for the maintenance and repair of the head-works at Changarwan be devoted exclusively to this purpose, and that no portion of these receipts be paid to the shareholders.

(6) That money thus payable to the shareholders be set off against the amount payable by them in their capacity as irrigators, and that after adjustment of accounts in the tahsil the balance only, if any, be credited to Government, provided that this concession be allowed only to such shareholder or holders as are not in arrears with their land revenue or water-advantage-rate.

(7) That Government agrees to render such assistance as may be lawfully possible to recover for the shareholders all arrears of water-rate outstanding upon this date that may be found upon inquiry to be actually due.

(8) That the shareholders be consulted in regard to the appointment of canal manager, and that due regard be paid to any representation they may make upon the subject, and that for the present Kharak Singh, Zaildar, of Sandhwal, be confirmed in the appointment of manager under Government and be retained in the appointment during such time as he continues to give satisfaction in the discharge of his duties.

(9) That the manager be paid from the receipts from water-rate, and that his salary be fixed at 2 annas for each ghumao irrigated annually, or one-ninth of the water-rate as now fixed, viz., 1 rupee 2 annas per ghumao.

(10) That in the event of a failure of crop owing to a deficiency in the water-supply in the canal, the water-rate and water-advantage rate assessable on the land upon which the crop was sown be remitted, provided

[Hon. S. B. Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.]

that land producing a crop in either the kharif or the rabi harvest be liable to assessment at full rates.

(11) That (if available after irrigation of crops) sufficient water be allowed to fill the tanks of the 16 shareholding villages free of cost, and that their cattle be not impounded for crossing the canal at such places as may be provided for the purpose, or for straying or grazing on any portion of the canal that may be unfenced.

(12) That in the event of the supply of water in the canal running short, the shareholders be considered to have a prior claim to water as compared with other irrigators.

(13) That the arrangements made at the revised settlement, regarding irrigation from the canal constructed by Natha Singh, Zaildar of Jhandwal, be maintained and observed in their integrity by Natha Singh, his heirs, representatives and assigns and by the officers of Government in charge of the canal.

(14) In consideration of the due observance of the above conditions, we shareholders, residents of Mauza Budhabar and the 15 villages detailed below, do hereby agree and bind ourselves, our heirs, representatives and assigns to supply free labour during the rains from 15th June to 1st October to repair breaches in the canal and main branches, or damage to the head-works and bands from Changarwan to Sariana, at the rate of three able-bodied men for each pie of our shares, or in default, to pay to Government a fine of 1 rupee per diem for every man not supplied when required; such fine to be deducted from the sum payable to the defaulter from the water-rate: and further to assist in every possible way the manager appointed by Government and the officers of Government in the administration of the canal.

(15) From the date of execution of this agreement all rights hitherto possessed by the shareholders in the canal and its head-works, banks, branches and distributaries shall pass to and vest absolutely in Government, and any sums that may have been expended upon the maintenance or repair of the canal after the 1st May in the current year shall be considered as expenditure by Government upon the canal, and credit shall be given to the shareholders for all payments thus made in the accounts for the kharif harvest.

Names of 15 villages referred to in clause 14.

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. Sariana. | 9. Dhedukatralla. |
| 2. Bhamnal. | 10. Bahbal Mauj. |
| 3. Fatehpur. | 11. Kasranwan. |
| 4. Biriawal. | 12. Laddar. |
| 5. Baggowal. | 13. Dhesian. |
| 6. Sahrakwal. | 14. Sadhari. |
| 7. Bachhowah. | 15. Sihali. |
| 8. Badhan. | |

The Punjab Government has accepted all the conditions set forth in the above deed and will be bound by them in future.

(Sd.) H. C. FANSHAWE,

Offg. Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab

Dated the 21st July 1890.

and its dependencies.

LICENSE FOR MOTOR TRANSPORT FROM PATHANKOT TO DALHOUSIE.

374. Chaudhri Ram Singh : Will the Government please state—

- (a) if it is a fact that the license for motor transport from Pathankot to Dalhousie has never been given to any other company besides the Clive Company ;
- (b) if it is a fact that D. C. Khanna or any other firm applied for license to the Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur, and it was refused ? If so, why ?

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.

COMPENSATION TO PROPRIETORS OF VILLAGES ADJOINING KAMALIA.

375. Lala Bodh Raj : Will Government be pleased to state —

- (a) whether it is a fact that the lands adjoining Kamalia and the neighbouring villages have suffered a good deal on account of the construction of the Lower Bari Doab Canal ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there have been hardly any floods after the opening of the canal which would irrigate the above-mentioned lands ;
- (c) whether they have taken any measure to compensate the proprietors of such villages by making them grants of land in the colonies or otherwise ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The information required is being collected and a reply will be given as soon as it is received.

WATER SUPPLY OF THE BHIWANI TAIL CANAL.

376. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please state if it would be possible in the near future to enlarge and improve the water supply of the Bhiwani tail canal ?

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.

BHIWANI MUNICIPALITY AND ITS PRESIDENT.

377. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Will the Government please lay on the table all the necessary papers regarding the Bhiwani Municipality and its President including—

- (a) the representation made from time to time to the Deputy Commissioner, and the Commissioner, Ambala Division ;
- (b) the correspondence between the President and the Deputy Commissioner,
- (c) the findings of the Deputy Commissioner ;
- (d) all the enquiry reports ;
- (e) the final orders of the Government ?

(ii) Will the Government please state whether they contemplate appointing an independent committee to make an enquiry into the allegations made on either side and report on the Bhiwani affairs and its President ?

[Lala Bodh Raj.]

(iii) Is the Government aware of the fact that the members of the Municipal Committee have been complaining from time to time against undue interference of the local officials in the Municipal affairs since the appointment of the non-official President?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (i) (a) to (d) No. It is not in the public interest to do so.

(i) (c) and (ii) The final order of Government is to the effect that they propose to take no further action in the matter. Government are not satisfied that, if properly educated by public-spirited citizens, the Bhiwani electorate is incapable of adopting the remedy that under the law is constitutionally within its power.

(iii) Government have received complaints from one member of the Municipal Committee, and the Commissioner reports that the complaints are baseless.

HISSAR LOCAL BOARD.

378. Lala Bodh Raj: Is the Government aware of the very poor financial condition of the Hissar Local Board? If so, what steps does the Government intend to take to improve it?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Government are not aware of the existence of any Local Board in Hissar.

MUNICIPAL BOARD HIGH SCHOOL, BHIWANI.

379. Lala Bodh Raj: Will the Government please state when it proposes to provincialise the Municipal Board High School, Bhiwani?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Much depends on the vote of the Legislative Council on this matter.

MOTOR TRACTION IN THE PROVINCE.

380. Lala Bodh Raj: Will the Government please state—

(a) if full effect has been given to the Punjab Government *communique* issued in the latter half of the year 1919 regarding motor traction in the province?

(b) if the local boards and the Tahsildars have given facilities at all places for such transport?

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.

DEVELOPMENT OF INDIGENOUS INDUSTRIES.

381. Lala Bodh Raj: Will the Government please lay on the table a statement showing the financial help or other kinds of support rendered by the Government for developing the indigenous industries in pursuance of the recommendations of the Industrial Commission?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand: The honourable member is referred to the annual reports of the department. The reports will be found in the Council Library.

PROGRESS OF HOME AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

382. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please lay on the table a statement showing the progress of home and cottage industries together with the financial and other support rendered by the Government for their development during the last five years, as well as the expenditure incurred by the Department on that account?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : The information required is contained in the annual reports of the Department of Industries which can be seen in the Council Library.

TECHNICAL AND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN THE PROVINCE.

383. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please state if there is any scheme under contemplation for the increase of Technical and Agricultural education in the Province?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : A copy of a recent circular on Agricultural Education is laid on the table.

C. M. No. 1125-G. S., dated Simla, the 20th September 1923.

From—G. ANDERSON, Esq., C.I.E., M.A., Under-Secretary to Government, Punjab.

To—All Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and Inspectors of Schools in the Punjab.

I AM directed to refer to Mr. Richey's C. M. No. 77, dated February 19th, 1919, in regard to agricultural education in the Punjab.

2. The main proposals of that circular were as follows:—

(a) *Primary Education.*—No attempts should be made to teach technical agriculture and horticulture in primary schools. In consequence, efforts to teach practical agriculture in normal schools (in which the primary teachers are trained) were abandoned. But it was resolved that nature study should form an essential part of the teaching in primary schools; and that text-books in use in rural primary schools should be adapted to the environment of the pupil.

(b) *Vernacular Secondary Education.*—A very important departure from prevalent practice was agreed upon in this respect. In the first place, it was decided to include, and to provide for, teaching in agriculture in the ordinary vernacular middle schools rather than to start agricultural middle schools of a special type. The aim was therefore to enrich the middle course in rural areas by the inclusion of agricultural teaching and thus to bring it more in keeping with the lives of the pupils, rather than to provide a purely vocational course at this early stage. The object was to use agriculture as a means of mental discipline and training and as an accessory to the general subjects taught in these schools. In the second place, having declared its educational objective in inaugurating the new scheme, the Punjab Government decided that the training should be of a practical as well as of a theoretical nature. For the fulfilment of this object, it was proposed to attach to thirty vernacular middle schools of the province school farms of about three acres each. It was estimated that the average initial cost of each farm (including the purchase of the land) would approximate Rs. 3,500. In the third place,

[Hon. K. B. Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

the aim being mainly educational rather than agricultural, it was decided that the teaching should be conducted by specially selected and trained teachers of the senior-vernacular grade rather than by men with agricultural qualifications who had received a course in pedagogy. In consequence, plans were prepared to provide annually for the training of twenty teachers at the then proposed senior-vernacular college at Lyallpur, who would be eligible for an allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem for teaching agriculture in the schools.

- (c) *Anglo-vernacular Secondary Education.*—It was resolved to substitute, in anglo-vernacular middle schools, a course of agricultural science for the present science course; and that it should be succeeded by teaching during the high school stage, whose main object should be the inculcation of sound agricultural principles. This theoretical teaching was to be accompanied by some practical training. For this purpose it was proposed to open twenty agricultural high school centres, at an estimated cost of Rs. 7,750 each. The farm of each centre was to approximate an area of five acres; and the centre was to be available to all high schools in the vicinity.

3. The Minister is of opinion that the time has now arrived to review the results of these experiments and to make such modifications in the original proposals as seem necessary in the light of experience and in view of the existing financial stringency. It may here be remarked that the Government of India sanctioned a grant of Rs. 4,69,000 from Imperial revenues to enable the several proposals to be carried into effect. It is also important to note that the scheme of agricultural teaching in vernacular middle schools was discussed and generally approved by a conference of agricultural experts at Pusa in the early part of 1922, at which the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, were present.

4. *Primary Education.*—The Minister is still of opinion that no attempt should be made to teach practical agriculture in primary schools. Indeed, the experience of the past few years has indicated the advisability of a further simplification of the primary course, a matter which has recently been discussed and reported upon by a committee appointed for that purpose. It is not therefore considered desirable to emphasise the practical aspect of nature study as a separate subject because the efforts of teachers in primary schools must necessarily be mainly directed for some time to come to instruction which has for its chief object the removal of illiteracy. On the other hand, the Minister endorses the policy of adapting the material of the readers to the environment of the pupils, and hopes, when the report of the Committee referred to above has been examined, to indicate lines along which more suitable readers may be prepared. It will then be necessary to train the teachers so to teach that pupils shall not only learn to read but also to understand and to assimilate the material thus placed before them in the readers. The object in view should be that, on leaving a primary school, the pupils shall have learnt not merely to read and write, but also to take an intelligent interest in things around them.

5. *Vernacular Middle Schools.*—Very considerable progress has been made in carrying out the original policy, as many as 23 vernacular middle schools having school farms attached to them; and there are proposals for

other farms which are denied completion merely by the financial stringency. There are also several schools in which temporary arrangements of a more or less satisfactory nature for practical training have been made. The reports which have been received on the working of the system have been, on the whole, most satisfactory. Some of the farms have achieved most excellent results and are self-supporting. Some, again, have attracted the favourable attention of the farmers in the vicinity. The pupils have shown considerable interest and have been in no way reluctant to undertake the practical work of the farm. The courses and readers which have been prepared by the Inspector of Agricultural Training, have supplied a long felt need; and the teachers who have been trained at Lyallpur have shown marked aptitude for the work. The theoretical side of the training has also stimulated an intelligent interest by the pupils in the phenomena of nature. The Pusa Conference was well satisfied by this experiment.

6. The success and the experience that have attended this important experiment can now be used to indicate both modifications and expansions of the original scheme. The most important modification, however, has been dictated by the financial stringency. It is not possible, in the first place, for Government to include a large sum each year in the budget; and, indeed, Rs. 20,000 only were included in the budget for the current year. Thus, taking the average estimate of each farm for initial expenditure at Rs. 8,500 (as laid down in Mr. Richey's Circular, paragraph 5), it is not possible to start more than a few farms each year. Moreover, though considerable reductions are possible through the hire instead of the purchase of bullocks and through a reduction in the cost of the farm buildings, the cost of acquiring the land is now found to be far more than was originally estimated. It has already been suggested that the land might be leased instead of purchased. In the second place, district boards find it increasingly difficult to afford the allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem for the teacher and to meet the deficit that often results on the working of the farm in its initial stages.

7. The Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) does not desire, in view of the success of many of these farms that they should be abandoned. Indeed, it hopes that, with increased experience, these farms will play an even more important part in future in identifying rural education with rural requirements. But, in view of the financial stringency, it is able to contribute towards the creation of only two new farms in the province next year and, in selecting these, will give preference to those for which complete proposals have already been forwarded to this Department. In order that these 25 farms can be continued without serious embarrassment to district boards, Government is prepared, subject to budget provision and the vote of the Legislative Council, to meet the allowance of Rs. 10 for each approved teacher who has satisfactorily completed the Lyallpur course, and also to contribute towards the loss on the working of an efficiently worked farm up to a maximum of Rs. 100 per annum for a period of five years from the date of the institution of each farm. It is hoped that this maximum of loss will rarely be reached, but it is realised that farms which are intended for demonstration of agricultural processes are often debarred for this very reason from becoming paying propositions. Special forms will be provided for keeping the farms accounts. These accounts, after scrutiny by the inspecting staff and approval by the Inspector, should be forwarded by the latter officer to this Department. All expenditure on account of farms (including the

[Hon. K. B. Mian-Fazl-i-Husain.] allowances, but excluding the salaries of the teachers) should be kept entirely separate from the expenditure on vernacular education in accordance with the five-year programme.

8. It is also felt that considerable advance can be made, in the promotion of agricultural teaching, alongside of the schools with three acre farms, by the use of small garden plots (up to a maximum of half an acre in area) attached to other vernacular middle schools, especially in view of the changes in the curriculum which are discussed below. This should result in a largely decreased initial expenditure. The miniature farm or garden might be provided in the school compound or acquired at little or no expense. Bullocks will not be required; and the necessary implements will be few in number and small in cost. Subject to budget provision and to an approved maximum which will be communicated each year, Government is willing again to meet the allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem for each teacher employed who has successfully completed his course of training at Lyallpur, to contribute towards initial expenditure up to a maximum of Rs. 300 per plot, and towards the net deficit on the working of the plot up to a maximum of Rs. 30 per annum for a period of five years from the date of commencing work.

9. The Minister is also of opinion that the school courses should be reviewed. The Committee referred to above has recommended that the present teaching of agriculture might well be expanded into a new subject of rural science, which would include the existing course in agriculture (theoretical as well as practical), would substitute agriculture for pure science, and would embrace subjects such as elementary civics, hygiene, sanitation, physical geography and the principles of co-operation. A revised course along these general proposals is under consideration. It is hoped that this new course will be successful not only in maintaining interest in agriculture, but also in adapting the teaching of rural pupils to rural needs and associations.

10. In regard to the training of teachers in agriculture, a departure has been made from the original proposals discussed in Mr. Richey's Circular. The class has been attached directly to the College of Agriculture at Lyallpur and not to the senior vernacular college in the same place, the proposals for which have been abandoned. This change was effected mainly in the interests of economy, but it is thought that it has also been beneficial in associating the teachers more intimately with agricultural surroundings. It is now intended so to expand the course of training that the teachers shall become competent to undertake the revised course explained in the previous paragraph. Teachers who successfully complete this revised course will also be eligible for the allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem; when they return to work in the schools and provided that they are placed in charge of the teaching of rural science.

11. *High Schools.*—Very little advance has been made in the completion of this part of the scheme. In very many cases the cost of acquiring a farm of five acres in a large urban centre has proved prohibitive. It has also been most difficult to find suitable teachers. The main objection to the scheme, however, has been that vocational training of this nature is out of place in a high school, while the theoretical training in most schools is of an indifferent nature. For those pupils who desire to proceed to a professional college, it is the province of a high school to provide that basis of general training which should precede all professional training. No new high school agricultural centres should therefore be started. In existing centres strict

accounts should be kept and submitted to the inspector. If and when intermediate colleges, comprising the two high and the two intermediate classes are started, the intention is that these colleges shall provide, alongside of the ordinary courses in arts and science, a suitable foundation for professional training not only in agriculture but also in other subjects.

EXPORT OF MILCH CATTLE FROM HARIANA.

384. Lala Bodh Raj : Is the Government aware of the fact that the huge export of milch cattle from Haryana district is deteriorating the famous breed day by day? If so, does the Government intend to take any steps in the matter?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : No.

Government hopes to be able to take steps to encourage and improve Haryana breed of cattle.

SYSTEM OF CANAL WATER SUPPLY IN THE IRRIGATED AREA OF AMBALA DIVISION.

385. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please lay on the table a statement showing the system of canal water supply in the irrigated area of Ambala Division?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : It is not quite clear what kind of statement is required. A complete description of the Western Jumna Canal, which irrigates the Ambala Division, is given in the Completion Report of that Canal. A copy of this Completion Report can be supplied for perusal if so desired.

THEFT CASES IN THE HISSAR DISTRICT.

386. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government lay on the table a statement showing the number of theft cases in the Hissar district for the last five years and also state—

- (a) the number of cases in which the convictions were obtained;
- (b) the number of cases in which the accused were acquitted or discharged;
- (c) the number of cases in which the offences were not traced.

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.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE PROVINCE.

387. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please supply the following information :—

1. Population of each district by communities.
2. Number of boys of school-going age of each community in each district.
3. Number of students of each community studying in schools on 1st March 1924, in Secondary and Primary Departments.

[Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.]

4. Number of students of each community studying in Secondary and Primary Departments of Government schools and private aided institutions.
5. Number of Government, local body and private managed schools in each district.
6. Number of private aided schools per community.
7. Number of private aided schools of each community which have received building grants.
8. Number of private aided schools of each community which are receiving building rents.
9. Number of persons of each community having more than Rs. 2,000 income for the purpose of paying 1st grade fees.
10. Names of backward districts or areas which the Government considers as such for the purpose of Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, C. M. No. 13070-G., dated 6th November 1923?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Government is not prepared to undertake the immense task of collecting the information required by the honourable member. He is referred to the Census Report, to the Annual Reports of the Education Department, and to the statistics appended to C. M. No. 132704G. of the Education Department, a copy of which is included in the answers to question No. 213.*

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : What about the items 7 and 8?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : I believe the information as to items 7 and 8 will probably be available from such annual reports of the Education Department during which year the institutions received the grants mentioned therein.

PROTESTS AGAINST DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION'S C. M. No. 13070-G.

388. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Is it a fact that a number of protests have been submitted to the Government against the Director of Public Instruction C. M. No. 13070-G., dated 6th November 1923? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay them on the table and be pleased to state further what action it has taken or intends to take upon them?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : As this Circular has just been discussed at some length in the Council, it is not considered necessary to reply to this question.

BOARDING HOUSE FEES.

389. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any grades of boarding house fees existed before the issue of C. M. No. 13070-G., dated 6th November 1923? If not, will the Government be pleased to give its reasons for fixing these grades now?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the rule requiring payment of both first grade school and boarding house fees will not make education more expensive and that it amounts to a fresh tax on particular communities in the province; if so, will it please state what action does it propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) No. In order to meet the demands of the existing financial stringency.

(b) The new rule applies to all communities.

GRANT-IN-AID TO SCHOOLS.

390. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : (a) Will the Government please state the number of schools per community which earned full rates of grant-in-aid as 'Satisfactory' and those which earned 75 per cent. of rates as being fairly satisfactory during the last year?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state its reasons for revising this classification of schools for the purposes of grant-in-aid?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) The necessary information is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

(b) The whole question is discussed at length in the Circular Memo. which was placed on the table in answer to Council Question No. 213.*

GRANT-IN-AID TO UNTRAINED GRADUATES.

391. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of untrained graduates employed in the schools of this province during the last year?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the abuses that it has experienced in allowing grant-in-aid for the employment of untrained graduates for a period of three years from the date of their joining the staff of a recognized school, and its reasons for reducing this period to two years?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to allow the grant-in-aid to untrained graduates for three years as before?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) The information is not at present available, but is being collected.

(b) An untrained graduate, by constantly changing his school, could continue earning grant as a trained teacher for ever. To prevent this, and in order to make reasonable provision for the untrained graduate who is gaining experience with a view to training, the new regulation provides for grant in respect to an untrained graduate for two years from the date of his first appointment.

(c) No.

BUILDINGS RENTS FOR THE PURPOSES OF GRANT-IN-AID.

392. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Is it a fact that building rents for the purposes of grant-in-aid have been lowered for the future? If so, why?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The attention of the honourable member is invited to paragraph 18 (d) of Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) C. M. No. 13070-G., dated the 6th November 1923, a copy of which has been supplied with the reply to Council Question No. 213.*

OVERSTAY OF ONE OF THE HEADS OF THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT
AT SIMLA.

393. Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) if it is a fact that one of the heads of the Government Departments stopped at Simla for several weeks after the offices had moved down to the plains ;

(b) the circumstances which necessitated this prolonged stay in the hills ;

(c) whether this was done in the interests of economy or of official business ;

(d) If the answer to the preceding question is in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state if the officer was on leave ?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : (a) Yes.

(b) Illness.

(c) The stay in Simla was unavoidable. Neither economy nor official business suffered.

(d) The officer was not on leave.

COMBINING THE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION.

394. Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : (a) Is it a fact that the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture for the year 1922-23 was published several months after it was due ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons of the delay in the publication ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Director of Agriculture, Punjab, was in hospital for about two months during the autumn of 1922-23 ?

(d) If the answer to the above question is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what officiating arrangements were made to carry on the work ?

(e) If no officiating arrangements were necessary, will the Government be pleased to consider the practicability of combining the Departments of Agriculture and Co-operation under the charge of the Registrar of the Co-operative Societies ?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : (a) There is no prescribed date for publication of the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes.

(d) The work was carried on by the Director of Agriculture with the assistance of his Personal Assistant, an Imperial Service officer.

(e) Does not arise.

HINDU MEHTAN AGRICULTURISTS AS MEMBERS OF CRIMINAL TRIBES.

395. Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Is it a fact that Hindu Mehtan agriculturists of the following places have been notified as members of

Criminal Tribes under the Criminal Tribes Act (Act III of 1914)

- (1) Manza Bula,
- (2) Mauza Hazara Singhwala,
- (3) Mauza Talliwala,
- (4) Tahsil Muktsar,
- (5) Mauza Kotha,
- (6) Tahsil Fazilka,
- (7) Mauza Chhanga Khurd,
- (8) Mauza Magho Thar of the Ferozepore District.

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons which necessitated taking such an action against Hindu Mehtam Zamindars?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state the population of Hindu Mehtam agriculturists of each of the above places?

(d) Will the Government further be pleased to give the number of persons convicted of non-bailable offences in each village year by year for the past three years?

(e) Is it a fact that this number is not unusually large considering the population of each village?

(f) Will the Government be pleased to state the total area of land owned by Hindu Mehtam agriculturists in each village as compared with non-Mehtam Hindu agriculturists as also compared with the total area of land included in each village?

(g) Is the Government aware that these villages are inhabited by respectable Hindu Mehtam agriculturists owning large areas (exceeding 100 Ghammons) of land and some of them (i) have received grants of squares of land as reward for the assistance rendered to the authorities in the suppression of crime, (ii) are lambardars and zaildars, (iii) are persons with large holdings and owning paces wells, (iv) have helped the Government with recruits and contributed a fair share to the War Loan?

(h) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of persons convicted of non-bailable offences, year by year, for three years in the adjoining villages?

(i) Is it a fact that the Hindu Mehtam agriculturists have submitted several memorials?

(j) Will the Government be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken in regard to these memorials?

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.

SCHEME FOR IRRIGATING THE PIND DADAN KHAN AREA.

396. Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr Shah: Arising out of the answer given by the Honourable Revenue Member to question No. 2672* put in the Council on the 24th October 1923, will Government be pleased to state whether the information promised has since been collected and to lay the same on the table?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :
A copy of the reply to Council Question No. 2672, is attached for information.

Answer to Question No. 2672.

(a) An estimate amounting to Rs. 9,000 was sanctioned on 4th August 1923 to cover the cost of carrying out a rectangular and soil survey of the Jalalpur Canal tract between Jalalpur and Khushab. Another estimate amounting to Rs. 2,058 was sanctioned on 22nd October 1923 to cover the cost of obtaining surveying instruments for the Jalalpur survey.

(b) Survey work was begun during the first week in October and is in progress.

KHAN BAHADUR MIR MUHAMMAD KHAN.

397. Lala Bodh Raj : (i) Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) if it is a fact that Khan Bahadur Mir Muhammad Khan, Vakil, Simla, stood as a candidate for Punjab Elections in 1920 and was elected ;
- (b) if it is a fact that an election petition was filed against him and he was unseated ;
- (c) if it is a fact that the Election Commissioners found Khan Bahadur Mir Muhammad Khan guilty of corrupt practices and the Government passed an order removing his name from the list of voters and debarring him from election for five years ;
- (d) if the reply to (c) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state whether this disqualification debarred Khan Bahadur Mir Muhammad Khan from being a member of the Municipal Committee ;
- (e) if it is a fact that Government removed this disqualification against Khan Bahadur Mir Muhammad Khan so far as his being a member of the Municipal Committee was concerned ;
- (f) if it is a fact that Khan Bahadur Mir Muhammad Khan has been a nominated member of the Municipal Committee of Simla for about 18 years ;
- (g) if it is a fact that the residents of Simla and House Owners Association submitted memorials against Khan Bahadur Mir Muhammad Khan being nominated again and again ;
- (h) if it is a fact that in spite of these protests Khan Bahadur Mir Muhammad Khan has been nominated again this year ?
- (ii) If the reply to (i) above be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the special reason which led them to re-nominate Khan Bahadur Mir Muhammad Khan in face of representations from the public ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) to (e) Yes, (f) 15 years, (g), (h) and (ii) Memorials were received against the two nominated members Khan Bahadur Mir Muhammad Khan and Lala Mohan Lal. The latter was elected by one ward and the former nominated by Government on the ground of suitability.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY LINE PASSING THROUGH CHUNIAN.

398. Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar : Will the Government be pleased to state whether it has received any representation from the people of

Chunian in the district of Lahore for the construction of a Railway line passing through Chunian ?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand : Yes.

MIDDLE SCHOOL AT NANKANA SAHIB.

399. Lala Mohan Lal Bhatnagar : Is it a fact—

- (a) that the Middle School at Nankana Sahib has been transferred from the control of the District Board to the control of the Notified Area Committee and that the said school absorbs most of the committee's income ;
- (b) that the said committee spends nothing or every little on roads, light and sanitation ;
- (c) if the answer to the above be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state what amount and proportion of its income the said committee spent last year on education, roads, sanitation and light ?

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.

NANKANA SAHIB NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEE.

400. Lala Mohan Lal Bhatnagar : Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of converting the Nankana Sahib Notified Area Committee into a Small Towns Committee ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member's attention is invited to Punjab Government notification No. 1953, dated 18th January 1924, proposing to declare the local area of Nankana Sahib to be a Small Town under the Punjab Small Towns Act, 1922.

DISTRICT BOARD, FEROZEPUR AND DISPENSARY AT MUKTSAR.

401. Lala Mohan Lal Bhatnagar : Is it a fact—

- (a) that the District Board, Ferozepore, sold the site and building of the dispensary at Muktsar by public auction and received 4th money of the highest bids with a promise to deliver possession within a short time ;
- (b) that the said District Board has since refused to deliver possession of the property to the purchasers ;
- (c) If the answers to (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to make the District Board carry out the contract ?
- (d) If the answer to (c) is in the negative, will the Government be pleased to direct the District Board to return the money with interest with a promise that if the District Board sells the said property in future it shall be sold to the highest bidders referred to in part (a) at the bids offered by them and accepted by the Board ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) The site of the present Civil Hospital at Muktsar was sold by the District Board, Ferozepore, by auction, in two portions, 1st portion on 7th December 1912 and the 2nd portion on 19th January 1913. The highest bids amounted to Rs. 35,950 out of which Rs. 8,775 were recovered in advance from the purchasers as earnest money, and the balance is recoverable at the time of giving possession of the sites, after a new building for the hospital has been built and the present building vacated, which was one of the conditions on which the sales were conducted.

There was no promise to deliver possession within a short time.

(b) The possession, however, could not be given as yet, as the Board was unable to put up a new building for the hospital for various reasons, but the chief cause was the shortage of funds, the estimated expenditure, on a new building amounting to between Rs. 60,000 and Rs. 70,000.

As some of the purchasers grew impatient on account of the delay in construction of new building, the Board in their resolution No. 31 of 4th March 1922 offered to refund the amount paid by them as earnest money, with interest thereon, but only one or two persons took advantage of this offer, and the rest refused to take back their money.

The Board, however, never refused to give possession on the terms on which the auction was held, i.e., after the new building was constructed and the present building vacated.

(c) As the Board have now got the necessary funds it is expected that the new hospital building will be ready in about one year or so. The plans were submitted to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Punjab, for approval. He has made some suggestions and the plans will now be re-submitted to him, after which technical sanction of the Public Works Department and the administrative sanction of Government will be obtained and then work taken in hand.

(d) Does not arise.

ELECTION OF MEHAR ALLAH BAKHSI AS PRESIDENT OF THE LEIAH MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

402. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : (a) Is it a fact that the election of Mehar Allah Bakhsh as President of the Leiah Municipal Committee has been declared *ultra vires* by a Civil Court (Senior Sub-Judge, Muzaffargarh) ?

(b) That on appeal to District Judge, Multan, against the order of the Senior Sub-Judge the judgment of the Lower Court has been upheld in so far as the declaration of the election of President was concerned ?

(c) Will Government please state what steps they are going to take with regard to the decisions of the Municipal Committee which were arrived at during the term of the Presidentship of Mehar Allah Bakhsh ?

(d) Has the Leiah Municipal Committee incurred any expenses in connection with the said case without the express sanction of Local Government ? If so, is Government prepared to hold the members concerned responsible for the expense ?

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.

DEPARTMENTAL ENQUIRIES AGAINST SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS.

403. Lala Mohan Lal, Bhathnagar : Is it a fact that the following rules and regulations exist in the Punjab Medical Department :—

- (a) When any departmental charges are framed against a Sub-Assistant Surgeon and the departmental enquiry is completed the copy of the judgment is not granted to the applicant ?
- (b) That a copy of the departmental enquiry is also not granted even on payment of fees ?
- (c) That permission is not granted for the inspection of the files of the case on payment of fees ?
- (d) That a copy of the report sent against a temporary or sub. *pro tem.* Sub-Assistant Surgeon by a Civil Surgeon is not granted to the man concerned so as to enable him to give an explanation ?
- (e) If replies to (a), (b), (c) and (d) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state how justice is done to those who wish to appeal ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (a) and (b) No.

(c) Yes, of some executive proceedings.

(d) It is not understood whether the honourable member refers to reports on departmental charges or to the annual reports.

(e) Does not arise.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE KANGRA DISTRICT.

404. Chaudhri Ram Singh : (i) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact —

- (a) that they are helping the educationally backward communities by special grants ;
- (b) that the Kangra District is the most backward district in the province from the educational point of view ;
- (c) If the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what special steps it intends to take to provide greater educational facilities in the Kangra District ?

(ii) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of —

(a) purely Government,

(b) private

High Schools in the Kangra District ?

(iii) Will the Government be pleased to state how many more high schools it intends to open in the Kangra District and when ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (i) The honourable member is requested to refer to Education Department C. M. No. 13070-G., dated the 6th November 1923, copy furnished with answer to Council Question No. 213.*

(ii) (a) One.

(b) Four.

(iii) None at present, but the backward areas are receiving consideration.

LEASE OF LAND TO MR. F. J. MITCHELL.

405. Sayad Muhammad Husain : (a) Is the Government aware of the fact that some 700 acres of land had been leased out to one Mr. F. J. Mitchell near the railway station Renala Khurd for planting Australian grape vines ?

(b) Is it also a fact that it was stipulated between Mr. Mitchell and the Government to plant 50 acres of grape vine for the first year and fifty acres every year afterwards to start a raisin industry on a commercial scale ?

(c) Is it a fact that over four years have elapsed and hardly fifty acres have been planted with vines and the greater part of them are dead ?

(d) Is it also a fact that the lessee has been growing wheat and cotton on the land originally meant for raising vine grapes ?

(e) If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will the Government resume this land and realise about 15 lakhs by selling the land by auction ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) Mr. Mitchell was permitted to take possession of the area in question with a view to a lease for the planting and maintenance of fruit trees.

(b) No lease has in fact been entered into. It was intended that 50 acres should be planted up by the end of the first year, 100 by the end of the second year, 200 by the end of the third year, 350 by the end of the fourth year and 500 by the end of the fifth year. Grapes, raisins, sultanas and oranges were to be grown on a commercial basis.

(c) It is true that these areas have not as yet been planted up.

(d) Yes. The lessee technically holds the land on temporary cultivation terms.

(e) Difficulties have arisen in determining certain details of the lease. These have now been decided and it is proposed to proceed with the original scheme.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : For how many years has he had this land now without carrying out any of the provisions ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : I must ask for notice of that question.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : What rent has been charged to the lessee during the period of temporary cultivation ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : This question requires notice.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Will Government charge the lessee rent of land for the period for which he has not carried out the condition of the lease ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : I must ask for notice of that question.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : Will Government kindly state whether it is going to resume the land or whether it is going to lease it out again ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : I think the reply is quite plain.

CROWN *versus* PIR GHULAM ABBAS.

406. Sayad Muhammad Husain : (a) Is it a fact that one Public Prosecutor, one Deputy Superintendent of Police, one Inspector of Police, three Sub-Inspectors, one Naib-Court, one Stenographer, and five Constables, all from Campbellpur, are engaged in the conduct of a case No. 365-109 (Crown *versus* Pir Ghulam Abbas) ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if it is the usual practice to engage such a large staff in such cases ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : (a) One Public Prosecutor, one Sub-Inspector, one Naib Court Inspector and one Stenographer are engaged in the conduct of the case against Pir Ghulam Abbas. The Deputy Superintendent of Police and another Sub-Inspector are witnesses only, while an Inspector of Police has been helping the Public Prosecutor from time to time.

(b) The staff engaged on a case depends entirely on the length and the importance of the case. This is a case of some complexity.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : May I know whether there is any difference between the case No. 365-109 and other cases of this nature ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : This case is a very large one and a very complicated one.

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, CAMPBELLPUR.

407. Sayad Muhammad Husain : Will the Government kindly state the reasons why the Public Prosecutor, Campbellpur, was relieved of all his ordinary duties soon after Pir Ghulam Abbas's arrest, and kept without any work for a month and a half, when the Pir's case was transferred to Rawalpindi ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : The Public Prosecutor, Campbellpur, was not relieved of all his ordinary duties soon after Pir Ghulam Abbas's arrest, nor was he kept without any work for 1½ months when the Pir's case was transferred to Rawalpindi. He was fully occupied with other cases and with consultation work.

INTIMIDATION OF THE FOLLOWERS OF PIR GHULAM ABBAS.

408. Sayad Muhammad Husain : (a) Is it a fact that some of Pir Ghulam Abbas's followers who sympathised with him are placed on Register 10, some prosecuted in courts, while others are daily threatened with further troubles and prosecutions ?

(b) If so, will the Government see its way to remove the intimidation of the terror-stricken population of Campbellpur 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.

SALARY OF CHAUKIDARS AND LIVERY EXPENSES.

409. Sardar Partap Singh : (a) Is it a fact that the salary of the chaukidars is fixed in accordance with *Khara Shumari* while the cost of their liveries is recovered from lambardars which expenses the lambardars in their turn charge from land owners under the head of *Malba* (village expenses) ?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state why the livery expenses are not charged in accordance with

[Sardar Partap Singh.]

Khana Shumari, and if the answer be in the negative, will it please issue instructions that livery expenses be realised according to *Khana Shumari*?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (a) The general rule is as stated in the question.

(b) The rule that the arms and dress of chaukidars should be provided out of the village Malba dates from 1876 and the reason of the rule is not now known. Government will consider the question of altering it.

THIKRI PAHRA.

410. Sardar Partap Singh: Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether *Thikri Pahra* has been re-introduced in the Jullundur district;
- (b) whether a committee has been appointed in each village at the instance of the Deputy Commissioner and that that committee has been authorised to charge a fine of Rs. 5 from the man who does not serve his turn;
- (c) whether the *Thikri Pahra* is confined to watching the houses alone, or whether the persons on patrol duty have also to look after the cattle of the zamindars as well as their standing crops? If the *Pahra* is meant for houses alone then what are the arrangements for the protection of the cattle and crops of the zamindars who are on *Thikri Pahra* in the villages during hot weather from *Chet* to *Katik*? If there are no arrangements made for the protection of cattle and crops, will the Government be pleased to issue instructions to the effect that either the *Thikri Pahra* should include the protection of the crops of the zamindars when they are out in the fields or they be exempted from the *Pahra* in question?

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.

MURDER OF RULIA, RESIDENT OF MAUZA GUMTALI, DISTRICT JULLUNDUR.

411. Sardar Partap Singh: Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that one Rulia, resident of Mauza Gumtali, Police Station Nur Mahal, District Jullundur, made a report to the police in November last that certain named persons were bent upon murdering him and that a few days after the report had been lodged he was murdered and his mutilated body was recovered from a well tied up in a sheet;
- (b) whether the heirs of the deceased also indicated their suspicion against those very persons who had been reported against by the deceased;
- (c) whether the heirs of the deceased made an application to the effect that the police had been approached by the accused and that the police investigation was not trustworthy? If the answers to the above be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to appoint an independent officer to investigate the 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.

PUNITIVE POLICE POSTS AT JANDIALA AND BURKA KALLAN.

412. Sardar Partap Singh : (i) Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the inhabitants of Jandiala and Burka Kallan in the Jullundur District are made to pay only the actual expenses of the punitive police posts stationed in those villages or something over and above the actual expenses ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the people sympathising with the Akali and Congress movements are charged at a rate higher than that charged from others ;
- (c) whether the tax so imposed is charged according to the *kaisiyat* of the persons taxed ;
- (d) If the answer to (c) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of charging the people according to their *kaisiyat* ?

(ii) (a) Is it a fact that in the case of some of the inhabitants of Burka Kallan the tax has recently been enhanced from Rs. 22 to Rs. 30 while in the case of others it has been reduced to Rs. 3 only and in some cases it has been altogether remitted ;

(b) Is it a fact that the inhabitants of Burka Kallan made a representation to the Deputy Commissioner, Jullundur, complaining that the tax imposed on them was out of all proportion to their *kaisiyat* ?

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 AMONGST MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES OF CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES IN THE PUNJAB.

413. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the population of Mussalmans, Hindus, Sikhs and others (according to the last census) in the following Municipalities :—

(1) Jullundur, (2) Ludhiana, (3) Lahore, (4) Amritsar, (5) Sialkot, (6) Gujranwala, (7) Gujrat, (8) Jhelum, (9) Rawalpindi, (10) Multan and (11) Dera Ghazi Khan ;

- (b) the number of Mussalman, Hindu, Sikh and other employees drawing more than Rs. 20 per mensem as pay in the above-mentioned Municipalities, and the aggregate pay drawn by each community respectively ?

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 EMPLOYEES OF DISTRICT BOARDS.

414. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the agricultural population (according to the last census) in the District Boards of the Punjab ;

[K. B. Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.]

- (b) the number of employees of the various District Boards drawing above Rs. 20 per mensem and belonging to agricultural tribes;
- (c) the number of Mussalman, Hindu, Sikh and other employees in the various District Boards of the Punjab and the aggregate pay drawn by each community respectively?

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.

IMPROVEMENT EFFECTED UNDER THE PUNJAB TOWNS IMPROVEMENT ACT.

415. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din: Will Government be pleased to state in what year the Punjab Towns Improvement Act was passed and in what towns—

- (a) any improvement has already been effected under that Act; or
- (b) is proposed to be effected during the current year?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain. The Punjab Town Improvement Act was passed in 1922 by the Provincial Legislature. So far it has been applied to the Lahore Municipality only.

(a) None.

- (b) Steps are being taken by Government to collect information as to the best way of setting the Act into motion in Lahore.

PROFESSORS AND ASSISTANT PROFESSORS IN THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, LAHORE, ENGINEERING SCHOOL, RASUL, AND MACLAGAN ENGINEERING COLLEGE, MUGHALPURA (LAHORE).

416. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din: Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of Professors and Assistant Professors in the following colleges:—
- (i) Agricultural College, Lyallpur,
 - (ii) Engineering School, Rasul,
 - (iii) MacLagan Engineering College, Mughalpura (Lahore);
- (b) the number of Mussalman, Hindu, Sikh and other Professors and Assistant Professors in the said institutions;
- (c) the aggregate pay drawn by the Professors and Assistant Professors of each community respectively?

The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Dal Chand: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

EXPENDITURE BY DISTRICT BOARDS AND MUNICIPALITIES ON THE SALARIES OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.

417. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) what percentage of their respective revenue is spent by the various District Boards and 1st class Municipalities in the Punjab on the salaries of their employees ;
- (b) whether Government intends to take steps to fix the maximum percentage of expenditure which should not be exceeded by the District and Municipal Boards in the Punjab on salaries of their employees ?

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.

ENCROACHMENTS UPON MUNICIPAL AND GOVERNMENT LANDS.

418. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is aware that Municipal and Government lands managed by Municipal Committees are being freely encroached upon in almost every Municipality in the Punjab ;
- (b) if the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether it proposes to take steps to protect the Municipal and Government lands managed by Municipal Committees from being encroached upon in future ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : (a) Government is not aware that Municipal and Government lands managed by Municipal Committees are being freely encroached upon in almost every Municipality in the Punjab. I trust such is not the case in the Municipality over which my friend presides. Government has, however, before it certain specific cases of encroachment which it is dealing with and will be very grateful of the honourable member if he can bring to the notice of Government any cases of encroachment which has escaped its notice.

(b) The question of the future policy as regards Government lands managed by Local bodies is under consideration.

FIRST GRADE FEES IN GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOLS.

419. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether in Government High Schools first grade fees are charged only from those pupils the income of whose parents is above Rs. 2,000 a year ; and whether before 1st January 1921 they were charged from all pupils the income of whose parents was above Rs. 1,800 ;
- (b) If the answer to the above question is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the pre-1921 rule was altered on any representation made by the public ;

[Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din.]

- (c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the circular dealing with the subject and give it sufficient publicity ?

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

- (a) Yes.
 (b) Yes, in consequence of the rise in the cost of living.
 (c) The honourable member is referred to the answer given to question No. 213* put on the 5th March 1924, in the Punjab Legislative Council.

FACILITIES FOR ENGLISH EDUCATION TO AGRICULTURAL CLASSES.

420. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it has received any representation from the agricultural classes of the province asking for special facilities for English education being given to their sons ;
 (b) how many Vernacular Middle Schools are there in the whole province ;
 (c) at what recurring additional annual expenditure can all the Vernacular Middle Schools be converted into and maintained as Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools ;
 (d) whether it is prepared to enjoin the District Boards of the province to convert all their Vernacular Middle Schools into Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools ;
 (e) whether it is prepared to give liberal grants-in-aid to such District Boards whose finances do not permit them to raise their Vernacular Middle Schools to the standard of Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain :

- (a) Yes.
 (b) The figures for 1923 record 267 such schools.
 (c) Rough calculations indicate expenditure of Rs. 8 lakhs on staff ; Rs. 4 lakhs on furniture and equipment ; and Rs. 16 lakhs on buildings.

(d) and (e) No. The policy pursued by Government hitherto in this respect is laid down in the Education Department C. M. No. 1468-M., dated the 29th January, 1923. A copy of this memorandum and of the Report of a Committee appointed to consider the question has been forwarded to the honourable member. Financial stringency is not a factor which can be easily brushed aside.

BEATING OF AKALI MEHAR SINGH.

421. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Is it a fact that a Sikh Jatha going to Gurdwara Gangsar, Jaito, on the 7th of February 1924, was stopped by the Police and arrested at the canal bridge near Polu Kapura and that Akali Mehar Singh was severely beaten by the police ; if so, will the Government be pleased to state what action it has taken or intends to take against the police official or officials who beat Bhai Mehar Singh ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Government has no knowledge of any such incident.

DETENTION OF S. SOHAN SINGH'S CABLEGRAM TO THE PREMIER.

422. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Is it a fact that a cablegram by Sardar Sohan Singh, Rahi, of Gujar Khan, intended for the Premier, was detained by the postal authorities under instructions originating from the Punjab Government? If so, will the Government be pleased to state their objection to this message?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Government has no knowledge of any such cablegram. No order for its detention was issued by this Government.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DIRECT APPOINTMENTS TO THE INDIAN CIVIL AND POLICE SERVICES.

423. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government be pleased to state how many recommendations did it make during the last five years for appointments to the Indian Civil and Police Services and how many of these recommendations were accepted by the Secretary of State for India in Council, and state further as to how many of these recommended persons were Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs and Christians and how many from each community were appointed?

Mr. H. D. Craik : 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 APPOINTMENTS MADE IN THE PUNJAB CIVIL SERVICE.

424. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government be pleased to supply the following information with respect to the last 3 years :—

Total number of appointments made in the Punjab Civil Service from various registers.	Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs Agriculturists, Non-Agriculturists, Members of the Bar.
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Mr. H. D. Craik : A statement containing the required information is laid on the table —

	Hindu Agriculturists.	Hindu Non-Agriculturists.	Muhammadan Agriculturists.	Muhammadan Non-Agriculturists.	Sikh Agriculturists.	Sikh Non-Agriculturists.	Christians.	Members of the Bar.	Total number of appointments.
Judicial Branch of the Punjab Civil Service.	3 (one LL.B.).	17 (six LL.B.).	5	4 (one LL.B.).	3	5	1	2	38
Executive Branch of the Punjab Civil Service.	7 (one LL.B.).	23 (two LL.B.).	23	9 (two LL.B.).	10 (one Bar-at-Law.)	7	2	6	90

TELEGRAMS FROM THE CONGRESS CAMP, COCANADA.

425. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Is it a fact that the telegrams from the Congress Camp, Cocanada, meant for the Akali, Amritsar, were delayed for several days under orders of the Punjab Government? If so, will the Government please state why and what compensation, if any, is it prepared to pay to the newspaper concerned for the loss caused to it?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The answer to the first part of the question is "No." The second part does not arise.

AKALI PRISONERS IN THE FEROZEPUR JAIL.

426. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Is it a fact that the Akali prisoners in the Ferozepur Jail were provided with dirty old clothes and they therefore refused to wear them and remained naked for several days? If so, will the Government please state how it happened and what action it has taken or intends to take against the persons responsible for the same?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Some Akali prisoners in the Ferozepur District Jail removed their shirts and turbans on the ground that all clothing supplied to them ought to be brand new. All clothing issued to prisoners is clean but it is impossible for financial reasons to give new clothing to all prisoners.

SPLITTING UP THE POST OF DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE.

427. **Sardar Sangat Singh** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state —

(a) whether promotion to District and Sessions Judge is made from amongst the Sub-Judges only;

(b) whether since the separation of the executive and judicial branches, Sub-Judges, that is officers in the judicial cadre, are doing almost purely civil work and Extra Assistant Commissioners, that is officers on the executive cadre, are doing, but for the few revenue assistants, almost purely criminal work;

(c) whether the District and Sessions Judges are required to do both civil and criminal work?

(ii) Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of splitting up the post of District and Sessions Judge into District Judge to do Civil work to be drawn from the Sub-Judge and the Sessions Judge to do criminal work to be drawn from the Extra Assistant Commissioners?

Mr. H. D. Craik : (a) Appointments to the post of District and Sessions Judge are made from amongst members of the Indian Civil Service, Punjab Civil Service and the Bar. But as far as the Punjab Civil Service is concerned, appointments are made from amongst the members of the Judicial Branch, called Subordinate Judges.

(b) Sub-Judges as a rule do civil work but some do criminal work also. Officers on the executive side do executive work and criminal judicial work. Some of them do civil judicial work also.

(c) (i) Yes.

(ii) The separation of the posts of District Judge and Sessions Judge would not be free of disadvantage and would be too expensive to permit of its consideration at present.

INTRODUCTION OF A GURDWARA BILL.

428. **Sardar Bahadur Sardar Jowahir Singh** : Does the Government intend to introduce a Gurdwara Bill on lines likely to be acceptable to the Sikh community?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The Government does not propose to introduce a Bill. It has however on several occasions intimated to Sikh gentlemen interested in the matter that it was open to any Sikh member of this Council to propose the introduction of a private Bill to supersede or amend the present Act and that if the Bill were drafted on reasonable lines and was likely to obtain a substantial amount of support from the Hindu members of this Council the Government would give it favourable consideration. The Government has for some time past been awaiting proposals for fresh legislation but no Bill has yet been put forward by any member. The attitude of Government however towards further legislation on the subject is unchanged.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh: Will the Government be prepared to withdraw the notifications declaring the Shromani Gurdwara Pachhandak Committee and the Shromani Akali Dal as unlawful associations and also to release all prisoners arrested in connection with the Gurdwara reform and *Kirpan*?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: As soon as the conditions necessitating these orders cease to exist I have no doubt Government will be prepared to give a thorough consideration to these proposals?

ANSWERS TO CERTAIN UNANSWERED QUESTIONS LAID ON THE TABLE.

The Secretary: The answers to following questions have been received since the publication of Volume VI, Nos. 2 to 17 of the Council Debates:— 9, 25, 29, 41, 51, 78, 112, 113, 114, 119, 138, 142, 179, 193, 196, 212, 219, 234 and 249. They are now laid upon the table for the information of members.

Answer to Question No. 9 (Page 70).

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: Government is not aware that the residents of villages near Rupar on the Sirhind Canal and the villages Relon Kalan, Bande Mahal and Kamalpur in particular are put to very great hardship and inconvenience owing to the absence of bridges. The Budki and Siswan superpassages are used as bridges except during the monsoon when floods occur. The temporary railway from Rupar to Nalagarh has necessitated diversion of road traffic at the sites of these superpassages for distances of about 100 yards, but Government is not prepared, on this account, to construct permanent works over a railway which may be removed in the course of a few years.

Answer to Question No. 25 (Page 75).

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: Main question and (c) No; the monopoly suggested in the first part of the main question have not been granted to any one firm, but we find that in Northern India there is only one firm capable of mass production to whom a limited contract has been given—

- (a) Does not arise, no monopoly having been given.
- (b) No.
- (d) and (e) The rates and conditions are confidential.

Answer to Question No. 29 (Page 77).

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Yes.
(b) The Executive Engineer has now submitted a requisition for

[Hon. K. B. Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

repairs to the Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, who is dealing with the matter.

Answer to Question No. 41 (Page 121).

Mr. H. D. Craik : (a) From the material available it is difficult to give a definite reply.

(b) During the last five years no Hindu Jats have been accepted for the Judicial Branch of the Punjab Civil Service, because—

- (1) No rolls of Hindu Jats were submitted by District Judges in 1919 or 1920 ;
- (2) In 1921 the rolls of two Hindu Jats were submitted, but neither was accepted ; and
- (3) In 1922 and 1923 the Judges have made no selections.

The Judges give due consideration to Hindu Jat candidates whenever their rolls are submitted.

Answer to Question No. 51 (Page 124).

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) The villages referred to are occasionally flooded during the rainy season, but not every year. Part of the area is water-logged.

(b) The following measures have been undertaken to remove the above evils :—

- (i) Construction of Sanawan Bund, but for which the whole area would be swept by floods from the Indus River.
- (ii) Construction of escapes to control supplies of canals, one scheme costing Rs. 27,000 is at present under execution.
- (iii) Blocking by bunds of small subsidiary creeks, which add to the supply of canals during floods.
- (iv) Provision of pacca outlets in place of open cuts.
- (v) Remodelling of irrigation channels and abandoning unnecessary minors.

One of the causes of water-logging is excessive cultivation of rice in the tract, the remedy for which lies in the hands of the zamindars. No relief can be afforded by drainage as there is no efficient out-fall.

(c) The reply is in the affirmative.

(d) The present Chief Engineer is fully acquainted with the tract and is doing what is possible with the funds available to improve matters. Personal inspection of the ilaqa is not essential.

Answer to Question No. 78 (Pages 161-162).

Mr. D. J. Boyd : (a) Yes.

(b) The matter was not brought to the notice of Government. It is understood that the Subordinate Judges at Multan are accommodated in a private hired building. Negotiations for the lease of a more suitable building than the present one fell through last year as the owner was not prepared to give a three years' lease. The Honourable Judges are aware that the present building is unsuitable, but any immediate measure to provide better accommodation is hampered by financial stringency. Steps are being taken to select a suitable site and get estimates from the Public Works Department for a new Court House.

Answer to part (f) of Question No. 112 (Pages 203-204).

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: As promised in the answer to part (f) of the honourable member's question No. 112 it has been ascertained that Beant Singh, the owner of the *chobara* in question, has been paid a compensation of Rs. 1,000, with which amount he is entirely satisfied.

Answer to Question No. 113 (Page 204).

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

(b) Orders have been issued for Tara Singh's transfer to another jail.

Answer to Question No. 114 (Page 204).

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (a) *Vide* Punjab Government notification No. B-2750, dated the 30th November 1921, the cost is to be borne by the inhabitants of the village.

(b) All are not taxed alike. Landholders are taxed according to their circumstances. There are five different grades for taxation, *vis.*, three for different grades of landholders, one for persons of known criminal habits, and one for Kamins.

(c) Akalis are not being taxed as such, but according to the grade in which they fall.

(d) Females and minors in poor circumstances are exempted. Only those minors and females are taxed who hold landed property and are in good circumstances.

Answer to Question No. 119 (Page 207).

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: Enquiries show that there has been no particular shortage of water on this Minor as compared with other Inundation Canals, which depend for their supply on the condition of the river.

Part 2 of the question does not arise.

Answer to Question No. 138 (Page 237).

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The weights of the prisoners mentioned are as follows:—

S. Santokh Singh.

Regulation weight	...	...	...	lbs.
Weight on 7th February 1924	...	...	...	130
Weight on 4th March 1924	...	...	...	128

S. Ganda Singh.

Regulation weight	...	...	...	lbs.
Weight on 4th February 1924	...	...	...	121
Weight on 3rd March 1924	...	...	...	148
				150

No action by Government appears to be necessary.

Answer to Question No. 142 (Page 238).

Mr. H. D. Craik: The required information will be found in the statement placed on the table.

[Mr. H. D. Craik.]

Statement showing the action taken against the editors, printers and publishers of newspapers in the Punjab since 1st January 1921.

Name of newspaper.	Name and rank of person against whom action taken.	Section of law under which action taken.	Result.	Remarks.
<i>Aban Lal</i>	Partap Singh, editor.	194 A and 302/115, Indian Penal Code.	On apology the case was withdrawn.	
<i>Din</i>	Sardul Singh, Caviesser, contributor.	124A/153-A, Indian Penal Code.	Five years' rigorous imprisonment.	Partap Singh and Hira Singh, editor and joint-editor, were sentenced to six months' simple imprisonment each for refusing to give evidence in this case.
<i>White</i>	(1) Giani Ullam Singh, editor-publisher. (2) Master Sander Singh, Lyallpur, contributor.	124-A, Indian Penal Code.	(1) Six months' rigorous imprisonment. (2) One year's rigorous imprisonment.	

Singapore, Lahore	Sayyed Habib, editor	124-A, Indian Penal Code.	Three years' rigorous imprisonment.
Banindar, Lahore	(1) Akhtar Ali Khan, editor. (2) Ghulam Qadir Khan, publisher.	124-A/168-A, Indian Penal Code.	Three years' rigorous imprisonment each.
Ditto	(1) Aslam Majeed, editor. (2) Nazir Ahmad, Simsb., publisher.	163-A, Indian Penal Code.	One year's rigorous imprisonment each.
Swaraj, Lahore	(1) Badai Nath, editor.	124-A, Indian Penal Code.	Three years' rigorous imprisonment including 3 months' solitary confinement.
Pravachan, Lahore	(2) Nazir Hussain, publisher.	124-A, Indian Penal Code.	On applying the case was withdrawn.
Rasde Matsang, Lahore	Ram Pershad, editor-publisher.	124-A, Indian Penal Code.	One and a-half year's imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1,000.
Ditto	(1) Shanti Narain, editor-publisher. (2) Kedar Nath, printer, and (3) Mr. Paul Paul-and-Din, contributors.	Ditto	(1) One year's simple imprisonment. (2) Six months' simple imprisonment. (3) Two years' simple imprisonment.

In April 1928 the unexpired portion of the sentence of 3 months' solitary confinement was remitted.

ANSWERS TO UNANSWERED QUESTIONS LAID ON THE TABLE.

[Mr. H. D. Craik.]

Statement showing the action taken against the editors, printers and publishers of newspapers in the Punjab since 1st January 1921—continued.

Name of newspaper.	Name and rank of person against whom action taken.	Section of law under which action taken.	Result.	REMARKS.
<i>Bande Mataram</i> , Lahore	Karam Chand, Shukal, editor, printer and publisher.	1922—continued. 124-A, Indian Penal Code.	One and-a-half year's simple imprisonment.	
<i>Zamindar</i> , Lahore	(1) Said Ahmad, editor ...	Ditto	(1) Two years' simple imprisonment.	
	(2) Sultan Ahmad, publisher.		(2) Fined Rs. 50, or in default two months' simple imprisonment.	
	(3) Ram Saran Datta, printer.		(3) Six months' simple imprisonment.	
Ditto	(1) Fazal Muhammad Khan, editor.	Ditto	(1) Eight months' simple imprisonment.	
	(2) Muhammad Adil, printer-publisher.		(2) Acquitted.	
Ditto	(1) Muhammad Adil, editor or	Ditto	(1) One year's simple imprisonment.	
	(2) Dogar Mal, printer-publisher.		(2) Six months' simple imprisonment.	

Ditto	(1) Muhammad Ahmad Khan, editor. (2) Muhammad Adil, publisher.	} 192, Indian Penal Code.	Fined Rs. 80 each.
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Acquitted.
Ditto	(1) Muhammad Adil, editor. (2) Dogar Mal, printer-publisher.	} Ditto	Fined Rs. 35 each, or in default two weeks' simple imprisonment.
Ditto	(1) Muhammad Ahmad Khan, editor. (2) Dogar Mal, printer-publisher.	} Ditto	The case was withdrawn.
Asad Akali, Lahore	(1) Sardara Singh, editor (2) Harbans Singh, joint-editor.	} 124-A, Indian Penal Code.	(1) Two years' simple imprisonment. (2) Six months' simple imprisonment.
Ditto	Sundar Singh, editor	Ditto	Eighteen months' simple imprisonment.
Akali, Lahore	(1) Labh Singh, printer-publisher. (2) Hira Singh, Dard, editor.	} Ditto	(1) Three months' simple imprisonment. (2) One year's simple imprisonment.

[Mr. H. D. Craik.]

Statements showing the action taken against the editors, printers and publishers of newspapers in the Punjab since 1st January 1921—continued.

Name of newspaper.	Name and rank of person against whom action taken.	Section of law under which action taken.	Result.	REMARKS.
<i>Ataki, Lahore</i>	Hari Singh, editor-printer-publisher.	1922—continued. 24-A, Indian Penal Code.	Six months' rigorous imprisonment.	
<i>Parsons Khalsa, Amritsar.</i>	Hari Singh, garden, editor-printer-publisher.	Ditto	Accused absconding.	
<i>Jamher, Lahore</i>	Muhammed Hussain Zaman (Abul Kalam), publisher.	292, Indian Penal Code.	Fined Rs. 50, or, in default one month's rigorous imprisonment. The fine was paid.	
<i>Singaur, Lahore</i>	(1) Walehat, editor. (2) Inayat Shah, printer-publisher.	Ditto	Fined Rs. 150 each.	
<i>Ditto</i>	Ditto ditto	Ditto	Fined Rs. 35 each.	

Ditto	(1) Wajabat Hussain, editor.	Ditto	Ditto.
	(2) Inayat Shah, printer- publisher.		Fined Rs. 20 each.
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
<i>Al-Sunnat wal-Jamaat</i> , Amritsar.	(1) Abu Turab Muhammad, Abdul Haq, editor- publisher.	Ditto	(1) Fined Rs. 25 or in default one week's rigorous imprison- ment.
	(2) Abdul Aziz, printer ...		(2) Discharged on tendering an apology.
<i>Al-Hasan</i> , Batala (Gur- daspur District).	(1) Syed Hasan, editor- printer.	Ditto	Fined Rs. 50 each.
	(2) Abdur Rahman, pub- lisher.		Discharged on tendering an apology.
<i>Kasari</i> , Lahore	Sham Lal Kapur, printer- publisher.	Ditto	Fined Rs. 50.
<i>Himala</i> , Lahore	Ishar Das, printer-publisher	Ditto	

[Mr. H. D. Craik.]

Statement showing the action taken against the editors, printers and publishers of newspapers in the Punjab since 1st January 1921—continued.

Name of newspaper.	Name and rank of person against whom action taken.	Section of law under which action taken.	Result.	REMARKS.
Partap, Lahore	Radha Krishna, editor-printer-publisher.	1922—concluded. 292, Indian Penal Code.	Acquitted.	The case was withdrawn.
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	{ Ditto	{ (1) Acquitted. (2) Fined Rs. 50.
Loyal Gazette, Lahore	{ (1) Amar Singh, editor (2) Partap Singh, manager	Ditto	{ Ditto	{ The case was withdrawn.
Qasim Parash, Lahore	Sachu Singh, editor-printer-publisher.	Ditto	{ Ditto	{ The case was withdrawn.
Sangasi, Lahore	Jagan Nath, editor-printer-publisher.	Ditto	Ditto	Fined Rs. 200.
Saf, Pindi Bahaud-Din (Gujrat District).	Muhammad Din, editor-publisher.	Ditto	{ Ditto	{ The case was withdrawn.

<i>Arya Gazette</i> , Lahore ...	(1) Khushal Chand, editor (2) Lal Chand, Sharma, printer-publisher. (3) Bhag Mal, manager. (4) Karam Singh of Parkash Steam Press.	Ditto	On investigation Bhag Mal, manager, and Karam Singh of the Parkash Steam Press were found to be the real offenders. They were sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 25 and Rs. 50, respectively.	In respect of the issue of 8th November 1923.
<i>Alaki-fo-Pardesi</i> , Amritsar ...	Kartar Singh, editor-printer-publisher.	1923 124-A, Indian Penal Code.	Two years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 200, or in default six months' further imprisonment.	In respect of the issue of 22nd October 1923 and 18th November 1923.
Ditto ...	Diwan Singh, editor-printer-publisher.	Ditto	Three years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 200, or in default six months' further imprisonment.	...
Ditto ...	Sardul Singh, Akali, editor-printer-publisher.	Ditto	According	...
Ditto ...	Ditto ditto	Ditto	Do.	...

[Mr. H. D. Craik.]

Statement showing the action taken against the editors, printers and publishers of newspapers in the Punjab since 1st January 1921—continued.

Name of newspaper.	Name and rank of person against whom action taken.	Section of law under which action taken.	Result.	REMARKS.
<i>Punjab Darshan, Amritsar</i>	(1) Sucha Singh, editor (2) Ram Singh, printer-publisher.	1923—continued. 124-A, Indian Penal Code.	Discharged.	
<i>Yugantar, Ludhiana</i>	Banarsi Das Varma, editor-printer-publisher.	Ditto	Six months' rigorous imprisonment.	
<i>Kirpan Bahadur, Amritsar.</i>	(1) Jivan Singh, Sewak... (2) Sewa Singh, publisher. (3) Badh Singh, printer.	Ditto	(1) One year's rigorous imprisonment and Rs. 150 fine, or in default three months' further rigorous imprisonment (2) Ditto ditto. (3) Fined Rs. 150, which amount has been paid.	

Ditto	(1) Sucha Singh, editor-publisher. (2) Gurbachan Singh, printer.	Ditto	Eighteen months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100 each, or in default six months' further rigorous imprisonment.
Zamindar, Lahore	(1) Muhammad Ahmad Khan, editor. (2) Allah Ditta, printer-publisher.	Ditto	Two years' simple imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 800 each, or in default six months' further simple imprisonment.
Ditto	Ditto	108. Criminal Procedure Code.	Required to furnish two sureties of Rs. 5,000 each, or in default to undergo one year's simple imprisonment.
Desk Sewak, Jullundur	Phuman Singh, Ajit, editor-or-printer-publisher.	124-A, Indian Penal Code.	Two years' rigorous imprisonment.
Alak, Amritsar	Sardul Singh, Akali, editor-or-printer-publisher.	Ditto	Absoonding.
Bader Sher, Amritsar	Gurbachan Singh, editor-printer-publisher.	Ditto	Eighteen months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100, or in default 6 months' further rigorous imprisonment.

Statement showing the action taken against the editors, printers and publishers of newspapers in the Punjab since 1st January 1921—concluded.

[Mr. H. D. Craik.]

Name of newspaper.	Name and rank of person against whom action taken.	Section of law under which action taken.	Result.	REMARKS.
<i>Partap, Lahore</i>	Radha Krishan, editor printer publisher.	1923—concluded. 124-A, Indian Penal Code.	Fined Rs. 300, or in default to undergo two months' rigorous imprisonment.	
Ditto	Ditto ditto	153-A, Indian Penal Code.	Fined Rs. 200, or in default to undergo one month's rigorous imprisonment.	
<i>Deek, Lahore</i>	(1) Dina Nath, editor (2) Buta Ram, Lakhina, printer-publisher.	Ditto	On apology the case was withdrawn.	
<i>Peigham-i-Salah, Lahore</i>	(1) Mustafa Khan, editor, (2) Faqir-Ullah, publisher, (3) Ram Rup, Sharma, printer, and (4) Abdul Haq, contribut- or.	Ditto	Ditto ditto.	

<i>Bande Mataram</i> , Lahore	...	Mela Ram, Wafa, editor...	292, Indian Penal Code.	Fined Rs. 200.
Ditto	...	Ditto	Ditto	Fined Rs. 100.
Ditto	...	Ditto	Ditto	Presented for publishing obscene advertisements in the issues of 31st January 1923 and 2nd February 1923 and sentenced to a fine of Rs. 75 in each case.
<i>Kesari</i> , Lahore	...	Sham Lal, Kapur, editor-printer-publisher.	Ditto	Fined Rs. 150.
Ditto	...	Ditto	108, Criminal Procedure Code.	Required to furnish a security of the value of Rs. 5,000, with two sureties of like amount, or in default to undergo one year's simple imprisonment.
<i>Tahrik</i> , Lahore	...	Muzaffar Husain, Dehlvi, editor-printer-publisher.	292, Indian Penal Code.	Fined Rs. 50.
<i>Desh Sevak</i> , Jullunder	...	Jawala Singh, editor-printer-publisher.	124-A, Indian Penal Code.	Pending.

Answer to Question No. 179 (Page 272).

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :
(a) Yes.

(b) Government does not think it would serve a good purpose to revert to the former system under which *khataunis* were given to the lambardars. Under the existing system the lambardars can inspect the *khatauni*, and there is the added advantage that he has the *dhal bachh* from which he can tell exactly what is due from each irrigator. This information is not as readily available in *khataunis*.

Answer to Question No. 193 (Page 305).

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) Yes.

(b) The search was conducted as Kishan Singh was suspected of being in possession of bombs, but nothing incriminating was discovered.

(c) No action against the informer is contemplated as the local authorities had every reason to believe that his information was in the main correct as it was corroborated from other sources.

Answer to Question No. 196 (Page 306).

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) The following police officers of the Subordinate Service were promoted to the Provincial Police Service in the years 1921, 1922 and 1923 :—

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Date of confirmation.</i>
1. Mr. F. C. Bright ...	... 1st May 1921.
2. Mr. H. Matthews ...	... 22nd November 1921.
3. Sheikh Riazuddin ...	... 1st April 1922.
4. Mr. Price ...	... 22nd August 1922.
5. Khan Bahadur Ahmad Khan.	... 1st February 1923.
6. Khan Sahib Hakim Ikram-ul-Haq.	... Ditto.
7. S. Sudarshan Singh	... Ditto.
8. S. Muhammad Aziz-ud-din.	... Ditto.
9. Rai Sahib Lala Brij Lal.	... Ditto.
10. Chandhri Ghulam Rasul.	... Ditto.
11. Khan Sahib Malik Sardar Ali.	... Ditto.
12. Arbab Muhammad Ayub Khan.	... Ditto.
13. Khan Abdul Qaiyum Khan.	... Ditto.
14. Chaudhri Abdul Haq	... Ditto.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Date of confirmation.</i>
15. Sardar Sahib Sant Singh.	... 1st February 1923.
16. Mian Ghulam Dast-gir.	... Ditto.
17. Lala Sardari Lal ...	... Ditto.
18. Mirza Mirajuddin ...	... Ditto.
19. Sheikh Nizamuddin ...	... Ditto.
20. Mr. H. Powis ...	... Ditto.
21. Munshi Abdul Samed Khan.	... Ditto.

Of these 21 officers, 4 are Christians, 13 Muhammadans, 2 Hindus and 2 Sikhs.

(d) Promotion to the Provincial Police Service is made by selection.

Answer to Question No. 212 (Pages 311-312.)

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) Yes.

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative.

As regards the second part, the ground for levying this *patta* are given at length in the orders of the Financial Commissioner, dated 27th June 1914 and 2nd December 1914, in Appeal No. 49 of 1913-1914 and Review No. 17 of 1913-1914, respectively. The principle and rules governing the assessment of this *patta* are stated in paragraphs 445-450 of Settlement Manual and the rules made by the Government of India under paragraph 450 of Settlement Manual.

(c) No such *patta* has been traced.

(d) Not on the information at present available.

(e) There is nothing on record to show that any jagirdar ever applied for a copy of the so-called *patta*, which, as stated in Answer to (c), is not traceable.

(f) The need for issuing any instructions does not arise.

Answer to Question No. 219 (Page 332.)

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) A woman carrying sacrificial beef from one house to another was stopped by Hindus in the main bazar. It was stated by Muhammadans that the beef was properly covered, and that the Hindus removed the cover with a stick. It was stated by Hindus that the beef was not covered. As there was some excitement, the Deputy Commissioner proceeded to the spot, pacified the parties, and arranged for the removal of the beef, properly covered with a cloth.

(b) The killing of kine and the sale and exposure of beef are prohibited in Thanesar. The bringing of beef into the town is not prohibited, provided that the beef is properly covered. It is not certain, in the present case, whether the beef was properly covered or not.

(c) The woman carrying the beef was not of normal intelligence and the Hindus who were present did not press for her punishment. No proceedings have been or will be taken against her.

Answer to Question No. 234 (Page 397).

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the information in the precise form desired by the honourable member is not available. I have, however, received certain statements from heads of departments giving particulars of the number of *zamindars* appointed to the public service since the issue of the Government resolution of the 3rd of October 1919, and I should be glad to show these to the honourable member, if he will call on me.

Answer to Question No. 249 (Page 403).

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Under the rules relating to the reformatory school the boys in question have been sent to that institution for the prescribed period in each case in lieu of serving their sentences of imprisonment. Their sentences have not been enhanced. The convicts were youthful offenders whom the District Magistrate considered to be proper persons to be inmates of the Reformatory School.

CERTIFICATION OF GRANTS REJECTED BY THE COUNCIL.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): Sir, I ask for permission to lay on the table an order by His Excellency the Governor.

Whereas in accordance with the provisions of section 72-D (2) of the Government of India Act, a demand for grants for the following items under major head "5-Land Revenue—Survey and Settlement" namely:—

1. Other Headquarters Establishment ... Rs. 1,78,100

2. Survey and Settlement Parties ... Rs. 4,52,900

aggregating a total sum of Rs. 6,31,000 for expenditure during 1924-25 was duly submitted on the 7th and 10th March 1924 to the vote of the Punjab Legislative Council and was rejected by it.

I, in virtue of the authority vested in me by section 72-D(2) (2) of the Government of India Act aforesaid, do hereby certify that the said expenditure amounting in all to Rs. 6,31,000 provided for by the said demand is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the reserved subject of Land Revenue.

E. D. MACLAGAN,

19th March 1924

Governor of the Punjab.

RESOLUTION re LOAN TO THE BAHAWALPUR DURBAR.

Mr. Miles Irving (Financial Secretary): Sir, in rising to move the first resolution on the agenda I beg the indulgence of the House to make a slight modification in it. The original resolution reads thus: That this Council recommends to the Government that a loan not exceeding Rs. 50 lakhs at the rate of interest paid by the Punjab Government on its borrowings be made, etc. I propose to ask this House to recommend to Government that a loan not exceeding Rs. 50 lakhs at the rate of interest *not less than that* paid by the Punjab Government, etc. The reason for this is that in addition to the interest on our borrowings we have to pay cer-

tain incidental expenses which it is only fair that we should pass on to our debtor. The resolution as thus amended reads as follows:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that a loan not exceeding Rs. 50 lakhs at the rate of interest not less than that paid by the Punjab Government on its borrowings be made to the Bahawalpur Durbar for construction of the Durbar's portion of the Sutlej Valley Project, and that the Punjab Government should, if necessary, raise the sum required by means of increasing the Punjab Loan for 1924 from 1½ crores to 2 crores."

Mr. President: I suppose honourable members have no objection to this slight alteration.

(Nobody raised any objection.)

Mr. Miles Irving: I do not think it is necessary for me to say many words to recommend this proposal to the favourable consideration of this House. The House is fully aware of the main facts relating to the Sutlej Valley Project. This House is aware that it is a great scheme for the construction of two or in the alternative three weirs across the Sutlej and the irrigation thereby of large tracts of land both in British territory and the Bahawalpur State and in Bikaner. In this great project the interest of all the three partners cannot be disconnected. Two out of the three weirs benefit Bahawalpur and the British territory alike. Without the co-operation of the several partners the present scheme would not have been undertaken in its present form. The whole scheme would have had to be reconsidered in view of the rights, for example, of the Bahawalpur State to the waters of the Sutlej. Therefore as between partners in a profitable transaction I think accommodation as regards the payment of their several shares is a very reasonable thing. I would explain for the information of this House that in the first place the construction of this scheme is financed by the Punjab Government, that is to say, the actual payment for the work done is made by the Punjab Government. Against that it receives every quarter "deposit" payments from the Bahawalpur and Bikaner Durbars on account of their share of the expenditure. The Bahawalpur Durbar has from the first intended to finance its share of the project very largely by the sale of land, but circumstances have come to its notice which make the Durbar consider whether it may not be prudent to deal with this question in another way. While considering this question of ways and means, the Durbar has asked us to give them a brief moratorium or postponement of payment. The Durbar owes us for the first quarter of 1924, that is, the last quarter of the present financial year, about 25 lakhs. In the next two quarters its probable share of expenditure will amount to about another 25 lakhs. It asks us to allow it to postpone for a short time the payment of these fifty lakhs and it undertakes that the whole will be repaid before the conclusion of the financial year 1924-25. The House will thus see that what is asked for by the Durbar is a reasonable accommodation between the partners in the matter of temporary postponement of the payment of the partnership share of the joint undertaking and I have no doubt that this House will accede to it.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath: Sir, am I to understand that fifty lakhs represent the total amount to be given to the Bahawalpur Durbar

Mr. President: Resolution proposed runs—

"This Council recommends to the Government that a loan not exceeding Rs. 50 lakhs at the rate of interest not less than that paid by the Punjab Government on its borrowings be made to the Bahawalpur Durbar for

[Mr. President.]

construction of the Durbar's portion of the Sutlej Valley Project, and that the Punjab Government should, if necessary, raise the sum required by means of increasing the Punjab Loan for 1924 from 1½ crores to 2 crores."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath : Sir, I would repeat the question that I have already put. Am I to understand that the fifty lakhs represent the total amount which the Punjab Government will have to lend to the Bahawalpur Durbar or will this amount be gradually raised by the time the Sutlej Valley Project is completed?

Mr. Miles Irving : The Bahawalpur Durbar asks us to lend a total sum of fifty lakhs.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon (Shahpur East (Muhammadan), Rural) : Sir I have much pleasure in getting up in order to support this resolution brought forward by the Government. It will be gratifying to the House and to the public and certainly to the Bahawalpur Durbar to notice the change brought about in the resolution proposed some months back. It was then the suggestion of the Government that it should lend to the Bahawalpur Durbar such sums of money as were needed for the New Sutlej Valley Project and charge it such rate of interest which was to cover the expenses incurred by the Punjab Government. Now with regard to that one condition there was a certain amount of uncertainty, that the word expenses was a general term which might be extended or narrowed into anything and, this Council would be unwise in sanctioning a loan on such uncertain conditions. I am glad to notice that the Government have very wisely come forward with this definite proposal that they will charge the Bahawalpur Durbar a rate of interest which the Government itself is paying for the loan. Sir, the second condition in the old resolution which was not moved in the Council was that the Bahawalpur Durbar should not be allowed to sell more than 30,000 acres of land per annum. If the loan has been sanctioned on that condition it would have meant something like this. Supposing the average price charged for this land to be Rs. 100 per acre, the total value of the land sold by the Durbar would have been 30 lakhs per annum. We know, Sir, that the Bahawalpur Durbar has got no money to carry out this project and they will have to borrow the whole of this capital amount which probably will be something between 7 and 9 crores. If that money were borrowed by the Durbar at the lowest rate of interest, say 6 per cent per annum, it would mean something like 56 lakhs per annum by way of interest alone. Under the condition which the Government imposed on the Durbar, it would have been able to realise only Rs. 30 lakhs per annum by sale of lands with the result that the Durbar would have to bear a deficit of 26 lakhs per annum by way of interest alone without having paid anything towards the principal. Now, Sir, we are glad to learn that the Government has not brought forward that condition in this resolution probably because they did not think it fair to impose such a condition on the Durbar. Now, Sir, that condition would have acted unfairly to the public at large also, because the Government was afraid that if that condition was not imposed on the Durbar, they would have sold the lands to the public at rates much cheaper than what the Punjab Government would like to sell the lands under the Sutlej Valley Scheme. In the commercial phraseology, that would be something like a pull between two capitalists in order to deprive the ordinary purchaser of reaping the benefit of competition in sales on land. If that

condition had been carried out, the price of land in the Punjab would have been much higher than what the ordinary purchaser could afford to buy. As the loan proposed now stands, I think it is open to the public to make the two capitalists, namely the Punjab Government and the Bahawalpur Durbar act jointly and to make them sell the lands to the public at as cheap a rate as possible.

Now, Sir, there is one further point which may be considered and it is this. Why should the Punjab Government give a loan to an Indian State like the Bahawalpur Durbar? Why should they not be asked to go to the open market and raise their loan? For one thing, Sir, it will be difficult for the Durbar to raise this loan in the open market because there is not the least doubt that the security in the Indian States is not as much as it is in the British Government. People in the British Territories will not be willing to lend money to Native States because there will be no security with the result that the Bahawalpur Durbar will not be able to fulfil their obligations in connection with the scheme. Secondly, His Highness the Nawab of Bahawalpur has just now been installed in the *ghadi* and he is still a very young person. Having just come out of the wardship of the British Government, and the British Government having rightly appreciated their duties towards their ward, they have rightly come forward to lend a helping hand without incurring any loss to them or to the public residing in the British territories.

Thirdly, Sir, there is one important point in which the public of this province is concerned and it is this. Supposing the Bahawalpur Durbar is not given this loan, then they will not be able to contribute anything towards the cost of the weir and they will not be able to fulfil their obligations towards the Sutlej Valley scheme; the net result will be that the weir will have to be abandoned or the total cost will have to be borne by the Punjab Government which in itself will mean a financial loss to this province. Furthermore if the Bahawalpur Durbar is not able to supply the funds and the Punjab Government also said that they would build the weir themselves, then a difficulty might arise as to the rights in the waters of the various rivers. Probably the legal position would be that the Durbar might be able to claim as against the Punjab Government a certain share of water in the Sutlej river which the Punjab Government would be bound to allow to go through the weir. The result will be that our scheme so far as the weiring of the river is concerned will not be as fruitful as we would otherwise expect it to be. So our economic and financial interests require that the weir should be built and that the Government should advance money to the Bahawalpur Durbar. Otherwise the Government will have to pay that money itself; if it does not the whole scheme will not be carried out. If the weir is solely built by the Government, then the Bahawalpur Durbar might lay claim to the waters. I think, Sir, it is certainly a sound policy on the part of the Punjab Government to advance this loan to the Durbar.

There is one further point which should be borne in mind. There is another weir on the Sutlej Valley bridge lower down and probably because it is small that the present weir is now proposed to be constructed. If the lower weir is built, probably the one crore of rupees which the Bahawalpur Durbar had already lent to the British Government during the War as War Loan may be sufficient to cover the Bahawalpur Durbar's portion of the cost of the weir. The Durbar would have been able to sell their lands under that canal and there would be no necessity for the loan. As it is the weir has not been built; that is the first reason.

[Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.]

The second reason is that as the larger weir is being started in the Bahawalpur State, the Durbar is a shareholder. For that reason also, I think the Punjab Government is right in giving this loan and I hope this Council will accept this resolution.

Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan [Muzaffargarh (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I quite agree with my friend Malik Firoz Khan, Noon, in whatever he has said. He has already explained fully the matter under discussion. I would, therefore, ask only one question from the Government member. Is the money going to be advanced on the same conditions as were laid down last year?

Mr. Miles Irving: Do I understand the honourable member to ask whether the resolution now moved is the same as the one which was not moved before?

Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan (continued in Urdu). The resolution is the same as it stood last year. But the conditions last year were that the Bahawalpur Durbar cannot sell more than 30,000 acres of land. I would like some light to be thrown on the point whether the conditions to-day are the same as last year.

Mr. Miles Irving: The honourable member is careful to point out that the two resolutions are not quite distinct. But

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz [Lahore (Muhammadan), Rural]: Sir, the question of my honourable friend Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan is quite a straightforward one. Last year a loan was proposed to be given to the Bahawalpur Durbar on two conditions. Firstly, that the Bahawalpur Durbar was not permitted to sell more than 30,000 acres of land per annum and secondly, that the Punjab Government was to have a lien on the revenues of the Bahawalpur State for the proper discharge of the loan. My honourable friend wants to know whether these two conditions still subsist in reference to this loan also.

Mr. Miles Irving: The honourable member is a lawyer himself and he can read the resolution and say whether the conditions are embodied therein or not. If he means to ask: is there any secret condition outside the terms of the resolution, then there is no such condition.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz: That is what the honourable member wanted to know.

Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan [continued in Urdu]: Sir, last year it was proposed to advance 50 lakhs of rupees as loan to the Bahawalpur Durbar on the conditions that the Durbar shall not sell more than 30,000 acres of land and a certain rate of interest to be charged was fixed. Do those conditions still exist?

Mir Maqbool Mahmood [Amritsar (Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, I admit that the resolution asks us to take a certain amount of risk at a time when we are already struggling with chronic indebtedness. But, Sir, there are three considerations which force me to support this resolution and I would respectfully place them through you, Sir, before the Council. The first consideration is an economic one. Most of the points under this head have already been alluded to by my honourable friend Malik Firoz Khan, Noon, and I just want to emphasise one point. The loan is asked for two primary purposes. One is to give a fair and economic start to the new Bahawalpur Durbar under the new régime, and the second is to improve the

lot of the Bahawalpur residents. I submit, Sir, that I am one of those who regard the Bahawalpuris as much Indians as myself or any other member of this House. The mere boundary of a Native State does not make me have a different feeling towards the economic interests of the members residing in the Native States. In fact I look forward to a day when even the national boundaries will disappear, and men will think in the higher considerations of a common humanity. I submit, Sir, that that consideration alone entitles the Bahawalpuris to have this loan from the Government. The second argument is that the affairs of Native States form the most knotty problem in the Indian constitution. It is urged, Sir, that unless something extraordinary is undertaken in the transitory stage, the Native States may prove to be the Ulster of India. I submit, Sir, that it is only by taking this risk and by extending our fraternal support to the Native States that we can help them to make a new start and that we can possibly make them come into line with us under the new constitution for India which we are all anxiously looking forward to. The third argument that I wish to urge is one of diplomacy. Sir, I am no believer in the philosophy of *kultur* and *mailed fist*, but I endorse what the Ex-Kaiser of Germany in his recent autobiography states at one place that a growing state must always try either to lend money to its neighbouring States or to enter into matrimonial relations with them. Sir, matrimonial relations with the Bahawalpur State may be a difficult and delicate task, but I submit, that by lending money to the Bahawalpur State without involving us in any great risk is a necessary precedent and of which the Punjab Government of the future will have reason to feel proud of.

Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Punjab University) : Sir, when this question of a loan by the Punjab Government for the Sutlej Valley Project of a crore and a half came up for discussion in this House not very long, I said that this was not the time for floating a loan and I gave my reasons for it. It will not be necessary for me to enter into those reasons again. I refer to that matter simply to show that this is not the time to raise a much larger loan than the one that was proposed to be raised by the Government only a short time ago. I want to point out, Sir, that the market is very tight now with the Bank rate standing at a figure higher than it has ever reached. With those conditions now prevailing I think it will be difficult to raise a large loan and it may involve us in paying a higher rate of interest. The Government will have to pay a higher rate of interest for the sake of raising an additional loan for a neighbouring State. Apart from that consideration, Sir, there is this question, namely, whether we should not allow the Bahawalpur State to take its own initiative and float a loan on its own conditions. Perhaps it may be able to raise a loan at a much lower rate of interest, or it may be able to raise only at a high rate of interest. It is all a question of the credit of the borrower and the condition of the market.

It may be that the patriotic Bahawalpuris may come to the help of the State and because they will be benefited chiefly by the improved conditions which the extension of the canal irrigation will bring into existence they may help the State with money at a lower rate of interest than perhaps we can raise here. I do not say that it will be the one rather than the other. I am merely putting the two conditions. I would say, Sir, it would be much better to leave the Bahawalpuris to float the loan with such help and such guarantee as may be necessary for us to give without involving us to

[Lala Ruchi Ram-Sahni.]

much. The Honourable Member for Finance says it cannot be done, possibly it cannot be. If it cannot be done, I would leave it alone, without bringing in the credit of the Punjab Government. If that cannot be very well brought in, I am not very keen that it should be dragged in quite unnecessarily. What I say, Sir, is that the State should be asked to stand on its own legs. It should float a loan of its own. It is not a very satisfactory state of affairs to involve ourselves into other people's business and to set an example which may be embarrassing to us at times. It may not be quite convenient for us to follow that example again in the case of another State. I have no particular case in my mind, but it may be that another case is easily distinguishable from this case but it may be that people are not able to distinguish and they may attribute motives to us, so that all these embarrassing conditions are likely to be produced if we commit ourselves to a loan of this kind. For these reasons, Sir, namely that it will mean for us to pay a higher rate of interest because a larger loan will have to be floated and because it will mean setting an example which we may not be able for various reasons to follow in future and because we should like to bring out the patriotism and the power of initiative of the Bahawalpur State, for these reasons I beg to say that the loan may not be agreed to.

Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah [Non-Official Nominated] (Urdu) : Sir, lakhs of Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs have now emigrated from the Punjab to the Bahawalpur State, merely in the expectation of getting some benefit from the new canal and if conditions as to irrigation are allowed to remain as they were they will not profit. The subjects of the state are poor, and though the soil is very good, they cannot derive the full benefit from the land. Therefore, the advance is necessary.

Lala Mohan Lal [North-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban] : Sir, I want to ask whether it is customary for the Punjab Government to raise loans of this sort. I am a new member and do not know facts. I shall be glad to be enlightened as to whether the Punjab Government raises loans and advances them to states. This is all I want to know. If I have to say anything, I will say it afterwards.

Mr. Miles Irving (Financial Secretary) : Sir, the honourable member wants to know whether it is customary to lend to Native States. It is not, nor is it customary to be a partner with them in any enormous project.

Rana Feroz-ud-Din Khan [South-East Town (Muhammadan) Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, we cannot deny the soreness of the need the Bahawalpur State is in just at present, and neither can we ignore the claims the state has upon the Punjab and for the matter of that upon the British Government. It is true as well that though other canals have been dug leading out of the Sutlej, these canals have not helped the State. But, Sir, we know from our experience that whenever the Government has advanced money to a native state it has tended to create difficulties later on. We have the example of the Berars before us. The Honourable the Finance Secretary has stated that this year the conditions laid down last year have been deleted. This makes the matter still more serious. Suppose the state finds itself insolvent after the sale of land and is unable to repay the loan, what means have we to secure the repayment of the money. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Finance Secretary or the Honourable Finance Member to throw further light on the matter as to how the Government

would secure payment of the loan. We must first have guarantees that the money to be advanced is safe.

Chandhri Ali Akbar [Kangra-~~ch~~-Gurdaspur (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, the project is bound to increase the annual income of the Bahawalpur State by lakhs of rupees. How, then is it possible that the state will become insolvent. On the other hand, in a few years the state will be in a position to advance loans to others as well.

But, if no money is advanced at the present moment, not only will the already invested money be wasted but no profit will come to the state either. It is, therefore, wise to advance the loan.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz [Lahore (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I prefer to speak in English, but as I want to clear the whole matter about this Sutlej Valley Project, I would speak in Urdu. From the very beginning the Bahawalpur State was never in favour of the project. But pressure was put upon it by the Punjab and Indian Governments and they agreed to be a partner in the scheme. At the time the estimated cost of the project was said to be between 14 and 15 crores of rupees. Sir, **Rahim Bakhsh**, the late President of the Council of Regency, was definitely told that the cost of the completion of the project will not exceed 15 crores of rupees and the rate of profit will be somewhere in the neighbourhood of 20 per cent. But, Sir, now it has been found that the first was an underestimate and the profits calculated were also exaggerated. In this way the state has been under a misunderstanding from the very beginning. They have no money and they cannot raise a private loan. For the people would hardly invest their money in such an unsafe transaction, for no individual can sue the state and if anybody advances the money and in the end finds the state insolvent, the Government would have to help the individual and then they would find themselves in a difficult position. Thus sooner or later the Government will have to pay the money. But you cannot expect a repayment in less than 15 years. They will not be able to sell their lands at once and so will not be able to find money for immediate return of the loan.

The state has throughout been under a misunderstanding. They did not mean to consent to the scheme, but they have been made to agree through influence and pressure. Hence it is the moral duty of the Government to advance the loan. For these reasons, Sir, I support the loan of the money to the Bahawalpur State.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das Bhandari (Non-official nominated) : Sir, when questions are referred to the House which really are questions of business we should always proceed like business men in dealing with them. The question which is put before the House is whether the House is prepared to sanction or rather to give its consent to the raising of this loan on behalf of the Bahawalpur Durbar. Before this question is answered honourable members of this House should consider it from many points of view. First of all, I should like to ask whether it is one of the terms of the contract that we entered into with the Nawab of Bahawalpur? Was there any agreement or was any assurance given by the Punjab Government that in case the Nawab felt any difficulty in the matter of financing the scheme which ran through his territory the Punjab Government will go to his help? If no assurance was given, if there was no contract to that effect, then we are under no obligation whatever to render any help as suggested by several members of the House.

[Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari.]

Another question which has been raised is that the Nawab is a minor who has just ascended the *Ghadi* and his financial conditions are not satisfactory. This point, Sir, is one which should debar us from offering him the money. Would any business man after knowing this state of affairs be prepared to offer money to the State? That itself is a sufficient argument for refusing this proposition. The first and really most relevant question in such cases is, how do you propose to recover the loan? If we are asked to give our consent to this loan, are we not justified in asking, how do you propose to recover it? If there are difficulties in the matter of realising the loan and if really the financial conditions of the Durbar are not satisfactory, then we should halt and not proceed with the present proposal. It has been urged on the other side that the Punjab Government has got better credit and therefore it should raise the loan and then lend money to the Bahawalpur State. That shows that the credit of the Bahawalpur State is not good, and that is a very strong reason why this proposal should not be accepted. Taking all these points into consideration, I beg to advise the House that unless and until all these apprehensions are satisfied, and unless and until the conditions on which loans are to be advanced and recovered are fully placed before the House, the House should not be prepared to sanction the loan at all.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, there seems to be some misapprehension on the part of some members of this House in connection with this resolution. Probably the members do not fully realise that the success of this scheme of the Sutlej Valley Project depends upon the Bahawalpur Durbar giving their share of the expenditure on the project. We are now constructing the canal with a view to benefit the province a good deal generally. Some weirs will serve the purpose of canal irrigation to the Bahawalpur State, the Bikaner State and the Punjab Government jointly. If we do not at this stage give the Bahawalpur State the loan required the result will be that the irrigation of our own territory will be stopped. So, at least on economic considerations we are bound to help the Bahawalpur State.

As regards the apprehension of Sir Gopal Das Bhandari that the Bahawalpur prince is a minor and will not be in a position to repay the loan.....

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das Bhandari : No, I did not say that.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : Anyhow you referred to that point I do not think that apprehension is well-founded. This is a bargain between the Government and the State and the Government is strong enough to recover its loan. The honourable the Finance Member will throw some light on that.

The second point is we must bear in mind that in the days of the Great War, in a time of emergency it was the Bahawalpur Durbar which gave about a crore of rupees to the Government of India. If the Bahawalpur Durbar, at a time when the very existence of the State, when the very existence of the Empire was at stake came forward and extended a helping hand by contributing a crore of rupees we are surely morally bound to help the Durbar in its time of need. (Hear, hear.)

The third argument in favour of this resolution is that the peasantry of the province may be able to get land from the Bahawalpur State, for the chances of the poor agricultural classes getting land from their own Government are very little, the whole land will pass to capitalists by auction.

The apprehension in the minds of certain members is this: The financial obligation of the Bahawalpur State may become so heavy that it will not be solvent and ultimately the Government will take possession of the State. This apprehension may be in the minds of certain members. But there is no such secret scheme, as has already been pointed out by Mr. Miles Irving.

After all the Bahawalpur State asks for a loan of only fifty lakhs and it is not a big sum. In these circumstances I support the resolution and I would ask the honourable members to free themselves from all apprehensions that may still be hanging in their minds and vote unanimously for the resolution which if carried will greatly help in bringing the project to completion very early.

Mr. V. F. Gray [Punjab Chamber of Commerce and Trades Association, Commerce]: Sir, rising at this stage there is very little for me to say. I have listened to the discussion with much interest and I would like to make a remark or two on some of the arguments raised. My honourable friend, Sir Gopal Das, said that this was a business scheme and that it should be looked upon on business lines, but everything cannot always be looked at on purely business lines and I think this is one of the occasions.

Further, doubt has been expressed as to security, but surely the scheme itself is some security. We must take the long view, as the lenders in England did when they lent money for the great canal schemes in the Punjab in the past, so must we take the long view here. Another point which has been raised was about the financial difficulties of the province. That point does not weigh very much with me. In the first place it is not a revenue expenditure. It is a capital item. It gives opportunities for people to invest money, if this can be encouraged this alone would make the loan worth while. It also helps a scheme which will eventually earn money. The scheme is going to profit the Government as well as the people. Now that the Punjab Government are able to raise loans in our own province, why should they not help weaker neighbours, as in the past they were themselves helped? That is all, Sir, I have to say on this subject (hear, hear).

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad [Dera Ghazi Khan (Muhammadian) Rural]: (Urdu): Sir, the honourable member Mr. Gray has facilitated my task inasmuch as he has replied to some of the objections raised by a few of the honourable members of the House. I will, therefore, take only a few minutes in replying to some of the remaining objections.

The honourable member Professor Ruchi Ram has suggested that the Bahawalpur Durbar can well be left to manage its own affairs. In this connection I, as one who knows personally the state of affairs in the State, may point out that it is beyond the power of the Durbar to raise the loan on its own initiative and without the help of the Government. Besides that the Bahawalpur Durbar was drawn into the "Sutlej Valley Project" scheme by the Punjab Government. Under the circumstances we ought to give our hearty support to this advancing of the loan to the State. And if we refuse to advance this money we will be deprived of the benefits that must accrue to us on the completion of the scheme, for the scheme can be completed only if the Durbar is in a position to pay its share for the purpose.

It was argued that the Government should undertake to complete the scheme itself and when it is completed, water should be allowed to the State and only after the due payment of its share by the State. I think if this suggestion is carried out it will make matters rather complicated. The State

[Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.]

subjects, like other people of the world, have become enlightened. They now understand where they stand. They also claim their rights in the water of the river which is going to be the source of the "Sutlej Valley Project" and as such they will claim a supply of water on the completion of the scheme even if they have not paid their share of the expenditure and I think the Punjab Government would then find it rather difficult to withhold the supply of water.

As to the honourable member Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan's question as to how the Government will enforce repayment of the loan if the Durbar hesitates to do so, I admit that it is really a question for which a solution must be found before we advance the money.

With regard to the honourable member Shah Nawaz's objection that the State would take a very long time to repay the money, I might assure him that he need not entertain any fear on that score. He is perhaps unaware that 60 per cent. of the water supply is to be utilised for State lands which are scattered over a sufficiently large area. The sale proceeds of these lands is sure to amount to many crores of rupees, and much more than the amount of loan that the Government intends advancing. I think the State would be able to return the money within a few months after the scheme is completed. I, therefore, submit, Sir, that the proposed loan should be advanced to the Bahawalpur Durbar.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Sir, I move—

"That the question be now put."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That the question be now put."

The motion was carried.

Mr. Miles Irving (Financial Secretary) : Sir, I do not propose to detain the House long in dealing with the arguments based on a solicitude for the interests of the Bahawalpur Durbar. I feel it would be impertinent on my part if I attempted to defend His Highness and his administration from any imputation for being unable to defend their own interest. I am perfectly confident that they are quite capable of stating their case and in not putting forward any proposals which would be adverse to the interests of the Bahawalpur State. My honourable friend opposite said that there was a danger that under cover of this apparently simple loan the Punjab Government was undertaking a scheme to impair the independence of the State. On this point, I may say, Sir, that in the first place the Bahawalpur State proposes to repay this loan within a year. Secondly, from the point of view of security, it is quite unnecessary for us to take any further steps by way of security for payment, because we have ample security. To begin with—it is not a point of view which I should like to lay stress upon—one clause in the agreement gives power to the Punjab Government to withhold water, if the loan is not repaid. That means that we have got absolute powers to enforce payment of obligations, though I cannot imagine that there will ever be any occasion to use this. About the actual financial security, the Bahawalpur Durbar has already put 1½ crores into this joint project and if they went bankrupt or if they declined to proceed further—which is by the way a perfectly inconceivable contingency—the sum of 1½ crores already invested by them will be absolutely wasted so far as they are concerned. As a matter of practical politics, supposing we do not lend this money to

the Durbar for the construction of the weir, we shall have to build it ourselves and undertake the whole cost. So from the point of view of business, we are acting in our own interests in giving accommodation to the Durbar. As was already pointed out, in these matters, business is not the only point from which it should be looked at. We have got ample security for the loan and therefore we should gladly afford this accommodation to our partner in these beneficent purposes.

Mr. President : The resolution proposed runs :—

"This Council recommends to the Government that a loan not exceeding Rs. 50 lakhs at the rate of interest not less than that paid by the Punjab Government on its borrowings be made to the Bahawalpur Durbar for construction of the Durbar's portion of the Sutlej Valley Project, and that the Punjab Government should if necessary, raise the sum required by means of increasing the Punjab Loan for 1924 from 1½ crores to 2 crores.

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried.

GOVERNMENT DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia

(Revenue Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 50,000 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 1925 in respect of General Administration."

Sir, with your permission I should like to say a few words in moving this supplementary grant. Honourable members would be knowing that we have at present 12 election petitions pending before the Election Commissioners. Eight of these are concerning the local Legislative Council elections and four about the Legislative Assembly. Last year, the House sanctioned a sum of Rs. 3,25,000 for election expenses. The House will be glad to know that we have been able to effect a saving of something like Rs. 45,000 under this grant. The Election Commissioner and his staff have worked so satisfactorily to effect this saving. Besides the above, Rs. 10,000 was sanctioned for bye-elections. Therefore this figure which we are proposing for the next year's expenditure is in a way covered by the savings in the present year but as the expenditure will be incurred in the next financial year so we are allowing this amount to lapse. We were not able to provide for this sum in the next year's budget owing to the fact that we had to wait first of all for the petitions to be put in against the elections. The last date fixed for this purpose was the end of February. Therefore it was not possible for us to say what amount would be required in the next year so as to provide for the same in the budget. Then after the formation of the Election Commission the matter had to go before them and the President had to advise as to the probable time that would be taken to finish the cases. Therefore we were not in a position to put forward our demand before this House in the coming year's budget. As the House is aware, it has been decided to utilise one of our District Judges and two members of the Bar to hear these petitions. The District Judge of Rawalpindi would very probably be carrying on the work with some members of his clerical staff and the total sum of Rs. 2,920 would be chargeable to the Rawalpindi District Judge's allotment. But he and his *Amils* will require halting allowances for halt in Lahore beyond the ordinary period of 10 days. For his staff and himself, the expenditure comes to Rs. 478 a month. This additional staff required by the Commissioner will

[Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.]
 be copyists, English clerks, stenographers (when taking evidence) and orderlies. The pay of the other members of the Commission will also have to be taken into consideration. The total expenditure comes to Rs. 4,515 and Rs. 473 added to this comes to Rs. 4,988. This is besides the expenditure of Rs. 2,929 to which mention has already been made. Besides the travelling allowance of the members of the Commission and the staff when they go out to record evidence in various districts in which these election petitions have been put in will come to Rs. 1,500 a month. So, the total monthly expenditure, besides the sum of Rs. 2,929 which is being met out of the allotment of the District Court of Rawalpindi, will come to Rs. 3,488 per month. Mr. Addison the President of the Commission says that the work will continue till September or October of this year. I am told by the Secretary of the Transferred Departments that it is likely to go on till November. We hope that a sum of Rs. 50,000 will be sufficient for the purpose as we have also got the sum of Rs. 10,000 provided for the bye-elections in the next year's budget. I trust we may not require any money for the bye-elections but one cannot be certain of it. We also require some money for the purchase of typewriters, forms for issuing summons to witnesses, envelopes and unforeseen expenditure. This may come to Rs. 2,000. The total of the amount needed comes to about Rs. 41,000.

Thus the Council will see that we are not making an exorbitant demand of Rs. 50,000 for dealing with all these election petitions if the cases are to drag on till November. On the other hand, we are trying to manage them as cheaply as we can. I trust therefore that the House will sanction this supplementary grant.

Mr. President : The question is :—

"That a Supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 50,000 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 1925 in respect of General Administration."

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon [Shahpur East (Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, in connection with this supplementary grant I wish to bring only two facts to the notice of this House. One of them I have already on another occasion brought to the notice of Government and it is this. The money that is required for the election petitions contains a provision for four election petitions of the Legislative Assembly. The Government of India is always very parsimonious with us so far as our financial relations with them are concerned, and I cannot see any reason why we should not claim their share from them. Recently the Government of India has been so stingy as to actually stop the firing of time-guns in the Punjab in order to save money. I do not see any reason why we should not make a demand on them of Rs. 16,000 and thus reduce our own liabilities by one-third.

The second point that I wish to bring to the notice of the House is that the Election Commission is going to take rather a long time to complete the proceedings. The elections took place in November last and were more or less complete by the 1st of January, 1924. From the Memo. that is supplied to us it appears that it will not be possible for the Commissioners to complete the proceedings and write their report before the beginning of November, 1924. That is to say eleven months will have passed before the present members who are likely to be successful will know what is going to happen. It will be very embarrassing to them to spend nearly a year in anxiety. Also any new men who may be declared successful will have been deprived for nearly a year of the fruits of their victory, that is to say for full one-third of the life of the Council.

I appeal to Government to try and do their best and devise a system by which the disputes can be brought to a speedy end. I do not say: sacrifice justice at the altar of time, but I do say that some steps should be taken to bring about the completion of the proceedings earlier than it is at present expected.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz [Lahore (Mohammadan) Rural]: Sir, I desire to make a few observations. I understand that the present Commissioners cannot complete the proceedings and write their report before November. Mr. Addison, I understand, is proceeding shortly on leave and Mr. Morton will not be willing to act in the hot weather. In these circumstances it will be far better to appoint another Commission, that is to say a second Commission. The Government from the very start should have appointed another Commission presided over by a High Court Judge. I again suggest to Government that another Commission should be appointed.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member): I do not want to detain the House any longer, but I would say this much that the suggestion thrown out by my friend Malik Firoz Khan, Noon, that we should refer the matter to the Government of India and ask them to share our expenditure about Assembly election petitions has already had the attention of the Panjab Government. With your permission, Sir, I will read the reply of the Government of India on the subject when we approached the Government of India on the last occasion: "I am directed to refer to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 89728-Legis., dated the 28th November 1921, and to say that item 44 in part 2 of Schedule II of Devolution Rules classes as a provincial subject 'Elections for the Indian Legislature' expenditure incurred on bye-elections to the Indian Legislature are a provincial charge." My colleague the Honourable the Finance Member has in the Standing Finance Committee promised to approach the Government of India, but I am not sure whether under the above circumstances he will succeed or not.

Then Malik Firoz Khan said that the election petitions will take very long to be disposed off. If he bears the fact in mind that each party will produce as many as 500 witnesses, he will agree with me that the Commission cannot be expected to come to an early decision.

Then there was a suggestion by Mian Shah Nawaz that six Commissions should have been appointed. Our idea in appointing one Commission was that they would carry on the work in accordance with a fixed rule and it was for that reason that we decided not to appoint a larger number of Commissions than one. The honourable member suggested that a Judge of the High Court might have been appointed as President. He knows that the pay of a Judge of the High Court is Rs. 4,000 and so we could not afford that luxury. We have done our best to economise on account of the present financial stringency in this province. Then the honourable member said that Mr. Addison is going away on leave and that we should appoint another officer in his place. That question has already been considered and in the event of his going away another officer will be appointed. I admit that it is very desirable to announce the decision as soon as possible, but the appointment of six Commissioners will involve a much greater amount of expense which with a deficit budget was not possible.

Mr. President :— The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 50,000 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st March 1925 in respect of General Administration."

The question is that that grant be made.

The motion was carried.

PROBATION OF COUNCIL.

The following order of His Excellency the Governor proroguing the Council was read to the Council by the Honourable the President, all members standing :—

"In pursuance of the powers conferred on me by sub-section 2 of section 72-B of the Government of India Act, I, Edward Douglas MacLagan, Governor of the Punjab, hereby direct that the Legislative Council of the Punjab do stand prorogued until such date as shall be hereafter fixed.

LAHORE :

The 24th March 1924.

E. D. MACLAGAN,

Governor of the Punjab.

INDEX

TO

DEBATES

OF THE

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Vol. VI.

A.

	Page.
ABADKARI—	
Question <i>re</i> grant of land to Rajputs of the Gurdaspur District for the purposes of—	74
ABBOTT, Mr. E. B.—	79
Election of Members to the Forest Board	496
Excise Grant	504, 505, 506
Forest Grant	580
General Administration (Reserved) Grant	64
Oath of office	655
Scientific Departments Grant	1
ABDUL AZIZ, MIAN—	1
Oath of office	672
ABDUL QADIR, KHAN BAHADUR SHAIKH—	1
Education (Transferred) Grant	672
Oath of office	1
ABDUL TAWAB, MAULVI—	
Question <i>re</i> enquiry into the case of — of Normal School, Rohtak	782
ABIANA—	
Question <i>re</i> realization of — in Rohtak and Karnal Districts	272, 323
ACCIDENT(S)—	
Question <i>re</i> — caused by the motor car of Mr. Green	648
Question <i>re</i> number of motor — in the Punjab	274
ACT—	
Punjab Fisheries (Amendment) —, 1923. Governor's and Governor-General's assent to —	63
Punjab Local Option —, 1923. Governor's and Governor-General's assent to —	63
Punjab Opium Smoking —, 1923. Governor's and Governor-General's assent to —	63
Question <i>re</i> improvements effected under the Punjab Towns Improvements —	303
Resolution <i>re</i> amendment of the Punjab Courts —	103-16

B

	PAGE.
ADJOURNMENT—	
Motion for —	120-21
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE GRANT—	23-36, 38-9,
	82-94, 384-
	90, 552-
	620.
Assistant Legal Remembrancer	583
Other allowances and honoraria	24-36, 585-620
Travelling allowance	583, 584, 620
AFZAL HAQ, CHAUDHRI—	
Jails and Convicts Settlements Grant	625-27
Land Revenue Grant	452
Oath of office	1
Police Grant	628-30
Resolution <i>re</i> encouragement of articles manufactured in India	218-19
Resolution <i>re</i> exemption of sword from the operations of the Arms Act	342-43
AGREEMENT DEED—	
Question <i>re</i> terms of — of proprietors of Shah Nahr and observance thereof	786
AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANTS—	
Question <i>re</i> — and development of Northern Districts	732
AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE—	
Question <i>re</i> admission of Hindu Jats in the —	398
Question <i>re</i> communal representation among professors and assistant professors of the Lyallpur —	808
Question <i>re</i> expenditure on students in the —, Lyallpur.	398-99
Question <i>re</i> zamindars and the — at Lyallpur	199
AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION—	
Question <i>re</i> development of —	791
AGRICULTURAL FARMS—	
Question <i>re</i> — and dry farming in the Northern Districts of the Province	731-32
AGRICULTURE—	
Question <i>re</i> agricultural development in Attock District	643
Question <i>re</i> Agricultural land and the Indus	309
Question <i>re</i> assistance and advice given to zamindars by the department of —	199-200
Question <i>re</i> combination of the departments of — and co-operation	798
Question <i>re</i> elementary education in —	167
Question <i>re</i> facilities for agriculturists for entering Government Service	650
Question <i>re</i> grants of lands for cattle-breeding, etc., to graduates in —	200
Question <i>re</i> number of Sikhs appointed as Agricultural Inspectors	68
Question <i>re</i> State Scholarships for higher — or Veterinary Science	399
AGRICULTURE GRANT—	55, 759-65
Supervising establishment	761

PAGE.

AGRICULTURE GRANT— CONCLUDED—

Travelling allowance	...	...	...	759-60, 763, 764, 765
Working of Lyallpur wheat elevator	...	...	...	762
Workshop contingencies	...	...	...	760

AGRICULTURISTS—

Question <i>re</i> concessions or facilities for — students in Government institutions	...	...	...	167
Question <i>re</i> employment of trained — as managers of estates under Court of Wards	...	...	...	733
Question <i>re</i> facilities for English education to —	...	...	...	810
Question <i>re</i> Hindu Mehtam — and members of Criminal Tribes	...	...	...	798-99
Question <i>re</i> number of — students in the various schools of the province	...	...	...	166
Question <i>re</i> suits between money-lenders and —	...	...	...	117
Resolution <i>re</i> appointment of a committee to examine the claims of money-lenders against cultivators	...	...	...	838-42

AHMADPUR SIAL—

Question <i>re</i> establishment of a sub-tahsil at —	784
-------------------------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

AJAB KHAN, HONORARY CAPTAIN—

Oath of office	I
----------------	-----	-----	-----	---

AJIT SINGH, SARDAR—

Question <i>re</i> the whereabouts of — deported to Mandalay	268-69
--------------------------------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	--------

AKALI(S)—

Policy of the Government towards the — movement	...	...	...	596-608
Question <i>re</i> arrest of — for giving tea to — Jathas	...	...	...	304
Question <i>re</i> ban on letters addressed to the Manager or Editor of the —	...	...	...	275-76
Question <i>re</i> burning to death of certain — by the Police	...	...	...	203-04, 815
Question <i>re</i> clothing of — prisoners in Ferozepore Jail	...	...	...	812
Question <i>re</i> corporal punishment to — prisoners in the Ferozepore Jail	...	...	...	287
Question <i>re</i> detention of telegrams for — of Amritsar from the Cocanada Congress Camp	...	...	...	812
Question <i>re</i> excesses perpetrated on — prisoners in Multan Jail	...	...	...	784
Question <i>re</i> fees to the special Counsel for prosecuting the — leaders' case	...	...	...	155
Question <i>re</i> free railway passes and — prisoners	...	...	...	569
Question <i>re</i> stoppage of dak intended for the — and the "Akali-te-Pardesi" of Amritsar	...	...	...	71
Question <i>re</i> taxation of the — as such for Punitive Police in the village Makhi Khurd	...	...	...	204, 815
Question <i>re</i> treatment of — prisoners in Multan Central Jail	...	...	...	724

AKALI LEADERS' CASE—

Question <i>re</i> land reserved for award to witnesses in the first —	286
------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

AKAL TAKHT—

Question *re* alleged desecration of Sri — by Government officials 723

Question *re* taking possession by Government of — 275

“AKALI-TE-PARDESI” —

Question *re* ban on letters addressed to the Manager or Editor of — 275-76

Question *re* interception of postal articles addressed to — 202

Question *re* stoppage of dak intended for the ‘Akali’ and the — of Amritsar 71

ALI AKBAR, CHAUDHRI—

Administration of Justice Grant 586

Excise Grant 14

General Administration (Reserved) Grant 528, 575

Land Revenue Grant 466-67

Medical and Public Health Grant 748

Oath of office 1

Resolution *re* loan to the Bahawalpur Durbar 837

(See Questions and Answers.)

ALLAH BAKHSH, MEHAR—

Question *re* election of — as President of Leiah Municipality 802

ALL-INDIA SERVICES—

Question *re* increase of salary of — 658-54

ALLOWANCE(S)—

Question *re* acting — 653

Question *re* Jungle — to Engineers in the Irrigation Branch 158

AMBALA—

Question *re* water-supply in — 123

AMBALA MUNICIPALITY—

Questions *re* observance of the principles enunciated in the Government note in the matter of nominations to the — 165

Question *re* separate representation of the Sikhs on the Ambala City Municipal Committee 122

ANDERSON GUNJ—

Question *re* failure of the Jagraon Municipal Committee to provide drainage and other conveniences to the residents of — 198

ANDERSON, SIR GEORGE—

Education (Transferred) Grant 701

Oath of office 1

Resolution *re* circular of the Director of Public Instruction relating to the Vernacular Final Examination 135-38

Resolution *re* education as a professional and theoretical subject in the B. A. Course 174-77

Resolution *re* rate of grant to aided Schools 354-55

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR—

Election of Deputy President 5, 38

Election to Public Account and Standing Committees 36

Governor's and Governor-General's assent to Bills 63

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CHAIR—CONCLD.—

Offer of thanks to Mr. Manohar Lal, Deputy President of old Council	38
Panel of chairmen	5, 77
Procedure for voting of demands for grants	63
Seating of members	5, 6
Sittings of the Council	33, 481, 556

APPRENTICE(S)—

Question <i>re</i> unpaid — in the Secretariat offices	651-52
--------------------------------------------------------	--------

ARMS LICENSE(S)—

Question <i>re</i> persons with political views and —	731
Question <i>re</i> title-holders and — fees	807

ARMY—

Question <i>re</i> persons recommended for direct Commission in the —	165-66
-----------------------------------------------------------------------	--------

ARREST(S)—

Question <i>re</i> — and release of persons without trial	648-49
Question <i>re</i> — and release of Sardar Harnam Singh of Sargolha	72
Question <i>re</i> — of Akalis for giving tea to Akali Jathas	304
Question <i>re</i> — of persons in Hoshiarpur and Jullundur Districts	727-28
Question <i>re</i> — of Sardar Mohindar Singh, late editor of the <i>Nation</i> , and compensation therefor	237
Question <i>re</i> — of Sikhs for wearing Kirpans	566
Question <i>re</i> — of Sikhs in connection with Gurdwara Bhai Phern, Kirpans, etc.	237
Question <i>re</i> — of Sikhs on account of Kirpans	566
Question <i>re</i> harassing of innocent people by the Police arresting them	203
Question <i>re</i> warrants for the — of members of the Shromani Gurdwara Parbhandak Committee	773

ARTILLERY PRACTICE—

Question <i>re</i> vacation of houses by certain villagers of Tahsil Kharar on account of—	65
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

ASSISTANT DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS—

Question <i>re</i> communal representation among —	326-27
----------------------------------------------------	--------

ASSISTANTS—

Question <i>re</i> appointment of Europeans and Anglo-Indians to — grade in the Secretariat	652
Question <i>re</i> recruitment and qualifications for — in the Civil Secretariat and headquarters offices	720-27

ASSISTANT SURGEON(S)—

Question <i>re</i> Civil — being put in charge of Central Jails	157
Question <i>re</i> duty allowance to — as Medical Inspectors of Schools	398
Question <i>re</i> Muslim — in the Provincial Service	593
Question <i>re</i> names of temporary — with war services whose services under Government have been terminated	73

	PAGE.
ASSISTANT SURGEON(S)—CONSOLD.—	
Question <i>re</i> number and qualification of Military — employed in the Civil Department of the Province ...	156
Question <i>re</i> re-employment of temporary — with war services whose services under Government have been terminated ...	78
Question <i>re</i> reservation of stations for Indian Medical Service officers and Military — ...	75
Question <i>re</i> suspension of the Civil — of Bhera ...	157
ATTOCK—	
Question <i>re</i> agricultural development in the — District ...	643
Question <i>re</i> postponement of settlement operations in the — District ...	643-44
Question <i>re</i> settlement of — ...	574
Question <i>re</i> uncultivated land in the — District ...	643
B.	
BABAR AKALIS—	
Question <i>re</i> — and compensation to heirs of police officials ...	770-77
Question <i>re</i> harassing of innocent people by the Police in pursuit of the alleged — ...	203
BADSHAH MOSQUE—	
Question <i>re</i> the transfer of control of the Lahore — to Mussalmans ...	209
BAKHTAWAR SINGH, SARDAR—	
Administration of Justice grant... ..	592
Oath of office	1
Resolution <i>re</i> exemption of sword from the operations of the Arms Act	345
BAKR-ID—	
Question <i>re</i> exposure of beef in Thansewar on — day ...	332, 829
BANKE RAI, LALA—	
Oath of office	3
(See Questions and Answers.)	
BARANI VILLAGES—	
Question <i>re</i> general condition of zamindars of — in the Hissar District	127
BEEF—	
Question <i>re</i> cooking of — by Muslim students of Normal School, Rohtak	782
Question <i>re</i> exposure of — in Thansewar	332, 829
BETROTHALS—	
Question <i>re</i> registration of marriages and — ...	305
BHAGAT RAM, RAIZADA—	
Jails and Convict Settlements Grant	630-31
Oath of office	37
BHIWANI TAIL CANAL—	
Question <i>re</i> water-supply of —	789
BIHARI LAL, MASTER—	
Question <i>re</i> inquiry into the case of — of Normal School, Rohtak	782

BILL(S) —

Court Fees (Punjab Amendment) —	276-302, 519
Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation —	372-79, 574
Punjab Stamp (Amendment) —	367-72, 519
Question <i>re</i> introduction of a Gurdwara —	812-13

BISHAN SINGH, BHAI—

Question <i>re</i> enhancement of sentence of — and transfer to Reformatory School, Delhi	408, 830
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------

BLASCHECK, Mr. A. D.—

Forests Grant	503, 507-08
Oath of office	33

BOARDING HOUSE FEES—

Question <i>re</i> — and first grade school fees	796-97
--------------------------------------------------	--------

BODH RAJ, LALA—

Administration of Justice Grant	91-2, 585-86
Court Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill	279-81
Excise Grant	85-6, 495, 498, 499.
Forest Grants	502, 503, 505-06, 507.
General Administration (Reserved) Grant	524, 526, 528, 542.
Land Revenue Grant	451, 463, 465, 466, 489, 491, 492.
Oath of office	2
Registration Grant	508, 509, 510
Resolution <i>re</i> removal of liquor shops beyond municipal boundaries	356-58, 363-64

(See Questions and Answers.)

BOYD, Mr. D. J.—

Oath of office	1
Resolution <i>re</i> amendment of the Punjab Courts Act	103-04, 109-10, 116-16

BRIDGE(S) —

Question <i>re</i> construction of a — near Jethike, Daska Tahsil, Sialkot District, on account of water-logging	197
Question <i>re</i> construction of — where traffic has become impossible on account of water-logging	197
Question <i>re</i> expenditure on temporary — and temporary road in Ghaggar near Mubarakpur	731
Question <i>re</i> inconvenience due to the absence of — over the Sirhind Canal and the stone ballast railway	70, 813

BUDGET—

[For the various items under each budget grant please see the various grants index ed separately in their respective alphabetical order.]

Administration of Justice Grant	582-620
Agriculture Grant	759-65
Civil Contingencies Fund Grant	770
Civil Works (Reserved) Grant	767
Civil Works (Transferred) Grant	767-69

	PAGE.
BUDGET—CONSOLID—	
Education (Reserved) Grant	659-60
Education (Transferred) Grant	661-717
Excise Grant	494-501
Forest Grant	502-08
General Administration (Reserved) Grant	519-56, 574-82
General Administration (Transferred) Grant	582
General Discussion on the	404-40
Industries (Revenue and Capital) Grant	785-86
Interest on ordinary debt grant	517
Irrigation Grant	611-17
Jails and Convict Settlements Grant	620-37
Land Revenue Grant	442-79, 481-94
Loans by Provincial Government (Reserved) Grant	770
Loans by Provincial Government (Transferred) Grant	770
Medical and Public Health Grant	717-22, 785-59
Miscellaneous Adjustments Grant	769
Miscellaneous Departments Grant	767
Miscellaneous (Reserved) Grant	769
Miscellaneous (Transferred) Grant	769
Police Grant	687-42
Representation of the	250-59
Refunds (Reserved) Grant	770
Refunds (Transferred) Grant	770
Registration Grant	608-11
Scientific Departments Grant	654-55
Stamps Grant	501-02
Stationery and Printing Grant	769
Superannuation Allowance and Pensions Grant	769
Time limit for speeches on the	390
BUILDINGS—	
Question re maintenance of Government — and Provincial roads by District Boards	263-34
BUILDING RENTS—	
Question re — and grants-in-aid	797
BUTA SINGH, SARDAR—	
Oath of office	5
(See Questions and Answers.)	

C.

CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE—

Question re —	558
----------------------	-----

CANAL COLONIES—

Question re establishment of a second cane research station in the	129
---------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

	Page.
CANAL (S)—	
Maintenance and repair of — ...	512
Question re construction of a — in Pind Dadan Khan Sub-Division ...	729
Question re division of the Western Jumna — into branches ...	164
Question re Nili Bar ...	651
Question re sufferings of the landlords and tenants of Muzaffargarh on account of the irregular flow of Talari and Ganesh — ...	159
Question re water-logging and unfitness of agricultural lands on the banks of Government — ...	197
Question re water-logging and Upper Chenab — ...	645-46
Question re — water-supply in the irrigated area of the Ambala Division ...	795
Question re water-supply of the Bhiwani Tal — ...	789
Question re working of the Ottu Head Dam constructed on the river Ghaggar in Sirsa Tahsil ...	163-64
CANE RESEARCH—	
Question re establishment of a second — station in the Canal Colonies ...	129
CASH—	
Removal by the Police of — from the houses of Sardar Gurdit Singh and Sardar Mit Singh ...	72
CASTING VOTE—	
Giving of — by President ...	19
CATTLE—	
Question re breeding of Dhanni and Harians — ...	125
Question re export of Milch — from Harians — ...	795
Question re improvement of the breeds of — in the Punjab ...	208
CATTLE LIFTING—	
Question re prevalence of — ...	648
CATTLE-TAX—	
Question re — in the Kangra District ...	786
CENTRAL TRAINING COLLEGE—	
Question re admission of Hindu Jats in the — ...	398
CERTIFICATION—	
— of grants rejected by Council ...	6, 880
CHAIRMAN, PANEL OF — ...	5, 77
CHAKBAIT—	
Question re grant of land to inhabitants of — in Sullej Valley area ...	118
CHAUBARA—	
Question re compensation to the carpenter whose — was burnt by the Police ...	213-04, 815
CHAUKIDARS—	
Question re pay of — ...	167-68
Question re salary of — and livery expenses ...	805-06
CHENAB CANAL—	
Question re water-logging and Upper — ...	645-46

	PAGE.
CHHOTU RAM, RAI SAHIB, CHAUDHRI—	
Court fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill	286-8
Oath of office	1
Resolution <i>re</i> additional irrigation facilities to the Hissar and Rohtak Districts	183-85, 190
(See Questions and Answers.)	
CHOS—	
Staff for Hoshiarpur — and Chos Act	451-54
CIRCULAR—	
Question <i>re</i> Director of Public Instruction's — <i>re</i> education of depressed classes	785
Resolution <i>re</i> — of the Director of Public Instruction relating to the Vernacular Final Examination	132-54
CIVIL ASSISTANT SURGEONS—	
Question <i>re</i> — being put in charge of Central Jails	157
Question <i>re</i> suspension of the — of Bhera	157
CIVIL-CONTINGENCIES FUND GRANT—	770
CIVIL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT—	
Question <i>re</i> reduction of military officers in the —	392-93
CIVIL SECRETARIAT—	
Establishment in the —	529-34
Question <i>re</i> recruitment and qualification for assistants and clerks in the — and headquarters offices	726-27
CIVIL SUITS—	
Question <i>re</i> — relating to disputes over village boundaries, etc.	730
CIVIL SURGEON(S)—	
Question <i>re</i> Muhammadan clerks in the office of —, Mian- wali	303
Question <i>re</i> vacancies in the cadre of Civil Surgeoncies	75
CIVIL WORKS (CAPITAL EXPENDITURE) GRANT	103
CIVIL WORKS (RESERVED) GRANT	54, 767
CIVIL WORKS (TRANSFERRED) GRANT—	54, 103, 767-89
Allotment for minor works	768
CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT—	
Question <i>re</i> special officer for revising the salary of Secretariat —	353
CLERK(S)—	
Question <i>re</i> recruitment and qualifications for — in the Civil Secretariat and headquarters offices	726-27
COLDSTREAM, MR. J.—	
Administration of Justice Grant	386-88, 583-84
Oath of office	1
COLLEGE(S)—	
Question <i>re</i> admission to the Mughalpura Technical — ..	895
Question <i>re</i> creation of Intermediate — devoted to pra- tical courses of study	568
Question <i>re</i> opening of Second Class —	309

PAGE.

COLONY(IES)—

Question re lands allotted to Hindu Jats of the Ambala Division in the Panjab	396-97
Question re leases of land in the Panjab	398
Question re particulars about — lands held on terms of temporary cultivation	210

COMMERCE—

Question re employment in Government Departments of qualified graduates in commercial subjects	773
Question re Government Institute of —	564-67

COMMERCIAL TRAINING—

Question re stipends to Panjab students for — in the Lucknow University	773
-------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

COMMISSION—

Question re persons recommended for direct — in the Army	165-66
----------------------------------------------------------	--------

COMMISSIONER(S)—

Question re monopoly of Hindu Clerks in the — office, Rawalpindi	808
Question re withdrawal from — of power of transfer of Tahsildars and Naib Tahsildars	557
Reduction in the number of —	552-54

COMMITTEE—

Appointment of — for revising legal charges	33
Constitution of — to examine the operation of Chos Act	452
Election of Members to serve on the Railway Advisory —	259-60
Question re appointment of a — to enquire into the alleged harassment of innocent people by the Police	203
Question re appointment of a — of experts to consider the general development of the Gurgaon District	128-29
Question re Canal Advisory —	558
Question re recommendations of the Retrenchment —	210
Question re report of the — on assessment and land revenue policy	402
Question re — to consider the question of construction of a canal in Pind Dadan Khan Sub-Division	729
Recommendations of the Indian Jails —	623
— to revise the rates of travelling allowance	525, 35-41

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION—

Question re — among Assistant District Inspectors of Schools	326-27
Question re — among employees of District Boards	807-08
Question re — among employees of certain Municipalities	807
Question re — amongst the employees of the Gojra Municipal Committee	160-61
Question re — among Honorary Magistrates at Beri, Rohtak District	644-45
Question re — among Honorary Magistrates in Gujra Khan Tahsil	733-34
Question re — among Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Excise	648

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION—CONCLD.—

Question *re* — among Professors and Assistant Professors of the Agricultural College, etc. ...

808

Question *re* — among Public Prosecutors ...

725

Question *re* — among Students sent to the Dehra Dun Military College ...

70

Question *re* — among Sub-Inspectors of Police candidates for training at Phillaur ...

68

Question *re* — among teachers in the provincialised High Schools and A.-V. Secondary Schools in the Rawalpindi Circle ...

157

Question *re* — in the appointments made in the Punjab Civil Service ...

811

Question *re* — in the Chunian Municipality ...

402-03

Question *re* — in the Pirozepur-Jhirka and Rewari Municipalities ...

73

Question *re* — in the Gojra Municipality ...

310-11

Question *re* — in the Imperial, Provincial and Subordinate Educational Service ...

394

Question *re* — in the Khangarh Municipality ...

217

Question *re* — in Provincial Cadre of Forest, Irrigation, Public Works Department and Subordinate Judges ...

391-95

Question *re* — in the several services under Government in the Karnal and Rohtak Districts ...

122

Question *re* — in the Shahabad Municipality ...

200

Question *re* — in the Sonapat Municipal Committee ...

401

Question *re* — in the Subordinate and Provincial Educational Service ...

326

Question *re* — in the various branches of Government Service ...

235

Question *re* — in the various classes of services under Government ...

121

COMMUNICATIONS—

Question *re* ban on letters addressed to the manager or editor of *Akali* or *Akali-te-Pardesi* ...

275-76

COMPENSATION—

Question *re* arrest of Sardar Mohindar Singh, late editor of the *Nation* and — therefor ...

237

Question *re* Damages to lands adjoining Kamalia by the Lower Bari Doab Canal and — ...

789

Question *re* grant of — to the owner of the Chanbara in the village Munder which was burnt by the Police ...

203-04, 815

Question *re* — to heirs of persons killed in the war ...

777

Question *re* — to heirs of police officials ...

776-77

Question *re* — to owners of lands rendered unfit for cultivation by water-logging ...

651

Question *re* — to persons whose lands have been eaten up by rivers ...

559-60

Question *re* — to proprietors on whose land Government trees are growing ...

775

Question *re* — to sufferers on account of water-logging ...

560

Question *re* — to Tahsildars for registration work ...

806-07

Page.

COMPOUNDERS—	
Question <i>re</i> zaminder — in the civil dispensaries of the Mianwali District	306
CONFERENCE—	
Question <i>re</i> travelling allowance for attending the Muhammadan Educational —	587
CONSERVATORS OF FORESTS—	
Question <i>re</i> retrenchment of —	582
Reduction in the number of —	506
CONSPIRACY CASES —	
Question <i>re</i> —	560-61
Question <i>re</i> Lahore —	573
CONTRACTS —	
Question <i>re</i> — for the supply of doors and windows for Sutlej Valley Project	75, 813
CONTRACTORS—	
Reduction of remuneration to —	575-73
CONVEYANCE—	
Question <i>re</i> removal of distinction between European and Indian prisoners in the matter of providing —	723
CO-OPERATION—	
Question <i>re</i> combination of the departments of Agriculture and —	708
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES—	
Question <i>re</i> the number of Sikhs appointed as Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of —	66
COPYISTS—	
Question <i>re</i> entertainment of — as Government Servants on time-scale of pay	120-27
CORPORAL PUNISHMENT—	
Question <i>re</i> — to Akali prisoners in Ferozepore Jail	237
CORRUPTION—	
In Jails	629, 632
— in Police Department	638-41
Question <i>re</i> — among panchal navises	275
Question <i>re</i> — in mutation cases in the Revenue Department	726
Question <i>re</i> investigation of — by the Criminal Investigation Department	310
Question <i>re</i> number of officers punished for —	568
COUNSEL—	
Question <i>re</i> fees to the special — for prosecuting the Akali leaders' case	155
COURT—	
Question <i>re</i> the condition of the — room of the Sub-Judge at Multan	161-162, 814
COURT FEES—	
The — (Punjab Amendment) Bill	276-302, 519

	PAGE.
COURT OF WARDS—	
Question <i>re</i> appointment of a Sikh as manager of the estates in the Ambala District under the —	123
Question <i>re</i> employment of trained agriculturists as managers of estates under —	733
Question <i>re</i> manager of estates under — in the Ambala District	504-65
CRAIK, MR. H. D.—	
Administration of Justice Grant	607
General Administration (Reserved) Grant	23, 513, 521, 522, 523, 527, 529, 530-32, 535, 538, 541-42, 545-46, 549, 553-54, 555, 46-7
Jails and Convict Settlements Grant	1
Oath of office	216
Resolution <i>re</i> encouragement of articles manufactured in India	
CREMATION GROUND—	
Question <i>re</i> inconvenience to Hindus carrying biers to — at Kasur owing to railway crossing	267
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT—	
Question <i>re</i> the — and corruption	310
CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ACT—	
Question <i>re</i> arrests of Sikhs under the —	227
Question <i>re</i> prosecutions under certain sections of the Indian Penal Code, etc.	124
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE—	
Question <i>re</i> prosecutions under certain sections of the Indian Penal Code, etc.	124
CRIMINAL TRIBES—	
Question <i>re</i> education of the children of —	76
Question <i>re</i> expenditure on the reformation of —	76
Question <i>re</i> Hindu Mehtam agriculturists as members of —	708-99
Question <i>re</i> reformation of the —	76
CROWN PER US GHULAM ABRAS—	
Question <i>re</i> establishment for conducting the case —	805
CULTIVATION—	
Question <i>re</i> — by machinery	732-33
D.	
DACOITY (IES)—	
Question <i>re</i> prevalence of — in the Amritsar District	209
Question <i>re</i> theft and — in the Province	574
DAK—	
Question <i>re</i> stoppage of — intended for the <i>Akali</i> and the <i>Akali te Pardesi</i> of Amritsar	71
Question <i>re</i> stoppage of — intended for the S. G. P. C.	71
DAVIDSON, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL D. M.—	
Oath of office	1

	PAGE.
DELHI GARDENS—	
Question <i>re</i> Haq-i-Abpathi for	849-50
DEPARTMENTAL ENQUIRIES—	
Question <i>re</i> — against Sub-Assistant Surgeons. ...	803
DEPRESSED CLASSES—	
Question <i>re</i> Director of Public Instruction's circular re- lating to education of —	765
DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICES—	
Question <i>re</i> head vernacular clerks in —	240
DEPUTY PRESIDENT —	
Election of —	5, 38
Offer of thanks to Mr. Manohar Lal, — of old Council ..	88
DHAL BACHH—	
Question <i>re</i> use of —	272, 828
DHANNI CATTLE—	
Question <i>re</i> breeding of — and Haryana cattle ..	125
DHANPAT RAI, RAI BAHADUR LALA—	
Oath of office	8
(<i>See</i> Questions and Answers.)	
DHAN RAJ, BHASIN, CAPTAIN—	
Education (Transferred) Grant	683
Medical and Public Health Grant	737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 743, 744, 745, 751- 53, 755
Oath of office	2
(<i>See</i> Questions and Answers.)	
DIET MONEY—	
Question <i>re</i> — undisbursed to witnesses and unreturned to depositors	256
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION—	
Resolution <i>re</i> the circular of — relating to the Vernacular Final Examination	132-54
DISPENSARY (IES)—	
<i>Re</i> itinerating—	745-51
Question <i>re</i> sale of the site and building of — at Muktsar by the Ferozepore District Board	801-02
Question <i>re</i> zamindar compounders in the Civil — of Mianwali District	303
DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE—	
Question <i>re</i> splitting up of the office of —	812
DISTRICT BOARD(S)—	
Question <i>re</i> — and rural sanitation	263
Question <i>re</i> communal representation among employes of—	807-08
Question <i>re</i> elections to the Ambala —	721-25
Question <i>re</i> expenditure on maintenance of civil station roads by —	726
Question <i>re</i> expenditure by — on salaries of employes ...	809
Question <i>re</i> maintenance of Government buildings and provincial roads by —	263-64
Question <i>re</i> non-official President for —	122
Question <i>re</i> safeguarding the interest of Hindus in — ...	727

	PAGE.
DIWAN CHAND, LALA—	
Medical and Public Health Grant	722
Oath of office	3
DRAINAGE—	
Question <i>re</i> failure of the Jagraon Municipal Committee to provide — to the residents of Anderson Gunj ...	198
Question <i>re</i> interruption of — at Kasur	268
DRY FARMING—	
Question <i>re</i> — in the Northern Districts of the Province	731-32
DULI CHAND, CHAUDHRI—	
Education (Transferred) Grant	698-99
Excise Grant	14-15, 86
General discussion on the budget	434-35
Medical and Public Health Grant	738
Oath of office	1
Police Grant	639
The Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill	378
Punjab Stamp (Amendment) Bill	371-72
Resolution <i>re</i> circular of the Director of Public Instruction relating to the Vernacular Final Examination ...	141-43
Resolution <i>re</i> Education as a professional and theoretical subject in the B. A. course	179-80
Resolution <i>re</i> rate of grant to Aided Schools	350-51
Resolution <i>re</i> removal of liquor shops beyond municipal boundaries	359-60
(See Questions and Answers.)	
DURBAR SAHIB—	
Question <i>re</i> alleged desecration of — at Amritsar	333
Question <i>re</i> taking possession by Government of —	275
DUTY ALLOWANCE—	
Question <i>re</i> — to Assistant Surgeons as Medical Inspector of Schools	396
E.	
EDITORS—	
Question <i>re</i> cases against —, printers and publishers of newspapers	238, 315-27
EDUCATION—	
Admission of Indians in European Schools	656
<i>Re</i> Female —	685-90
Imparting of practical —	663-78
Medical Inspectors of Schools	738-40
Provincialisation of High Schools	695-701
Question <i>re</i> admission of students to 9th class in recognised schools	246
Question <i>re</i> admission to the 9th class of recognised A. V. High Schools	391
Question <i>re</i> buildings for Government High School at Kamalia	558
Question <i>re</i> communal representation among teachers in the Normal Schools of Karnal and Rohtak	269
Question <i>re</i> compulsory primary — by local bodies	247

EDUCATION—CONTD.—

Question re concessions or facilities in Government institutions to students belonging to the Agricultural classes	167
Question re development of technical and agricultural — in the province	791
Question re Director of Public Instruction's circular relating to — of Depressed classes	785
Question re Director of Public Instruction's Circular re secondary system of Education and grants-in-aid to Schools	796
Question re educational facilities in the Kangra District	803
Question re educational policy of local bodies	246
Question re elementary — in agriculture	167
Question re facilities for English — to agriculturists	810
Question re first grade fees in Government High Schools	839-10
Question re first grade fees in Schools	272
Question re five years' programme for expansion in —	247
Question re Government and Aided High Schools in the Rawalpindi Division	808
Question re Government High Schools in Ambala City	249
Question re grant-in-aid to A. S. Middle School, Sadhaura	332
Question re grant-in-aid to Arya School, Rohtak	401
Question re grant-in-aid to educational institutions	399-400
Question re grant-in-aid to rural schools	312
Question re grant-in-aid to schools	797
Question re grant-in-aid to untrained graduates	797
Question re haisiyat or professional tax and expansion of —	248
Question re number of Sikhs appointed to the Educational Service	268
Question re number of students in various schools of the province (agricultural and non-agricultural)	166
Question re object of starting Agricultural College at Lyallpur	199
Question re opening of second class colleges	339
Question re population and educational institutions in the province	795
Question re preaching of shudhi in Normal School at Rohtak	270
Question re provincialisation of Bhiwani Municipal Board High School	790
Question re provincialised High Schools and A.V. Secondary Schools in the Rawalpindi circle	157
Question re recognition of private Schools and Deputy Commissioners	777-78
Question re rural industrial education	569-70
Question re starting a High School in Naraingarh	240
Question re students of Panipat School and reception of troops	783
Question re transfer of Ambala City Government High School to Naraingarh	780

EDUCATION—CONCLD.—

Question <i>re</i> transfer of control of Middle School at Nankana Sahib to the Notified Area Committee	801
Question <i>re</i> transfer to Government of High Schools under the control of local bodies	241-42
Religious Instruction in Schools	702-03
Resolution <i>re</i> — as a professional and theoretical subject in the B. A. course	168-83
Vocational —	674-76

EDUCATION (RESERVED) GRANT—

Building grant, non-Government Secondary Schools	660
Contingencies, Lawrence School, Ghora Ghali	659-60
Establishment, Lawrence, School, Ghora Ghali	657
Local Allowance, Lawrence School, Ghora Ghali	659
Travelling allowance, inspection	660

EDUCATION (TRANSFERRED) GRANTS—

Contingencies	661-717
Government Secondary Schools	662, 685
Grant-in-aid to private Schools	702-03
Hill Journey and hill allowance	703-13
Hill Journey and hill allowance	714
Provincialisation of Board High Schools	695-701
Secondary Schools	682-90
Travelling Allowance	661, 679-84, 713-17.

ELECTIONS—

Question <i>re</i> Government officials and Punjab Legislative Council —	558-59
Question <i>re</i> inconvenience caused to voters in the Legislative Council —	117
Question <i>re</i> influence exerted by Honorary Magistrates of Gojra in the Legislative Council	269
Question <i>re</i> — to the Ambala District Board	724-25

ELECTION COMMISSIONERS—

Allotment of funds for —	841-44
Constitution of —	841, 843
Government of India to share the cost of —	842, 843

ENCROACHMENT(S)—

Question <i>re</i> — on Municipal and Government lands	809
Question <i>re</i> — of village paths	310

ENGINEERING COLLEGE—

Question <i>re</i> Government Scholarships for studying in the Thomason — at Roorkee	567-58
Question <i>re</i> Hindu Jats in the —, Mughalpara	398

ENGINEERING SCHOOL—

Question <i>re</i> communal representation among professors and Assistant professors of the Rasul —	808
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

ENGINEERS—

Question <i>re</i> Jungle Allowance to — in the Irrigation Branch	159
-------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

ESTABLISHMENT—

Civil Secretariat	529-35
Question <i>re</i> — for the conduct of the case Crown, <i>versus</i> Chuhm Abbas	805

	PAGE.
ESTATES—	
Question <i>re</i> employment of trained agriculturists as managers of — under Court of Wards ...	733
Question <i>re</i> General Manager of — under Court of wards in the Ambala District ...	584-65
EXAMINATIONS—	
Question <i>re</i> departmental — for clerical establishment of the Punjab Forest Department ...	776-78
Question <i>re</i> valuation of the English paper of the Punjab European High Schools ...	728
EXCISE—	
Question <i>re</i> communal representation among Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of — ...	648
Question <i>re</i> selection of members of the Indian Defence force for appointment in the — Department ...	264
EXCISE GRANT—	
Contract Contingencies ...	6-10, 82-88, 494-501.
Horse allowance ...	498-500.
Rewards ...	495
Travelling allowance ...	18-18, 497-98, 9-13, 495-98, 500-01.
EUROPEAN HIGH SCHOOLS—	
Question <i>re</i> valuation of the English paper of the Punjab — Examination ...	728
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL—	
Question <i>re</i> distribution of work among members of the —	309-10
EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER (S)—	
Question <i>re</i> number of Sikhs appointed as —	68
Question <i>re</i> training of Hindu Jats as —	397-98
Reduction in the number of temporary —	555
EXTRA ASSISTANT SETTLEMENT OFFICERS—	
Question <i>re</i> settlement allowance to —	644

F.

FAIZ MUHAMMAD, SHAIKH—	
Education (Transferred) Grant ...	713
Oath of office ...	1
Resolution <i>re</i> Education as a professional and theoretical subject in the B. A. course ...	188-70, 181-82
Resolution <i>re</i> loan to the Bahawalpur Durbar ...	839-40
FARMAN ALI KHAN, SUBEDAR MAJOR—	
Education (Transferred) Grant ...	668-69
General discussion of the budget ...	436
Oath of office ...	1
Police Grant ...	649
Resolution <i>re</i> encouragement of articles manufactured in India ...	225-26
(See Questions and Answers)	

	PAGE.
FAZL ALI, KHAN BAHADUR CHAUDHRI—	
Administration of Justice Grant ...	92
Court-fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill ...	286
Education (Transferred) Grant ...	710-12
Land Revenue Grant ...	473-74
Oath of office ...	1
Resolution <i>re</i> appointment of a committee to examine the claims of money-lenders against cultivators ...	232
Resolution <i>re</i> circular of the Director of Public Instruc- tion relating to the Vernacular Final Examination ...	147-49
Resolution <i>re</i> raising a loan for irrigation works ...	883-84
FAZL-I-HUSAIN, THE HON'BLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN—	
Civil Works (Transferred) Grant ...	103
Court-fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill ...	284-86
Education (Transferred) Grant ...	661-62, 672- 78, 679, 681- 82, 685, 689- 90, 692-93, 694-95, 702, 712-13, 714- 15, 717.
General Administration (Reserved) Grant ...	520-21, 523- 24.
General Administration (Transferred) Grant ...	582
General discussion on the budget ...	427-29
Medical and Public Health Grant ...	102, 717, 719, 721, 722, 735, 736, 738, 739, 740, 741, 743, 744, 749-51, 753-55, 756.
Oath of office ...	1
Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill ...	378
Registration Grant ...	23, 503, 509, 510
Resolution <i>re</i> Circular of the Director of Public Instruc- tion relating to the Vernacular Final Examination ...	150-53
Resolution <i>re</i> education as a professional and theoretical subject in the B. A. Course ...	182
Resolution <i>re</i> encouragement of articles manufactured in India ...	219-20
VEES—	
Question <i>re</i> boarding house and first grade school ...	796-97
Question <i>re</i> — charged by Medical Officers of the Mayo Hospital ...	266
Question <i>re</i> first grade — in Government High Schools ...	809-10
Question <i>re</i> first grade — in Schools ...	272
Question <i>re</i> — for clinical examination of sputum, etc., in the Mayo Hospital ...	266
Question <i>re</i> — for medical attendance in the Indian private wards of Mayo Hospital ...	265

	PAGE.
FEES—CONSOL.	
Question re — for patients in the Indian private wards and Albert Victor Wing of the Mayo Hospital	244
Question re — to Special Counsel for prosecuting the Akali leaders' case	153
Question re — for surgical operations in the Mayo Hospital	265
Question re title-holders and arms license —	307
FIROZPUR-JHIRKA—	
Question re communal representation in the — and Rawari Municipalities	73
FIROZ KHAN NOON, MALIK—	
Administration of Justice Grant	30-31, 500-91, 604-07,
Education (Transferred) Grant	681-81
Excise Grant	498
Forests Grant	23
General Administration (Reserved) Grant	525-26, 541, 842-43,
Land Revenue Grant	453, 462, 468, 487-89,
Medical and Public Health Grant	735, 738, 742, 746-47,
Oath of office	1
Punjab Stamp (Amendment) Bill	370-71
Resolution re appointment of a Committee to examine the claims of money-lenders against cultivators	354-39
Resolution re loan to the Bahawalpur Durbar	832-34
(See Questions and Answers.)	
FIROZ UD-DIN KHAN, RANA—	
Court-fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill	281-84
General Administration (Reserved) Grant	544
Oath of office	1
Resolution re loan to the Bahawalpur Durbar	833-37
(See Questions and Answers.)	
FLOODS—	
Question re — in Nuh, Ballabgarh and Palwal Tahsils of the Gurgaon District	128
Question re relief to people whose lands have been washed away by — in the Muzaffargarh District	158
Question re utilisation of — water in Nuh, Ballabgarh and Palwal Tahsils of the Gurgaon District for irrigation purposes	123
FOREST BOARD—	
Election of members to the —	70-82, 260, 276
FOREST COLLEGE, DEHRA DUN—	
Question re training of Hindu Jats in the —	327-28
FOREST DEPARTMENT—	
Question re the —	562-63
FOREST GRANTS	22-3, 502-08
Establishment Contingencies	5-8
Travelling Allowance	502-03

FOREST RANGERS—

Question re training of Hindu Jats as — ... 397-98

FORESTS—

Question re retrenchment of Conservators of — ... 562

FORESTS SERVICE—

Question re communal representation in provincial — ... 394-95

FORSTER, LT-COL. W. C. H.—

General discussion on the budget ... 429-51

Medical and Public Health Grant ... 758-59

Oath of office ... 1

G.**GANDA SINGH, CANADIAN, SARDAR—**

Question re weight of —, prisoner in Dera Ghazi Khan Jail ... 237

GANDHI CAPS—

Question re the wearing of — by prisoners in Jails ... 267

GANESH CANAL—

Question re Talari and — ... 159

GANGA RAM, RAI SAHIB LALA—

Oath of office ... 1

Resolution re encouragement of articles manufactured in India ... 217

(See Questions and Answers.)

GARB MAHARAJA—

Question re removal of the headquarters of Shah Jiwana sub-tahsil in the Jhang District to — ... 119-20

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (RESERVED)

GRANT— ... 23, 80, 519-

56, 574-82,

811-44.

Commissioners ... 551-52

Establishment (Civil Secretariat) ... 529-35

Hill Journey and Hill Allowance ... 521-22,

525-26, 511-

43, 551.

Language pay ... 555

Local Allowance ... 556

Naib Tahsildars for mutation work ... 580

Temporary establishment ... 528-29, 555

Temporary establishment (Legislative Council) ... 523

Temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners ... 555

Total Contingencies ... 128, 549-50,

579-82,

Total Executive Council (voted) ... 522-23

Total other allowances and honoraria ... 574-78

Total Supplies and Services ... 579

Total tour expenses ... 522

Travelling Allowance ... 579-21, 35-

41, 551, 561,

552, 556, 581.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (TRANSFERRED)

GRANT ... 582

Page.

GHAGGAR CANAL—

Question *re* the working of the Ghaggar Inundation
Canal in the Sirsa Tahsil 163-64

GHULAM ABBAS, PIR—

Question *re* intimidation of the followers of — by the
police 805

GHULAM MUHAMMAD, CHAUDHRI—

Oath of office 1

GIBSON, Mr. A. J.—

Oath of office 1

GOIRA MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE—

Question *re* allegations against President, Municipal
Committee 180

Question *re* communal representation amongst the em-
ployees of — 160-61

Question *re* lease of municipal land and shops in — 163

Question *re* — 161

Question *re* Terminal Tax in — 181

GOKAL CHAND, NARANG, DE—

Administration of Justice Grant 595-604

Agriculture Grant 764

Excise Grant 7-8, 12, 15-16,

17,

Forests Grant 22-3

General Administration (Reserved) Grant 582-84

Jails and Convict settlements Grant 41-8

Land Revenue Grant 468

Medical and Public Health Grants 710-2, 783,

742-43

Oath of office 2

Police Grant 97-8

Resolution *re* amendment of the Punjab Courts Act 112-15

Resolution *re* encouragement of articles manufactured in

India 210-12, 224

..... 25

(See Questions and Answers.)

GOPAL DAS BHANDARI, RAI RAHADUR SIE—

Administration of Justice Grant 28, 889, 568-

90,

Court Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill 283-89

Excise Grant 13, 15, 84

General Administration (Reserved) Grant 521-22, 582,

540,

General Discussion on the Budget 420-23

Irrigation Grant 512-13

Land Revenue Grant 452

Oath of office 1

Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill 376

Resolution *re* amendment of the Punjab Courts Act 105

Resolution *re* appointment of a Committee to examine

the claims of money-lenders against cultivators 334-35

Resolution *re* loan to the Bahawalpur Durbar 337-38

	PAGE.
GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT, HEAD OF—	
Question <i>re</i> overstay of — at Simla	798
GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION—	277-302, 267, 384.
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS—	
Question <i>re</i> alleged desecration of Sri Akal Takht by —	723
Question <i>re</i> — and the Punjab Legislative Council elections	558-59
Question <i>re</i> residential quarters for — at Sheikhpura and rent therefor	773-74
GOVERNMENT SERVANTS—	
Question <i>re</i> entertainment of copyists as — on time-scale of pay	126-27
Question <i>re</i> grants of land to —	159-60
Question <i>re</i> suits for damages filed by Government Officers	233
GOVERNMENT SERVICE—	
Question <i>re</i> communal representation in the several branches of — in the Karnal and Rohtak Districts	122
Question <i>re</i> communal representation in the various branches of —	121
Question <i>re</i> discouragement of recruitment of Sikhs for —	122
Question <i>re</i> employment in — of qualified graduates in commercial subjects	773
Question <i>re</i> employment of Hindu Jats in the various branches of —	397
Question <i>re</i> zamindars and —	327, 330
GOVERNOR, HIS EXCELLENCY THE—	
Assent to Bills	63
Order of prorogation of Council	844
Speech of —	3-5
GRANT(S)—	
Building —	708
Certification of — rejected by Council	8, 830
Question <i>re</i> — to District Boards for maintenance of Government buildings and provincial roads	263-64
Question <i>re</i> giving of special — for encouragement of indigenous system of medicines	66
Surrender of —	61
Teaching —	708
GRANT-IN-AID—	
Policy regarding —	703-13
Question <i>re</i> — and the Arya School, Rohtak	401
Question <i>re</i> buildings rents for the purposes of —	797
Question <i>re</i> Director of Public Instruction's Circular about secondary system of education and — to Schools	796
Question <i>re</i> — to educational institutions	399-400
Question <i>re</i> — to Hindu A. S. Middle School, Sadhaura	332
Question <i>re</i> — to rural schools	312
Question <i>re</i> — to schools	797
Question <i>re</i> — to untrained graduates	797

	PAGE.
GRAY, Mr. V. F.—	
Medical and Public Health Grant	718, 742
Oath of office	2
Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill	874-76
Resolution <i>re</i> amendment of the Punjab Courts Act	107-09
Resolution <i>re</i> encouragement of articles manufactured in India	213-14
Resolution <i>re</i> loan to the Bahawalpur Durbar (See Questions and Answers.)	839
GREEN, Mr.	
Question <i>re</i> rash motor driving of — and death of Pritam Singh	820, 643
GUJRANWALA—	
Question <i>re</i> water-logging in the — District	275
GUMMA WATER WORKS—	
Question <i>re</i> —	125-26
GURBAKESH SINGH, SARDAR—	
Administration of Justice Grant	25, 28-30, 483, 526-28
Court-Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill	291-92
Education (Reserved) Grant	659, 660
Education (Transferred) Grant	652, 670, 672, 685, 696-98, 702-69, 713, 714
Excise Grant	18-14
General Administration (Reserved) Grant	576-76, 577, 579, 580
Jails and Convict Settlements Grant	627-29
Land Revenue Grant	461, 462, 466
Medical and Public Health Grant	751
Oath of office	2
Resolution <i>re</i> Circular of the Director of Public Instruction relating to the Vernacular Final Examination	145-47
Resolution <i>re</i> encouragement of articles manufactured in India	220-21
Scientific Departments Grant (See Questions and Answers.)	654, 655
GURDASPUR DISTRICT—	
Question <i>re</i> grant of land to Muslim Rajputs of the —	119
GURDIT SINGH, SARDAR—	
Question <i>re</i> — in Jail	774
Question <i>re</i> removal by the police of cash from the houses of — and Sardar Mit Singh	12
GURDWARA—	
Question <i>re</i> prohibition of offerings to langar of — Muktasar Sahib	804
GURDWARA BILL—	
Question <i>re</i> introduction of a —	612-13
GURDWARA BHAI THERU—	
Question <i>re</i> arrest of Sikhs in connection with —	237

	PAGE.
GURDWARA PARBANDHAK COMMITTEE—	
Question re search of the office of —	123, 724
Question re warrants for the arrest of members of —	778
GURGAON—	
Question re the development of the — District	128-29
GURU KA LANGAR—	
Question re taking possession by Government of —	275
H.	
HAIBAT KHAN, DAHA KHAN—	
Oath of office	2
HAI SIYAT—	
Question re — or professional tax and expansion of education	248
HAKIMS—	
Question re employment of — and voids by local bodies	66
HALIS—	
Question re legislation to empower Revenue officers to recover advances of money from —	647
HAQ I-ABPASHI—	
Question re — for Delhi gardens	649-650
HARCHAND SINGH, SARDAR—	
Oath of office	2
(See Questions and Answers.)	
HARIANA CATTLE—	
Question re breeding of Dhanai and —	125
Question re export of —	791
HARNAM SINGH—	
Question re arrest and release of Sardar — of Sargodha	72
HEADQUARTERS—	
Question re the removal of the — of Shah Jiwana Sub-tahsil in the Jhang District to Ahmedpur Sial	119-120
HEARD, COL. R—	
Oath of office	1
HIGH COURT—	
Question re cases of political prisoners and the —	162
HIGH SCHOOL(S)—	
Question re provincialised — and A.-V. Secondary Schools in the Rawalpindi Circle	157
HINDU(S)—	
Question re recruitment of — as police constables	783
HINDU JATS—	
Question re admission of — to the Central Training College, Medical College, etc.	398
Question re admission of — to Mughalpura Technical College	396
Question re employment of — in the Provincial Civil Service, Judicial Branch	121, 814
Question re employment of — in the Provincial Educational Service	120
Question re employment of — in the Panjab Secretariat	397

	PAGE.
HINDU JATS—CONCERN—	
Question <i>re</i> employment of — in the various branches of Government Service	397
Question <i>re</i> — in the Engineering College, Maghalpura...	393
Question <i>re</i> lands allotted to — of the Ambala Division in the Punjab Colonies	396-97
Question <i>re</i> training of — as Extra Assistant Conservators, etc.	397-98
HINDU MEHTAM AGRICULTURISTS—	
Question <i>re</i> — and members of Criminal Tribes	798-99
HISSAR—	
Resolution <i>re</i> additional irrigation facilities to the — and Rohtak Districts	183-90
Question <i>re</i> financial condition of the — Local Board	790
Question <i>re</i> general condition of zamindars of barani villages in the — District	187
HOLIDAYS—	
Question <i>re</i> closing the Secretariat on Hindu and Muhammadan —	654
HONORARY MAGISTRATES—	
Question <i>re</i> — and money-lenders in the Karnal District	331-32
Question <i>re</i> appointment of Jat Sikhs as — in Rupar and Kharar	69
Question <i>re</i> communal representation among — at Beri, Rohtak District	644-45
Question <i>re</i> complaints against — of Gajra	269
Question <i>re</i> constitution of a bench of — in Rupar and Kharar in the Ambala District	69
Question <i>re</i> holding of courts regularly and at fixed hours by the — of Multan	159
Question <i>re</i> influence exerted by — of Gajra in the Legislative Council elections	269
Question <i>re</i> — in Gujra Khan Tahsil	733-34
Question <i>re</i> — in the Karnal City	779
Question <i>re</i> — of Multan	159
HORSE ALLOWANCE	461-32, 493-96
HOSHIARPUR CHOS—	
Continuance of staff for —	451-54
HOSPITALS—	
<i>Re</i> Maternity —	743-44
Question <i>re</i> civil —, Leish, and the Municipal Committee	776
Question <i>re</i> employment of private practitioners in the staff of Government —	167
Question <i>re</i> fee charged by Medical Officers of the Mayo —	266
Question <i>re</i> fees for clinical examination of sputum, etc., in the Mayo —	266
Question <i>re</i> fees for medical attendance in the Indian private wards of the Mayo —	245
Question <i>re</i> fees for patients in the Indian private wards and the Albert Victor Wing of the Mayo —	264
Question <i>re</i> fees for surgical operations in the Mayo —	265
Question <i>re</i> operations performed free of charge in the Indian private wards of the Mayo —	265

HUSAIN SHAH, SAYAD—

Oath of office

2

HYDRO-ELECTRIC CAPITAL EXPENDITURE GRANT

54-5

ILLICIT DISTILLATION—

Question re number of persons challaned and convicted for —

778

IMPERIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE—

Question re communal representation in the —

824

IMPERIAL FOREST SERVICE—

Resolution re stoppage of recruitment of — officers to the Punjab

190-96

INDIAN CLERKS—

Question re prospects of promotion of non-graduates — in the Secretariat offices

652-53

INDIANS—

Question re appointment of — as Under-Secretary to the Punjab Government, Public Works Department

784

INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE—

Question re recommendations for direct appointments to the —

811

INDIAN DEFENCE FORCE—

Question re selection of members of the — for appointment in the Excise Department

864

INDIAN JAILS COMMITTEE—

Recommendations of the —

623

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE—

Question re Muesalmans in the —

803

Question re reservation of Stations for officers of the — and Military Assistant Surgeons

75

INDIAN PENAL CODE—

Question re prosecutions under certain sections of the —, etc.

124

INDIAN POLICE SERVICE—

Question re recommendations for direct appointments to the —

817

INDIAN SUGAR COMMITTEE—

Question re recommendation of the — for the establishment of a Second Cane Research Station in the Canal Colonies

123

Question re recommendation of the — to establish a Government Pioneer Sugar factory

129

Question re recommendation of the — about the method of raising capital for sugar factory

155

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION—

Question re rural —

569-70

INDUSTRIAL LOANS ACT—

Question re grant of loans under —

644

	PAGE
INDUSTRIES—	
Question re development of home and cottage —	791
Question re development of indigenous —	790
INDUSTRIES (REVENUE AND CAPITAL)	
GRANTS	
Travelling allowance	59, 785-80
	785-80
INSTITUTE OF COMMERCE—	
Question re Government —	568-67
INTEREST ON ORDINARY DEBT GRANT	517
INTERMEDIATE COLLEGES—	
Question re creation of — devoted to practical course of study	568
IRRIGATION—	
Question re communal representation in provincial service	394-05
Question re — on the Sathiali village, Gurdaspur District	76
Question re Jungle Allowance to engineers in the branch	158
Questions re right of — of Hansi Branch and Delhi Branch Distributaries	850
Question re scheme for irrigating Pind Dadan Khan	799-800
Question re utilisation of floodwater in Nuh, Ballabgarh and Palwal Tahsils of the Gurgaon District for purposes	128
IRRIGATION GRANT	Rs. 89, 511-17
Hill Journey and Hill Allowance	518
Maintenance and repairs	511-13
Travelling Allowance	513
IRRIGATION WORKS—	
Resolution re raising a loan for —	379-84
IRVING, MR. MILES—	
Education (Transferred) Grant	679
General Administration (Reserved) Grant	525, 527, 528, 579-80, 581, 582.
General Discussion of the budget	435-36
Hydro-Electric Capital Expenditure Grant	64
Land Revenue Grant	460
Medical and Public Health Grant	721
Oath of office	1
Resolution re loan to the Bahawalpur Durbar	830-31, 840-41.
Resolution re raising a loan for Irrigation Works	379-81, 384
Stamps Grant	501
Surrender of Grants	61
Travelling allowance	360

J.

JAGIRDARS—

Question *re* difficulties of recovery of Jagirs from Iambar-dars ...

241

Question *re* — of Bahia Haqa and payment of *Nalri Paria* ...

811-12, 829

JAIL(S)—

Corruption in — ...

629, 632

Non-official visitors of — ...

629-30, 635

Question *re* Civil Assistant Surgeons being put in charge of Central — ...

157

Question *re* clothing of Akali prisoners in Ferozepore — ...

812

Question *re* corporal punishment to Akali prisoners in the Ferozepore — ...

237

Question *re* excesses perpetrated on Akali prisoners in Multan — ...

734

Question *re* names of — where political prisoners are confined ...

273

Question *re* political prisoners in the Mianwali — ...

273-74

Question *re* transfer of Bhai Tara Singh of Thethar from the Lahore Central — ...

204, 815

Question *re* treatment of Akali prisoners in Multan Central — ...

724

Treatment of prisoners in — ...

621-36

JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS GRANT ...

40-52, 621-37

Travelling allowance ...

621

JAILORS—

Re transfer of — ...

629-30

JAITO AFFAIR—

Re settlement of the — ...

609

JANJI RAM—

Question *re* —, Teacher of Sheikh Umar, Muzaffargarh District ...

206

JATHAS—

Question *re* arrest of Akalis for giving tea to Akali — ...

304

Question *re* stoppage and arrest of Sikh — to Jaito ...

810

JODH SINGH, SARDAR—

Administration of Justice Grant ...

24-6, 90-91,

385, 388-99,

598, 609-11.

Education (Transferred) Grant ...

679-80, 681,

682, 699-700.

Excise Grant ...

9-10, 500

Forests Grant ...

507

General Administration (Reserved) Grant ...

520, 522, 523,

524, 525, 526,

528, 530-40,

542, 543, 552,

555, 579.

General discussion on the budget ...

417-20

Jails and Convict Settlements Grant ...

51

Land Revenue Grant ...

449, 451-55,

463, 464, 492.

PAGE.

JODH SINGH, SARDAR - CONCLD.—

Miscellaneous Grant	102
Motion for adjournment	129, 131
Oath of office	2
Punjab Stamp (Amendment) Bill	368
Resolution <i>re</i> circular of the Director of Public Instruction relating to the Vernacular Final Examination	133-41
Resolution <i>re</i> Education as a professional and theoretical subject in the B. A. Course	170-72
Resolution <i>re</i> encouragement of articles manufactured in India	221
Resolution <i>re</i> exemption of sword from the operations of the Arms Act	343-44
Resolution <i>re</i> rate of grant to Aided Schools	352-53
Resolution <i>re</i> stoppage of recruitment of Imperial Forest Service Officers to the Punjab	192-93
(See Questions and Answers.)	

JOWAHIR SINGH, SARDAR BAHADUR SARDAR—

Oath of office	2
(See Questions and Answers.)	

JUDICIARY—

Question <i>re</i> employment of Hindu Jats in the Provincial Civil Service, Judicial Branch	121, 814
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------

JUMNA CANAL—

Question <i>re</i> division of the Western — into branches	164
Question <i>re</i> right of irrigation of Hansi Branch and Delhi Branch Distributaries of the Western —	650

JUNGLE ALLOWANCE—

Question <i>re</i> — to Engineers in Irrigation Department	158
------------------------------------------------------------	-----

JUNGLES—

Question <i>re</i> grant of lands to — in the Montgomery District	113
-------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

K.**KANUNGOS—**

Question <i>re</i> field — and settlement operations	307-08
------------------------------------------------------	--------

KARAM ILAHI, KHAN BAHADUR CHAUDHRI —

Oath of office	2
----------------	---

KASUR—

Question <i>re</i> interruption of drainage at —	268
Question <i>re</i> route to the cremation ground for Hindus at —	

KESAR SINGH, CHAUDHRI—

Oath of office	2
----------------	---

KHAN MUHAMMAD KHAN, MALIK—

Oath of office	2
----------------	---

KHARAK SINGH, SARDAR—

Question <i>re</i> — prisoner in Dera Ghazi Khan Jail	237, 724, 785
-------------------------------------------------------	---------------

	PAGE.
KHARAR—	
Vacation of houses by certain villagers of Tahsil — on account of artillery practice	65
KHATONI—	
Question re reversion to the system of —	272, 328
KING, Mr. C. M.—	
Excise grant	10-11, 16-17, 18.
General Administration (Reserved) Grant	550, 551, 558, 575, 576-77, 579
Land Revenue Grant —	450, 453, 458-59, 464-65, 466, 474-75, 482-84, 485-87, 492-493.
Oath of office	1
Resolution re appointment of a committee to examine the claims of money-lenders against cultivators	335-36
Resolution re removal of liquor shops beyond the municipal boundaries	361-63
Resolution re retention of Tahsil at Narowal	55-7, 60
KIRPAN—	
Question re — and the wearing of — by the Sikhs	201
Question re arrest of Sikhs in connection with the wearing of —	237, 536
Question re removal of — of Sarfaraz Sughar Singh, under trial prisoner	238
KISHAN SINGH—	
Question re search of the house of — Samalsar	305, 323
KISHORI LAL—	
Question re ill-health of —	78
KUTCHERY—	
Question re repair of the — building at Sialkot	77

L.

LAL CHAND, THE HON'BLE RAO BAHADUR CHAUDHRI—

Agriculture Grants	53, 752, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764
Civil Works (Capital Expenditure) Grant	103
Civil Works—(Transferred) Grant	54, 767
Education (Transferred) Grant	712
Election of members to the Railway Advisory Committee	78
Excise grant	6, 82, 87, 494, 495, 496-97, 498, 499, 500, 503, 765
Industries (Revenue and Capital) Grant	53, 765
Medical Grant	58
Oath of office	1

Page.

LAL CHAND, THE HON'BLE RAO BAHADUR
CHAUDHRI—CONCLD.—

Resolution <i>re</i> encouragement of articles manufactured in India	222-23
Resolution <i>re</i> improvement of the economic and social conditions of the agriculturists in the Province	349
Resolution <i>re</i> removal of liquor shops beyond municipal boundaries	364-65
Scientific Departments Grant	654, 655

LAMBARDARS—

Question <i>re</i> alleged misappropriation of certain revenues by the — of Muzaffargarh District	727
Question <i>re</i> difficulty of recovery of Jagirs from —	241
Question <i>re</i> duties of Zaildars, Sufed Poshes and —	71
Question <i>re</i> pachotra of —	167-68

LAND(S)—

Question <i>re</i> — adjoining the banks of Government Canals being rendered unfit for agriculture on account of water-logging	197
Question <i>re</i> Agricultural — and the Indus	309
Question <i>re</i> — allotted to Hindu Jats of the Ambala Division in the Punjab Colonies	396-97
Question <i>re</i> compensation to proprietors on whose — Government trees are growing	775
Question <i>re</i> encroachment on Municipal and Government —	809
Question <i>re</i> grants of — to Government officials	152-60
Question <i>re</i> grant of — to graduates in Agriculture for cattle-breeding, etc.	200
Question <i>re</i> grant of — to inhabitants of Chak Bait in Sutlej Valley area	118
Question <i>re</i> grant of — to jungles in the Montgomery District	118
Question <i>re</i> grant of — to Muslim Rajputs in the Gurdaspur District	119
Question <i>re</i> grant of — to officials in recognition of their services	565
Question <i>re</i> grant of — to owners of small holdings	551
Question <i>re</i> grant of — to persons whose — have been eaten up by rivers	559-60
Question <i>re</i> — granted to persons in the Montgomery District whose relations were in Government service	235
Question <i>re</i> grant of — to Rajputs of the Gurdaspur District	74
Question <i>re</i> grants of — as reward to persons of Amritsar for services rendered	209
Question <i>re</i> grant of — to Rajputs of the Gurdaspur District	649
Question <i>re</i> grant of — to sufferers on account of water-logging	560
Question <i>re</i> grant of squares to Rajputs in Colonies	74
Question <i>re</i> leases of — in the Punjab Colonies	396
Question <i>re</i> lease of — to Mr. F. J. Mitchell	804

LAND(S) — CONCLD. —

Question <i>re</i> lease of municipal — and shops by the Gojra Municipal Committee	163
Question <i>re</i> overflowing and water-logging of — in certain villages in the Kot Addu Tahsil, Muzaffargarh District	124, 814
Question <i>re</i> particulars about colony — held on terms of temporary cultivation	210
Question <i>re</i> relief to people whose — have been washed away by floods in the Muzaffargarh District	158
Question <i>re</i> — reserved for award to witnesses in the first Akali leaders' case	236
Question <i>re</i> uncultivated — in the Attock District	643

LAND REVENUE—

Question <i>re</i> amount of — paid by several communities in the Punjab	165
Question <i>re</i> report of the Committee on assessment and — policy	402

LAND REVENUE GRANT —

Assistants to special Kanungos	491
Charges of Administration	463
Contingencies	462
Continuance of staff for Hoshiarpur Chos	451-54
Forest Establishment	449-50
Horse allowance	461-62, 493-94
Patwari establishment	490-91
Survey and Settlement	466-79, 482-89
Temporary Establishment	449-51
Total pay of Officers	464-65
Travelling Allowance	454-61, 463, 465-66, 489-90, 492
Travelling Allowance Kheri Estate and Bruceabad Estate	463-64

LANGAR—

Question <i>re</i> prohibition of offerings to — of Gurdwara Muktear Sahib	304
----------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

LATIFI, Mr. A.—

Oath of office	1
----------------	---

LAWRENCE SCHOOL, GHORA GALI—**LEAVE RESERVE—**

Question <i>re</i> — and acting allowances	653
--------------------------------------------	-----

LEGAL CHARGES—

Appointment of a committee for revising —	33
-------------------------------------------	----

LEGAL REMEMBRANCE—

	583-84
--	--------

LEGISLATION—

Question <i>re</i> — empowering Revenue Officers to recover advances of money from Halis	647
Question <i>re</i> introduction of a Gurdwara Bill	812

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—

Question <i>re</i> resolution of the — regarding release of Sardar Kharak Singh	785
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

LICENSE—

Question <i>re</i> — for motor transport from Pathankot to Dalhousie	789
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

LITERACY—

Question <i>re</i> percentage of — in the Punjab	559
---------------------------------------------------------	-----

LIVERY EXPENSES—

Question <i>re</i> salary of Chaukidars and —	805-06
------------------------------------------------------	--------

LOANS—

Question <i>re</i> grant of — under the Industrial — Act	644
— by Provincial Government (Reserved) Grant	770
— by Provincial Government (Transferred) Grant	770

LOCAL BOARD—

Question <i>re</i> financial condition of the Hissar —	790
---------------------------------------------------------------	-----

LOCAL BODIES—

Question <i>re</i> compulsory primary education by —	247
Question <i>re</i> educational policy of —	246
Question <i>re</i> transfer of High Schools of — to Government	241-42
Question <i>re</i> nomination of members to —	202

LOCAL RATE—

Question <i>re</i> increase of — in Pargana Bharoli in Simla Tahsil	332
----------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

LOWER BARI DOAB CANAL—

Question <i>re</i> damages to lands adjoining Kamalia by — and compensation	789
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

LUCKNOW UNIVERSITY—

Question <i>re</i> stipends for Punjab Students for commercial training in the —	773
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

M.**MACLAGAN ENGINEERING COLLEGE—**

Question <i>re</i> communal representation among professors and assistant professors of the — at Mughalpura	308
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

MAINA—

Question <i>re</i> water-rates on —	275
--------------------------------------------	-----

MANGAL SINGH, SARDAR—

Oath of office	2
-----------------------	---

MANOHAR LAL, Ma.—

Offer of thanks to —, Deputy President of old Council	32
--------------------------------------------------------------	----

MAQBOOL MAHMOOD, MIR—

Administration of Justice Grant	26-8
Excise Grant	84-5
General Administration (Reserved) Grant	520, 538, 544
General discussion on the budget	409-13
Land Revenue grant —	457-58
Oath of office	2
Resolution <i>re</i> encouragement of articles manufactured in India	214-16
Resolution <i>re</i> improvement of the economic and social conditions of the agriculturists in the Province	348-49
Resolution <i>re</i> loan to the Bahawalpur Durbar	834-35
(See Questions and Answers.)	

	PAGE.
MAYA DAS, E.—	
Education (Transferred) Grant ...	668
Oath of office ...	2
MAYNARD, THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN—	
Administration of Justice Grant ...	23-4, 33-5, 89, 90, 94, 385, 389, 532, 537-88, 614- 17.
Certification of grants rejected by Council ...	6, 830
Court-fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill ...	278-79, 297- 301, 519.
Education (Reserved) Grant ...	656, 657, 659, 660.
Excise Grant ...	7, 10, 11, 498
General Administration Grant ...	89, 520, 522, 535-56, 539- 40, 541.
General discussion of the budget ...	437-40
Horse allowance ...	498
Jails and Convict Settlements Grant ...	40-41, 621, 631-35.
Land Revenue Grant ...	455
Motion for adjournment ...	130-31
Police Grant ...	52, 94, 96, 98- 100, 637, 640- 41.
Presentation of the budget ...	250-59
Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill ...	272-73, 574
Resolution re appointment of a committee to examine the claims of money-lenders against cultivators ...	341
Resolution re encouragement of articles manufactured in India ...	217-18, 221- 22.
Stamps Grants ...	20, 88
Punjab Stamps (Amendment) Bill ...	367, 519
Surrender of Grants ...	81
Travelling allowance ...	501
MAZHAR ALI AZHAR, MAULVI—	
Administration of Justice Grant ...	613-14
Court-fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill ...	281-82
Jails and Convict Settlements Grant ...	621-25, 636
Oath of office ...	2
MEDICAL COLLEGE—	
Clinical Assistants to Professors of ...	751-55
Question re admission of Hindu Jats in the ...	398
Question re expenditure on students of the ...	395
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT—	
Question re reduction of Military officers in the civil — of the Punjab ...	392-93
MEDICAL INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS—	
Question re duty allowance to Assistant Surgeons as — ..	396

	PAGE.
MEDICAL OFFICERS—	
Question <i>re</i> fees charged by — in the Mayo Hospital ...	266
MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS—	
Question <i>re</i> employment of private — in the staff of Government Hospitals ...	157
MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH GRANT ...	53, 102, 717-21, 735-59
Contingencies and carriage charges ...	737-38, 740, 743, 745, 751, 755.
Hill journey and Hill allowances ...	736-57
Itinerary dispensaries ...	745-51
Maternity Hospital, Lahore ...	743-44
Medical College ...	751-55
Medical Inspectors of Schools ...	738-40
Mofasil hospitals and dispensaries ...	740
Travelling allowance ...	717-22, 735-36
MEDICAL SCHOOL—	
Question <i>re</i> admission of Hindu Jats in the — ...	398
MEDICINES—	
Question <i>re</i> encouragement of indigenous system of — in the province ...	66
MEHAR SINGH, AKALI—	
Question <i>re</i> stoppage of Sikh Jatha to Jaito and beating by police of — ...	810
MEHDI SHAH, KHAN BAHADUR SAYAD—	
Election of — to serve on the Railway Advisory Committee ...	260
General Administration (Reserved) Grant ...	577
Oath of office ...	2
Resolution <i>re</i> exemption of sword from the operations of the Arms Act ...	346
Resolution <i>re</i> loan to the Bahawalpur Durbar ...	836
MEMBERS—	
Question <i>re</i> nomination of — to local bodies ...	202
Seating of — ...	5-6
MEMORIALS—	
Question <i>re</i> — from the inhabitants of Gojra complaining against Honorary Magistrates ...	269
MILITARY ASSISTANT SURGEONS—	
Question <i>re</i> number and qualifications of — employed in the Civil Department of the province ...	156
Question <i>re</i> reservation of stations for — ...	75
MILITARY COLLEGE—	
Question <i>re</i> communal representation among students sent to the Dehra Dun — ...	70
MILITARY DEPARTMENT—	
Question <i>re</i> reduction of officers of the — in the Civil Medical Department of the Punjab ...	392-93
MILITARY SCHOLARSHIP—	
Question <i>re</i> delay in the award of — ...	210
Question <i>re</i> restriction in the award of — ...	209

	PAGE.
MINISTERS—	
Question <i>re</i> distribution of work among — ...	309-10
MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS GRANTS ...	108, 769
MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS GRANT ...	767
MISCELLANEOUS (RESERVED) GRANTS ...	769
MISCELLANEOUS (TRANSFERRED) GRANT ...	769
MISCELLANEOUS GRANT ...	54, 102
MITCHELL, MR. F. J.—	
Question <i>re</i> lease of land to — ...	804
MIT SINGH—	
Question <i>re</i> removal by the police of cash from the houses of Sardar Gurdit Singh and Sardar — ...	72
MOHAN LAL, BHATANAGAR, LALA—	
Oath of office ...	8
(See Questions and Answers.)	
MOHAN LAL LALA—	
Administration of Justice Grant ...	31-2
Election of members to the Forest Board ...	80-81
Election of — to serve on the Forest Board ...	276
Election of — to serve on the Railway Advisory Committee ...	260
General Administration (Reserved) Grant ...	525
Medical and Public Health Grant ...	739-40, 742
Oath of office ...	2
Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill ...	376-77
Resolution <i>re</i> Education as a professional and theoretical subject in the B. A. Course ...	180-81
Resolution <i>re</i> loan to the Bahawalpur Durbar ...	887
Resolution <i>re</i> stoppage of recruitment of Imperial Forest Service Officers to the Punjab ...	190-91, 193
(See Questions and Answers.)	
MOHAN SINGH, BHAI—	
Question <i>re</i> enhancement of sentence of — and transfer to Reformatory School, Delhi ...	403, 830
MOHINDAR SINGH, SARDAR—	
Oath of office ...	2
(See Questions and Answers.)	
MONEY-LENDERS—	
Question <i>re</i> — and Honorary Magistrates in the Karnal District ...	391-92
Question <i>re</i> suits between — and agriculturists ...	117
MONTGOMERY—	
Question <i>re</i> lands granted to persons in the — District ...	235
Question <i>re</i> lands in the — given to persons whose relations were in Government Service ...	235
MOSQUES—	
Question <i>re</i> procession and music before — in Sonapat ...	270, 401-02
MOTION(S)—	
— for adjournment to discuss the shooting of Akalis at Jaito ...	129-31
— for big reduction of grant for discussing policy of Government unparliamentary ...	468
Notices of — for reduction of Grants ...	481

PAGE.

MOTOR ACCIDENTS—

Question *re* number of — in the Panjab ... 274

MOTOR CAR—

Question *re* rash driving of — and death of Pritam Singh ... 330

MOTOR TRANSPORT—

Question *re* facilities for — in the province ... 790

Question *re* license for — from Pathankot to Dalhousie ... 789

MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION BILL—

Punjab — ... 372-79, 574

MUGHALPURA TECHNICAL COLLEGE—

Question *re* admission to the — ... 395

MUHAMMAD ABDULLAH KHAN, KHAN—

General Administration (Reserved) Grant ... 577

Medical and Public Health Grant ... 747-48

Oath of office ... 2

Resolution *re* loan to the Bahawalpur Durbar ... 834

(See Questions and Answers.)

MUHAMMAD HUSAIN, SAYAD—

Administration of Justice Grant ... 386

Education (Transferred) Grant ... 670-71

Excise Grant ... 11

Forests Grant ... 503, 504, 505

General Administration (Reserved) Grant ... 520, 524-25

General Discussion on the budget ... 404-09

Irrigation Grant ... 518

Jails and Convict Settlement Grant ... 47-8

Land Revenue Grant ... 452, 455, 470-

71, 482, 491.

Oath of office ... 2

Resolution *re* appointment of a Committee to examine the claims of money-lenders against cultivators ... 228-30, 339-41.

Resolution *re* Education as a professional and theoretical subject in the B. A. Course ... 177-78

Resolution *re* encouragement of articles manufactured in India ... 212-13

Resolution *re* exemption of sword from the operation of the Arms Act ... 345-46

Resolution *re* loan to the Bahawalpur Durbar ... 838-39

Resolution *re* removal of liquor shops beyond Municipal boundaries ... 853-59

(See Questions and Answers.)

MUHAMMAD JAMAL KHAN, KHAN BAHADUR SARDAR—

Oath of office ... 2

MUHAMMAD KHAN, KHAN BAHADUR MIR—

Question *re* nomination to Simla Municipal Committee of — ... 800

MUHAMMAD MEHR SHAH, NAWAB SAYAD—

Oath of office ... 2

Resolution *re* the appointment of a committee to examine the claims of money lenders against cultivators ... 230

(See Questions and Answers.)

	PAGE
MUHAMMAD NOMAN, B.—	
Question re appointment of — in the Bhiwani Municipality	783-84
MUHAMMAD RAZA SHAH, SAYAD—	
Oath of office	2
MUHAMMAD SAIFULLAH KHAN, KHAN—	
Oath of office	2
(See Questions and Answers.)	
MUHAMMAD SHAFI ALI KHAN, CHAUDHRI—	
Medical and Public Health Grant	718
Oath of office	2
(See Questions and Answers.)	
MUHAMMAD SHAH NAWAZ, MIAN—	
Administration of Justice Grant	591-92
Court Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill	292-93
Elected to serve in the Forest Board	276
Forests Grant	507
General Administration Grant	843
General discussion on the budget	413-17
Jails and Convict Settlements Grant	51
Land Revenue Grant	456
Oath of office	2
Resolution re additional irrigation facilities to the Hissar and Rohtak Districts	187-88
Resolution re amendment of the Punjab Courts Act	108-09
Resolution re loan to the Bahawalpur Durbar	834-37
Resolution re stoppage of recruitment of Imperial Forest Service Officers to the Punjab	192
MUHAMMAD SHARIF, MIAN—	
Oath of office	2
MULTAN—	
Question re change of routes of Tazias in —	205-06
Question re condition of the court room of the Sub-Judge at —	161-62, 314
Question re Honorary Magistrates in —	159
Question re Secretary, Municipal Committee	206
MUMTAZ MUHAMMAD KHAN, TIWANA, MALIK—	
Oath of office	2
MUNICIPAL BOARD HIGH SCHOOL, BHIWANI—	
Question re provincialisation of —	790
MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE(S)—	
Question re age of candidates for election to Karnal —	781
Question re allegations against the President of the —, Gojra	160
Question re Bhiwani — and its President	789-90
Question re certain appointments in the Bhiwani —	783-84
Question re Civil Hospital, Leiah, and —	776
Question re communal representation among employees of —	807
Question re communal representation amongst employees of the —, Gojra	160-61

PAGE.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE(S)—CONCLD.

Question <i>re</i> communal representation in the Chanian —	402-03
Question <i>re</i> communal representation in the Gojra — ...	161, 310-11
Question <i>re</i> communal representation in the Shahabad —	200
Question <i>re</i> communal representation in the Sonapat — ...	401
Question <i>re</i> constitution of the Hissar and Hoshiarpur —	780-81
Question <i>re</i> constitution of Karnal — ...	780
Question <i>re</i> constitution of Khangarh — ...	207
Question <i>re</i> constitution of the Lahore — ...	784-85
Question <i>re</i> election of Mehar Allah Bakhsh as President of the Leiah — ...	802
Question <i>re</i> establishment of — in Gojra ...	161
Question <i>re</i> expenditure by — on salaries of employees ...	809
Question <i>re</i> failure of the Jagraon — to provide drainage and other conveniences to the residents of Anderson Gunj ...	198
Question <i>re</i> Hindu and Sikh representation in the Bhakkar Municipality ...	645
Question <i>re</i> increase of Terminal Tax in Gojra ...	161
Question <i>re</i> Lahore — and professional tax ...	268
Question <i>re</i> lease of municipal lands and shops in Gojra —	163
Question <i>re</i> nomination of Khan Bahadur Mir Muhammad Khan to Simla ...	800
Question <i>re</i> non-official Presidents of — ...	239
Question <i>re</i> non-official President for Shahabad — ...	201
Question <i>re</i> observance of the principles enunciated in the Government note in the matter of nominations to the Ambala — ...	165
Question <i>re</i> period of service of the President of the —, Gojra ...	161
Question <i>re</i> President of the Karnal — ...	781
Question <i>re</i> removal of Lala Tara Chand from the Ambala — ...	393
Question <i>re</i> representation of Sikhs in the Gojra — ...	311
Question <i>re</i> representation of Sikhs in the Wazirabad — ...	272-73
Question <i>re</i> Secretary of the Multan — ...	206
Question <i>re</i> separate representation of Sikhs in the Gojra — ...	204-05
Question <i>re</i> Sikh representation in the Kasur Municipality ...	562

MUNICIPALITIES—

Question <i>re</i> revision of voters' lists in — before the introduction of the new constitution ...	159
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

MUSIC—

Question <i>re</i> — before mosques in Sonapat ...	270, 401-02
----------------------------------------------------	-------------

MUSLIM RAJPUTS—

Question <i>re</i> grant of land to — of Gurdaspur District ...	119
-----------------------------------------------------------------	-----

MUTATION CASES—

Question <i>re</i> corruption in — in the Revenue Department	726
--------------------------------------------------------------	-----

MUTATION FEES—

Question <i>re</i> doubling of — ...	77
--------------------------------------	----

	Page.
MUZAFFARGARH—	
Question <i>re</i> overflowing and water-logging of land in certain villages in Kot Adu Tahsil in the — District ...	124, 814
Question <i>re</i> relief to people whose lands have been washed by floods in the — District ...	158-59
MUZAFFAR KHAN, LIEUTENANT MALIK—	
Oath of office ...	449
N.	
NAIB-TAHSILDARS—	
Question <i>re</i> number of Sikhs appointed as Tahsildars and — ...	68
Question <i>re</i> posting of — in their home districts ...	557
Question <i>re</i> power of transfer of — ...	557
NAJIB-UD-DIN KHAN, CHAUDHRI—	
Oath of office ...	2
NALCHAH—	
Question <i>re</i> revenue accruing from — ...	236
NANAK CHAND, PANDIT—	
Education (Transferred) Grant ...	665-68
Land Revenue Grant — ...	451
Oath of office ...	2
Resolution <i>re</i> additional irrigation facilities to the Hissar and Rohtak Districts ...	188-89
Resolution <i>re</i> amendment of the Punjab Courts Act ...	105-07
Resolution <i>re</i> appointment of a committee to examine the claims of money-lenders against cultivators ...	333-34
Resolution <i>re</i> Circular of the Director of Public Instruction relating to the Vernacular Final Examination ...	182-84, 140-50.
(See Questions and Answers.)	
NARAIN SINGH, SARDAR—	
Administration of Justice Grant ...	92-3
Court Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill ...	296-97
General Administration (Reserved) Grant ...	444-45
Oath of office ...	2
Resolution <i>re</i> appointment of a committee to examine the claims of money-lenders against cultivators ...	232-33
(See Questions and Answers.)	
NARENDRA NATH, DIWAN BAHADUR RAJA—	
Administration of Justice Grant ...	26
Excise Grant ...	7, 14
Medical and Public Health Grant ...	739
Oath of office ...	2
Resolution <i>re</i> loan to the Bahawalpur Durbar ...	831, 832
Resolution <i>re</i> retention of Tahsil at Narowal ...	57-8
NARINJAN DAS, DIWAN—	
Administration of Justice Grant ...	32-3, 93-4
Education (Reserved) Grant ...	657, 659
Education (Transferred) Grant ...	685-88, 690, 691.

Page.

NABINJAN DAS, DIWAN—CONCLD.

Election of members to the Forest Board ... 81

Oath of office ... 2

Resolution *re* amendment of the Punjab Courts Act ... 109, 110Resolution *re* circular of the Director of Public Instruction relating to the Vernacular Final Examination ... 184-85Resolution *re* removal of liquor shops beyond municipal boundaries ... 360-61

(See Questions and Answers.)

NAROWAL—

Resolution *re* retention of Tahsil at — ... 55-60

NEHRI PARTA—

Question *re* Jagirdars of Bahia Ilaga and — ... 311-12, 829

NEWSPAPERS—

Question *re* cases against editors, printers and publishers of — ... 238, 815-27Question *re* — offices searched ... 238

NIHAL CHAND, SIKBI, LALA—

Oath of office ... 8

(See Questions and Answers.)

NILI BAR CANAL—

Question *re* — ... 651

NOMINATIONS—

Question *re* — of members to local bodies ... 202

NON-CO-OPERATION—

Question *re* the number of cases of political nature in which the accused did not put in their defence ... 162

NORMAL SCHOOL—

Question *re* cooking of beef by Muslim students of —, Rohtak ... 782Question *re* enquiry into the cases of certain teachers of —, Rohtak ... 782Question *re* repair of a wall of a building near the Sialkot fort recently vacated by the — ... 77, 813-14

NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEE—

Question *re* conversion of Nankana Sahib — into a Small Towns Committee ... 801Question *re* transfer of Middle School at Nankana Sahib to the control of — ... 811

NUH—

Question *re* floods in —, Ballabgarh and Palwal Tahsils of the Gurgaon District ... 128Question *re* water-supply in — Tahsil ... 128

NUR DIN, CHAUDHRI—

General Administration (Reserved) Grant ... 578

Medical and Public Health Grant ... 748-49

Oath of office ... 2

O.

OATH OF OFFICE—

1-3, 5, 37,

38, 68, 263,

449, 723.

ODS—	
Question re quarrel between — and the owners of land in the Karnal and Rohtak Districts ...	120
Question re settlements in or removal from the Karnal and Rohtak districts of— ...	120
OPERATIONS—	
Question re fees for — in the Mayo Hospital ...	265
Question re major — performed free of charge in the Indian private ward of the Mayo Hospital ...	265
OPIUM SATTA—	
Question re legislation to check — ...	240, 782-83
OTTU HEAD—	
Question re the working of the dam known as — on the Ghaggar river in the Sirsa Tahsil ...	163-64
OWEN, DR. C. A.—	
Medical and Public Health Grant ...	744
Oath of office ...	2
	P.
PACHOTRA—	
Question re the — of lambardars ...	167-68
PANCHAYATS—	
Question re constitution and working of — ...	646-47, 725-26
Question re establishment of — in the Karnal District ...	120
PANSAL NAVISES—	
Question re trouble to cultivators from — ...	275
PARGANA BHAROLI—	
Question re increase of local rate in — ...	332
PARTA—	
Question re Jagirdars of Bahia Ilaga and payment of Nehri — ...	311-12, 829
PARTAP SINGH, SARDAR	
Oath of office ...	2
(See Questions and Answers).	
PASSES—	
Question re free railway — and Akali prisoners ...	569
PASS SYSTEM—	
Introduction of — for the railway journey of police officers ...	52
PENSIONS GRANT—	
Superannuation Allowances and — ...	54
PETMAN, Mr.—	
Fees to — for conducting the Akali case ...	591
PHILLAUER TRAINING SCHOOL—	
Question re communal representation among Sub-Inspectors of Police candidates trained in — ...	68
Question re Head Constables and Sub-Inspector candidates admitted to the — ...	309
PIND DADAN KHAN—	
Question re scheme for irrigating the — ...	799-800
PLAGUE—	
Question re villages in the Rohtak District affected by —	236

	Page.
POHAP SINGH, RAO—	
Land Revenue Grant—	452-53, 471-72.
Oath of office	3
Resolution <i>re</i> encouragement of articles manufactured in India	222
POLICE—	
Corruption in the — Department	638-41
Introduction of pass system for the railway journey of — officers	52
Question <i>re</i> alleged robberies by —	568-69
Question <i>re</i> burning of certain persons to death in the Hoshiarpur District by setting fire to a closed house	60
Question <i>re</i> communal representation among Sub-Inspectors of — trained at Phillaur	68
Question <i>re</i> communal representation in the Provincial — Service	306, 828-29
Question <i>re</i> compensation to heirs of — officials	776-77
Question <i>re</i> Head Constables and Sub-Inspector candidates admitted to Phillaur Training School	309
Question <i>re</i> murder of Rulia and investigation by the —	806
Question <i>re</i> number of Sikhs appointed as — Inspectors	88
Question <i>re</i> posting of punitive — in certain villages of Moga Tahsil	305-06
Question <i>re</i> principles of promotion to the Provincial — Service	306, 828-29
Question <i>re</i> recommendations for direct appointments to the Indian — services	811
Question <i>re</i> recruitment of Hindus as — Constables	783
Question <i>re</i> stoppage of Sikh Jatha to Jaito and beating by — of Akali Mehar Singh	610
Removal by the — cash from the houses of Sardar Gurdit Singh and Sardar Mit Singh	72
POLICE GRANT	52-3, 94-102, 637-42.
Travelling allowance	52, 637
POLITICAL PRISONERS—	
Question <i>re</i> cases of non-co-operating —	162
Question <i>re</i> names of jails where — are confined	273
Question <i>re</i> number of cases of — in which the High Court thought fit to interfere	162
Question <i>re</i> number of —	273
Question <i>re</i> — and Mianwali Jail	273-74
Treatment of —	630
POSTAL ARTICLES—	
Question <i>re</i> interception of — addressed to <i>Akali-ta-Pardesi</i>	202
PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET	230-59
PRESIDENT(S)—	
Question <i>re</i> allegations against the — of the Municipal Committee, Gojra	160

PRESIDENT(S)—CONCLD.

Question <i>re</i> election of Mehar Allāh Bakhsh as — of the Leiah Municipality	802
Question <i>re</i> non-official — of District Boards	122
Question <i>re</i> non-official — for Shahabad Municipality	201
Question <i>re</i> non-official — of Municipalities	239
Question <i>re</i> period of service of the — of the Gojra Municipal Committee	161
Question <i>re</i> — of the Bhiwani Municipal Committee	739-90
Question <i>re</i> — of the Karnal Municipality	781

PRESIDENT, MR.—

Concluding remarks on the Budget Demands for grants	770-72
Delivery of speeches in Punjabi	9, 13
Election of Deputy President	5, 38
Election to the Public Accounts Committee and to the Standing Committees	37
Giving of casting vote	19
Government Demand for Supplementary Grant	735
Motion for a big reduction of grant for discussing policy of Government unparliamentary	468
Notices of motions for reduction of grants	481
Offer of thanks to Mr. Manohar Lal, Deputy President of the old Council	38
Panel of Chairmen	5
Seating of Members	5
Sittings of the Council	33, 431, 556
Speeches in any other vernacular of the Province, than Urdu require the permission of —	13
Time limit for speeches on the budget	390

PRESS—

Grant for composition of articles for the —	543-49
Question <i>re</i> forfeiture of securities of —	239

PRIMARY EDUCATION—

Question <i>re</i> compulsory — by local bodies	247
-------------------------------------------------	-----

PRIME MINISTER—

Question <i>re</i> detention of telegram addressed to —	774
---------------------------------------------------------	-----

PRINTERS

Question <i>re</i> cases against editors, — and publishers of newspapers	238, 815-27
--------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------

PRISONER(S)—

Question <i>re</i> clothing of Akali — in the Ferozepore Jail	312
Question <i>re</i> corporal punishment to Akali — in the Ferozepore Jail	237
Question <i>re</i> excesses perpetrated on the Akali — in Multan Jail	734
Question <i>re</i> free railway passes and Akali —	569
Question <i>re</i> interviews of — with their friends and relatives	273
Question <i>re</i> number of cases of political nature in which accused did not put in their defence	162
Question <i>re</i> number of cases of political — in which High Court thought fit to interfere	162

PAGE.

PRISONER(S)—CONCLUDED.	
Question <i>re</i> number of political —	273
Question <i>re</i> political — and the Mianwali Jail	273-74
Question <i>re</i> supply of conveyance to Indian —	728
Question <i>re</i> treatment of Akali — in the Multan Central Jail	724
Question <i>re</i> weight of Sardar Santokh Singh Vidyarthi and Sardar Ganda Singh Canadian, — in the Dera Ghazi Khan Jail	237
Treatment of — in Jail	621-36
PRITAM SINGH—	
Question <i>re</i> rash motor driving and death of —	330
PROFESSIONAL TAX—	
Question <i>re</i> Lahore Municipality and —	268
Question <i>re</i> — on villagers of Shahpur District	729
PROROGATION OF THE COUNCIL	844
PROSECUTIONS—	
Question <i>re</i> — under certain sections of the Indian Penal Code, etc.	124
PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVICE—	
Question <i>re</i> employment of Hindu Jats in the — Judicial Branch	121, 814
PROVINCIAL CONTRIBUTION—	
Question <i>re</i> reduction of —	723
PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE—	
Question <i>re</i> communal representation in the —	326, 394
Question <i>re</i> employment of Hindu Jats in the —	120
PROVINCIAL POLICE SERVICE—	
Question <i>re</i> communal representation in the —	306, 328-29
Question <i>re</i> principles of promotion to the —	306, 328-29
PROVINCIAL ROADS—	
Question <i>re</i> maintenance of Government Buildings and — by District Boards	263-64
PROVINCIAL SERVICES—	
Question <i>re</i> increase of salary of —	653-54
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—	
Election to the —	37
PUBLIC PROSECUTORS—	
Question <i>re</i> communal representation among —	725
Question <i>re</i> — of Campbellpur	805
Question <i>re</i> separate — for Rohtak	271
<i>Re</i> special — and fees to them	585-95
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—	
Question <i>re</i> appointment of Indian Under-Secretary in the —	784
Question <i>re</i> communal representation in the provincial cadre of the —	394-95
PUBLISHER(S)—	
Question <i>re</i> cases against editors, printers and — of newspapers	238, 815-27

PUNITIVE POLICE—

Question *re* assessment of cost of the — in the village of
Makhi Khurd

204, 815

Question *re* payment of the expenses of — at Jandiala and
Rurka Kalan

807

Question *re* posting of — in certain villages of Moga Tahsil

305-06

PUNJAB CIVIL SERVICE—

Question *re* communal representation in the appointments
to the —

811

PUNJAB COURTS ACT—

Resolution *re* amendment of the —

103-16

PUNJAB EDUCATIONAL SERVICE—

Question *re* the number of Sikhs appointed to the —

68

PUNJAB FOREST DEPARTMENT—

Question *re* departmental examination for clerical establish-
ment of the —

775-76

PUNJABI—

Delivery of speeches in —

9, 13

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL—

Question *re* Government officials and — elections

558-59

Temporary establishment for —

523

Travelling and daily allowances of the members of —

523-25

PUNJAB MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION BILL ...

574

PUNJAB TOWNS IMPROVEMENT ACT—

Question *re* improvements effected under the —

808

PUNJAB VILLAGE PANCHAYAT ACT—

Question *re* the operation of the — in the province

646-47

Q.

QUEEN MARY'S COLLEGE—

Admission to —

691

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—**ALI AKBAR, CHAUDHRI—**

Question *re* doubling of mutation fee

77

Question *re* Government Officials and Punjab Legislative
Council elections

558-59

Question *re* grant of land to Muslim Rajputs of the
Gurdaspur District

119

Question *re* grant of land to Rajputs of the Gurdas-
pur District

74-75, 649

Question *re* grant of squares to Rajputs in Colonies

74

Question *re* irrigation of the Sathiala village, Gurdas-
pur District

76

Question *re* reformation of the criminal tribes

76

Question *re* zamindars and first grade fees for school
boys

649

BANKE RAI, LALA—

Question *re* age limit of candidates for election to Karnal
Municipality

781

Question *re* constitution of Hissar and Hoshiarpur
Municipalities

780-81

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—CONTD.

PAGE.

BANKE RAI, LALA—CONCD.

Question re constitution of Karnal Municipality ... 780

Question re Honorary Magistrates in Karnal City ... 779

Question re President of the Karnal Municipality ... 781

BODH RAJ, LALA—

Question re allegations against President, Municipal Committee, Gojra ... 160

Question re assistants and clerks in the Civil Secretariat and headquarters offices ... 726

Question re Bhiwari Municipality and its President ... 789-90

Question re canal water-supply in the irrigated area of Ambala Division ... 795

Question re cases of non-co-operating political prisoners ... 162

Question re cases of political prisoners and the High Court ... 162

Question re changes in the route of Tazias in Multan ... 205-06

Question re communal representation amongst the employees of Gojra Municipal Committee ... 160-61

Question re compensation to proprietors of villages adjoining Kamalia ... 789

Question re development of home and cottage industries ... 791

Question re education of the depressed classes ... 785

Question re export of milch cattle from Haryana ... 795

Question re facilities for motor transport in the Province ... 790

Question re financial condition of the Hissar Local Board ... 790

Question re Government support for development of indigenous industries ... 790

Question re grants of lands to Government Officials ... 159-60

Question re Honorary Magistrates of Multan ... 159

Question re Janji Ram, Teacher of Sheikh Umar, District Muzaffargarh ... 206

Question re jungle allowance to Engineers in the Irrigation Department ... 158

Question re lease of municipal land and shops in Gojra Municipal Committee ... 168

Question re misappropriation of revenues by the lambarbars of Muzaffargarh District ... 727

Question re Municipal Committee, Gojra ... 161

Question re nomination of Khan Bahadur Mir Muhammad Khan ... 800

Question re provincialisation of the Municipal Board High School, Bhiwani ... 790

Question re relief to people whose lands have been washed away by floods in the Muzaffargarh District ... 158-59

Question re revision of municipal voters' lists ... 159

Question re safeguarding of interests of Hindus in District Boards ... 727

Question re Secretary, Municipal Committee, Multan ... 206

Question re Sub-Judge's court rooms at Multan ... 161-62, 814

Question re Talari and Ganesh Canals ... 169

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—CONTINUED.

BODH RAJ, LALA—CONCLUDED

Question re technical and agricultural education in the Province	791
Question re Terminal Tax in Gajra	161
Question re theft cases in the Hissar District	795
Question re transfer of the Civil Hospital, Leiah, to the Municipal Committee	776
Question re water-supply of the Bhiwani Tail Canal	789

BUTA SINGH, SARDAR—

Question re residential quarters for Government servants at Sheikhpura and collection of rent	733-34
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------

CHHOTU RAM, RAI SAHIB CHAUDHRI—

Question re annual expenditure incurred per student in the Veterinary College, Lahore, and Agricultural College, Lyalpur	398-99
Question re communal representation in Government services	235-36
Question re communal representation in Sonapat Municipality	401
Question re diet money	236
Question re employment of Hindu Jats in various Government Departments	397
Question re Government aid to Educational Institutions	399-400
Question re grant-in-aid to Arya School, Rohtak	401
Question re grants of land to civil officers in recognition of their services	525
Question re Hindu Jats admitted to Central Training College and Medical College, Lahore, etc.	398
Question re Hindu Jats in the Clerical Establishment of the Punjab Secretariat	397
Question re Hindu Jats sent to Dehra Dun Forest College for training as Extra Assistant Conservators, etc.	397-98
Question re land allotted to Hindu Jats of the Ambala Division in the Punjab Colonies	396-97
Question re lands granted to persons in the Montgomery District	235
Question re leases of land in the Punjab Colonies	396
Question re Military Scholarships	209-10
Question re number of villages affected by plague in the Rohtak District	286
Question re paucity of Hindu Jats in the Engineering College, Mughalpur	395
Question re persons holding colony land on terms of temporary cultivation	210
Question re punishment of corrupt officials	566
Question re revenue from Nal Bah	236
Question re rural sanitation in the Rohtak District	566
Question re rural and urban sanitation	565
Question re State Scholarship for the study of Higher Agriculture or Veterinary Science	399
Question re zamindars in the various Government Departments	397, 330

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—CONTINUED.**DHANPAT RAI, RAI BAHADUR LALA—**

Question *re* establishment of a Government sugar factory in Rohtak or Karnal District ... 129

Question *re* establishment of a second cane research station in the Canal Colonies ... 129

Question *re* fees to special Counsel for prosecuting the Akali Leaders' Case ... 155

Question *re* method of raising capital for Sugar Factory ... 155

DHAN RAJ BHASIN, CAPTAIN

Question *re* complaints against the Honorary Magistrates of Gogra ... 269

Question *re* fees charged by Medical Officers of Albert Victor and Mayo Hospitals ... 266

Question *re* fees for clinical examination of sputum, etc., in the Indian Private Wards of the Mayo Hospital ... 266

Question *re* fees for medical attendance, etc., in the Indian Private Wards of the Mayo Hospital ... 265-66

Question *re* Honorary Magistrates of Gogra ... 249

Question *re* interruption of drainage at Kasur ... 268

Question *re* Lahore Municipality and Professional Tax on Doctors ... 268

Question *re* major operations performed in the Indian Private Wards of the Mayo Hospital, Lahore ... 265

Question *re* patients in the Indian private wards of Mayo Hospital ... 264-65

Question *re* route to the cremation ground for Hindus at Kasur ... 267

Question *re* Sardar Ajit Singh ... 265-69

Question *re* Sardar Kharak Singh ... 267

DULI CHAND, CHAUDHRI—

Question *re* admission of Hindu Jats to the Mughalpura Technical College ... 395

Question *re* breeding of Dhanni and Hariana Cattle ... 125

Question *re* communal representation in the various classes of services under Government ... 121

Question *re* communal representation in the several services under Government in the Karnal and Rohtak Districts ... 122

Question *re* employment of Hindu Jats in the Provincial Civil Service Judicial Branch ... 121, 814

Question *re* employment of Hindu Jats in Provincial Educational Service ... 120-21

Question *re* establishment of Panchayats in the Karnal District ... 120

Question *re* money-lenders as Honorary Magistrates ... 391-92

Question *re* money spent annually on each student of the Veterinary and Medical Colleges ... 395

Question *re* Ods in the Karnal District ... 120

Question *re* revision of grades of salaries ... 392

FARMAN ALI KHAN, SUBEDAR MAJOR—

Question *re* Honorary Magistrates in Gujar Khan Tahsil ... 732-34

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—CONTINUED.

FIROZ KHAN NOON, MALIK—

Question re valuation of the English paper of the Panjab European High Schools examination ... 728

FIROZ-UD-DIN KHAN, RANA—

Question re communal representation among Honorary Magistrates at Beri in Rohtak District ... 644-45

Question re non-official President for Shahabad Municipality ... 201

Question re operation of the Punjab Village Panchayat Act ... 646-47

Question re processions and music before mosques in Sonapat ... 401-02

Question re report of the Committee on Assessment and Land Revenue Policy ... 402

Question re Shahabad Municipality ... 200

GANGA RAM, BAI SAHIB LALA—

Question re charge for boring wells for irrigation ... 782

Question re cooking of beef by Muslim students of the Normal School, Rohtak ... 782

Question re exposure of beef in Thanesar ... 332, 829

Question re grant-in-aid to A. S. Middle School, Sadhaura ... 332

Question re inquiry in connection with the case of Master Bihari Lal and Moulvi Abdul Tawab, of the Normal School, Rohtak ... 782

Question re local rate of Pargana Bharoli ... 332

Question re prevalence of *Satta* gambling ... 782-83

Question re recruitment of Hindus as Police constables ... 783

Question re students of Panipat School and reception of troops ... 783

Question re Tahsildar of Panipat ... 783

GOKAL CHAND NARANG, DR.—

Question re canal in Pind Dadan Khan Sub-Division ... 729

Question re professional tax on villagers of the Shahpur District ... 729

GBAF, Mr. V. F.—

Question re documents stamped under the Indian Stamps Act ... 138-39

GURBAKHSI SINGH, SARDAR—

Question re accident caused by the motor car of Mr. Green ... 848

Question re Akali prisoners in Ferozepore Jail ... 237

Question re alleged desecration of Sri Akal Takht by Government officials ... 728

Question re appointment of a Sikh as manager of the estates in the Ambala District under the Court of Wards ... 123-24

Question re arrest and release of persons without trial ... 648-49

Question re arrest and release of Sardar Harnam Singh of Sargodha ... 72

Question re arrest and treatment of Bhai Udam Singh ji ... 731-35

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—CONTINUED.

GURBAKSH SINGH, SARDAR—CONTINUED.

Question re arrest of Sikhs at Machiwarra for wearing kirpane	566
Question re arrest of Sikhs on account of kirpans	566
Question re award of land to witnesses in the first Akali Leaders' case	236
Question re beating of Akali Mehar Singh of the Sikh Jatha to Jaito	810
Question re Bench of Honorary Magistrates for Rupar and Kharar, Ambala District	69
Question re Boarding house fees and first grade school fees	796-97
Question re bridges over the Sirhind Canal and the newly constructed stone ballast railway	70, 818
Question re building rent and grant-in aid	797
Question re cases against the editors, printers and publishers of newspapers in the Province	238, 815-27
Question re cattle-lifting in certain districts of the province	648
Question re circular regarding admission of students to 9th class in recognised schools	246
Question re clothing of Akali prisoners in the Ferozepore Jail	812
Question re communal representation among Excise Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors	648
Question re communal representation among Public Prosecutors	725
Question re communal representation among students sent to Dehra Dun Military College	70
Question re communal representation among "Sub-Inspector of Police candidates trained at Phillaur	68
Question re communal representation in the appointments to the Punjab Civil Service	811
Question re compulsory primary education in local bodies	247-48
Question re corruption in mutation cases in the Revenue Department	726
Question re death of certain persons in Hoshiarpur District due to burning	69
Question re detention of money order intended for Sardar Teja Singh of Samundari	72-3
Question re detention of Sardar Mohindar Singh	287
Question re detention of Sardar Sohan Singh's telegram to the Premier	811
Question re detention of telegrams from the Congress Camp, Cocanada, to Akali of Amritsar	812
Question re District Boards and Rural Sanitation	263
Question re Director of Public Instruction's circular about secondary schools and grant-in-aid	796
Question re duties of Zaildars, safedposhes and Lambardars	71
Question re educational institutions in the Province	596
Question re educational policy of local bodies	246

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—CONTINUED.

GURNAKISH SINGH, SARDAR—CONTINUED.

Question <i>re</i> elections to the Ambala District Board ...	724-25
Question <i>re</i> encouragement of indigenous system of medicines ...	66-8
Question <i>re</i> enhancement of sentences of Bhai Mohan Singh, etc ...	403, 830
Question <i>re</i> expenditure on maintenance of civil station-roads by District Boards ...	726
Question <i>re</i> five years' programme for expansion in Education ...	247
Question <i>re</i> forfeiture of Press securities ...	289
Question <i>re</i> General Manager of Estates under Court of Wards in the Ambala District ...	564-65
Question <i>re</i> Government High School, Ambala City ...	249
Question <i>re</i> Grant-in-aid to Schools ...	797
Question <i>re</i> grant-in-aid to untrained graduates ...	797
Question <i>re</i> Head Vernacular Clerks of Deputy Commissioners' offices ...	240
Question <i>re</i> High Schools under the control of local bodies ...	241-46
Question <i>re</i> ill-health of Lala Keshori Lal ...	73
Question <i>re</i> Jagirdars and Lambardars ...	241
Question <i>re</i> maintenance of Government buildings and Provincial roads by District Boards ...	263-64
Question <i>re</i> members of the Indian Defence Force and the Excise Department ...	254
Question <i>re</i> Military practice and vacation of houses by certain villagers of Tahsil Kharar ...	65-6
Question <i>re</i> Minority report of the Retrenchment Committee ...	240
Question <i>re</i> non-Official Presidents of District Boards in the Province ...	122
Question <i>re</i> non-Official Presidents of Municipalities ...	239
Question <i>re</i> Opium Satta ...	240
Question <i>re</i> Panchayats in the Province ...	725-26
Question <i>re</i> Professional Tax ...	248
Question <i>re</i> promotion by time-scale in the Subordinate Educational Service ...	249
Question <i>re</i> prosecutions under certain sections of the Indian Penal Code, etc. ...	124
Question <i>re</i> recommendations for direct appointments to the Indian Civil and Police Services ...	511
Question <i>re</i> recovery of advances to Halis ...	647
Question <i>re</i> recruitment of revenue staff and officials in the Ambala District ...	70
Question <i>re</i> recruitment of Sikhs for the Government Service ...	152
Question <i>re</i> release of Sardar Kharak Singh ...	785
Question <i>re</i> removal by the police of cash from the houses of Sardar Gurdit Singh and Sardar Mit Singh ...	72
Question <i>re</i> representation of Sikhs in the Ambala Municipal Committee ...	122

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—CONTINUED.

GURBAKHSI SINGH, SARDAR—CONCLUDED.

Question <i>re</i> Sardar Santokh Singh Vidyarthi and Sardar Ganda Singh, Canadian	237, 815
Question <i>re</i> Sardar Sucha Singh	233
Question <i>re</i> search of the Gurdwara Committee Office at Amritsar	123
Question <i>re</i> searches of newspaper offices	238, 261-82
Question <i>re</i> search of the office of the S. G. P. C.	724
Question <i>re</i> Sikhs arrested in connection with Gurdwara Bhai Phern	237
Question <i>re</i> Sikhs from the Ambala Division appointed to various offices	68
Question <i>re</i> Sikhs in the executive ministerial staff in the Ambala District	69
Question <i>re</i> stoppage of dāk and money order intended for the S. G. P. C.	71
Question <i>re</i> stoppage of dāk intended for the Akali and Akali-te-Perdasi of Amritsar	71
Question <i>re</i> Subordinate Educational Service Association	249
Question <i>re</i> suits for damages filed by Government officers	238
Question <i>re</i> temporary bridge and temporary road in Chajjar near Mubarikpur	731
Question <i>re</i> transfer of the Ambala City Government High School to Naraingarh	730
Question <i>re</i> treatment of Akali prisoners in Multan Jail	724
Question <i>re</i> treatment of Sardar Kharak Singh, prisoner in Dera Ghazi Khan Jail	724
Question <i>re</i> unemployment in the province	647
Question <i>re</i> Veterinary Assistants	239-40
Question <i>re</i> water-supply in Ambala	123
Question <i>re</i> withdrawal of notifications declaring S. G. P. C. and Akali-Dal as unlawful Associations	813

HARCHAND SINGH, SARDAR—

Question <i>re</i> applications for Arms licenses and the political views of the applicants	781-82
Question <i>re</i> particulars about the Lahore Conspiracy cases	573
Question <i>re</i> thefts and dacoities in the province	574
Question <i>re</i> warrants for the arrest of the members of the S. G. P. C.	778

JODH SINGH, SARDAR—

Question <i>re</i> assessment of the cost of the Punitive Police in the village Makhi Khurd	204, 815
Question <i>re</i> Babar Akalis	203
Question <i>re</i> Bhai Tara Singh of Thethar	204, 815
Question <i>re</i> burning to death of certain Akalis	203-04, 815
Question <i>re</i> excesses perpetrated on Akali prisoners in Multan Jail	734
Question <i>re</i> Gojra Municipality	204-05

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—CONTINUED.

JUDH SINGH, SARDAR—CONCLUDED.

Question re interception of postal articles addressed to
Akali-te-Pardesi ...

302

Question re Kirpans ...

201-02

Question re nomination of members to local bodies ...

202

Question re particulars about the Lahore Conspiracy cases ...

560-61

JOWAHIR SINGH, SARDAR BAHADUR SARDAR—

Question re introduction of Gurdwara Bill ...

812-13

MAQBOOL MAHMOOD, MIR—

Question re compensation for sufferers on account of
water-logging ...

560

Question re grants of lands to persons belonging to
Amritsar District ...

209

Question re improvement of the breeds of cattle in the
Punjab ...

208

Question re Lahore Badshahi Mosque ...

209

Question re lands rendered unfit for agriculture by rivers
and compensation therefor ...

559

Question re literacy in the Punjab ...

559

Question re prevalence of dacoity in the Amritsar Dis-
trict ...

209

Question re Seed Act for the Punjab ...

207

Question re Usurious Loans Act ...

208-09

MOHAN LAL, BHATNAGAR, LALA—

Question re construction of a railway line through
Chunian ...

800-01

Question re conversion of Nankana Sahib Notified Area
Committee into a Small Towns Committee ...

801

Question re departmental enquiries against Sub-Assistant
Surgeons ...

808

Question re District Board, Ferozepore, and the site and
building of the dispensary at Muktsar ...

801-02

Question re Middle School at Nankana Sahib and the
Notified Area Committee ...

801

MOHAN LAL, LALA—

Question re Agricultural College, Lyallpur ...

199

Question re Agricultural Department and zamindars ...

199-200

Question re closing the Secretariat on Hindu and Mu-
hammadan holidays ...

654

Question re contract for the supply of doors and win-
dows for the Satlej Valley Project buildings ...

75, 813

Question re European and Anglo-Indian Assistants in
the Secretariat ...

652

Question re grants of lands to trained graduates in
Agriculture ...

200

Question re increase in salaries of members of the Im-
perial, Provincial, Subordinate and other services ...

653-54

Question re Jagraon Municipal Committee ...

198

Question re non-graduate Indian Clerks in the Secre-
tariat Offices ...

652-53

Question re Provincial contributions ...

723

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—CONTINUED

PAGE.

MOHAN LAL, LALA—CONCLUDED.

Question <i>re</i> provision for leave reserve in the Secretariat	653
Question <i>re</i> Punjab Forest Department	562-64
Question <i>re</i> reductions in the Punjab Civil Medical Department	392-93
Question <i>re</i> removal of Lala Tara Chand for abstention from the meetings of the Ambala Municipality	393
Question <i>re</i> reservation of stations for Indian Medical Service Officers and Military Assistant Surgeons	75
Question <i>re</i> retrenchment of two Conservators of Forests	562
Question <i>re</i> revision of salaries and cadre in the Secretariat Clerical Establishment	653
Question <i>re</i> Simla water-supply	125-26
Question <i>re</i> unpaid apprentices in Secretariat offices	651-52
Question <i>re</i> vacancies in the cadre of civil Surgeoncies	75

MOHINDAR SINGH, SARDAR—

Question <i>re</i> arrest of —, late editor of the <i>Nation</i> and compensation therefor	237
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

MUHAMMAD ABDULLA KHAN, KHAN—

Question <i>re</i> overflowing and water-logging of land in certain villages in the Kot Adu Tahsil, Muzaffargarh District	124, 814
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------

MUHAMMAD HUSAIN, SAYAD—

Question <i>re</i> grant of land to inhabitants of Chak Bait in Sotlej Valley area	118
Question <i>re</i> grants of lands to jinglis in the Montgomery District	118
Question <i>re</i> intimidation of the followers of Pir Ghulam Abbas	805
Question <i>re</i> lease of land to Mr. F. J. Mitchell	804
Question <i>re</i> Public Prosecutor, Campbellpur	805
Question <i>re</i> staff for conducting the case Crown <i>versus</i> Ghulam Abbas	805
Question <i>re</i> suits between money-lenders and agriculturists	117-18

MUHAMMAD MEHR SHAH, NAWAB SAYAD—

Question <i>re</i> Scheme for irrigating the Pind Dadan Khan area	799 800
-------------------------------------------------------------------	---------

MUHAMMAD SAIFULLAH KHAN, KHAN—

Question <i>re</i> agricultural land and the Indus	309
Question <i>re</i> arms license fee and Title-holders	307
Question <i>re</i> compensation to Tahsildars for registration work	306-07
Question <i>re</i> Field Kanungos	307-08
Question <i>re</i> Government High Schools in the Rawalpindi Division	308
Question <i>re</i> Hindu monopoly in the Commissioner's Office at Rawalpindi	308
Question <i>re</i> Musalman Clerks in the office of the Civil Surgeon, Mianwali	306
Question <i>re</i> Second Class Colleges in the Province	309

	PAGE.
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—CONTINUED.	
MUHAMMAD SHAFI ALI KHAN, CHAUDHRI—	
Question re Haqq-i-Abpashi for Delhi gardens ...	649-50
Question re Hindus of Sonapat and music before mosques ...	270-71
Question re Normal Schools of Rohtak and Karnal ...	269
Question re preaching of shudhi in Normal School, Rohtak ...	270
Question re realisation of abiana in Rohtak and Karnal Districts ...	272, 828
Question re right of irrigation of Hansi Branch Distributaries and Delhi Branch Distributaries ...	650
Question re separate Public Prosecutor at Rohtak ...	271-72
NANAK CHAND, PANDIT—	
Question re admission of boys to the 8th class of the recognised Anglo-Vernacular High Schools ...	391
Question re stipends to Punjab Students and Commerce degree of the Lucknow University ...	778
Question re employment in Government Departments of qualified graduates in Commercial subjects ...	773
NARAIN SINGH, SARDAR—	
Question re motor accidents ...	274
Question re Pansal Navises and cultivators ...	275
Question re political prisoners ...	278
Question re political prisoners in the Mianwali Jail ...	273-74
Question re Sikh representation in Wazirabad Municipality ...	272-73
Question re water-logging in the Gujranwala District ...	275
Question re water rate on Maina ...	275
NARINJAN DAS, DIWAN—	
Question re Bhakkar Municipality ...	645
Question re duty allowance to Assistant Surgeons employed as Medical Inspectors of Schools ...	396
Question re inconvenience caused to voters in recent elections ...	117
Question re kutchery building at Sialkot ...	77
Question re repair of a wall of a building near the Sialkot Fort vacated by the Normal School ...	77, 813-14
Question re water-logging and the Upper Chenab Canal ...	645-46
NIHAL CHAND SIKRI, LALA—	
Question re Civil Assistant Surgeons in charge of Central Jails ...	157
Question re employment of private practitioners in the staff of Government Hospitals ...	157
Question re Military Assistant Surgeons in the Civil Department of the Province ...	156-57
Question re suspension of the Civil Assistant Surgeon of Bhera ...	157
HARTAP SINGH, SARDAR—	
Question re compensation to heirs of persons killed in the great war ...	777
Question re death of police officers, etc., at the hands of the Babar Akalis and compensation to their heirs ...	776-77

	PAGE.
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—CONTINUED.	
PARTAB SINGH, SARDAR—CONCLUDED.	
Question <i>re</i> death of Ralia, a resident of Mauza Guntali, Jullundur District ...	806-07
Question <i>re</i> Deputy Commissioners and recognition of private schools ...	777-78
Question <i>re</i> persons challaned for illicit distillation ...	778
Question <i>re</i> punitive police tax at Jaudiala and Rurka Kalan ...	807
Question <i>re</i> introduction of Thikri Pahra in the Jullundur District ...	808
Question <i>re</i> salary of chaukidars and livery expenses ..	805-08
RAM SINGH, CHAUDHRI—	
Question <i>re</i> agreement with the proprietors of Shah Nahr ...	786
Question <i>re</i> cattle tax in the Kangra District ...	786
Question <i>re</i> departmental examination and the clerical establishment of the Punjab Forest Department ...	775-76
Question <i>re</i> distribution of certain sale-proceeds to the proprietary body of the village Shamlat in the Kangra District ...	119
Question <i>re</i> educational facilities in the Kangra District ...	803
Question <i>re</i> growth of Government trees on private lands and compensation therefor ...	775
Question <i>re</i> license for motor transport from Pathankot to Dalhousie ...	789
RUCHI RAM, SAHNI, LALA—	
Question <i>re</i> combining the departments of Agriculture and Co-operation under one officer ...	798
Question <i>re</i> Government Institute of Commerce ...	566-67
Question <i>re</i> Government scholarships for studying in the Thomason Engineering College, Roorkee ...	567-68
Question <i>re</i> Hindu Mehtam Agriculturists as members of Criminal Tribes ...	798-99
Question <i>re</i> inquiry into cases of alleged robberies by police ...	568-69
Question <i>re</i> new type of Intermediate Colleges devoted to practical courses of study ...	568
Question <i>re</i> overstay of one of the heads of the Government Department at Simla ...	798
Question <i>re</i> revision of Jail rules relating to refusal of free railway passes to Akali prisoners ...	569
Question <i>re</i> rural Industrial education ...	569-70
Question <i>re</i> travelling allowance for attending Muhammadan Educational Conference ...	567
SAHIEDAD KHAN, CHAUDHRI—	
Question <i>re</i> development of the Gurgaon District ...	128-29
Question <i>re</i> floods in Nuh, Ballabgarh and Palwal Tahsils of the Gurgaon District ...	128
Question <i>re</i> general condition of zamindars of Barani villages in the Hissar District ...	127
Question <i>re</i> water-supply in Nuh Tahsil ...	128

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—CONTINUED.

SANGAT SINGH, SARDAR—

Question *re* Sikh representation in the Kasur Municipality ... 562

Question *re* splitting up of the post of District and Sessions Judge ... 812

SEWAK RAM, RAI BAHADUR, LALA—

Question *re* building for the Government High School at Kamalia ... 558

Question *re* Canal Advisory Committees ... 558

Question *re* communal representation in Chunian Municipality ... 42-03

Question *re* election of Mehar Allah Bakhsh as President of the Lohian Municipal Committee ... 802

Question *re* entertainment of copyists as Government servants on time-scale of pay ... 126-27

Question *re* establishment of a sub-tahsil at Ahmadpur Sial ... 734

Question *re* Ferozpur Jhirka and Rewari Municipalities ... 73

Question *re* first grade fees in Schools ... 272

Question *re* Khangarh Municipality ... 207

Question *re* Lala Tahl Ram Chaudana ... 408

Question *re* posting of Tahsildars in their home districts ... 557

Question *re* power of transfer of Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars ... 557

Question *re* protest against the new constitution of the Lahore Municipal Committee ... 784-85

Question *re* removal of the Headquarters of Shah Jiwana Sub-Tahsil in the Jhang District to Ahmedpur Sial ... 119-20

Question *re* Temporary Assistant Surgeons with War Service ... 73-4

Question *re* water-supply in the Basantpur Minor ... 207, 815

SHAHAB-UD-DIN, KHAN BAHADUR, CHAUDHRI—

Question *re* communal representation among employees of District Boards ... 807-08

Question *re* communal representation among employees of Municipalities ... 807

Question *re* communal representation in the Imperial, Provincial and Subordinate Educational Service ... 894

Question *re* communal representation among professors and assistant professors of certain colleges ... 808

Question *re* communal representation in the Provincial Cadre of Forests, Irrigation, Public Works Department and Sub-Judges ... 394-95

Question *re* concessions to students belonging to agricultural classes ... 167

Question *re* elementary education in agriculture ... 167

Question *re* encroachments on Municipal and Government lands ... 809

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—CONTINUED.

SHAHAB-UD-DIN, KHAN BAHADUR, CHAUDHRI—
CONCLUDED.

Page.

Question <i>re</i> expenditure of District Boards and Municipalities on the salaries of their employees	808
Question <i>re</i> facilities for agriculturists to enter Government service	850
Question <i>re</i> facilities for English education to agricultural classes	810
Question <i>re</i> first grade fees in Government High Schools	809
Question <i>re</i> grant of land to owners of small holdings, etc.	651
Question <i>re</i> land revenue paid by Hindu, Sikh and Mussalman land-owners	165
Question <i>re</i> Muslim Assistant Surgeons in the Provincial Cadre	393
Question <i>re</i> Mussalmans in the Indian Medical Service in the Punjab	393
Question <i>re</i> Nili Bar Canal	651
Question <i>re</i> nomination to the Ambala Municipality	165
Question <i>re</i> number of students in various schools of the province	168
Question <i>re</i> persons recommended for direct commissions in the army	165-68
Question <i>re</i> provincialised High Schools and Anglo-Vernacular Secondary Schools in the Rawalpindi Circle	157-58
Question <i>re</i> Punjab Towns Improvement Act	808
Question <i>re</i> village chankidars	167-68
Question <i>re</i> water-logging of the areas adjoining the banks of canals	197-98

SHAM LAL, LALA—

Question <i>re</i> appointment of Indians as Under-Secretary to Punjab Government, Public Works Department, (Buildings and Roads)	784
Question <i>re</i> certain appointments in the Bhiwani Municipal Committee	788-84
Question <i>re</i> Ghaggar Inundation Canal	163-64
Question <i>re</i> Western Jumna Canal	164

SIKANDAR HAYAT KHAN, LIEUT. SARDAR—

Question <i>re</i> agricultural assistants, etc., for development and propaganda purposes in the northern districts	782
Question <i>re</i> agricultural development in Attock District	648
Question <i>re</i> civil suits relating to disputes over village boundaries, etc.	780
Question <i>re</i> cultivation by machinery	782-83
Question <i>re</i> Deputy Commissioner's scheme regarding settlement of Attock District	574
Question <i>re</i> distribution of Takavi money	646
Question <i>re</i> dry farming stations in northern districts of the Province	781-82
Question <i>re</i> industrial loans	644

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—CONTINUED.

Page.

SIKANDAR HAYAT KHAN, LIEUT.-SARDAR—

CONCLUDED.

Question *re* revision of revenue records of the Attock District ...

729-30

Question *re* settlement allowance and Extra Assistant Settlement officers ...

644

Question *re* settlement operations in Pindigheb and Fatehjang Tahsils ...

643-44

Question *re* trained agriculturists as managers or assistant managers of estates under the Court of Wards ...

733

Question *re* uncultivated land in the Attock District ...

643

TARA SINGH, SARDAR—

Question *re* Akalis arrested and challaned in Ferozepore District for giving tea to Akali Jathas ...

304

Question *re* alleged desecration of Darbar Sahib, Amritsar ...

303-04

Question *re* arrest of persons in Hoshiarpur and Jullundur Districts ...

727-28

Question *re* Assistant District Inspectors of Schools ...

316-29

Question *re* ban on letters, etc., addressed to the Manager or Editor of the *Akhbar* and the *Akhbar-e-Pan-devi* ...

275-76

Question *re* communal representation in the Provincial Police Service ...

306, 828-29

Question *re* complaints about corruption ...

310

Question *re* detention of telegrams to the Prime Minister ...

774

Question *re* distribution of work among the members of the Executive Council, the Ministers and the Secretaries of the different departments ...

309-10

Question *re* encroachment on the village paths ...

310

Question *re* Gojra Municipality ...

310-11

Question *re* Government possession of Darbar Sahib, etc. ...

275

Question *re* grant-in-aid to rural schools ...

312-25

Question *re* Head Constable and Sub-Inspector candidates admitted to Phillaur Training School ...

309

Question *re* house search of Kishan Singh, Jat, of Samalgar ...

306, 828

Question *re* Jagirdars of Bahia Ilaga and payment of *Nah-i-Parla* ...

311-12, 829

Question *re* prohibition of offerings to the *langar* of Gurdwara Muktesar Sahib ...

304

Question *re* punitive police in Moga Tahsil ...

305-06

Question *re* rash motor driving and death of Pritam Singh ...

330-32

Question *re* registration of betrothals ...

305

Question *re* removal of distinction between European and Indian prisoners in the matter of providing conveyance ...

728

Question *re* Sardar Gurdit Singh, Editor of the *Nation* ...

774

Question *re* Sardar Suchan Singh and hunger strike ...

774-75

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—CONCLUDED.**TARA SINGH, SARDAR—CONCLUDED.**

Question *re* share of Sikhs in Subordinate and Provincial Educational Service ...

328

Question *re* Sikh representation on Gojra Municipality ...

311

R.**RAILWAY—**

Question *re* construction of a — through Chunian ...

800-01

RAILWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE—

Election of members to serve on the — ...

78, 259, 260

RAILWAY PASSES—

Question *re* free — and Akali prisoners ...

569

RAJPUTS—

Question *re* grant of land to — of the Gurdaspur District ...

74, 649

Question *re* grant of squares to — in colonies ...

74

RAM KANWAR, PANDIT—

Question *re* appointment of — in the Bhiwani Municipality ...

783-84

RAM SINGH, CHAUDHRI—

Oath of office ...

3

Resolution *re* the circular of the Director of Public Instruction relating to the Vernacular Final Examination
(See Questions and Answers.)

144-45

RANDHIR SINGH KALASWALA, SARDAR—

Elected to serve in the Forest Board ...

276

Oath of office ...

3

Resolution *re* amendment of the Punjab Courts Act ...

107

Resolution *re* retention of Tahsil at Narowal ...

58-9

RANJODH SINGH, BHAI—

Question *re* enhancement of sentence of — and transfer to Reformatory School, Delhi ...

403, 380

RECRUITMENT—

Question *re* procedure for the — of staff where the Revenue and Irrigation Departments have been amalgamated ...

70

REFUNDS (RESERVED) GRANT ...

770

REFUNDS (TRANSFERRED) GRANT ...

770

REGISTRATION—

Question *re* compensation to Tahsildars for — work ...

306-07

Question *re* — of marriages and betrothals ...

305

REGISTRATION GRANT ...

23, 508-11

Commission to Sub-Registrars ...

510

Sub-Registrars ...

508-09

Travelling allowance ...

509-10

RELEASE—

Question *re* arrest and — of persons without trial ...

648-49

REPORT(S)—

Court-Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill. Select Committee's —

519

Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill. Select Committee's —

574

Punjab Stamps (Amendment) Bill. Select Committee's —

519

Question *re* — of the Committees on assessment and land Revenue policy ...

402

	PAGE
RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS—	
Question <i>re</i> — for Government officials at Sheikhupura and rent therefor ...	773-74
Resolution <i>re</i> — for members of the Punjab Legislative Council ...	131, 154, 183, 228, 356.
RESOLUTION (S) —	
<i>Re</i> additional irrigation facilities to the Hissar and Rohtak Districts ...	183-90
<i>Re</i> amendment of the Punjab Courts Act ...	103-16
<i>Re</i> appointment of a committee to examine the claims of money-lenders against cultivators ...	228-33, 353-42
<i>Re</i> circular of the Director of Public Instruction relating to the Vernacular Final Examination ...	132-54
<i>Re</i> Education as a professional and theoretical subject in the B. A. Course ...	168-83
<i>Re</i> encouragement of articles manufactured in India ...	210-28
<i>Re</i> exemption of sword from the operations of the Arms Act ...	342-48
<i>Re</i> improvement of the economic and social conditions of the agriculturists in the Province ...	343-49
<i>Re</i> loan to the Bahawalpur Durbar ...	830-41
<i>Re</i> raising a loan for irrigation works ...	379-84
<i>Re</i> rate of grant to aided schools ...	350-55
<i>Re</i> removal of the Lawrence Statue from its present site on the Mall at Lahore ...	343
<i>Re</i> removal of liquor shops beyond Municipal boundaries ...	356-65
<i>Re</i> residential accommodation at Lahore for members of the Punjab Legislative Council ...	131, 154, 183, 228, 356.
<i>Re</i> retention of Tahsil at Narowal ...	55-60
<i>Re</i> selection grade for Tahsildars ...	183
<i>Re</i> stoppage of recruitment of Imperial Forest Service Officers to the Punjab ...	190-93
<i>Re</i> substantial increase of grants-in-aid to aided schools ...	355
RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE—	
Question <i>re</i> the recommendations of the — ...	240
REVENUE (S) —	
Question <i>re</i> alleged misappropriations of — by the lambar-dars of Muzaffargarh District ...	727
Question <i>re</i> procedure for the recruitment of — staff and officials in the Ambala District ...	70
Question <i>re</i> — accruing from Nal Chah ...	236
Question <i>re</i> — contributed to the Gojra Municipality by the Hindus, etc. ...	310-11
REVENUE DEPARTMENTS—	
Question <i>re</i> corruption in mutation cases in the — ...	726
REVENUE OFFICERS—	
Question <i>re</i> legislation to empower — to recover advances of money from Halia ...	647
REVENUE RECORDS —	
Question <i>re</i> the revision of — in the Attock District ...	722-30

Page

REWARDS—

—for information re excise crimes	19-19, 497-98
Question re list of persons in Amritsar in receipt of grants of land as — for services rendered	209

REWARI—

Question re communal representation in the Ferozepur Jhirka and — Municipalities	73
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

ROADS—

Question re expenditure on maintenance of Civil Station by District Boards	726
Question re expenditure on temporary bridge and temporary — in Ghaggar near Mubarikpur	781

ROHTAK—

Question re number of villages in the — District affected by plague	286
Question re separate Public Prosecutor for —	271
Resolution re additional irrigation facilities to the Hissar and — Districts	189-90

RUCHI RAM SAHNI, LALA—

Administration of Justice Grant	37, 89-90, 611, 612
Education (Transferred) Grant	663-64, 678, 688-89, 693-94, 695-96, 716-17

Election of members to the Forest Board	81-2
-----------------------------------------------	------

Excise Grant	7, 2-9, 83-4
--------------------	--------------

Excise Grant	495, 496
--------------------	----------

General Administration (Reserved) Grant	538-37, 539, 546-47
-----------------------------------------------	---------------------

General discussion on the budget	428-26
----------------------------------------	--------

Land Revenue Grant	460, 465, 493-94
--------------------------	------------------

Oath of office	2
----------------------	---

Police Grant	94-8
--------------------	------

The Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill	377-78
-----------------------------------------------	--------

Punjab Stamp (Amendment) Bill	363-70
-------------------------------------	--------

Resolution re Education as a professional and theoretical subject in the B. A. Course	172-74
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------

Resolution re exemption of sword from the operation of the Arms Act	344-45
---------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------

Resolution re loan to the Bahawalpur Durbar	835-6
---------------------------------------------------	-------

Resolution re raising a loan for irrigation works	382-83
---------------------------------------------------------	--------

(See Questions and Answers)	
-----------------------------	--

Stamps Grant	22
--------------------	----

RULIA—

Question re murder of — and Police investigation	806
--------------------------------------------------------	-----

RULINGS—

Procedure re amendments to Government's demands for grants	460
------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

Chair to refuse to put a question when discussion of relevant points has to be ruled out for certain reasons	772
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

PAGE.

RULINGS—CONCLUDED.

Closure motion for an amendment subject to Government's reply not permissible ...	640
Contradictions made by a member to the statements of another member must be accepted for purposes of debate ...	91, 98, 493-94
Decisions of the Council, going back on the — ...	389
<i>Re</i> discussion of Government's policy when dealing with Supplementary grants ...	24-5
Members allowed to speak twice in matters of budget for purposes of explanation ...	526
Member cannot suggest an amendment introducing a new principle in a Bill before the Council ...	295
Members to confine their debates only to the point covered by the supplementary grant ...	25
Members must not reflect on decisions of the Council ...	87, 613
Members not to use arguments used by other members ...	85
Members not to pass between the member speaking and the Chair ...	79
Motion for leave to withdraw is out of order when the Council has carried the closure motion ...	196
Motives, imputing of — ...	382
Mover of an amendment need not move it till just before he resumes his seat at the end of his speech ...	49
Power of the Council to attack non-votable items indirectly by attacking votable items ...	506, 559, 771-72
Procedure <i>re</i> two amendments to the same items in a grant ...	716
Speeches, members not entitled to read — except with the permission of the Chair ...	737
Speeches, time limit for written — ...	375
RURAL SANITATION—	
Question <i>re</i> District Boards and — ...	263

S.**SAADULLAH KHAN, CHAUDHRI—**

Court-Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill ...	289
Administration of Justice Grant ...	612-13
Oath of office ...	3

SAHIB DAD KHAN, CHAUDHRI—

Oath of office ...	3
Resolution <i>re</i> additional irrigation facilities to the Hissar and Rohtak Districts ...	187
Resolution <i>re</i> amendment of the Punjab Courts Act ...	111
(See Questions and Answers.)	

SALARIES—

Question <i>re</i> increase of — of the all-India Provincial Subordinate and other services ...	613-54
Question <i>re</i> increase of — of Zaildars ...	392
Question <i>re</i> special officer for revision of — of the Secretariat Clerical Establishment ...	653

SALE-PROCEEDS—

Question *re* distribution of certain — to the proprietary
body of the village Shamlat in the Kangra District

119

SANGAT SINGH, SARDAR—

Oath of office

3

(See Questions and Answers.)

SANGSTER, Mr. W. P.—

Oath of office

1

SANITARY BOARD—

Constitution of

756-58

SANITARY GRANTS—

Administration of

758-59

SANITATION—

Question *re* District Boards and rural

263

Question *re* expenditure on rural and urban

565

Question *re* improvement of rural — in the Rohtak
District

566

SANTOKH SINGH VIDYARTH, SARDAR—

Question *re* weight of —, prisoner in the Dera Ghazi
Khan Jail

237

SATHIALI VILLAGE—

Question *re* irrigation in the —, Gurdaspur District

76

SATTA—

Question *re* prevalence of — gambling

240, 752-83

SCHOLARSHIP(S)—

Question *re* delay in the award of Military

210

Question *re* Government — for studying in the Thom-
son Engineering College at Roorkee

567-68

Question *re* restriction in the award of Military

209

Question *re* State — for higher Agriculture or Veterinary
Science

389

SCHOOL(S)—

Question *re* admission of students to 9th class in recog-
nised —

246

Question *re* admission to 9th class of recognised A.V.

High —

391

Question *re* building for the Government High — at
Kamalia

558

Question *re* communal representation among Assistant
District Inspectors of Schools

326-27

Question *re* communal representation among teachers of
normal — of Karnal and Rohtak

269

Question *re* first grade fees in

272, 649, 708,

798-97.

Question *re* first grade fees in Government High —

509-10

Question *re* Government and aided high — in the
Rawalpindi Division

308

Question *re* grant-in-aid and Arya —, Rohtak

401

Question *re* grant-in-aid to Hindu A. S. Middle —,
Sadhana

332

	PAGE.
SCHOOL(S)—CONCLUDED.	
Question <i>re</i> grant-in-aid to rural — ...	312
Question <i>re</i> grant-in-aid to — ...	797
Question <i>re</i> high — in Ambala City ...	249
Question <i>re</i> number of — opened in villages by local bodies ...	247
Question <i>re</i> number of students in the various — of the province ...	186
Question <i>re</i> preaching of Shudhi in Normal — at Rohtak ...	270
Question <i>re</i> provincialization of Municipal Board High —, Bhiwani ...	790
Question <i>re</i> provincialized High — and A. V. Secondary — in the Rawalpindi Circle ...	157
Question <i>re</i> recognition of private — and Deputy Commissioners ...	777-78
Question <i>re</i> starting a High — in Naraingarh ...	249
Question <i>re</i> students of Panipat — and reception of troops ...	783
Question <i>re</i> transfer of control of Middle School at Nankana Sahib to the Notified Area Committee ...	801
Question <i>re</i> transfer of the Ambala City Government High School to Naraingarh ...	730
Question <i>re</i> transfer to Government of High — under the control of local bodies ...	241-42
SCHOOL FEES—	
Question <i>re</i> boarding house and first grade — ...	796-97
Question <i>re</i> first grade — and zamindars ...	649, 708
SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS GRANTS	
Contingencies ...	655
Hydro-Electric Survey ...	654-55
SCOTT, MR. E. A.—	
Oath of office ...	38
SECONDARY SCHOOLS—	
Question <i>re</i> provincialized High Schools and A. V. — in the Rawalpindi Circle ...	157
SECRETARIAT—	
Question <i>re</i> closing of the — on Hindu and Muhammadan holidays ...	654
Question <i>re</i> employment of Europeans and Anglo-Indians to Assistants' grade in the — ...	652
Question <i>re</i> employment of Hindu Jats in the Punjab ...	397
Question <i>re</i> leave reserve in the — and acting allowances ...	653
Question <i>re</i> prospects of promotion to non-graduate Indian clerks in the — ...	652
Question <i>re</i> special officer for revision of salaries of — clerical establishment ...	653
Question <i>re</i> unpaid apprentices in the — ...	651-52
SECRETARY(IES)—	
Question <i>re</i> distribution of work among the — of different departments ...	309-10
Question <i>re</i> — of the Multan Municipal Committee ...	206

PAGE.

SECURITY—	
Question <i>re</i> forfeiture of — of the Press ...	239
SEED ACTS—	
Question <i>re</i> passing of an Act similar to — of certain countries ...	207
SELECT COMMITTEE—	
Court-Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill. Report of the —	519
Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill. Report of the —	574
Punjab Stamp (Amendment) Bill. Report of the — ...	519
SERVICE ASSOCIATION—	
Question <i>re</i> recognition of the Subordinate Educational —	249
SETTLEMENTS—	
Question <i>re</i> Field Kanungos and — operations ...	207-08
Question <i>re</i> postponement of — in the Attock District ...	643
Question <i>re</i> — of Attock District ...	574
SETTLEMENT ALLOWANCE—	
Question <i>re</i> — to Extra Assistant Settlement Officers ...	644
SEWAK RAM, RAJ BAHADUR LALA —	
Administration of Justice Grant ...	596
Agriculture Grant ...	760-61, 762
Education (Transferred) Grant ...	664-65
Election of members to the Forest Board ...	79-80, 81
Excise Grant ...	9, 85
General Administration (Reserved) Grant ...	529-30, 541, 551, 552, 556, 576.
General discussion on the budget ...	431-33
Jails and Convict Settlements Grant ...	629-30
Land Revenue Grant ...	449-50, 454, 462, 490.
Medical and Public Health Grant ...	746, 756-58
Oath of office ...	3
Police Grant ...	52
Resolution <i>re</i> Education as a professional and theoretical subject in the B. A. Course ...	178-79
Question <i>re</i> removal of liquor shops beyond Municipal boundaries ...	360
Stamps Grant ...	502
Punjab Stamp (Amendment) Bill ...	371
(See Questions and Answers.)	
SHAHAB-UD-DIN, KHAN BAHADUR CHAUDHRI—	
Court-Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill ...	298-96
Education (Transferred) Grant ...	669-70, 680
Elected to serve in the Forest Board ...	276
Excise Grant ...	15
General Administration (Reserved) Grant ...	537-38
Land Revenue Grant ...	452, 456-57, 472-73.
Medical and Public Health Grant ...	744, 745-46
Oath of office ...	3
Resolution <i>re</i> amendment of the Punjab Courts Act ...	111-12

SHAHAB-UD-DIN, KHAN, BAHADUR CHAUDHRI—CONCLUDED.	
Resolution <i>re</i> Circular of the Director of Public Instruction relating to the Vernacular Final Examination	143-44
Resolution <i>re</i> encouragement of articles manufactured in India	216-17
Resolution <i>re</i> retention of Tahsil at Narowal (See Questions and Answers.)	59-60
SHAHADAT KHAN, RAI—	
Oath of office	3
SHAH JIWANA SUB-TAHSI—	
Question <i>re</i> removal of the headquarters of — in the Jhang District to Ahmedpur Sial	119-20
SHAM LAL, LALA—	
Oath of office	64
Resolution <i>re</i> additional irrigation facilities to the Hissar and Rohtak Districts	187
Resolution <i>re</i> raising a loan for irrigation works (See Questions and Answers.)	383
SHIROMANI GURDWARA PARBANDHAK COMMITTEE—	
Question <i>re</i> stoppage of dak intended for the —	71
SHUDHI—	
Question <i>re</i> preaching of — in Normal School at Rohtak	270
SIALKOT—	
Question <i>re</i> repair of the kutchery building at —	77
SIALKOT FORT—	
Question <i>re</i> repair of a wall of a building near the — recently vacated by Normal School	77, 813-14
SIKANDAR HAYAT KHAN, LIEUTENANT, SARDAR—	
Education (Transferred) Grant	682, 701
Election of — to serve on the Railway Advisory Committee	280
General Administration (Reserved) Grant	520
Land Revenue Grant	469-70, 432
Medical and Public Health Grant	721
Oath of office	3
(See Questions and Answers.)	
SIKH(S)—	
Policy of Government towards the — movement	596-608
Question <i>re</i> appointment of a — as manager of the estates in the Ambala District under the Court of Wards	123
Question <i>re</i> arrest of — in connection with Gurdwara Bhai Phera, Kirpan, etc.	237
Question <i>re</i> arrests of — on account of Kirpans	566
Question <i>re</i> discouragement of recruitment of — for Government service	122
Question <i>re</i> employment of — in the executive ministerial staff in the Ambala District	69
Question <i>re</i> Kirpans and their wearing by the —	201
Question <i>re</i> number of — appointed to various offices	68

PAGE.

SIKH(S)—CONCLUDED.

Question re number of — Sub-Inspector of Police candidates for training at Phillaur	68
Question re representation of — in the Gojra Municipality	311
Question re representation of — in the Kasur Municipality	562
Question re representation of — in the Subordinate and Provincial Educational Service	326
Question re representation of — in Wazirabad Municipal Committee	272-73
Question re separate representation of — on the Ambala City Municipal Committee	122
Question re separate representation of the — on the Gojra Municipal Committee	204-05
Question re stoppage and arrest of — Jatha to Jatta	810

SIRHIND CANAL—

Question re inconvenience due to the absence of a bridge over the —	79, 813
---------------------------------------------------------------------	---------

SMALL TOWNS COMMITTEE—

Question re conversion into — of the Nankana Sahib Notified Area Committee	801
----------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

STAFF—

Question re procedure for the recruitment of — where the Revenue and Irrigation Departments have been amalgamated	70
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

STAINTON, MR. V.—

Oath of office	723
----------------	-----

STAMP ACT, INDIAN—

Question re rule or regulation for the protection of parties to documents stamped in terms of schedule to the —, II of 1899	198-99
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------

STAMPS GRANTS	20-21, 83, 501-02.
---------------	--------------------

Contract Contingencies	501-02
------------------------	--------

PUNJAB STAMP (AMENDMENT) BILL	367-72, 519
-------------------------------	-------------

STANDING COMMITTEES—

Elections to the —	37
--------------------	----

STATIONERY AND PRINTING GRANT	769
-------------------------------	-----

STIPENDS—

Question re — to Punjab students for commercial training in the Lucknow University	773
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS—

Question re departmental enquiries against —	503
----------------------------------------------	-----

SUB-JUDGES—

Question re communal representation among —	304-05
Question re condition of the court room of the — at Multan	161-62, 814

Question re number of Sikhs appointed as —	88
--------------------------------------------	----

SUBORDINATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE—

Question re communal representation in the —	326, 391
Question re number of Sikhs appointed to the —	68
Question re recognition of — Association	249
Question re time-scale of pay in the —	249

SUBORDINATE SERVICES—Question *re* increase of salary of — ...

653-54

SUB-REGISTRARS—

Commission to — ...

510-11

SUB-TAHSIL—Question *re* establishment of a — at Ahmadpur Sial ...

784

Question *re* removal of the headquarters of Shah Jiwana
— to Ahmadpur Sial ...

119-20

SUCHA SINGH, SARDAR—Question *re* — in Jail ...

238, 774-75

SUFEDPOSHES—Question *re* duties of Zaildars, — and Lambardars ...

71

SUGAR FACTORY—Question *re* establishment of a Government — in Rohtak
or Karnal District ...

129

Question *re* method of raising capital for the — ...

155

SUITS—Question *re* — between money-lenders and agriculturists ...

117

Question *re* — for damages filed by Government officers ...

238

SUNDAR SINGH, MAJITHIA, THE HONOURABLE**SARDAR BAHADUR SARDAR—**

Civil Works (Reserved) Grant ...

54, 767

Court-Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill ...

290

Forests Grant ...

22, 502-03

General Administration (Reserved) Grant ...

578, 841-42,

843.

Irrigation Grant ...

55, 89, 511,

512, 514, 515.

Land Revenue Grant ...

82, 449, 451-52,

453-54, 456,

462.

Miscellaneous Adjustments Grant ...

103

Miscellaneous Departments Grant ...

767

Miscellaneous Grant ...

54, 102

Resolution *re* additional irrigation facilities to the
Hissar and Rohtak Districts ...

185-87

Resolution *re* exemption of swords from the operations
of the Arms Act ...

346-47

Resolution *re* stoppage of recruitment of Imperial Forest
Service officers to the Punjab ...

194-96

SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—

Administration of Justice Grant ...

23-26, 38-39,

89-94, 384-

90.

Agriculture Grant ...

53

Civil Works (Capital Expenditure) Grant ...

103

Civil Works (Reserved) Grant ...

54

Civil Works (Transferred) Grant ...

54, 103

Excise Grant ...

6-20, 82-8

Forest Grant ...

22-3

General Administration Grant ...

23, 89, 841-44

SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—CONCLUDED.

	Page.
Hydro-Electric Capital Expenditure Grant	54-5
Industries Grant	53
Irrigation Grant	55, 89
Jails and Convict Settlements Grant	40-52
Land Revenue Grant	82
Medical Grant	53, 102
Miscellaneous Adjustments Grant	103
Miscellaneous Grant	54, 102
Police Grant	52-3, 94, 102
Registration Grant	23
Stamps Grant	20-21, 88
Superannuation Allowances and Pensions Grant	54

SURGEONS—

Question <i>re</i> Civil Assistant—being put in charge of Central Jails	157
Question <i>re</i> number and qualifications of Military Assistant—employed in the Civil Department of the Province	156
Question <i>re</i> suspension of the Civil Assistant—of Bhera	157

SURRENDER OF GRANTS

SUTLEJ VALLEY—

Question <i>re</i> grant of land to inhabitants of Chak Bait in the — area	118
Question <i>re</i> contract for the supply of doors and windows for the — project	75, 813

T.

TAHL RAM CHANDANA, LALA—

Question <i>re</i> dispensing with the services of —	403
------------------------------------------------------	-----

TAHSIL AT NAROWAL—

Resolution <i>re</i> retention of —	55, 80
-------------------------------------	--------

TAHSILDAR(S)—

Question <i>re</i> compensation to — for registration work	306-07
Question <i>re</i> number of Sikhs appointed as — and Naib-Tahsildars	88
Question <i>re</i> posting of — in their home districts	557
Question <i>re</i> power of transfer of —	557
Question <i>re</i> — of Panipat	783
Resolution <i>re</i> selection grade for —	183

TAKAVI—

Question <i>re</i> distribution of — money	643
--------------------------------------------	-----

TALIRI CANAL—

Question <i>re</i> irregular flow of — and Ganesh Canal	159
---------------------------------------------------------	-----

TARA CHAND, LALA—

Question <i>re</i> removal of — from Ambala Municipality	303
----------------------------------------------------------	-----

TARA SINGH, BHAI—

Question <i>re</i> evidence of — of Thethar against the Jailor of the Lahore Central Jail	204, 815
Question <i>re</i> transfer of — of Thethar from Lahore Central Jail	204, 815

TARA SINGH, SARDAR—

Administration of Justice Grant

594-35, 586-

87, 817-19.

Civil Works (Transferred) Grant

768

Education (Transferred) Grant

880

Excise Grant

18, 495, 496,

492, 498, 500.

General Administration (Reserved) Grant

519, 521-22,

527, 549, 555,

574-75, 582.

General discussion of the Budget

487

Irrigation Grant

511, 513-14

Jails and Convict Settlements Grant

48-51

Medical and Public Health Grant

796

Oath of office

8

Resolution re amendment of the Punjab Courts Act

110-11

Resolution re appointment of a committee to examine the
claims of money-lenders against cultivators

230-32

Resolution re exemption of swords from the operation of
the Arms Act

344

(See Questions and Answers.)

TAXE(S)—

Question re cattle — in the Kangra District

156

Question re increase of the terminal — in Gojra

181

Question re Lahore Municipality and professional

268

Question re professional — and expansion of education

248

Question re professional — on villagers of Shahpur
District

729

Question re — paid by the Sikhs and the Muhammadans
to the Gojra Municipality

204-05

TAZIAN—

Question re the change of routes of the — in Multan

205-06

TECHNICAL EDUCATION—

Question re development of

792

TEJA SINGH—Question re detention of money order intended for Sardar
— Samundri

72

TELEGRAMS—Question re detention of — addressed to the Prime
Minister

774

Question re detention of — for *Atari* of Amritsar from
Cocanada Congress camp

312

TERMINAL TAX—

Question re increase of — in Gojra

181

THANESWAR—

Question re exposure of beef in

532, 329

THEFT AND DACOITIES—

Question re number of — cases in the Hissar District

795

Question re — in the Province

574

THIKRI PAHRA—

Question re reintroduction of — in the Jullundur District

806

THOMASON ENGINEERING COLLEGE AT ROORKEE—	
Question re Government Scholarships for studying in the —	567-68
TIME-SCALE—	
Question re — of pay for Head Vernacular Clerks of Deputy Commissioners' Offices	240
Question re — of pay in the Subordinate Educational Service	249
TITLE HOLDERS—	
Question re — and arms license fees	307
TOLLINTON, MR. H. P.—	
Oath of office	1
TRAFFIC—	
Question re encroachment of village paths affecting —	310
TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE—	
Committee to revise the rates of —	535, 535-41.
Question re — for attending Muhammadan Educational Conference	567
Question re — to Field Kanungos of Sheikhpura, etc.	807-08
Reduction in the rate of —	501, 503, 510-21, 679-81.
Sliding scale of —	10
— of Patwaris	492
TROOPS—	
Question re students of Panipat School and reception of —	783
UDAM SINGH, BHAI.—	
Question re arrest and treatment of —	731-35
UNDER-SECRETARY—	
Question re appointment of Indian — to the Punjab Government P. W. D.	784
UNEMPLOYMENT—	
Question re of educated persons in the Province	647
UNIVERSITY CORPS—	
Re selection of members of the — for appointment in the Excise Department	244
UPPER CHENAB CANAL—	
Question re — and water-logging	645-46
USURIOUS LOANS ACTS—	
Question re number of cases in which the provisions of the — were applied	117
Question re use of the —	208-09
VACANCIES—	
Question re — in the cadre of Civil Surgeoncies	75
VACCINATORS—	
Question re zamindar — in the civil dispensaries of Mianwali District	306
VAIDS—	
Question re employment of Hakims and — by local bodies	66
VERNAacular FINAL EXAMINATION—	
Resolution re the circular of the Director of Public Instruction relating to the —	182-51

VETERINARY ASSISTANTS—

Question *re* employment of — ... 239

VETERINARY COLLEGE—

Question *re* admission of Hindu Jats in the — ... 398

Question *re* expenditure on students of the — ... 395, 398-99

Question *re* language used for teaching in the — ... 239-40

VETERINARY SCIENCE—

Question *re* State Scholarships for higher agriculture or — ... 399

VILLAGE BOUNDARIES—

Question *re* civil suits relating to disputes over — ... 730

VILLAGE RECORDS—

Question *re* civil suits due to incorrect — ... 730

VOTE OF CENSURE—

What constitutes — ... 770-71

VOTERS' LISTS—

Question *re* revision of — ... 159

Question *re* revision of — in the Khengarh Municipality ... 207

W.**WAJIB-UL-ARZ—**

Question *re* the accuracy of — ... 730

WAR—

Question *re* compensation to heirs of persons killed in the — ... 777-78

WARD, Lr.-COL. E. L. —

Oath of office ... 263

WATER-LOGGING—

Question *re* compensation to owners of lands adjoining banks of Government canals on account of — ... 197

Question *re* compensation to sufferers on account of — ... 560

Question *re* construction of a bridge near Jethika, Tahsil Daska, Sialkot District, on account of — ... 197

Question *re* construction of bridges where traffic has become impossible on account of — ... 197

Question *re* increase of — in the Gujranwala District ... 275

Question *re* lands rendered unfit for agriculture on account of — ... 197, 651

Question *re* overflowing and — of land in certain villages in the Kot Adu Tahsil, Muzaffargarh District ... 124, 814

Question *re* Upper Chenab Canal and — ... 645-46

WATER RATES—

Question *re* — on mains ... 275

WATER SUPPLY—

Question *re* Canal — in the irrigated area of Ambala Division ... 795

Question *re* — in Ambala ... 123

Question *re* — in the Basantpur Minor in Lodhran Tahsil, Multan District ... 207, 815

Question *re* — of Bhiwani Tail Canal ... 789

Question *re* — in Nuh Tahsil ... 128

Question *re* Simla — ... 125-26

PAGE.

WELLS—

Question <i>re</i> charge for boring of —	782
-------------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----

WHEAT ELEVATOR—

Working of Lyallpur —	782-84
-----------------------	-----	-----	--------

Z.

ZAILDARS—

Question <i>re</i> duties of —, Sufedposhas and Lamhardars	71
------------------------------------------------------------	-----	-----	----

Question <i>re</i> enhancement of emoluments of —	392
---------------------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----

ZAMINDAR(S) —

Question <i>re</i> assistance and advice given to — by the Department of Agriculture	199-200
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----	-----	---------

Question <i>re</i> general condition of — of barani villages in the Hissar District	127
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----

Question <i>re</i> — and Agricultural College at Lyallpur	199
-----------------------------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----

Question <i>re</i> — and first grade school fees	649
--------------------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----

Question <i>re</i> — compounders and vaccinators in the Civil Dispensaries of Mianwali District	306
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----

Question <i>re</i> — and public service	397, 880
-----------------------------------------	-----	-----	----------

PRINTED BY THE
SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNMENT PRINTING, PUNJAB,
S PLC-426-10-6-24-SGPP Lahore.