



THE
Punjab Legislative Council
Debates.

16th January to 8th May, 1925 !.

VOL. VIII-A

OFFICIAL REPORT.



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS AND MINISTERS.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Finance Member.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sunder Singh, Majithia, C.I. Revenue Member.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain, Kt., Minister Education (Muhammadan), Landholders.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram, B.A., LL.B., Minister for Agriculture, South-East Bchtak (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

I.—OFFICIALS NOMINATED.

Anderson, Sir George, Kt., C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Punjab.
Beazley, Mr. J. G., Secretary to Government, Punjab, Transferred Departments.

Bhide, Mr. M.V., on special duty, office of the Secretary to Government, Punjab, Legislative Department.

Craik, Mr. H. D., C.S.I., Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab.

Dunnott, Mr. J. M., C.I.E., Home Secretary to Government, Punjab.

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

Greig, Lieutenant-Colonel A.W., I.M.S., Officiating Inspector-General, Prisons, Punjab.

Irving, Mr. Miles, O.B.E., Secretary to Government, Punjab, Finance Department.

Milne, Mr. D., Director of Agriculture, Punjab.

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

Sangster, Mr. W. P., C.I.E., M.I.C.E., Chief Engineer, Public Work Department (Irrigation Branch).

Stow, Mr. A. M., O.B.E., Financial Commissioner and Secretary to Government, Punjab, Revenue Department.

Tollinton, Mr. H. P., C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Financial Commissioner and Secretary to Government, Punjab, Development Department.

II.—NON-OFFICIALS NOMINATED.

Gopal Das, Bhandari, Rai Bahadur Sir, Kt., C.I.E., M.B.E., Representative, General Interests.

Jawahir Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar, C.I.E., Representative, General Interests.

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

Mehdi Shah, Khan Bahadur Sir Sayad, C.I.E., O.R.E., K.O.I.E., Representative, General Interests.

Mozaffar Khan, Lieutenant, Malik, Representative of Indian Army.

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

Webb, Mr. H. W., Representative of Anglo-Indian Community.

III.—ELECTED.

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

Izazul Haq, Chaudhri, Hoshiarpur-cum-Ludhiana, Rural.

Lakhtawar Singh, Sardar, Hoshiarpur and Kangra (Sikh), Rural.

Lanka Rai, Lala, B.A., LL.B., South-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban.

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

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

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

Dan Singh, Sardar, Amritsar (Sikh), Rural.

Dhanpat Rai, Rai Bahadur Lala, Chairman, Punjab National Bank, Limited, Punjab Industries.

Dhan Raj, Bhasin, Captain, M.B., B.S., East and West Central Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban.

Dhira Singh, Sardar, M.B., B.Sc., Lahore (Sikh), Rural.

Diwan Chand, Lala, Amritsar City (Non-Muhammadan).

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

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

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

Fazal Khan, Munshi, Kangra-cum-Gurdaspur (Muhammadan), Rural.

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

Firoz Khan, Noon, Malik, Shajpur East (Muhammadan), Rural.

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

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

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

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

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

Gurbaksh Singh, Sardar, B.A., LL.B., Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural.

Haibat Khan, Dahi, Khan, Multan East (Muhammadan), Rural.

- Har Chand Singh, Sardar, Lyallpur (Sikh), Rural.
- Hussain Shah, Sayad, Jhang (Muhammadan), Rural.
- Jodh Singh, Sardar, M.A. (Sikh), Urban.
- Karam Ilahi, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri, M.B.E., Gujranwala (Muhammadan), Rural.
- Kesar Singh, Chaudhri, Amritsar-cum-Gurdaspur, Rural.
- Khan Muhammad Khan, Malik, Sheikhupura (Muhammadan), Rural.
- Labb Singh, Mr., M.A., LL.B. (Cantab.), Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Division North (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.
- Mangal Singh, Sarkar, Sikh Landholders.
- Magbool Mahmood, Mir, Amritsar (Muhammadan), Rural.
- Mazhar Ali, Azhar, Maulvi, B.A., LL.B., East and West Central Towns (Muhammadan), Urban.
- Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar, Lala, B.A., LL.B., Lahore and Ferozepore-cum-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan).
- Mohan Lal, Lala, B.A., LL.B., North-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban.
- Mohinder Singh, Sardar, Ludhiana (Sikh), Rural.
- Muhammad Abdullah Khan, Khan, Muzaaffargarh (Muhammadan), Rural.
- Muhammad Husain, Sayad, Montgomery (Muhammadan), Rural.
- Muhammad Jamal Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab, Baloch Tamandar, Landholders.
- Muhammad Mehr Shah, Nawab Sayad, Jhelum (Muhammadan), Rural.
- Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani, Makhdoomzada Sayad, Multan West (Muhammadan), Rural.
- Muhammad Sadiq, Shaikh, Amritsar City (Muhammadan), Urban.
- 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.
- Mumtaz Muhammad Khan, Tiwana, Captain, Malik, Shahpur West (Muhammadan), Rural.
- Najib-ud-Din Khan, Chaudhri, Ferozepore (Muhammadan), Rural.
- Nanak Chand, Pandit, M.A., Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.
- Narain Singh, Sardar, B.A., LL.B., Rawalpindi Division and Gujranwala (Sikh), Rural.
- Narendra Nath, Diwan Bahadur Raja, Punjab Landholders, General.
- Nihal Chand, Sikri, Lala, L.M.S., Lahore City (Non-Muhammadan).
- Nur Din, Chaudhri, Lyallpur South (Muhammadan), Rural.
- Partap Singh, Jamadar, Jullundur (Sikh), Rural.
- Pohap Singh, Rao, M.A., LL.B., Gurgaon (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.
- Ram Singh, Chaudhri, Kangra (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.
- Randhir Singh, Sardar, Kalaswala, Sialkot-cum-Gurdaspur (Sikh), Rural.
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 - Sahib Dal Khan, Chaudhri, Gurgaon-cum-Hissar (Muhammadan), Rural.
 - Sewak Ram, Rai Bahadur Lala, Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.
 - Shahab-ad-Din, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B., Sialkot (Muhammadan), Rural.
 - Shahadat Khan, Rai, Lyallpur North (Muhammadan), Rural.
 - Sham Lal, Lala, Hissar (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.
 - Sikandar Hayat Khan, Lieutenant Sardar, M.B.E., Attock (Muhammadan), Rural.
 - Tara Singh, Sardar, B.A., LL.B., Ferozepore (Sikh), Rural.
 - Tek Ram, Chaudhri, North-West Rohtak (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.
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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

5TH SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, the 16th January, 1925.

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 :—

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

CONDOLENCE ON THE DEATH OF SARDAR SANGAT SINGH.

Mr. President : Before we proceed with the business of the day, I regret to have to announce to the House the demise of their late member Sardar Sangat Singh.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath [Punjab Landholders (General)] : Sir, I wish to take this opportunity of giving expression to the feeling of grief which this House has felt at the demise of Sardar Sangat Singh and I request you, Sir, to convey to the family of the deceased the heartfelt sympathy of this House on this sad bereavement which the family has sustained. The Sardar was well-known for being above party feelings and was a man of a very high character. Each one of us belongs to some community or other. To his Hindu friends he was as kindly disposed as to his Sikh friends and with his Muhammadan friends he was as courteous as with members of his own community. We badly feel the loss of such a member and I hope that this House will accept unanimously the motion that the grief of the House should be conveyed to the family of the deceased.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, on behalf of the official members, I wish to express our regret also on the loss which this House has sustained in the death of Sardar Sangat Singh.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din [Sialkot (Muhammadan), Rural] : On behalf of members on this side of the House, I express sympathy on the death of Sardar Sangat Singh and propose that the expression of sympathy of the whole House be conveyed to the relations of the deceased.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh, Urban) : Sir, to the Sikh group of members the loss is in a way personal, as they have lost a very valuable member of their group. I therefore heartily associate myself with the feelings of the speakers who have gone before me.

Mr. Ernest Maya Das (Non-official, Nominated) : Sir, I also support the motion.

Mr. President : The House may rest assured that I will have an expression of deep sympathy and regret on the death of their late colleague conveyed to his relatives.

ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT.

Mr. President: The following members have been nominated as candidates for election to the office of President: (1) Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir, proposed by the Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain and seconded by the Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram; and (2) Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang, proposed by Sardar Jodh Singh and seconded by Raizada Bhagat Ram. Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang, has also been proposed by Lala Mohan Lal and seconded by Lala Diwan Chand. As more than one member has been nominated, the Council will now proceed to elect a President by ballot. Blank cards will be distributed to the members. They will write thereon the name of the candidate for whom they desire to vote. They will then put their cards in the ballot box provided for the purpose. The Secretary will count the votes and the result will be announced by me. Members are warned that the writing of anything else than the name of the candidate to whom they wish to give the vote will render the card invalid.

Mr. Labh Singh [Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Division, North (Non-Muhammadan), Rural]: Sir, I rise to a point of order. It is in regard to the nomination papers submitted in connection with the election with which we are now dealing. It has been pointed out that one of the candidates has been proposed by Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain and seconded by Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram. I submit, Sir that this is contrary to . . .

Mr. President: The honourable member should make his point of order clear as quickly as possible. He must not make a speech on this occasion.

Mr. Labh Singh: Sir, I shall not make a speech. I will only make the point of order clear.

Sardar Jodh Singh: Louder, please. I cannot hear.

Mr. Labh Singh: I am submitting, Sir, whether this nomination paper is valid. This is the point of order. As I was submitting, Sir, this is contrary to well established Parliamentary convention in England that the speaker of the House should be elected on the motion of a Minister.

Mr. President: Order, order. The point of order, which has been submitted is, I have no doubt whatever, invalidly taken. No doubt the convention in the House of Commons is against the procedure which has been adopted by the proposer and the seconder of Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir. It is not usual in the House of Commons for members occupying the position which the proposer and seconder do occupy in this case to themselves act as proposer and seconder. But this is merely a usage and there is nothing in our Rules or Standing Orders which in any way makes the nomination paper invalid. In my opinion the paper is valid.

The Hon'ble Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (Minister for Education): Sir, on this point of usage being pointed out to us, we have after consultation come to the conclusion that it will be as well to start this convention here and in future I myself and my colleague have made up our minds not to propose or second the nomination papers of candidates for presidentship.

Mr. Labh Singh: Will they withdraw in this particular instance?

Mr. President: We have received an assurance from the Honourable Minister and I think it would be better that nomination papers should in future not be submitted by members occupying the position of Ministers.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, before election takes place, I should like to announce that it is not the intention of official members to vote.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood [Amritsar (Muhammadan), Rural] : Sir, I just want to know whether it would be valid if instead of Dr. Gokul Chand Narang only Gokal Chand is written, and instead of Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir only Abdul Qadir is written on the ballot paper?

Mr. President : Yes, it would be valid.

(The voting cards were then distributed to the members. After the voting was over and the votes were counted)

Mr. President : The result of the voting is as follows :—

	Votes.
Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir	41
Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang	32

I declare Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir duly elected. Under Section 72-C of the Government of India Act the name of the newly elected President is being submitted to His Excellency the Governor for his approval.

FAREWELL TO THE RETIRING PRESIDENT.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir the time has come to bid you farewell. We are grateful for the tranquil temper the unruffled patience and the just and kindly consideration which we have found in you as President of this Council. (Hear, hear). Not a few of us have a long acquaintance with you in your long life of public service and throughout that long life we have found and loved in you these same qualities. We say farewell to you with deep regret. (Hear, hear).

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath [Punjab Landholders, (General)] : Sir, I associate myself whole-heartedly with what has fallen from the lips of the Leader of the House. I need not dwell on the many qualities of head and heart which you have shown in the discharge of your duties which were of a very difficult and delicate nature. We had complete confidence in you and there could not be a better assurance of that confidence than this that many of us wanted that you should continue to remain with us and continue to preside over our deliberations. Somehow or other you did not give your consent to this whole-hearted wish of ours and so what we wanted could not come about. We wish you, Sir, a rest after the arduous labours that you have performed in this country both as a member of the service and of this House.

Dr. Gokul Chand Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] : Sir, I also whole-heartedly associate myself with the remarks that have been made by the Honourable Sir John Maynard and Raja Narendra Nath. I have had the privilege of knowing you in three different capacities. The first time I came in contact with you was as a public man in circumstances which were not very pleasant until I found myself in your presence and found that it was quite pleasant even to be summoned as a public man by the Commissioner of a division. My learned friend over there (Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain) and myself were arranging a provincial political conference and in certain quarters there was an alarm and we were summoned to be on our

[Dr. Gokul Chand Narang.]

guard. I know that it was with the greatest courtesy and politeness that you delivered the message which you had been asked to deliver. The second capacity in which I came in contact with you was as a practising lawyer. I had the privilege and honour of appearing before you more than once and I always found you as courteous as you were in your executive capacity. We were always sure of a courteous and patient hearing at your hands in your court. The third capacity in which I came in contact with you, and this time more closely, is in the capacity of a member of this House, and without repeating what has been already said by previous speakers I endorse every word that has fallen from their lips. I wish you godspeed and I hope you will live long to enjoy your well-earned rest in your father land. (Hear, hear).

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery, (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I also beg to associate myself with what has been expressed by the previous speakers about yourself. Sir, you have so well discharged the onerous duties as President of this Council that every one of us here cannot but be thankful to you, and I, for one, am more grateful to you because of the immense services you did to the members of my constituency as Financial Commissioner. By granting them lands you not only provided them with homes, but thereby turned them into better citizens. They and their children feel so much grateful to you that I fail to find words to give expressions to their feelings. In the end, I assure you, Sir, that wherever you go, our best wishes will follow you.

The Honourable Mian Sir (Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, on behalf of what I may call the Ministerial party I want to associate myself with what has been said by the Honourable Sir John Maynard and Dr. Gokul Chand Narang. I can assure you that during the time you have presided over this Council we have always felt that there was no favour to be shown either to the Ministerialists or to any one who was opposed to them. We have always felt that your rulings were absolutely impartial, and that the standard you have laid for your successors to follow was one of which this Council may well be proud. I am sure no member of this House will differ from me when I assert that this House could not have had during the last three years a better and more acceptable President than yourself.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari (Non-official Nominated) : Sir, parting moments are always painful and they are more painful when we have to part from an officer who has spent the best part of his life in doing everything within his power for the welfare and the interest of this province. Sir, I have the honour of knowing you for a very long time. I have come in contact with you in many capacities and I can fully endorse what has been said by the honourable members who have preceded me. In you, Sir, I can say with full confidence we found a most charming personality, a man of great integrity imbued with a sense of justice and impartiality and those who ever came in contact with you in any capacity can bear testimony to what I have said. What we all now wish is that this hard earned rest be enjoyed by you with all the blessings which God can give to any human being and I hope that each and every one in this House will be with me in what I have said just now.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din [Sialkot (Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, the most able, efficient and impartial way in which you have been discharging the important and onerous duties of your office as President of this Council need not be discussed in detail. It is a pleasant experience of all of us in this House that you have always behaved like the President of a very dignified Council, and that you have treated us as honourable members ought to be treated. Not only in this room, Sir, but even outside it, not only in your official capacity, but also in your private capacity, I can say without fear of contradiction, all of us have found you a most amiable and charming friend. We shall be very sorry indeed to miss you from that Chair, but such is life. You have discharged your duties well in this sphere of life and we hope you will get opportunities to do better work hereafter in other spheres of life. We are extremely sorry to part with you. It is quite possible that if the party movement had been started rightly, in the right spirit and in the right manner, we would have been fortunate to see you adorn that chair for about two years more. But one wrong move has obliged some members of this House to part with you though not without reluctance. I can assure you, however, that wherever you go, our praise and admiration will follow you. We wish you a happy life hereafter in your own country and home.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz [Lahore (Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, I beg leave to acknowledge your services as President of this Council with sincere thanks and gratitude. Sir, it is admitted on all hands that you were an acquisition to the Council and that you had presided over the deliberations of this Council with great ability and impartiality. Above all you possessed all the good qualities of head and heart and a sweet disposition which had sent out kindly uplifting and generous thoughts. You were strong as well as courteous. We are sorry to see your official career is coming to an end, and that you cannot remain with us any longer. Sir, we wish you good luck and good wishes for many years to come. We bid you farewell.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh) Rural]: Sir, I really envy the position of the Honourable Sir John Maynard. I wish I had been the first to speak on the subject. My feelings are so genuine that I cannot help giving expression to them. To all my friends outside I have been saying that if you have been giving encouragement to any members of this Council, it is to us who are beginners. We who are beginners in this Council have received all possible encouragement at your hands. You, Sir, guided us just as teachers should guide their pupils. Your rulings were very impartial and they have gone home to every member of this Council as well as to the outside public. Every man that I met has been telling me: Your President is really worthy to adorn the Presidential Chair. His rulings are always to the point and exact and they are indeed very valuable. I therefore give expression to my feeling that your period of one year has been very much useful to beginners like myself. I thank you for all the good you have done to the beginners and I wish, Sir, as a true Sikh that you lead a happy life in your own country for many years to come.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood [Amritsar (Muhammadan), Rural]: Sir, I beg to associate myself with all the expressions that have just been made at the prospect of parting with you. Sir, it was an old English speaker that once remarked that the test by which a retiring speaker is to be judged consists of two factors, the one is his judgment and the second is his eye. Sir, the honourable members who have preceded me have rightly appreciated

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

the soundness of your judgment and your rulings as President. But, Sir, I feel that it is due to you that we must also appreciate the part that your eye has played as President. It always caught when we deserved to be caught and it never missed us on any subject when we wanted to speak. Not only that, Sir, as was once remarked in the Madras Legislative Council, the greatest thing that can be said of a President is that he never slept in the Presidential Chair. We can say that of you, Sir. These are factors which we are not likely to forget as regards yourself. But there is one thing which is greater than all these and it must be a source of great satisfaction to you as well as to us, and it is this. In a very transitional, an acute transitional, period of this province which you have served so creditably for over 35 years, you were privileged to help us in starting on the road to Dominion status and provincial autonomy. On that part, Sir, I am sure it must be a source of great consolation to you to find that you have equipped us so well during the short period of nearly two years that we have been able to secure as your successor an Indian whose greatest qualification is that he has been your Deputy President for over one year. With these words, I on behalf of the honourable members on this side of the House bid you farewell and in bidding you farewell I want to assure you, Sir, that we will not forget the part which you have played so well in the constitutional advancement of this province.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazal Ali [Gujrat East (Muhammadan), Urban] (Urdu): Sir, I had a mind to take some time in paying tribute to your valuable services, but as brevity in speech is the sign of wisdom I would like to associate myself with what has fallen from the lips of other members of the House. Sir, when an officer relinquishes the charge of his duties his good and appreciable work is always remembered. Similarly I may say that your memory will be cherished by all of us.

Mr. Ernest Maya Das [Non-official Nominated] (Urdu): Sir, the speeches which have been delivered in regard to your valuable work in the Council do not contain any exaggeration. You have always tried to save the time of the Council and acquitted yourself honourably of the delicate task devolved upon you. The work you have done will be appreciated by those who will, in future, build the constitutional edifices upon the foundations laid by you. We pray that God may grant you health, wealth and prosperity.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Minister for Agriculture): Sir, I have known you as a Commissioner, as Financial Commissioner and also as President of the Council. You have known me as a pleader, as an out and out alleged seditionist and also as a whole-hearted supporter of Government. I have come in contact with you many a time and I can say from my personal knowledge that it is almost impossible to praise too highly your qualities of sound judgment, impartiality and justice. I associate myself whole-heartedly with every word that has been said about you and about your qualities.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division, (Sikh) Rural]: Sir, this morning I knew that the moment for separation was to come and I was preparing myself to take it as best as I can for saying a few words of heart-felt gratitude that, we, the Sikh members feel towards you. But Sir, when the moment for parting began and as member after member rose to give vent to his feelings of thanks, my heart began to beat within myself, because I was getting afraid that no adjectives would be left for me and I

really find myself now in that plight. All this time I have been ransacking the dictionary of English language at my command, but find that there is hardly an adjective left which I could use and that has not been used by previous speakers and repetition will of course not be permitted by you, Sir. The only course left for me therefore is to associate myself whole-heartedly on behalf of the Sikh councillors in this House, with all the remarks that have already been made. Let me add that by your virtues of head and heart you have won over the heart of every Punjabi, be he inside or outside this House, be he an official or a non-official. Men of all shades of views have all along been watching the admirable way in which you have been conducting the deliberations of this House and everybody in this province has nothing else except to admire the way in which you have been guiding us. On behalf of the Sikh members I again wish that you may well enjoy your hard-earned rest after this long and continuous career of public service and may God bless you with his choicest gifts and as a true Sikh I call *Sri Wah-i-Guru Ji Ka Khalsa Sri Wah Guru Ji Ki Fateh* on behalf of the Sikh Members of this Council.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq [Amritsar City (Muhammadan), Urban] Sir, had there been adjectives left which Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh has not used, I would have used them, but as there are none left I am not going to use any adjectives in this Council, [A voice: Then use adverbs] nor am I going to use any adverbs as suggested (laughter). When I came to the Council as is usual with some of us, I expected in the chair what is called a sun-burnt autocrat, furious looking, always giving *ghars*, as they call it in Punjabi, to the non-official members, but, Sir, I can assure you that I had a very pleasant shock when I saw that our President was cool, as cool as cucumber as they call it (laughter). But not only was he cool, he was most courteous. It is not very often that a junior member like myself, can hope to catch the Speaker's eye, yet I did catch his eye, but of course not too much, and that was to my good. I might have made more speeches, Sir, but you gave me the right lead and I delivered the right number of speeches which have been rather good for me. Sir, you are going and under the Reforms Act, fortunately or unfortunately, I cannot say which and I leave it to members to decide, this place has been reserved for an Indian, for the *kala* man. So, Sir, it is no fault of ours and it is not disparaging to you that we have not been unanimous to-day, in electing you as our future President. The law was such and we had to obey the law and the spirit of the law. Sir, you are now leaving your traditions to your Deputy President and I hope that the example set by you will be always remembered by the future Presidents.

Dr. C. A. Owen (Non-official, nominated): Sir, on behalf of the Anglo-Indian community I would like to associate myself with what has been said before. I have to thank you for many personal favours rendered to me and as probably the oldest man in the House I give you my best wishes for your future.

Mr. V. F. Gray (Punjab Chamber of Commerce and Trades Association, Commerce): Sir, I too would like to associate myself with the remarks which have already been made and on behalf of the commercial community I offer our best wishes for your future.

Mr. President: Gentlemen of the Council—I thank you all for the kind sentiments which you have expressed for me, your departing President.

[Mr. President.]

To preside over your deliberations for three years has been a great privilege and my delicate task has been rendered pleasant and easy by the support and confidence you have given to the chair during my tenure of office. Undoubtedly the ideal to be aimed at in the election of a President is unanimity, and it was in the hope of attaining that ideal that members of various sections of the House urged me to seek nomination and election. Other views have prevailed and their wholly laudable wish for unanimity has not been attained. I am confident, however, that the verdict of the House given in the election which has just taken place will be accepted on all sides in full loyalty to the wish of the House as a whole, and that your new President will enjoy the same generous measure of support and confidence as has enabled me to carry out my duties, as you have so kindly assured me, with satisfaction to the House. I have now had five years' experience of Council life, one year in the pre-reformed Imperial Council and four years in this House. Throughout that period I have noticed the steady growth of sympathy and understanding between members of different parties and particularly between non-officials and officials. This is the more gratifying to me as I am firmly convinced that only on a basis of sympathy, and the goodwill to understand each others' point of view, can satisfactory progress be built up. This is a great province with a great future before it; and as the legislature and the executive work together for the common good, so will the increasing prosperity of the province and the happiness of its inhabitants be assured.

I regret that financial difficulties have prevented much being done during my tenure of office to provide outside the House for the comfort and convenience of the members. The House Committee recently appointed has sent in its proposals and I hope that the requisite money will be provided during the coming Budget session. I am saying this without the authority of the Honourable the Finance Member. Meantime I am authorized to announce that His Excellency places his own room at the disposal of members on days when the Council is sitting both during this Session and during the Budget Sessions. Before I close I should like to place on record my keen appreciation of the work of the Secretary and his staff. (Applause) Sardar Abnasha Singh has assisted me with conspicuous ability and tact (Hear, hear) and I think you will agree that the standard of reporting has much improved. Hakim Ahmad Shuja's qualities as an interpreter hardly need praise from me (Hear, hear). He has also given me complete satisfaction as Assistant Secretary. Gentlemen, I must now take farewell of you. I do so with the greatest regret. I thank you for the friendliness you have shown to me both inside and outside the House, for your support in the past and for the cordial feelings you have now expressed. I wish you and the Council all prosperity.

3 P.M.

(The Council then adjourned for five minutes.)

(The Council re-assembled at 5 minutes past 3 o'clock.)

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S APPROVAL OF KHAN BAHADUR SHAIKH ABDUL QADIR AS PRESIDENT.

The Secretary : I have to announce to the Council that His Excellency the Governor has approved of Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir as President of the Council.

The newly elected President then took the chair, amidst cheers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW PRESIDENT.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : May I, Sir, on behalf of the official members offer congratulations to you on assuming the office of President of this Council ?

Mir Magbool Mahmood [Amritsar (Muhammadian), Rural] : May I, Sir, on behalf of my side of the House associate myself with the remarks made by the Honourable Sir John Maynard and congratulate you on your assuming the office of President ?

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadian), Rural] : Sir, I associate myself with what has been said by the Honourable Sir John Maynard.

Mr. Ernest Maya Das (Non-official, Nominated) : May I, Sir, on behalf of the Indian Christian community congratulate you on your assuming the office of President ?

Pandit Nanak Chand [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadian), Rural] : Sir, on behalf of my party I associate myself with the remarks that have fallen from the lips of the Honourable Sir John Maynard. (Hear, hear and cheers.)

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das Bhandari (Non-official, Nominated) : Sir, I associate myself with all the remarks which have been made and I offer you my heartfelt congratulation.

Sardar Narain Singh [Rawalpindi Division and Gujranwala (Sikh), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, on behalf of the Sikh members of the House I wish to congratulate you on your election and I beg to associate myself with all that has been said by other members.

Chaudhri Duli Chand [Karnal (Non-Muhammadian), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, on behalf of the Hindu zamindar party I beg to congratulate you.

Mr. President : I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the honourable members of this House sincerely for the great honour they have done me in electing me as the first non-official President of the Punjab Legislative Council. This exalted office has during the last four years, been held by two distinguished members of the Indian Civil Service who were eminently qualified for it by their high attainments and their ripe and varied experience. The first President of our Council, the Honourable Mr. (now Sir) Montagu Butler, now holds the exalted position of the Governor of the Central Provinces. He was succeeded by an equally distinguished member of the same great service, the Honourable Mr. Casson, who adorned the chair till now and under whose guidance I have had the privilege of learning something of the conventions which regulate the conduct of business in this House. His impartiality and fairness while in the chair, his keen desire to conform to the best traditions of Parliamentary practice and his uniform courtesy to all sections of the House had made a great impression on all the members of this House as testified to by so many of them in the speeches to which we just listened about Mr. Casson. These qualities will be remembered with gratitude by all those who came in contact with Mr. Casson in this Council. I feel that it adds to the onerousness of the duties which I have been called upon to perform that I have to succeed two such eminent Presidents, and I hope that the honourable members of this House will give me all their support to enable me to

[Mr. President.]

discharge my duties satisfactorily. It will be my endeavour as long as I hold this office to act with independence and with fairness (hear, hear) and to keep up the traditions formed by my distinguished predecessors (Cheers).

THE PUNJAB MUNICIPAL (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) :
Sir, I beg to introduce the Punjab Municipal (Amendment) Bill.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) :
Sir, I beg to move—

“That the Punjab Municipal (Amendment) Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following :—

Raizada Bhagat Ram,

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das Bhandari,

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din,

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali,

Sardar Bakhtawar Singh,

Mr. J. G. Beazley,

[Nominee of the Honourable President,

Mr. J. Coldstream, and

The Mover ;]

and that the Council direct the Select Committee to submit its report before the end of February 1925.”

Mr. President : The nominee of the President is Khan Bahadur Sir Sayad Mehdi Shah.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) :
Sir, none of the clauses in the Bill raises any controversial question of principle. The object of the Bill is merely to improve the law in respect of the matters detailed therein. Two of the clauses, clause 5 and clause 10, merely correct drafting errors which remained undetected when the Act was passed. Clause 2 proposes to amend section 4 of the Act so that when a notified area or a small town committee is promoted to the status of a municipality, the bye-laws made and the taxes imposed by the notified area or the small town committee may not be superseded but continued. In the past when a notified area has been promoted to the status of a municipality, it has been assumed that the bye-laws made by the old notified area or the small town committee remain in force, but that really cannot be. Then the second change is in clause 3. Under the existing law it was contended that the officials escape certain local taxes, and that was unfair. Therefore an explanation has been added and officials also are brought within the meaning of this clause and I hope my honourable friends in this part of the House do not mind that part. The next amendment is to enable the taxpayers to compound with reference to the particular tax. That, Sir, so far as I can see, is not a controversial matter.

Then, Sir, under the Punjab Municipal (Amendment) Act, II of 1923, power is given to municipalities by bye-laws, to require a licence for street hawkers and to regulate the terms and conditions of giving such licence.

The amending Act was defective inasmuch as it gave no power to regulate the conditions on which street hawkers might take out licence. It might be that in some cases part of a street is permanently occupied. We want to obviate that difficulty in future. Clauses 7 and 8 of the Bill deal with the matter of corrupt practices. Our recent experience in the direction of corrupt practices has been such as to demonstrate the necessity of bringing in as quickly as possible these two clauses. The last amendment in clauses 9 and 12 is due to a recent ruling of the High Court which has thrown some doubt on the legality of certain taxes levied in notified areas owing to the alleged failure to obtain in such cases the previous sanction of the Governor in Council to their imposition. Clause 9 of the Bill proposes to dispense with any necessity that there may have been to obtain any sanction and retrospectively effect is being given to these taxes by clause 12 in order to validate the taxes imposed in the current year. I do not think I need add anything more to the summary of the principal changes introduced by the Act and with these observations I commend the proposal for the acceptance of the Council.

Mr. President: The question is :

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

Faizada Bhagat Ram,
Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari,
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din,
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali,
Sardar Bakhtawar Singh.
Mr. J. G. Beazley,
Khan Bahadur Sir Sayad Mehdi Shah,
Mr. J. Goldstream, and
The Mover,

and that the Council direct the Select Committee to submit its report before the end of February 1925."

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB SMALL TOWNS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) :
Sir, I beg to move—

"That leave be granted to introduce the Punjab Small Towns (Amendment) Bill."

Mr. President: The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce the Punjab Small Towns (Amendment) Bill."
The motion was carried.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) :
Sir, I beg to introduce the Punjab Small Towns (Amendment) Bill.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) :
I beg to move:

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

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath,
Rao Pohay Singh,

[Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]

Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar,
 Shaikh Faiz Muhammad,
 Sardar Randhir Singh,
 Mr. J. G. Beazley,
 [Nominee of the Honourable President,
 Mr. J. Coldstream, and
 The Mover ;]

and that the Council direct the Select Committee to submit its report before the end of February 1925".

Mr. President: The nominee of the President is Khan Bahadur Sir Sayad Mehdi Shah.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education): Sir, this Bill contains even less controversial matter than the previous Bill. The notes on clauses, if referred to, would indicate that clause 3 of the amendment bridges the gap in administration between the abolition of the notified area committee and the functioning of the Small Towns Committee and enables the latter to administer by means of pre-existing rules, bye-laws and regulations until it has had an opportunity of making its own rules, etc., in their place. Further it will be noticed that there was no provision in the Small Towns Act for filling up a seat when nobody had offered himself for election for that seat. Clause 3 removes that difficulty and it gives the same power in the case of Small Towns Committees as at present exists under the District Boards and the Municipal Acts. Clauses 6, 7 and 8 are mere drafting amendments. Then about encroachments. It has been found necessary to make the same provision in the Small Towns Act, as it at present exists in the Municipal Act. Clause 8, sub-clauses (i) and (ii), are expected to achieve that object. There was no provision made as to the registration of births and deaths. That comes in clause 8, sub-clause (iii). Clause 9 is an amendment consequential to clause 4. Clause 10 is modelled on a corresponding amendment in the Punjab District Boards (Amendment) Bill. It makes provision for the procedure for enquiry into corrupt practices at elections. In clause 11 provision has been made for investing with judicial powers the officer enquiring into the conduct of elections. This is a non-controversial measure.

Mr. President: The question is—

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

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath,
 Rao Pehap Singh,
 Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar,
 Shaikh Faiz Muhammad,
 Sardar Randhir Singh,
 Mr. J. G. Beazley,
 Khan Bahadur Sir Sayad Mehdi Shah,
 Mr. J. Coldstream, and
 The Mover ;

and that the Council direct the Select Committee to submit its report before the end of February 1925."

The motion was carried.

GOVERNMENT'S DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS, 1924-25.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, the supplementary demands, which are now put forward before the House, are put forward 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 1925 in respect of 'Land Revenue'."

Sir, in moving this demand I need not add much to what has been said in the note which has been placed with the supplementary estimate excepting that we are not asking for Rs. 13,400, which was asked for before and that instead of Rs. 1,050 we are asking for Rs. 1,500 more. We are also asking for Rs. 29,000 for horse allowance which was missed out last time. The House will remember that this is an allowance for Qanungos at Rs. 20 per mensem each. A cut was made from this allowance by 25 per cent. Honourable members will recognise that a cut cannot be made by 25 per cent. in fixed horse allowance, when it is once fixed. Therefore this amount has to be provided again; this was left out by oversight last time. The sum of Rs. 1,500 is for travelling allowance. Travelling expenses are given to the Director of Land Records from the point of view that he is entitled to first class allowance; so there is no question that we are giving this officer more than what he is entitled to get under the ordinary rules.

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 1925 in respect of 'Land Revenue'."

Chaudhri Duli Chand [Karnal (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move :—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2 in respect of the item of Rs. 29,000—Horse Allowance".

Sir, in the explanatory memorandum it has been explained that the sum of Rs. 29,000, which is meant for fixed horse allowance for the Qanungos, was also provided in the last Budget, but when a general cut of 25 per cent. was being made in all kinds of allowances, a cut was agreed to, by an oversight, in this allowance also, and as no cut is possible in the fixed allowance, the sum is being asked for as supplementary grant. So far so good and I do not object to the grant being sanctioned even, although I am aware that the prices of the fodder have gone very low since the termination of the great war and consequently it does not cost much to maintain a horse. What I wish to bring to the notice of the authorities is that the officers for whom the grant under discussion is being asked for, do not spend a pie out of that amount to buy fodder for their horses.....

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Does that come from heaven?

Mr. President : Order, Order, let the honourable member go on.

Chaudhri Duli Chand (continued in Urdu) : I will just now explain how it comes from heaven. Sir, the allowance given to the Qanungos forms part of the substantive pay of these officers. The fodder required for the horses of these officers is supplied by Sufedposhes, Zaildars and Lambardars of the respective villages, and is supplied *gratis*. Under the circumstances I fail to understand why any horse allowance should be paid to these officers. If this sort of corruption prevails, it is highly unjust to pay any allowance to the Qanungos. Of course if steps are taken to remove the corruption, I will not object even if double the amount is paid to them. Like the Police officers the Qanungos make much money by unfair means. The gazetted officers of the Revenue Department are, no doubt, honest, if not all of them at least 99 per cent. of them, and the Tahsildars are also to a great extent honest, but the Patwaris, the Qanungos and the Naib-Tahsildars are generally dishonest.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett : On a point of order, Sir. Your predecessor ruled that these wild allegations which could not be answered at the spur of the moment, should not be made against Government members. I would ask for the ruling of the chair, Sir, that such wild allegations should not be made in this House.

Mr. President . The honourable member will refrain from making allegations of this general kind against any officer and confine himself to the argument of the point.

Chaudhri Duli Chand (continued in Urdu) : Sir, I will avoid naming any particular class of officers, and in future confine my remarks to the subordinate staff of the Revenue Department.

Mr. C. M. King : Sir, I am quite willing to investigate any specific charges made against any Government officials, but you should, Sir, protect us against these wild charges.

Chaudhri Duli Chand (continued in Urdu) : Sir, leaving the general remarks aside, I take a particular matter in support of my remarks. There exists in flooded areas such a thing as *tatazi* which is granted by the Government to the zamindars and about 6 per cent. is charged thereon as interest.

The Co-operative Banks on the other hand charge 12 per cent. as interest on any loan they might advance to the zamindars, but in spite of so much difference in the rate of interest, the zamindars prefer to take loans from the Co-operative Banks, and why, because the revenue subordinate in charge of *takavi* demand some illegal gratification before they are prepared to help the poor zamindars in the matter. I admit that the zaildars and lambardars do help these subordinates in making money by unfair means, but these poor people are compelled to do so, because they are always afraid of their dismissal on the report of these subordinate officials. If assurance is given that the corruption now prevailing amongst these officials will be stopped, I will have no objection to the grant being sanctioned.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, motion moved :—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2, in respect of the item of Rs. 29,000—Horse Allowance".

The question is that that reduction be made.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I may say that I am not well aware of the state of affairs in the Eastern Punjab and I am strongly opposed to corruption. I have been connected with the settlement operations of the Province for a long time. I have got land in different parts of the Province and on the strength of my experience I can say that among Qanungos a large number of them is honest. I have seen a lot of improvement in the districts of Gujranwala, Lyallpur and Montgomery. It may be noted that I have only used the word improvement. I do not profess to know about eastern parts of the Province. The Naib-Tahsildars are generally chosen from among the Qanungos and these men are careful enough not to fall into evil ways. If this horse allowance is cut down corruption will creep in. This is not the way of checking the evil. The Qanungos and Patwaris should be encouraged. Promotions might be given to them and when in the new scheme of amalgamation the posts of Qanungos are made equal to those of Zilladars corruption will automatically stop. I humbly submit that the horse allowance of Patwaris and Qanungos should not be reduced.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner): Sir, perhaps I can in a few words satisfy the doubts of my friend Chaudhri Duli Chand, with regard to this demand. As far as I gathered from his speech, such of it as appeared relevant, his objection to the grant of this allowance was that it was not utilised for the purpose for which it was given, that is to say, that the Qanungos to whom this allowance of Rs. 20 per month is given instead of spending that money in providing for their horses still adopt the bad practice of quartering themselves in the villages in which they happen to be and it was in order to draw attention to that bad practice and to devise means of getting rid of it that Chaudhri Duli Chand has brought forward this amendment to reduce this demand. I hope to satisfy him by telling him that if any such case is brought to my notice, I shall take the severest steps against the offender. This Rs. 20 is given to the Qanungos I can assure you that Rs. 20 is as little as possible for the upkeep of a horse, and if the money is not spent for the purpose for which it is given, then they will be severely punished if such cases are brought to my notice. If any specific instance is brought before me, I shall see that the person is put into a position where he will not be able to offend again. I hope these words will be accepted by my friend, Chaudhri Duli Chand, and that he will withdraw his motion.

Chaudhri Duli Chand (Urdu): If an assurance is given that such instructions will be issued, I am prepared to withdraw my motion.

Mr. C. M. King: I may point out that these instructions have already issued. If the honourable member wishes a reminder sent, I am quite willing to do so.

Chaudhri Duli Chand (Urdu): Even if the authorities agree to issue a reminder on the subject, I am prepared to withdraw my motion for reduction.

The motion for reduction 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 1925 in respect of ‘Land Revenue’.”

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 1925 in respect of 'Administration of Justice'".

In doing so I should like to explain that the members will find on page 5 of the notes an explanation of the item concerned. The first item 'Pay of officers—District and Sessions Judges' is due to members of the Provincial Civil Service being appointed in place of the members of the Indian Civil Service. The second part 'pay of establishment' is due partly by way of pay of establishment and partly by way of leave salary which had been insufficiently provided for in the budget. The third part 'Diet and Road money to witnesses' is of course a charge which must be paid and it was only under-calculated and it is necessary to make provision for the remainder of the payment. Then comes another item 'Pay of establishment under Honorary Magistrates.' This is a case of under-estimating in the first instance. The next item 'Other allowances under Honorary Magistrates' is entirely due to local allowances which are paid to certain subordinate officials on account of the dearness of living in particular places. This was inadequately provided for in the budget and has now been inserted. The next item is 'Contingencies under Honorary Magistrates.' This also is a case of under-budgetting in the first instance.

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 1925 in respect of 'Administration of Justice'".

The motion was carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH GRANT.

The Honourable Mian Sir 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 1925 in respect of 'Public Health'".

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS—RESERVED GRANT.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1925 in respect of 'Civil Works—Reserved'".

The motion was carried.

GRANT FOR MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sunder 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 1925 in respect of ' Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments ' "

The motion was carried.

PROVINCIAL LOANS AND ADVANCES (RESERVED GRANT).

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sunder 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 1925 in respect of ' Provincial Loans and Advances (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 1925 in respect of ' Provincial Loans and Advances (Reserved) ' "

Chaudhri Duli Chand [Karnal (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, the Government rendered great help to the flood-stricken areas and expended ungrudging relief to those in distress. They advanced loans and *takavis* and remitted land revenue in the Tahsils of Panipat and Sonipat and in a part of the Ambala District. But the orders of the Government reached the head-quarters of the district rather late when the *fard barks* had already been prepared in the villages. But in those days the Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram was on tour there and he assured the people that the revenue for *kharif* would be remitted. Though people had great faith in whatever the Honourable Minister had promised yet to their utter dismay they found that they were being charged the revenue for *kharif*. The Patwaris told the zamindars that although the Minister belonged to their district it was they who could remit the revenue, and that if they paid them something they would get their revenue remitted. In 75 per cent. of the villages the Patwaris demanded such gratifications. Such things happened more in the Karnal Tahsil and comparatively less in the tahsils of Panipat and Sonipat. These things can be ascertained through an impartial inquiry. I admit that the Government did render very valuable help to the poor people but the administering agency did not carry out the details as well. In fact, instead of helping the poor people they made their money in those times. That is all I have to say regarding the grant.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, I regret I was not here when the honourable member began his speech, but I understand that his aim was to charge the patwaris and qanungos concerned in the Karnal District.....

Chaudhri Duli Chand : Sir, what I meant to say is that Government orders did not reach the district head-quarters and so the Patwaris prepared

[Chaudhri Duli Chand.]

the *fard bachs* and told the zamindars that they should submit their *malguzari* in time. The lambardars were under the impression that no remission had taken place and so they began to collect the revenues.

Mr. C. M. King (continued) : Sir, if such action has taken place it is most reprehensible. I hope the honourable member will give me such details as will enable me to punish with the utmost severity the persons concerned. It is quite impossible to take action on general complaints. If he will give me confidentially the names of the people who have done as he alleges they have done I shall be most happy to take the severest action against them. In this connection I would point out that the Deputy Commissioner is on the spot and he is well-known to this Council. He has just gone out as the Deputy Commissioner and I am sure that if this matter had been brought to his notice he would have taken action at once in the matter. The complaint made is about recoveries of land revenue. But what is asked for now is to give extra *takavi* to those people affected by the floods. These *takavi* grants as the Council is aware, will be given free of interest for six months. They have nothing to do with the recovery of land revenue. We do not give *takavi* with one hand in order to enable the Patwari to collect the land revenue with the other. This *takavi* is intended to enable persons to sow and reap the spring harvest. I hope that with the spring harvest they will be able to pay up the revenue of that harvest. But the land revenue of the *khari* harvest was entirely remitted and orders were issued to that effect at once, and as far as I know the orders were given effect to. If there has been any such case as Chaudhri Duli Chand has urged, I hope, and I earnestly hope, that he will bring the case to my notice to enable me to take action.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, as the district of Ambala was also affected by the recent floods and the officials had to extend their help to that area as well, and as Chaudhri Duli Chand has made such allegations, as, if allowed to go unchallenged, are likely to create very wrong and unwholesome impression in the minds of the people of the province generally and the superior officers particularly, I take this opportunity to submit that we do not have any cause for complaint of the sort alleged by the honourable member so far as Ambala District is concerned. Another member of this House, Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram, and myself both had the opportunity of rendering some service to the *Ilaga*, affected by floods in the Ambala District, and from our close contact and careful watching of the state of affairs, I can say with no fear of contradiction that the officers of our *Ilaga* did very creditable work for the people and many examples can be found where these officers did, at no little risk to their own person, work worthy of any of our public men. They did not spare their person, nor their property in alleviating the sufferings of the poor people, as far as it lay in their power. I am talking of all the officers in my district, Deputy Commissioner, Revenue Assistant, Sub-Divisional Officer and Tahsildars and all others of them. Many a time they had to go to the marshy tracts to save a poor "forlorn and deserted" fellow man in misery and trouble. The officials and the non-officials vied with each other in this labour of love and I think the officials are worthy of every praise and I hope that the superior officers will take an early opportunity of rewarding such officers for their work. If Chaudhri Duli Chand has any complaint against the officers, I do not quarrel with him but I am sure he has no justification in including the Ambala District in the cause for his condemnation.

4 P.M.

Chaudhri Duli Chand : Sir, I did not complain of the superior officers. I only mentioned the subordinate officials.

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 1925, in respect of 'Provincial Loans and Advances (Reserved)'".

The motion was carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH GRANT.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,50,000 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 'Public Health'".

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,50,000 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 'Public Health'".

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muham-
madan), Rural] :** Sir, I have to say a few words with reference to this grant. I have already submitted during the Budget session that whatever money is given to the Sanitary Board is all spent in towns. Not that I wish to raise the urban and the rural question, but I always find that money is being spent in towns and very little money is spent in rural areas. As much money as has been granted to the Sanitary Board has already been spent in large towns and more money is being demanded now. When I go out in rural areas I find that a good deal of money has to be spent on sanitation in small towns of the Montgomery and Dera Ghazi Khan Districts. There are several villages which are badly in need of grants for sanitary purposes. Whenever I send questions to this Council, regarding the payment of grants, the questions are always returned to me on account of some technical objection. I am hardly successful in getting grants from the Sanitary Board for the rural areas. I do not know how I can represent that point before the Sanitary Board. I think that out of 15 members on the Sanitary Board there are very few members who represent the rural areas. I submit that if there are more members representing rural interests, more money will be allotted to the rural areas. At the same time I wish to submit that generally these grants are made on the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner who lives at the head-quarters and he naturally is more inclined to get grants for the district head-quarters than to the villages in the interior. I can point out several villages in Multan Division which are badly in need of grants for sanitation. Instead of giving Rs. 3,50,000 to one rich municipality or Rs. 90,000 to another municipality, I think the same amount may be more usefully spent on a large number of rural areas. I trust that the Honourable the Minister will get on the Sanitary Board more representatives from

[Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.]

the rural areas and I hope that he will also accede to my request of allotting as much money as can be spared to the rural areas for sanitation. Very little money should be given for water works and other requirements of large municipalities for which they are themselves responsible.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban] : Sir, for the satisfaction of the honourable member who has just preceded me I may let him know that this is not a new grant. The Sanitary Board is already committed to give a grant of Rs. 6,28,818 to the Multan Municipality so far as the question of water supply project is concerned. The idea of water pipe was contemplated in 1891 and it is after so many years that the Board has taken the scheme in hand and about 6 lakhs of rupees have already been spent. I submit the whole amount of six lakhs would be a waste and the whole scheme would come to a dead stop if the further sum asked for is not granted. Besides the grant which is placed before the House for sanction, the Government have already committed themselves to give a loan to the Municipal Committee and I hope that the Government will redeem their promise in the near future. The Sanitary Engineer has asked the Committee to deposit the whole fund which is required to make up the estimate of Rs. 12,57,637. Otherwise the work will come to a dead stop. I hope this explanation will satisfy my honourable friend Lala Sewak Ram and I trust that the House will have no hesitation in sanctioning this grant.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural] : Sir, in a few words, I just want to associate myself with the remarks made by my honourable friend, Lala Sewak Ram. We have all along been seeing and watching, that practically the whole of the grants by the Sanitary Board fall to the share of municipalities or small towns or such other local bodies, and that practically nothing goes to the rural areas. Though the rural areas are represented by a majority of the members in this House, yet we are told that it has very little representation on the Sanitary Board. I know a number of cases in which the people have been obliged to go without water in villages. Nothing was done for them. With regard to a certain number of villages nothing has been done in this direction in spite of repeated representations and Council questions. We know that there are a number of villages in Ambala District where water is scarce. When the matter was referred to the District Board and other bodies, they pleaded their inability to cope with the situation on account of financial difficulties. When the matter was referred to the Local Government, identically the same answers were furnished. Everybody is aware of the dearth of water in the Sirsa Sub-division of Hissar District. I put in a number of questions on this subject in the last session of the Council; and the only reply that was given was that the District Board was the proper body to go into the matter and do the needful. It is well-known that practically all the District Boards in the province are labouring under serious financial difficulties. It is rather hoping against hope to expect anything from the District Boards, which are practically bankrupt now-a-days. The District Boards can do nothing in such huge schemes. Therefore, I as a representative of the rural areas just want through you, Sir, to bring to the notice of the official benches that the rural tracts from which the lion's share of their revenue comes do require some of the attention of the Government, at least some minor necessities as the supply of drinking water should be promptly attended to. The Government would certainly be doing their duty long overdue to

the rural tracts, if they would only leave aside the municipalities which are already getting a good deal for themselves, and if they would divert a little attention now towards the rural problems of sanitation, and others of allied nature.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq [Hoshiarpur-cum-Ludhiana, Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I do not like this question being discussed in a spirit of rural and urban controversy. But I, being a representative of the rural areas, would like to bring to the notice of the Council the real requirements of villagers. I have been inviting the attention of the Government every now and then, by asking questions in the Council, to the unhealthy conditions of Tahsil Dasuha in the Hoshiarpur District and Ilaga Bait in the Ludhiana District. But the answer given to me was simply this that the matter was wholly the concern of the District Boards. The District Boards themselves cannot devote necessary attention to this question on account of lack of funds.

The Gazetteers of both the districts describe the sanitation of both the above mentioned places as very bad. But the Government have not done what they ought to have done in this respect. To-day I get this opportunity to move the Government to pay more attention to the rural sanitation than they do towards the requirements of the urban sanitation.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. Gill (Director of Public Health) : Sir, I do not think the honourable member Rai Bahadur Sewak Ram and other honourable members quite understand the situation in regard to giving grants-in-aid to rural areas. The Sanitary Board is always most anxious to give grants-in-aid to rural areas. Four years ago the President of the Board sent round a circular in which he said he was going to give no more grants to urban areas provided that District Boards would put up suitable schemes which would produce good results. The replies received from District Boards in response to this circular were most disappointing and only one or two suitable schemes were put forward. The Sanitary Board had to write again and urge the District Boards to send up schemes for improving sanitation in rural areas. Almost every time the initiative came from the Sanitary Board and it was clear that there was no demand for sanitary projects in rural areas. Some District Boards even replied that they did not want to do anything.

Then as regards the complaint regarding lack of water supply, I may say that the Sanitary Board has done a good deal to improve the water supply in Hissar District, in Rohtak District and also in Kangra District. But the difficulty again has been to get District Boards to put up before the Sanitary Board suitable schemes to which they can give grants.

Mr. President : The question is—

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,50,000 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 ‘Public Health’”.

The motion was carried.

PROVINCIAL LOANS AND ADVANCES—TRANSFERRED GRANT.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (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 1925 in respect of 'Provincial Loans and Advances—Transferred'."

The motion was carried.

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 1925 in respect of 'Land Revenue'."

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 1926 in respect of 'Police'."

Sir, this is on account of additional police imposed on particular localities under section 15 of Act V of 1861. It has hitherto been understood that it was not necessary to put this demand before the Council because it has to be recovered during the course of the year. In spite of the fact that the whole amount is due to be recovered from the villages on which the posts have been imposed, it is now necessary under the orders of the Auditor-General's ruling to put this demand before the Council. This is the reason for making this supplementary token demand.

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 1925 in respect of 'Police'."

The motion was carried.

The Council then adjourned till 2 P.M. on Saturday, the 17th January 1925.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

5TH SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, the 17th January 1925.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

Mr. President : I have to announce to the Council that, under rule 3 of the Punjab Legislative Council Rules, I have nominated the same gentlemen to serve on the panel of chairmen for the present session as were nominated last session.

GOVERNOR'S AND THE 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 :—

The Punjab Stamp (Amendment) Act, 1924.

The Elected President's Salary Act, 1924.

The Stage Carriages (Punjab Amendment) Act, 1924.

I have also to acquaint the Council that the Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill has received the assent of His Excellency the Governor.

AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS.

Mr. President : I present the report* of the Select Committee appointed to deal with certain proposed amendments to Standing Orders.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1227—1230. Cancelled.

SHOES SENT TO AKALI PRISONERS IN THE CAMPBELLPUR JAIL.

1231. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please state whether shoes were sent to some Akali prisoners in Campbellpur Jail and they were refused? If so, will Government please state why?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No such refusal was made.

SIKHS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND WEARING OF BLACK PUGRIES AND KIRPAN.

1232. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please state whether it has prohibited Sikhs in Government service from wearing black pugries and kirpans? If so, will it please state why, and if not, is it prepared to issue instructions to the Heads of Departments not to take any action against subordinates wearing these things?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. Government is aware of no reason for thinking that the issue of orders on the subject is necessary.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS TO THE MINISTERIAL GAZETTED POSTS.

1233. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : (i) Will Government please state—

- (a) the ministerial gazetted posts like Assistant Secretaries to Government, Registrars, etc., employed in the headquarters offices at Lahore;
- (b) the salary carried by each post;
- (c) the names of persons occupying each post?

(ii) Is it a fact that most of these appointments are occupied by Europeans or Anglo-Indians?

(iii) Will Government consider the desirability of appointing suitable Indians to these posts at the earliest opportunity?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (i) (a), (b) and (c). A statement containing the information asked for is laid on the table.

(ii) Yes.

(iii) Yes, the possibility of appointing suitable Indians will be borne in mind, if and when any vacancy occurs in any of the posts.

Name of ministerial gazetted post.	Pay of the post.	Name of the officers.
	Rs.	
1. Senior Assistant Secretary to Government, Punjab.	800 per mensem	Mr. P. Wood-Collins.
2. Junior Assistant Secretary to Government, Punjab.	800 ditto ...	Mr. I. Salt.
3. Assistant Secretary to Government, Punjab, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch.	800 ditto ...	Mr. G. E. J. Haegert.

Name of ministerial gazetted post.	Pay of the post.	Name of the officer.
4. Assistant Secretary to Government, Punjab, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch.	800 per mensem	Mr. F. R. Grindal, I.S.O., V.D.
5. Registrar, Public Works Department, Irrigation Secretariat.	700 ditto ...	Mr. W. Bwyse, I.S.O.
6. Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Punjab.	800 ditto ...	Mr. S. H. D'Arey.
7. Assistant Secretary to the Financial Commissioners, Punjab.	600 ditto ...	Mr. H. J. Pearson.
8. Deputy Registrar, High Court, Lahore.	800 ditto ...	Mr. H. B. Gillmore, I.S.O.
9. Assistant Registrar, High Court, Lahore.	500—20—600 per mensem.	Mr. E. L. Roblin.
10. Assistant Deputy Registrar, High Court, Lahore.	400—20—500 per mensem.	Rai Sahib Lala Nihal Chand.

Mr. Owen Roberts : Has it not been the policy of Government to give appointments to the most suitable persons available at the time ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Yes.

STAFF OF THE CONSULTING ARCHITECT TO GOVERNMENT.

1234. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please state what staff has the Consulting Architect to Government got and what is being paid to it ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : The following posts have been sanctioned for the staff of the Consulting Architect. The scale of pay and present rate of pay drawn by the incumbents of those posts which have been filled is shown against each :—

Designation.	Scale of pay.	Present pay.
1 Assistant Consulting Architect ...	Rs. 525—80—1,625	Rs. 875
1 " " " ...	" "	vacant.
1 " " " ...	" "	vacant.

[Hon. R. S. Ch. Chhotu Ram.]

Designation.				Scale of pay.	Present pay.
1	Chief Draftman	...	...	Ra. 300—40—500	Ra. 420
1	Draftman...	...	...	300—10—300	270
1	"	...	...	"	220
1	"	...	...	"	250
1	"	...	...	"	230
1	"	...	...	"	230
1	"	...	...	"	320
1	"	...	...	"	220
1	"	...	...	"	...
1	"	...	...	"	vacant
1	"	...	...	"	vacant
1	"	...	...	"	vacant
1	"	...	...	"	vacant
1	"	...	...	150—5—200	140
1	"	...	...	"	165
1	"	...	...	"	155
1	"	...	...	"	155
1	"	...	...	"	vacant
1	"	...	...	80—5—90/5—135	80
1	"	...	...	"	80
1	"	...	...	"	70
1	"	...	...	"	60
1	"	...	...	"	60
1	"	...	...	"	vacant
1	"	...	...	"	vacant
1	"	...	...	"	vacant
1	Printer	...	...	30—2—60	34
1	"	...	...	"	34
1	"	...	...	"	34
1	"	...	...	"	vacant
1	"	...	...	"	vacant

Designation.	Scale of pay.	Present pay.
1 Tracer	Rs. 30-2-80	Rs. ... vacant.
1 "	"	... vacant.
1 Head Clerk	75-5-100/5-150	121
1 Clerk	50-3-125	59
2 "	40-2-80/2-90	48
1 "	"	44
	Total ...	4,509 per mensem.

1235-37.—Cancelled.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT, GOJRA MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

1238. Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: (i) Arising out of the answer to question No. 856* asked on the 12th November 1924 regarding election of the President, Gojra Municipal Committee—

(a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the report made by the special officer;

(b) What action has Government taken on the report?

(ii) Will Government be pleased to state the reason for withholding the confirmation of the election of the elected President?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (i) (a) Government are not prepared to lay on the table the confidential reports of their officers.

(b) Government have instructed the Commissioner not to approve of the election of Lala Wazir Chand as President of the Committee.

(ii) Government were of opinion that very strong reasons existed for holding that the election of Lala Wazir Chand as President had been secured by improper means, and that to approve of his election would be an affront to all those who have the purity of municipal administration at heart.

DEK NULLAH.

1239. Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar: (a) Is Government aware that the Dek Nullah which flows in the rainy season close to the town of Zafarwal in the Sialkot District, washes away a considerable area of lands belonging to zamindars of the ilaga and is a source of constant trouble and danger to the town?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps they have so far taken or intend to take to ward off this danger and ensure the safety of the town and of the landed property of the zamindars?

[Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar.]

(c) Is Government prepared to consider the advisability of appointing a committee to go into the matter mentioned in (a) above and to lay on the table a statement showing the loss of land, houses and other property sustained by the ilaqa for the last 20 years by the flow of the Dek Nullah and take steps to mitigate this loss by granting land to all those whose lands have been so washed away?

(d) Will Government also consider the advisability of constructing 'bunds' to save the town or diverting the flow of this Nullah to some other direction?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: The question has necessitated enquiries which are not yet complete. I will send the answer to the honourable member as soon as it is ready.

CHEHLUM HOLIDAY IN THE PUNJAB.

1240. Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar: (a) Will Government kindly state the names and number of Muhammadan holidays gazetted for the Punjab under the Negotiable Instruments Act?

(b) Is it a fact that "Chehlum", the 40th day of the death of Martyr Husain, is not included in the Muhammadan holidays in the said Act? If so, will Government kindly take necessary steps to declare this day as a public holiday in the Punjab?

Mr. H. D. Craik: (a) A list showing the names and number of the Muhammadan holidays gazetted for the Punjab under the Negotiable Instruments Act is laid on the table.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. In view of the fact that the number of public holidays notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act is already large, and that the Retrenchment Committee recommended a reduction in the number of holidays, the Punjab Government regret that they are not prepared to declare the festival of "Chehlum" to be a holiday under the Act.

MUHAMMADAN HOLIDAYS DURING THE YEAR 1925.

Shab-i-Barat	... 10th March	... Tuesday	1	Subject to the appearance of moon.
Id-ul-Fitr	... 25th or 26th April	... Saturday or Sunday	1	
Id-ul-Zoha	... 2nd or 3rd July	... Thursday or Friday	1	
Muharram	... 30th, 31st July and 1st August.	Thursday to Saturday.	3	
Id-i-Milad	... 1st October	... Thursday	1	

INDIAN AND PROVINCIAL ENGINEERING SERVICE.

1241. Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan: Will Government please lay on the table the answer to my question No. 911* put on the 13th November 1924?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

ANSWER TO CERTAIN UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

1242. Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Will Government please lay on the table the answers to my questions Nos.* 915, 916, 918, 919 and 920 put on the 14th November 1924 ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The answer to Council questions Nos. 915, 916, 918, 919 and 920 are laid on the table.

(Answer to Question No. 915.)

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : It is correct that in 1923 no Muhammadan Rajput from the Rohtak and Hissar Districts was appointed directly to the post of Probationary Sub-Inspector in the Eastern Range.

Vacancies are filled strictly by selection from candidates who have applied for appointments. Due consideration will be given to the applications of suitable Muhammadan Rajput candidates.

(Answer to Question No. 916.)

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Six Muhammadan Rajputs of Hissar District and five Muhammadan Rajputs of Rohtak District are employed as Head Constables in the Eastern Range.

Only one Meo Head Constable of the Gurgaon District is employed in the Range.

(Answer to Question No. 918.)

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Section 15 of Act V of 1861 is the authority under which police posts are locally established and the cost of them recovered from the inhabitants. The grounds upon which the law permits their establishment are that the area concerned is in a disturbed or dangerous state, or that, from the conduct of the inhabitants it is expedient to increase the number of police. The points raised in clauses (a) and (d) of the honourable member's question do not therefore arise.

(c) Orders are not passed on proposals for increasing the number of police under section 15 of Act V of 1861 without examining the criminal statistics, the history and circumstances of the villages concerned.

(Answer to Question No. 919.)

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) No application of a punitive police post at Hnjampur village in the Hissar District has yet reached Government.

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

(Answer to Question No. 920.)

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) No.

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

(d) No.

ANSWERS TO CERTAIN UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

1243. Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Will Government please lay on the table the answers to my questions Nos.* 1022 and 1024 put on the 18th November 1924 ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The answer to the honourable member's question No. 1022 is laid upon the table.

(Answer to Question No. 1022.)

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

(ii) Does not arise.

(iii) (a) Yes.

(b) The question of the punishment to be awarded to the moharrir at fault is under consideration.

(c) It is a fact that the member of the Legislative Council in question submitted an application on the 24th April 1924, for his name to be entered in the voters' register. Under the rule, however, the application should have been made before the 20th of March 1924 and no order was passed on it until the 5th of May when it was sent by the Deputy Commissioner to the Revenue Assistant for disposal.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : A copy of the answer to question No. 1024 is laid on the table.

(Answer to Question No. 1024.)

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The Sub-Inspector has been suspended and the case has been referred under Police Rule 17-29 to the District Magistrate for decision whether he should be tried judicially or departmentally.

HISSAR DISTRICT BOARD AND VOTERS' LIST.

1244. Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : With reference to the answer to part (a) (a) of question No. 1022, will the Government be pleased to give fifty names of persons paying Rs. 15 land revenue in the Hissar District (in more than one circle of election) and thus entitled to be registered as voters in the Hansi Tahsil with the following details :—

- (1) Name of person with parentage,
- (2) Name of villages where he pays land revenue, and
- (3) The amount of land revenue which he pays in each village ?

The Honourable Mian Sir 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.

TAMPERING WITH THE NOMINATION PAPER OF A CANDIDATE FOR THE HISSAR DISTRICT BOARD.

1245. Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in Kirmara circle of election the nomination paper of one candidate was tampered with so as to deprive him of the membership of the Hissar District Board in the recent election ?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what action do the Government propose to take in the matter?

(c) Will the Government please state whether it is a fact that the above-mentioned candidate served notice under section 80, Criminal Procedure Code, on the Deputy Commissioner in regard to the alleged invalidity of his nomination paper and, if so, what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

The Honourable Mian Sir 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.

ANSWER TO CERTAIN UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

1246. Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan: Will the Government please lay on the table the answers to my questions Nos.* 1191 and 1192 put on the 24th November 1924?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The answer to question No. 1191 is laid on the table.

(Answer to Question No. 1191.)

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (a) Yes.

(b) Government has no information.

(c) Yes.

(d) There are ten retired Military Officers in the village.

(e) Yes.

(f) There are 34 bad characters on Register X in the village.

(g) Yes.

(Answer to Question No. 1192.)

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the answer to question No. 1192 is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

PUNITIVE POLICE POST AT VILLAGES NIGANA KHURD AND KALAN IN THE TASHAM POLICE STATION.

1247. Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Superintendent of Police, Hissar, has recommended the location of a punitive police post at villages Nigana Khurd and Kalan in the Tasham Police Station? If so, what are the facts and figures that warrant justification for such an action?

(b) Will the Government please state—

(i) how many inhabitants of this village were challaned in 1924, giving names of persons, the offence, police station and the date on which challaned;

[Ch. Sahib Dad Khan.]

- (ii) how many of them were convicted ;
- (iii) how many were acquitted on appeal ;
- (iv) the total population of the villages (males and females) and how many of them are between 20 and 40 years of age ;
- (v) the amount of land revenue assessed on these villages ;
- (vi) whether it is a fact that in recognition of their war services half the land revenue of these villages was remitted for 10 years beginning from 1919 ;
- (vii) whether it is a fact that the villages are *barani* ?

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 POST AT VILLAGE HAJAMPUR.

1248. **Chandhri Sahib Dad Khan :** With reference to the answer* to question No. 919 asked on the 14th November 1924, will the Government please state whether the Government has since received any application for the location of a punitive police post at village Hajampur in the Hansi Police Station ? If so, will the Government please give all the particulars asked for in question No. 919 ?

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.

TAX ON MERCHANDISE CARRIED ACROSS THE INDUS.

1249. **Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether a tax is being charged on merchandise carried across the Indus in private boats near Mithankot, District Dera Ghazi Khan ; and if so,

- (a) when it was imposed,
- (b) at what rate,
- (c) whether the rate of tax has been enhanced lately, and, if so, why ?

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.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SMALL TOWNS COMMITTEE AT KHANEWAL.

1250. **Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** (a) Has Government under its consideration the proposal of establishing a Small Towns Committee at Khanewal in Multan District ?

(b) If so, will Government consider the importance of the town in coming to a decision on the proposal referred to above ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will Government please consider the desirability of establishing a Small Towns Committee at Khanewal ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Government really cannot comply with the wishes of the honourable member inasmuch as Khanewal is not yet a place which has attained its full development.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will Government be pleased to enquire from the people of Khanewal if they require a Small Towns Committee?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Government will have no objection to consider any representation made by the people of the place.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SMALL TOWNS COMMITTEE IN KABIRWALA.

1251. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will the Government please state—

- (a) whether it has under consideration a proposal to establish a Small Towns Committee in Kabirwala, in the Multan District;
- (b) whether it has received any representation from the residents of Kabirwala objecting to the establishment of such a committee and, if so,
- (c) whether it will take into consideration the wishes of the residents of the place in coming to a decision on the matter?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Kabirwala was constituted a Small Town by Punjab Government notification No. 13712, dated the 7th May 1924.

(b) Yes.

(c) Due consideration will be paid to the wishes of the inhabitants.

PANCHOTRA AND COLLECTION OF LAND REVENUE.

1252. Chaudhri Ram Singh : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that *panchotra* due to Lambardars is forfeited if land revenue is deposited in the treasury even one day after the date fixed for the depositing of such land revenue?

(b) If the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what Government pays to Lambardars for their services throughout the year in the event of their *panchotra* being forfeited?

(c) Will the Government please state whether *panchotra* is paid for the collection of land revenue or for some other services rendered to Government by Lambardars? If *panchotra* is paid merely for the collection of the land revenue, then is it a fact that other duties performed by Lambardars are performed as a species of *begar*?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia : (a) If by forfeited the honourable member means liable to forfeiture the answer is yes.

(b) Nothing.

(c) *First part.*—For all services rendered.

Second part.—Does not arise.

PATWARIS AND *JAMABANDIS*.

1253. **Chandhri Ram Singh** : Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) what agencies exist in the Punjab for enabling Patwaris to take their papers to tahsils for purposes of *jamabandi*?
- (b) whether these agencies are similar in character throughout the province or whether they differ in different districts of the province? If there are any such differences, will Government be pleased to state the nature of such differences?

The Honourable **Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia** : (a) So far as Government is aware—None.

(b) Does not arise.

Chandhri Ram Singh : Will Government state how *jamabandis* are carried to tahsil headquarters and back? How do the patwaris submit them?

The Honourable **Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia** : Probably the Patwari has to carry them and bring them back.

REMISSION OF TAX ON SHEEP AND GOATS IN CERTAIN *ILAQAS* OF THE KANGRA DISTRICT.

1254. **Chandhri Ram Singh** : (a) Is the Government aware of the fact that there are certain *ilagas* in the Kangra District where there are neither Government nor *Shamilat* forests nor are there such forests even in their vicinity and that the whole of the land of such *ilagas* is the private property of the zamindars?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of remitting in these *ilagas* the tax on sheep and goats?

The Honourable **Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia** : The question in its present form is too indefinite to admit of an answer. If the honourable member will specify the *ilagas* to which he refers enquiry will be made.

NEWSPAPERS AND GOVERNMENT ADVERTISEMENTS.

1255. **Chandhri Afzal Haq** : Will the Government be pleased to say on the table—

- (a) the names of those newspapers which get Government advertisements;
- (b) the names of those newspapers which on account of their anti-Government views are not given Government advertisements; and
- (c) the names of those newspapers which are yet under consideration?

The Honourable **Sir John Maynard** : Government is not prepared to give the information asked for.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : How is it that Government does not give replies to so many questions ? Is there any authority which allows Government not to answer questions ?

Mr. President : This is not a supplementary question.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISEMENT CHARGES.

1256. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Will the Government be pleased to state the total sum of money paid to newspapers in the year 1928 for the publication of Government advertisements ?

Mr. H. D. Craik : The collection of the information asked for would involve enquiries from nearly every department of the Local Government, many departments of the Central Government and by a large number of Judicial Courts. Government is not prepared to undertake the labour and expense that would be involved by such enquiries.

"MUSLIM OUTLOOK" AND GOVERNMENT ADVERTISEMENTS.

1257. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (a) Is it a fact that the English Daily "Muslim Outlook" does not get Government advertisements ?

(b) Is it a fact that this daily paper has a circulation of more than one thousand copies ?

(c) Is it a fact that "Muslim Outlook" is the only Muslim daily in the whole of India ?

(d) If so, is the Government considering the advisability of giving this paper Government advertisements ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a), (b) and (c) yes.

(d) The question will again come under consideration shortly.

"MUSLIM RAJPUT" AND GOVERNMENT ADVERTISEMENTS.

1258. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (a) Is it a fact that "Muslim Rajput," a weekly published from Amritsar, has a circulation of more than one thousand copies ?

(b) Is it a fact that this paper is not given Government advertisements ?

(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to say whether they intend to give Government advertisements to the "Muslim Rajput" ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) The circulation of this paper has not yet been verified.

(b) Yes.

(c) The question will shortly come under consideration.

AGRICULTURIST AND NON-AGRICULTURIST GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

1259. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(a) the number of agriculturist and non-agriculturist Government servants drawing a salary of more than Rs. 50 per mensem ;

[Ch. Afzal-Haq.]

(b) the number of Muslims and non-Muslims in all Departments under Government?

Mr. H. D. Craik: The compilation of the information asked for would involve an expenditure of time and money which Government do not consider would be justified.

AGRICULTURISTS AND NON-AGRICULTURISTS IN THE VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

1260. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Will the Government be pleased to say the number of agriculturists and non-agriculturists holding posts in the Veterinary Department above the rank of Veterinary Assistant?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: The required information is laid on the table:—

	Europeans.	Agriculturists.	Non-Agriculturists.	Total number of appointments.
Imperial	7	1	...	9*
Provincial	1	7	3	11
Subordinates above the rank of Veterinary Assistants.	...	23	23	46

* One appointment at the Veterinary College, Lahore, is vacant.

NON-AGRICULTURISTS IN THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

1261. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Will the Government be pleased to state the number of appointments held by non-agriculturists in the Agricultural Department?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: The number of Indian non-agriculturists in the Agricultural Department is—

Gazetted Officers	...	...	...	7
Agricultural Assistants	...	...	...	17

It is presumed that the honourable member does not refer to the large number of other subordinates and employees in the Agricultural Department such as Mukaddams, labourers, malis, etc., most of whom are from the nature of their employment, agriculturists.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE.

1262. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: (a) Is it a fact that a Deputy Director is posted as personal assistant to the Director of Agriculture?

(b) Is it a fact that three years ago when the Director of Agriculture was also the Director of Industries, Fisheries and Factories, he had no such personal assistant?

(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to say why it has been considered necessary to appoint a personal assistant in the face of the fact that the duties of the Director of Agriculture are lighter now than before?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : (a) Yes.

(b) No. Three years ago the Director of Agriculture was not also the Director of Industries, Fisheries and Factories.

(c) Does not arise, but the correctness of the honourable member's statement of fact is not admitted.

**COUNCIL QUESTIONS RELATING TO COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN SERVICES
AND ANNUAL REPORTS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.**

1263. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (a) Is it a fact that most of the questions that are put in the Council are directed to elicit information regarding communal representation in services as well as the comparative number of the agriculturists and non-agriculturists in the Government departments?

(b) If so, will the Government consider the desirability of giving such information in the annual reports of the various departments?

Mr. H. D. Craik : (a) A large number of questions certainly refer to the subject of communal representation in the services.

(b) Heads of Departments will be consulted on this suggestion.

RETURNING OFFICERS IN KASUR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN AUGUST 1924.

1264. Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Arising out of the answer to question No. 1190* put by me on the 24th November 1924, is it a fact that Chaudhri Charagh Din, Extra Assistant Commissioner, and Khan Ghulam Hasan Khan, Revenue Assistant, Kasur, were notified as first and second Returning Officers in Kasur Municipal election which was held on 21st August 1924 for ward No. III?

(b) Is it a fact that on the notified election day both of the above-mentioned officers were present with a view to perform their duties?

(c) Is it a fact that Chaudhri Charagh Din was replaced by an Excise Inspector?

(d) If the reply to clause (c) be in the affirmative, will the Government state its reasons for this replacement?

The Honourable Mian Sir 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.

**SCHEME TO REPLACE OCTROI DUTY BY TERMINAL TAX IN KASUR
MUNICIPALITY.**

1265. Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : (a) Is it a fact that Kasur Municipality submitted a scheme for replacing octroi duty by terminal tax to the Government for sanction about a year ago?

(b) Is it also a fact that no action has been taken by the Government so far in regard to this scheme?

[Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.]

(e) If the reply to clause (b) be in the affirmative, will the Government kindly state its reasons for the delay?

(d) If the reply to clause (b) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state as to what action has been taken so far?

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

(b), (c) and (d) do not arise.

ARTILLERY PRACTICE AND EVACUATION OF CERTAIN VILLAGES IN THE HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

1266. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (a) Is it a fact that in the month of November last, military units came to the Hoshiarpur District for artillery practices and villages within firing zone had to be evacuated?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the names and the number of villages the inhabitants of which were made to vacate their homes?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any tents or temporary houses were provided for the inhabitants who had to leave their homes?

(d) If the answer to part (c) is in the negative, will the Government be pleased either to arrange to provide the inhabitants with tents or homes or stop artillery practice in this 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.

PUBLICATION OF A BOOKLET CONTAINING USEFUL INFORMATION FOR CULTIVATORS.

1267. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (a) Will the Government be pleased to say whether the department of agriculture has published for free distribution amongst the zamindar community any booklet in the vernacular containing useful instructions for cultivators?

(b) If not, will the Government be pleased to direct the Agricultural Department to the importance of publication of such literature?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : (a) Yes. Useful instructions for cultivators are published by the Department of Agriculture in the form of leaflets and booklets in English and Vernacular which are distributed free among zamindars.

(b) The importance of publication of such literature is recognised.

SUPPLY OF ANNUAL DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION REPORTS TO MEMBERS OF THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

1268. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (a) Is it a fact that the annual reports of administration of the various departments under Government are not supplied to the members of the Council regularly?

(b) Is Government prepared to supply regularly all the members with such reports and such other publications which tend to give information as to the inner working of the various departments?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) Two copies of all annual reports are supplied to the Council Library for the use of the members of the Council.

(b) It would be a waste of money to supply copies of such reports to all the members of the Council especially as many of them do not read English. If any honourable member wants any particular report he can obtain it on application to the Senior Assistant Secretary to Government.

FEMALE EDUCATION IN THE PROVINCE.

1269. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of girls' schools by community in the province recognised by the Director of Public Instruction?

(b) Is it a fact that there is no Muslim Girls' School which receives grant-in-aid?

(c) Has Government devised any scheme for the spread of education among those communities which observe *parda*?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) The honourable member is requested to refer to the list of recognised secondary schools in the Punjab published by the Education Department, a copy of which has been sent to him.

(b) Yes.

(c) *Pardah* arrangements exist in all Government and in almost all board schools for girls in the Punjab.

PREVENTION OF THE GROWTH OF *KASUMBHI BOTI* (*CARTHAMUS OXYACANTH*) IN AGRICULTURAL LANDS.

1270. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Will the Government be pleased to say—

(a) How many village panchayats in the Hoshiarpur, Jullundur and Ludhiana Districts availed themselves of the suggestions contained in the 'Seasonal Notes' issued by the Department of Agriculture regarding the prevention of growth of "*Kasumbhi Boti*" *Carthamus* (*Oxyacanth*) in agricultural lands?

(b) In how many cases did the village panchayats seek the help and advice of the agricultural assistants?

(c) If there is no such record, will the Government be pleased to say what steps they have taken to draw the attention of the zamindars to the 'Seasonal Notes' referred to?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : (a) and (b). As the note has just appeared sufficient time has not elapsed for the suggestion therein to have had any effect.

(c) Notices calling attention to this publication have been widely distributed through Deputy Commissioners, Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Deputy Directors of Agriculture, Agricultural Assistants, etc. It may be added that Director of Agriculture is having the article on the subject in the Seasonal Notes reprinted for wide and free distribution in the villages of Jullundur, Hoshiarpur and other affected districts.

INDIAN D.I.-G. OF POLICE.

1271. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of permanent Indian District Superintendents of Police ?

(b) Is it a fact that no Indian has so far been appointed as Deputy Inspector-General of Police ?

(c) If so, is it a policy of the Government not to appoint an Indian as Deputy Inspector-General of Police ?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the negative, will the Government be pleased to explain why no Indian has so far been appointed as Deputy Inspector-General of Police ?

(e) Will the Government consider the desirability of appointing an Indian Deputy Inspector-General of Police ?

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.

PROBATIONARY SUB-INSPECTORS OF POLICE.

1272. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Probationary Sub-Inspectors of Police who were appointed during the years 1921, 1922 and 1923 and how many of these were Muhammadans ?

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.

ELECTION OF THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN.

1273. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : (a) Will the Government please state whether any objections were received as a result of notification No. 9868, dated 31st March 1924, published by the Secretary to Government, Punjab, Transferred Departments, re election of the District Board chairman ? If so, what were these objections and what has the Government decided on the same ?

(b) Has Government confined the provisions of this rule only to non-official members of the Boards ? If not, will it please state why not ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Yes, two District Boards intimated that they preferred official chairmen while representations were also received urging that another District Board should be included ; and that the alternative of applying to Government for the appointment of a Chairman instead of electing one should not be given.

(b) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

RETRENCHMENT IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1274. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please state whether it ever invited the opinions of its officers on the subject of retrenchment in expenditure ? If so, will it please lay the recommendations of the officers of the Public Works Department on the table ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The answer to the first portion of the question is in the affirmative. Government is not prepared to lay on the table the recommendations of its subordinate officers.

MESSRS. RATAN CHAND AND BUGGA, MARTIAL LAW PRISONERS.

1275. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Is it a fact that Messrs. Ratan Chand and Bugga, martial law prisoners, are still undergoing their sentences? If so, will the Government please state in which jails they are confined and what the state of their health is?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Martial Law prisoner Ratan Chand was deported to the Andamans on 8th June 1920 and has not been received back in this province.

Martial Law prisoner Bugga, son of Pera Mal, is confined in the Multan Central Jail. He was received in that Jail on 8th July 1924 and his weight at that time was 162 lbs. He has double inguinal hernia. He was admitted into hospital on 25th September 1924 for Malaria and discharged on 29th September 1924. He was again admitted into hospital for Malaria on 22nd October 1924 and discharged on 29th October 1924. On 24th December 1924 he was ordered to go to hospital by the Superintendent for Jaundice and discharged on 30th December 1924. His present weight is 157 lbs. He is free from Jaundice, but suffers much from flatulence. He is on special hospital diet and doing light work.

GRANTS OF LAND FOR MILITARY AND POLITICAL SERVICES.

1276. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please state whether any grants of land for military and political services have been made to the Sikhs of Lyallpur District, and if so, the number of squares thus awarded?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The honourable member is referred to the answer given to his question No. 892* at the meeting of this Council held on 13th November 1921.

BEEF MARKET AT AMBALA CITY.

1277. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : With reference to the answer to question No. 90† communicated to me relating to the erection of beef market by Ambala City Municipality, will the Government please state the names of the Municipal Commissioners present at the time of the passing of resolution No. 55 by the Ambala City Municipality at its general meeting held on the 11th September 1922 and state further, with reference to the answer to part (c) of the question what action the Government has since taken in the matter?

The Honourable Mian Sir 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.

* Vol. VII, page 361.

† Vol. VII, page 364.

STOPPAGE OF MAIL TRAINS AT AMBALA CITY.

1278. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** (a) With reference to the answer to the supplementary question to question No. 902,* will the Government please state whether any resolutions on the subject of stoppage of mail trains at Ambala City were passed by the District Board, Ambala, and Municipal Committee, Ambala City, and communicated to Government? If so, what action did the Government take on them?

(b) Is it also not a fact that a resolution on the subject was passed by the Bar Association, Ambala, and the same was forwarded to the Government by the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala? If so, will the Government please state what action was taken thereon?

(c) Will the Government please state whether there is any other district in the province through the headquarters of which a railway line passes but where the mail trains do not stop? If so, will the Government please state the name of the district?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadar Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) Resolutions were passed by the District Board and the Municipal Committee and in both cases the Agent of the North-Western Railway was addressed. Copies of the Resolutions were not forwarded to Government.

(b) The Secretary of the Bar Association did address the Deputy Commissioner on the subject but no resolution was passed nor was the Government addressed in the matter.

(c) There is no other station in the Punjab which is the headquarters of a Civil District and where the mail trains do not stop.

DISTRIBUTION BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF LITERATURE PUBLISHED BY THE
SIKH SUDHAR COMMITTEE, AMRITSAR.

1279. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** Is the Government aware that the literature published from time to time by the Sikh Sudhar Committee, Amritsar, is distributed by the Tahsildar through the Zaildars? If so, will the Government please state whether it is being done under its instructions and if not, will it be pleased to issue instructions to its officers to discontinue this practice?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Yes. The practice was not initiated under instructions from Government, but Government sees no reason why it should be discontinued.

CONFISCATION OF THE PENSION OF RISALDAR MAJOR RANJODH SINGH.

1280. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** Will the Government please state whether it moved and recommended the confiscation of the pension of Risaldar Ranjodh Singh of the Akali Leaders' conspiracy case? If so, will it please lay its correspondence on the subject on the table?

Mr. H. D. Craik : The pension of the officer in question was sequestrated automatically under the orders of the Government of India on his conviction of a serious offence. The Punjab Government made no recommendation in the matter.

**SHIFTING OF THE THANAS IN CERTAIN VILLAGES IN THE AMBALA DISTRICT
TO MORE CENTRAL PLACES.**

1281. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : (a) Will the Government please state the distance of the farthest village in Police Stations Morind, Tahsil Rupar, and Chandigarh, Tahsil Kharar, of the Ambala District, from the locality where the police stations are situated?

(b) Is the Government aware that people are put to great difficulties and hardships because of the long distances they have to come to the thana?

(c) Were there ever any proposals to shift the headquarters of these thanas to some other places? If so, will the Government please state what those proposals were and if there were never any such proposals, will the Government please consider the advisability of shifting these thanas to more central places?

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.

ANSWERS TO CERTAIN UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

1282. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will the Government please lay on the table the answers to my questions Nos.* 866, 935, 1113 and 1115 asked at the last session of the Council?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sarfar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The answer to question No. 866 is laid down on the table.

(Answer to Question No. 866.)

(a) (b) (c) The information will be found in the Administration Reports of Irrigation Branch for the years concerned.

(d) Statements† giving the required information are laid on the table.

(ii) Reply to the first part is in the affirmative. Decrease in irrigation was due to the fact that river conditions were not favourable to this canal, as the course of the main stream was such as to cause silting of the main head of the canal, while it moved away from the auxiliary head. Such conditions may arise on any inundation canal.

A statement‡ showing the actual digging of Lower Sohag Canal in the year 1923-24 is placed on the table.

(iii) A statement containing the required information is placed on the table.

(iv) Reply to the first part is in the negative. Statement‡ showing area of cotton irrigated is placed on the table.

(v) Reply is in the affirmative. Water cannot be guaranteed at all critical times for the cotton crop on inundation canals. It is for this reason that water rates on these canals are pitched low.

* Vol. VII, pages 322-23, 427, 611 and 612 respectively.

† See Appendix II.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : A copy of the answer to question No. 935 is laid on the table. The answer to question No. 1118 will be laid in reply to a subsequent question by the honourable member.

(Answer to Question No. 935.)

(a) No.

(b) 1. No shopkeepers have been ejected in the last 3 years in the Jhang District, but 38 sites have been forfeited, mainly owing to the absence of the persons to whom they were allotted.

2. In the Lyallpur District 20 shopkeepers have been ejected in the period specified on the complaint of the colonists that they were not of a desirable character.

(c) (i) No such case is on record.

(ii) and (iii) All complaints of this nature are enquired into on the spot and ample opportunity is given to the persons complained of to defend themselves. They have further a right of appeal to the Commissioner, of which they availed themselves in the cases cited above.

(d) The question is under the consideration of Government.

(Answer to Question No. 1115.)

(a) Yes, at the valuation fixed under the Land Acquisition Act.

(b) Yes, if the land were no longer required.

(c) This will be done after the linking up in connection with the Sutlej Valley Project is completed, and it is definitely known what lands are not required by Government.

FIXED TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE TO OVERSEERS AND SUB-OVERSEERS OF THE P. W. D.

1283. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : With reference to the reply given by Government to my question No. 572* on the 4th August last, will Government please state—

(a) if any representation has since been received by the Chief Engineer from the Overseers and Sub-Overseers of the Irrigation Branch asking for fixed travelling allowance in lieu of fixed horse allowance, and

(b) if Government has come to the decision in the matter?

If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, what is the decision come to?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :—

(a) Reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Reply is in the negative, but the matter will be considered at the time of the general review of the travelling allowance question in the beginning of April 1925.

SUBORDINATE AND PROVINCIAL ENGINEERING SERVICE.

1284. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: (1) Arising out of the answer to my question No. 1114* in the last session of the Council, will Government please state—

- (a) if it is not a fact that before the formation of the Subordinate and Provincial Engineering Services, the Sub-Engineers rising to Rs. 550, were selected from amongst the Overseers and Supervisors, and
- (b) if it is not a fact that many such subordinates, as the Subordinate Engineering Service now consists of, having in the past risen to Supervisor or Sub-Engineer grade, have been promoted to the Provincial Engineering Service?

(2) If the answers to (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, will Government consider the desirability either of creating a selection grade for such men as could under the old system rise to the Sub-Engineer's grade or promoting them to Provincial Engineering Service?

(3) With reference to the last sentence of the answer to part (c) of question No. 1114,* will the Government please say whether it has issued any orders or proposes to issue orders for the maintenance of a record showing who, amongst the members of the Subordinate Engineering Service, are qualified or may be qualified in future to hold charge of sub-divisions?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia:

(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(2) I have nothing to add to the reply given to (a), (b) and (d) of question No. 1114.

(3) Suitable action will be taken.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: With reference to the answer to part (b) of the question, will the Government please lay on the table a list of those officers of the Provincial Engineering Service who have been promoted from the Subordinate Engineering Service?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: Am I expected to give an answer to this question now? I should like to have notice of the question.

MUZAFFARGARH FLOODS.

1285. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if danger lines in Muzaffargarh District have been so well repaired as to prevent recurrence of floods in future? If not, what action does Government propose to take to prevent such recurrence?

(b) Will Government consider the desirability of reducing the rates of assessment proposed or levied before the floods so far as the flood affected areas are concerned?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia:

(a) The flood embankments in the Muzaffargarh District damaged by recent floods are being repaired and raised with the object of preventing recurrence of flooding in future.

(b) The liability of this area to floods is one of the many factors considered when assessment rates are framed.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : The answer given to part (b) of my question is not the answer that I want. I want to know whether the Government will consider the desirability of reducing the rates whatever they are.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : I cannot add anything to what is already contained in the answer.

ELECTION FOR CANTONMENT BOARDS.

1286. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : (i) (a) Will the Government please state when the elections for the Cantonment Board, Ambala, took place and what was the last date for these elections ?

(b) Have the results of these elections been notified in the *Punjab Gazette* ? If so, when ? If not, why not ? Will the Government expedite the publication of the notification ?

(ii) Will the Government please state in what other cantonments in the Punjab, cantonment board elections have taken place during the year 1924 and on what dates were such elections finished, and on what dates were the results of the elections notified in the *Punjab Government Gazette* ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (i) (a) The elections were held in November 1924, and the last date was the 10th December 1924.

(b) The results are being notified.

(ii) The Lahore Cantonment Board elections were completed on the 17th December 1924 and the results are being notified. The results of the Ferozepore elections due in 1924 have not yet been reported to Government.

TRANSFERS OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF COMMISSIONERS' OFFICES.

1287. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : (a) Will the Government please state whether any transfers of Superintendents of Commissioners' offices have recently taken place in the province, and if so, Superintendents of which offices, when and by whose orders and under what authority were these transfers made ?

(b) Is there any precedent for such transfers and, if so, when did it take place and under whose orders ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : (a) (i) Yes.

(ii) Ambala and Rawalpindi.

(iii) The exchange was effected in December 1924.

(iv) The orders were the orders of Government which has authority over the postings of its servants.

(b) No precedent was considered : but arrangements are under investigation to facilitate such transfers in future.

VETERINARY ASSISTANTS AND PRIVATE PRACTICE.

1288. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Is it a fact that veterinary assistants employed in the veterinary hospitals of the province are not allowed to practise privately ? If so, why ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Veterinary Assistants are not allowed to engage in private practice because they are wholetime Government Servants, and their pay is fixed on this basis.

INDIAN VETERINARY SERVICE.

1289. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Will the Government please state whether it has ever appointed any Indian to the Indian Veterinary Service ? If so, when, and if not, why not ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Yes. Mr. J. S. Garewal, who is at present Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, South Punjab Circle, Ferozepore. He was appointed to the Service on 29th January 1918.

TRAINING IN ENGLAND OF THE PROFESSORS OF THE PUNJAB VETERINARY COLLEGE.

1290. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Is it a fact that several professors of the Punjab Veterinary College, Lahore, have undergone training in England in various veterinary sciences at Government expense ? If so, will it please state the names of these gentlemen with their respective qualifications and the expenses incurred by the State on each of them ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : 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 PUNJAB VETERINARY COLLEGE.

1291. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : (a) Will the Government please state the number of Hindu, Muhammadan and Sikh professors, assistant professors, house masters and wards-in-charge at the Punjab Veterinary College, Lahore, during each of the last seven years ?

(b) Will the Government please state the number of Hindu, Muhammadan and Sikh veterinary assistants and inspectors in the Province ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN THE PUNJAB VETERINARY COLLEGE DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

1292. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Will the Government please state the number of new appointments giving designations created in the Punjab Veterinary College during the last five years stating as to how many of these appointments were given to Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs, stating further the number of applicants of each community for the respective appointments ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

VETERINARY ASSISTANTS.

1293. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please state the number of veterinary assistants appointed during the past five years, stating the number of Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs appointed each year?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : A statement giving the required information is laid on the table :—

Year.	Hindus.	Muhammads.	Sikhs.
1920	2	9	3 = 14
1921	6	13	6 = 25
1922	6	10	7 = 23
1923	1	4	2 = 7
1924	5	9	5 = 19
Total ...	20	45	23 = 88

EMPLOYMENT FOR QUALIFIED VETERINARY ASSISTANTS.

1294. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : (a) Will the Government please state how many persons having qualified themselves as veterinary assistants have not yet been given appointments, stating the number of persons not so appointed and giving the year of their passing the diploma examination?

(b) Will the Government please state how many of the above persons have military service to their credit? If there be any such persons, will the Government please say whether it is proposed to give preference to such persons over others?

(c) Will the Government please state what it intends to do to insure service to all these persons who are duly qualified as Veterinary Assistants?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

VETERINARY DISPENSARIES.

1295. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : (a) Will the Government please state the total number of cattle in the province according to the last cattle census of the province and also state the number of veterinary dispensaries?

(b) Is the Government aware that the present number of dispensaries is quite inadequate for the needs of the province? If so, will it please state whether it has prepared any programme of expenditure in this sphere or not?

and if it has, will it please lay the programme on the table, and if no such programme has yet been chalked out, will it consider the desirability of framing one now ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chandhri Chhotu Ram : (a) At the census of 1923, there were 14.9 millions of cattle. The number of Veterinary Dispensaries in the Punjab is 179.

(b) No special programme of expenditure in this connection has been framed, but new dispensaries are being opened as financial conditions permit. Sanction has been accorded to the opening of twelve more dispensaries in 1925-26, if the necessary funds are voted by the Council in the budget.

DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT CULTURABLE LAND TO POOR CULTIVATORS IN
THE JULLUNDUR DOAB.

1296. Sardar Partap Singh : Will the Government please supply the following information regarding Jullundur Doab (Jullundur and Hoshiarpur Districts)—

(a) the number of agriculturists—

- (i) who have no agricultural holdings at all ;
- (ii) who have only nominal holdings of a few canals ;
- (iii) who have five or less than five acres of land ;
- (iv) who have more than five, but less than ten acres of land ;

(b) the extent of Government uncultivated culturable land in the Punjab ;

(c) how Government proposes to distribute this land for cultivation ;

(d) whether Government has ever considered the desirability of granting some land to those poor cultivators who have very little or no culturable land in their possession and, if not, whether it will do so during the next distribution ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) No such figures are available.

(b) Approximately 1,300,000 acres.

(c) No proposals have been formulated.

(d) Whenever colony operations are contemplated the relief of congested districts is one of the factors which are considered before the Colony Scheme is finally approved.

INSPECTION REPORT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE JAIL COMMITTEE ON THE JAILS
VISITED BY THEM.

1297. Sardar Partap Singh : (a) Will Government please state the names of the jails which the members of the Jails Standing Committee have visited since the right of visiting certain jails as non-official visitors has been conferred upon them ?

(b) Will Government please lay on the table the inspection reports of the members of the said committee, if any ?

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.

GRANT OF LAND TO CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

1298. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din : (a) Will Government be pleased to state how much land each of the following members of this Council has been granted since 1921, either individually or jointly with some other person or persons :—

- (1) The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain,
- (2) Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath,
- (3) Sayad Muhammad Husain,
- (4) Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram ?

(b) Will Government be also pleased to state the name or names of the Financial Commissioner or Financial Commissioners on whose recommendation the grants were made to the above-named members ?

(c) What public services were rendered by each of the above-named members, in recognition of which a grant of land was recommended and awarded to him ?

(d) Which members of the Council, other than the four named above, have been granted Government lands during the years 1921—24 and in recognition of what public services ; and who were the Financial Commissioners who recommended grants to them ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) No grant has been given to any of the gentlemen, named in part (a) of the question.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The reply is in the negative.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will the Government please say with reference to what public service rendered by the questioner the title of 'Khan Bahadur' has been conferred on him ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Does that relate to the present question ? (Laughter).

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : It is in consonance with the spirit of the question.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : If a reply is required, I should say 'the same that you rendered'.

RESOLUTIONS.

RESOLUTION RE INTERMEDIATE COLLEGE FOR THE KANGRA DISTRICT.

Chaudhri Ram Singh [Kangra Non-Muhammadan, Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move the resolution standing in my name which reads :—

"This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that an Intermediate College be immediately opened at some central place in the Kangra District."

The District of Kangra extends over an area of hundreds of miles. The Kulu Tahsil is situated at a distance of 130 miles from the Railway Station of Pathankot and the Ilagas of Lahul and Suraj lie at a distance of 100 miles further on. It has a population of 7 lakhs and 3 quarters, and if a district is really worthy of being called a purely zamindar district it is this district of Kangra which is populated by more than 90 per cent. of Hindu agriculturists. The financial position of the people is very bad. They cannot afford to send their children for higher education to a far off place like Lahore, because it is more than their short pockets can pay. The climate of the district is cold and the students of this place suffer very much from the hot and unhealthy climate of the plains. They contract many diseases and cases of sun stroke are numerous. They, under the circumstances, discontinue their studies and go back to their homes. In the whole of this district there is only one Government High School and two District Board High Schools and five private high schools. There is no doubt that Government does grant aids to these schools but all the same they are due to private enterprises. Education not being available near their homes, these people do not go out to obtain it because of their poverty. This fact accounts for their backwardness in all the phases of life. They are backward all round. There are no railway lines and traffic is done through the agency of motor cars. This means of communication even is not allowed to go without a number of discouragements. Therefore, if education were spread more widely in this district, the people of this district will as well progress and take their proper share in the healthy life of the country. Through lack of education alone they are far behind every district. There are 8 high schools in the district—one Government school at Dharamsala, another mission school at Palampur, a third belonging to the Arya Samaj at Kangra, and another to the same community at Dera Gopipur, two run by the District Board at Hamirpur and Kulu and another by the zamindars at Salaha and the eighth one started by that large-hearted venerable gentleman Rai Sahib Chaudhri Malla Singh. The people in spite of their poverty have got so many high schools for the spread of education in that district, it is, therefore, the duty of the Government to encourage them by opening a second grade college in the District. The college will have sufficient supply of students from these 8 Schools. Not only that, the States of Mandi and Chamba also along with the States of Rampur, Bishahr and Bilaspur will send their students to Kangra instead of any other place. It is better to have a college at Kangra than at Simla where expenses will be far greater.

The Government's policy has been to encourage the spread of education in backward communities. I submit that the whole of the said district is backward in education. I, therefore, hope that no time will be lost in opening a college there. I further hope that the Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain will take pity on the people of this district. The Director of Public Instruction has already promised to consider the question favourably in reply to a resolution passed by the District Board, Dharamsala. Last September a resolution was passed by the people of the district and similar other resolutions were passed in various other meetings. Lastly, I beg to submit that the people of this ilaga have rendered meritorious war services to the Government, hundreds of people belonging to this district gave up their lives for their King and country and thousands of them are still serving in the army. I, therefore, hope that in recognition of their services and their backwardness the Council will support this resolution and the Government will accept it.

Mr. President : Resolution moved runs :

"That this Council recommends to the Governor in Council that an Intermediate College be immediately opened at some central place in the Kangra District."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

Sir George Anderson (Director of Public Instruction) : Sir, I am very glad indeed that the honourable mover has had not only the inclination but also the opportunity of moving this resolution on this most important subject of Intermediate Colleges. This is not the first occasion, Sir, on which this matter has been under the consideration of this Council. Last March there was a most valuable debate in which the general principles which should guide the creation and the development of these institutions, their methods of teaching and the scope of their studies were discussed. In consequence of that debate and in view of many of the opinions which were voiced during that debate, the Honourable the Minister for Education approved the circulation of a letter which was addressed to the principals of the five colleges concerned, in which the general aims and objects of this new type of institution were laid down. I intend with two of my colleagues, to visit in the immediate future, these colleges to see how far their beginnings have been satisfactory and to inquire whether any modifications or improvements are indicated.

The present debate, as I understand it, Sir, is not concerned with the larger question of the advisability of this new type of college or the scope of its teaching, but rather with the locality or localities in which they can most conveniently be located in the future. My honourable friend, the mover of this resolution, is of opinion that there should be such a college in the Kangra District, though he has not yet made up his mind as to the particular place in which it should be started. I notice, however, that my honourable friend, Lala Mohan Lal, is going to move an amendment. As we should all expect, he is one of those strong men who make up their minds quickly and come to a decision and stick to it (Hear, hear). He has no doubts, he is confident, he is assured that the place of all places where such a college should be located is inevitably 'Dharmasala.'

I am very glad indeed that I have had this early opportunity of catching your eye and of taking part in this debate at an early stage. In the first place, I am keenly anxious to express to my friends opposite that their proposals will be examined in the Education Department with every sympathy and with every care and as expeditiously as possible. In the second place I desire to place before the Council a few facts and figures which are pertinent to this debate. In the third place, I wish to suggest a few principles which should guide the selection of suitable localities for Intermediate Colleges in the future.

In the first place, it seems to me that we should review the general standard of education in a district and also the rate of progress that has been made during the last few years. I shall therefore give a few facts and figures.

In the matter of primary schools, in the last four years, in the Kangra District the number has advanced from 195 to 211; that is, an increase of 16 schools only. This is rather disappointing. I have often made enquiries on this matter and have been told that the very small increase is due to the fact that a large number of private schools were abandoned a few years ago. As a result of further discussion, I am glad to say that this policy of discouragement has been abandoned; and therefore I do not think

that we need take too seriously the somewhat disappointing increase in the number of primary schools. If we turn to the number of secondary schools, we find a far more satisfactory advance. The number has increased from 33 to 44, an advance of eleven. In the matter of high schools, two years ago, there were only two such schools, but there are now as many as seven. Turning to the number of pupils, I find that in the last four years the number in the Kangra district has increased by 5,000. In the province as a whole the number of additional pupils during the last four years amounts to the large figure of 350,000. Thus the average increase for each district is about 12,000. I have here also the figures for the last year. In Kangra the increase amounted to 1,403. I shall now mention some figures regarding other districts. My honourable friend Pandit Nanak Chand will be glad to hear that Hissar shows an increase of 2,732. Rohtak shows an increase of 5,652; Karnal one of 5,171; Hoshiarpur one of 7,379; Lyallpur one of 5,000; Jhang one of 3,294; and I feel sure that it will gladden the generous heart of my friend, Pir Muhammad Hussain when I tell the Council that Montgomery has beaten Hoshiarpur by a short head and come out first. I have not mentioned these figures in any way to disparage the efforts of Kangra, far from it. We must bear in mind that, as has been stated by my honourable friend, there are great difficulties in its way. There are the difficulties of communication and of scanty funds. I think that the figures I have read are such that Kangra may well be congratulated.

In regard to the more important matter of grants, I am glad to state that Government has been in no way niggardly. Four years ago, its grants amounted to Rs. 70,000, but they now amount to Rs. 1,30,000. In the high classes of Kangra, there are 275 pupils, of whom 101 are in the matriculation class.

The second principle which should be considered in this matter is whether or not there is a suitable building available for the purpose; for I am sure that the Council will agree with me that, if possible, we should refrain from constructing entirely new buildings. This consideration has weighed much with Government in the immediate past. In Campbellpur, for example, the new Normal School building was rendered available by our new policy of amalgamating as far as possible vernacular training classes with existing high schools. At Gujrat and Lyallpur the existence of many good private schools in those towns enabled the Government to abandon the middle classes of the Government schools so that the buildings of the Government high schools in each place were rendered available for the new Intermediate College. I regret very much that I can give no information on this subject in regard to Kangra. On this point I wish to make a confession to the Council. Such is my ardent love of economy that, though I have held my present post for more than four years, I have hitherto resisted the temptation of making the somewhat expensive visit to delightful Kangra. I can, however, assure my honourable friends opposite that I can resist that temptation no longer, but shall visit Kangra as soon as possible to see how far the necessary buildings are available and to hear at first hand what great things are being done in Kangra. There is a third consideration which should be borne in mind. We should distribute these colleges as fairly and as widely as possible so that they may be accessible to those that are far as well as to those that are nigh.

[Sir George Anderson]

I shall therefore give the figures showing the number of colleges in each division. In Lahore there are ten. This large number is to be expected because the Lahore Division includes the large towns of Lahore and Amritsar. There are six colleges in Lahore, two at Amritsar, the Guru Nanak College at Gujranwala and the Murray College at Sialkot. In Jullundur Division there are four colleges if we include the college in Kapurthala State, the other three being the college at Ferozepore, the D. A. V. College at Jullundur and the Government Intermediate College at Ludhiana. In Ambala Division there are two colleges if we include the college of the Patiala State, the other being the Benarsi Das College at Ambala Cantonment. In Rawalpindi Division there are four colleges, two being situated in Rawalpindi itself, the D. A. V. and the Gordon Mission Colleges; and the two Intermediate Colleges recently constituted at Campbellpur and Gujrat. In Multan Division again there are two, namely, the two Intermediate Colleges at Multan and Lyallpur.

Another consideration, which should be borne in mind in arriving at a decision, is undoubtedly hygienic surroundings and a salubrious climate. I have never been to Kangra, and therefore I cannot speak of its climate, but my friend has assured me that when I go there next April I can be sure of a very cold reception (laughter).

There is also the matter of donations. Of course, donations assist very materially in coming to a favourable decision and I have heard rumours that we may expect a large donation from Kangra which will be taken into consideration.

The Honourable Minister for Education, who intends to take part in the debate later, has asked me to state one further fact. He hopes to ask the Council for two demands in the next budget session. The first is for the construction of buildings at Ludhiana which has been waiting for a very long time, and the second is for the conversion of the Normal School building at Rohtak into a building suitable for an Intermediate College, much on the same lines as were adopted in Campbellpur last year.

In conclusion, I can only say once again to my friends opposite that I am very glad that they have taken this opportunity of moving this resolution; and I assure them that so far as the Education Department is concerned, their proposals will be examined with every possible care.

Lala Mohan Lal [North-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban]
(Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move :—

“That for the words ‘some central place’ the word ‘Dharmasala’ be substituted.”

The main object of my amendment is to specify a place where an Intermediate College could be located incurring the smallest possible expenditure. I thank the Honourable Minister for Education and the Director of Public Instruction for their giving a favourable consideration to the question of opening an Intermediate College in Kangra when the time comes. A College in the Kangra District would serve two-fold purposes that is, it would help the inhabitants of Simla District and the people of the mountainous tracts of the Hoshiarpur District. There is one more point in favour of the Kangra District, namely, there is a Government High School at Dharmasala which has a very spacious building and a Boarding House.

Thus a College can very easily be established without incurring heavy expenditure. The only expenditure that is likely to be borne is the provision for a good staff.

(At this stage the honourable member inquired, from the Director of Public Instruction if he could follow him in Urdu, if not he was prepared to speak in English. The Director of Public Instruction preferring his speech in English, the honourable member continued in English.)

Sir, I was speaking on the amendment that I have proposed, that is to say, for the words 'some central place' the word 'Dharamsala' be substituted. My reason for having a college at Dharamsala is that Dharamsala possesses a fine building. There is a high school there and attached to that school is the boarding house which can be used for a college. There may be other places in Kangra District, but I understand that the policy of the Education Department in the matter of opening colleges just explained by the Director of Public Instruction is that it should be the least expensive, and from that point of view I assure the Director of Public Instruction and the Honourable Minister for Education that Kangra District does possess such a building, and that a building exists at Dharamsala. There are middle classes at Dharamsala which can be shifted to a hired building and the Intermediate College for the Kangra District can be very well located at Dharamsala. My friend Chaudhri Ram Singh, while moving his resolution, has put the claim of the Kangra District in forceful language and I need not add much to it. This much I must inform the House that the area of the Kangra District is about 4,000 square miles and as Chaudhri Ram Singh has explained that from Pathankot to Hoshiarpur District and from Hoshiarpur District right up to the northern end of Kulu there is a distance of 129 miles. The whole of this hilly district, whether Kangra or Simla, is inhabited by zamindars, and if Government wants to help the zamindars, this is the matter that should receive preferential treatment at the hands of Government. During the period of the war, as the honourable members are aware, the Kangra District supplied about 14,000 recruits. The number on the 1st January 1915 of recruits in the Army was 4,000, during the period of the war it was raised to 18,000. Kangra is a poor district, as has been submitted by Chaudhri Ram Singh, but still during the period of the war the Kangra zamindars gave two lakhs of rupees for war charities and they contributed over six lakhs of rupees towards the War Loan.

Another factor which should appeal to the House is that in the whole of the Kangra District I was reading the Census Report only to-day, there are only 25,000 educated people in the whole of the district. This district being backward from the educational point of view requires the immediate help from Government and I put this point also for the consideration of the Honourable Minister.

I would not like to repeat the arguments that have been advanced by Chaudhri Ram Singh, and I think our case has been sufficiently strongly put. I thank the Director of Public Instruction and the Honourable Minister for Education for their kind and sympathetic reply that has been given to this resolution. With these words I resume my seat.

Mr. President: Resolution under discussion, amendment moved—

"That For the words 'some central place' the word 'Dharamsala' be substituted.")

The question is that that amendment be made.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] : Sir, there is not much use making many speeches on resolutions and amendments of this nature. I suppose most of us hold the view that second grade colleges should be established in almost every district in course of time. So I too give my whole-hearted support both to the resolution and the amendment, namely, that a college should be opened at Kangra or at Dharamsala. I beg to suggest to the honourable mover that if this resolution is sent to the Education Committee of this Council, I think the matter can be decided there. Instead of putting it before the Council let the Education Committee decide whether there is a necessity for opening this college very soon or in the immediate future. I therefore suggest that the honourable movers of the resolution and the amendment will accept my suggestion that the matter be referred to the Education Committee for consideration and decision.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Punjab University) : I feel, Sir, a certain amount of difficulty in speaking about this resolution inasmuch as while my sympathies as a teacher of some standing go entirely with the mover and the seconder of this resolution, at the same time I feel

Mr. President : Order, order. I think the speeches that are to be made after the amendment has been moved must be confined to the amendment; speeches on the resolution can follow when the amendment has been disposed of.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : About the amendment, Sir, I have nothing to say. It is immaterial to me whether the college is opened at one place or another.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : I am afraid it is not quite so immaterial to me as it happens to be to Professor Ruchi Ram. Dharamsala has not had a very good reputation in the matter of safety of human life. If I am not mistaken there have been some outbursts, mineral or sulphuric outburst not intellectual outbursts, with the result that people are buried underground, buildings tumble down and all sorts of disasters take place. I am not sure whether Dharamsala would be the best place wherein to locate a college if a college is to be located somewhere in the Kangra District. The matter of the selection of a place requires very careful consideration. There is a great deal of force in what the honourable member for Montgomery and other districts that he represents has said that the selection of a place in our programme of expansion of four year institutions is not an easy matter and is not one which can be discussed in this Council. If the matter is desired to be placed before the Education Standing Committee, I will be prepared to consult that body. So far as this amendment is concerned I think it is not right that this Council should commit itself to any particular place.

3 P.M.

Pandit Nanak Chand : May I enquire whether the Standing Committee ever meets?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Standing Committees meet oftener than the members care to attend them.

Pandit Nanak Chand : No meeting of the Standing Committee for Education has ever been fixed for the last one year.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member is talking of the Education Committee in particular. We have had meetings of the Public Health Committee, Local Self-Government Committee, and I may assure the honourable member, if he is a member of the Education Committee that he will have the pleasure of meeting his colleagues very soon.

Mr. President : I should like to enquire if the suggestion made by Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram and which the Honourable Minister has said he would carry out if acceptable to the honourable movers of the resolution and of the amendment, is acceptable to them? If they are prepared to accept the suggestion, I might put it to the House instead of the amendment or the resolution.

Lala Mohan Lal : Sir, I beg to withdraw my amendment in view of what the Honourable Minister has said. I only suggested Dharmasala, because I thought it was the central place in the district.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Chaudhri Ram Singh : I have no objection to accepting the suggestion that the resolution be considered by the Education Committee, but I do not want to withdraw the resolution.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Sir, the member who moved the resolution does not want the discussion to be stopped on the assurance that the matter will be considered by the Standing Committee. He wants to have the discussion carried on.

Mr. President : I would allow the discussion to continue, as there is a desire in the House that the discussion should continue.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Punjab University) : Sir, last March when the question of intermediate colleges in certain places was under discussion, I said something about the type of colleges which should be started. I may say at the very outset that I am in a difficult position, because while I sympathise entirely with those who want to start these colleges I am afraid I cannot support the resolution, if it is only the type of colleges that are started nowadays in various places that is required in the Kangra District. If this is the type of college that is required, then I may say that we will not be doing the best with the public money. I do not say the money will be thrown away, but I do say that a great deal more can be done with that money than is being done by starting these colleges. Sir, I would suggest that this question of the kind of college that should be started should be taken up by the Education Sub-Committee and I do expect and hope that this would be done during this year. When I made that suggestion last time during the budget session I expected that this would be done. As that has not been done, I hope it will be done in the near future. The Committee should prepare a scheme as to where colleges are needed, in what order these colleges need be started and whether these colleges will be private ones helped by Government grant-in-aid or whether they would be Government colleges. I would personally welcome the starting of private colleges with such assistance as the Government can give. I would first allow colleges to be started where self-help is forthcoming, reserving Government money for starting colleges where there is no one to start a private college. I should once again like to emphasise the fact that these colleges should be of the approved type. What

[Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni.]

I mean is, I do not want to go over the ground that I traversed in my speech last year, but I do want to emphasise the point that literary education should be combined with some kind of technical education. The time has come at last when intermediate colleges should give vocational training also. We should once for all in the education committee discuss the various kinds of technical subjects which can be taught in various places. The same subjects need not be taught in all the colleges in the various places. I believe and hope that my suggestion will receive the careful attention that it deserves. Of course I quite realise that it will take sometime to work out my scheme, but when that scheme has been worked out then it will be time to start those colleges. I have been saying all these to the Honourable Minister for Agriculture, because I find that a college is going to be started next year, in Rohtak, for which preparations are being now made by way of buildings, etc. I was speaking to him and asking him, as he is particularly interested in that locality to see that the type of college that is to be started is of that type which will lead to industrial development of the province. In the west the newer universities such as the University of Leeds and the University of Birmingham are all mixed universities if I may say so. They are not purely literary universities like the old seats of learning at Cambridge and Oxford. Even the London University has been very largely industrialised during the last 8 or 10 years. The newer universities like the ones that I have named and several others in England are universities of the dual type, the industrial education being combined with literary education. This is the ideal, Sir towards which we should work.

Sardar Jodh Singh [Sikh (Urban)]: Sir, I am sorry, I cannot agree with the remarks made, by my predecessor Professor Ruchi Ram. The Standing Education Committee of the Punjab Legislative Council is not a committee of experts to devise new educational schemes. It is not expected to be that because members of this legislature are not elected with that end in view. It has merely to watch the educational policy of the department or to give suggestions to it. I am myself a member of that Committee, but I do not think that if we send this suggestion to the Committee, namely, that they should evolve a scheme for a new type of colleges, they will be able to do that. What I want to say is that I doubt whether they will at all be able to evolve a new kind of college. That can be better done by a committee of experts which the department may appoint solely for that purpose. Then, Sir, as to the necessity of a new type of college there are no two opinions. Up to this time members have been making merely suggestions or rather they have been expressing pious wishes for the existence of such colleges, without suggesting anything definite as to what they ought to be. As to the practical experiments made in that direction I have got a very unfortunate experience myself. I was the Principal of the Gujranwala College and there this idea was suggested and one of those gentlemen who suggested this idea, was Professor Ruchi Ram.

Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni: But my scheme was never worked out.

Sardar Jodh Singh: I did not say that the scheme suggested by Professor Ruchi Ram was worked out. What I want to say is that an attempt was made to evolve a new type of college with the result that all the professors that were already there had to leave the institution because at one time we found that the number of professors was larger than the number of students. After two years' experience in that direction, that college had again to be affiliated to the Punjab University. What I want to say is that the spread

of education cannot wait till we have evolved a new type of college which will attract students and which will benefit them. Therefore the scheme of opening new intermediate colleges might go on because when we have got a ready scheme for something which is more beneficial to the people these colleges can at once be converted to that sort of institutions. Therefore, Sir, if the department has got money.....

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : They have not got money.

Sardar Jodh Singh : The Honourable the Minister for Education says he has not got money. Perhaps he may get the money if he somehow or other propitiates the Honourable Member for Finance. I do not think this scheme of opening intermediate colleges need wait till we have evolved a new type of college. If at all any change in the curriculum of our school or college education is to be made, my suggestion is that the department should call for a conference or appoint a committee of experts to see what change it is possible to make. There is no use citing the example of Sheffield or any other institution in European countries. They have evolved those schools because the product of those schools and colleges can easily find work in the industrial concerns which abound in those countries. Here, supposing we open a particular sort of industrial school, then the question at once arises, where will the products of those schools be absorbed? In this connection, I may cite one example. We opened an agricultural college at Lyallpur, but to attract students to it certain appointments had to be created first. I remember attending one meeting there where the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province especially mentioned that students of that College would be taken in such and such Government jobs. Surely if we are starting industrial schools simply for this purpose, namely, that certain Government jobs should be opened for them, then we are not creating the right sort of institutions. If industrial colleges are to be opened they are to be opened for this purpose, that the graduates or the alumni of these colleges are to start in independent careers and are not to look solely to Government service. I submit, Sir, that up to this time no scheme for such a college or school has been submitted so far as my knowledge goes. Only vague suggestions have been made in certain newspapers and even in certain educational institutions, but no practical suggestions have been put forward till now.

Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni : Question.

Sardar Jodh Singh : My honourable friend questions my statement. I will just ask him to show one institution where something is being done in that direction. I therefore submit that this proposal from the honourable member for Kangra should not be shelved till a scheme for a new college has been evolved. As I said in the very beginning, until a better scheme is forthcoming, the Education Department should look favourably on this proposal.

Dr. Gokul Chand Narang [North-West Towns (non-Muhammadan), Urban] : Sir, I did not intend to make a speech on this subject because I expected that no speeches would be required and that the resolution would be readily accepted. But it seems there is some difference of opinion relating to the nature of the institution which is sought to be established in the district which has been indicated in the resolution. I may at once say that what Professor Ruchi Ram has said meets with my entire approval, that is, that it is time that we should have industrial institutions in this country. But unfortunately it is only a consummation which, though devoutly to be wished,

[Dr. Gokul Chand Narang.]

is not likely to be achieved in the near future and the difficulty which I feel and many people who have given their thought to this question feel is this. Industrial education cannot prosper and cannot become popular in a country where there are no openings for those who qualify themselves in industrial institutions. Some jobs might be thrown open to those people who might get their diplomas at some agricultural college or at some engineering college, but that is not what can satisfy the requirements of a vast province like ours. Many people feel that the Government has not paid sufficient attention to the popularization of industrial education and that for a very good reason. I do not think I entirely disagree with them. The reason is that the Government itself is practically in the hands of a people who are themselves an industrial nation. It is not to their interest to popularize industrial education in this country. If India was under the ancient Romans and the ancient Romans had continued as they were 2,000 years ago, living by the sword, conquering the world not by trading and trading companies, but simply at the point of the bayonet and with the help of their good bright swords, probably the industrial condition of this country would have been entirely different. But as it is, the encouragement of industrial education in this country and the necessary complement for the popularization of industrial education in this country, the establishment of factories and other institutions where people duly qualified in industrial education might find scope to show their skill has not received sufficient attention. If foundations are laid for such institutions in this country, they might mean the closing of similar institutions in other countries. This is the feeling which is prevalent among the people of this country, not only in this province, but in other provinces as well. We know that certain instances have led to the growth of this feeling. The great benefactor of India, the great Tata, placed a sum of 80 lakhs at the disposal of Government for the establishment of a research institute in some place in the Deccan. If I am not mistaken, it was in the good old days of Lord Curzon when he was the Viceroy and the Governor-General of this country. For years and years the scheme lay dormant. Nothing was done towards the achievement of the object with which that great benefactor of the Indian Nation had made that great donation. Then again, Sir, in such a vast province as this, we find not a single industrial institution, industrial in the sense that it would not only produce engineers and overseers and sub-overseers, but would produce men who can be put in charge of factories with actual practical knowledge which might help them in the development of industries in this country. This want has been keenly felt by the people, and I may say to my honourable friend Professor Ruchi Ram that his cry will be a cry in the wilderness, unless the Government of this country as a whole changes its policy and clears itself from the blame which many people lay at its doors that it is looking after the interests of the mother country and that it is ignoring the advancement of the industries of this country. In fact not only are they ignored, but the past history of a hundred years shows that the industries of this country have been deliberately destroyed. That feeling is present in the minds of all people.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Is this relevant to the question under consideration ? It is a general attack on the policy of the Government in the matter of industries, but the question under discussion is whether an intermediate college should be opened at Kangra.

Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : Before you give your ruling, Sir, I would like to explain how it is relevant.

Mr. President : I was myself going to stop the honourable member from going on in the direction in which he was going on at any greater length. I was expecting that he would try to bring his remarks into touch with the question before the House. I am afraid the honourable member is going very much wider. I will ask him to confine himself now to the question of the location of a college for Kangra, after having said so much about the nature of the general industrial position of this country.

Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : My request for being heard before a ruling was given was not acceded to, but, however, I do not make a complaint of it. I bow to your ruling and would not dilate on this subject. Professor Ruchi Ram has raised the point that such institutions should be stopped and in their place institutions of a different kind should be established, but that is no reason for not establishing the institution which has been asked for by the mover of the resolution because that would be to quote the Punjabi proverb, "Radha will not dance unless nine maunds of antimony are supplied". It may be that we will have to wait till the crack of doom before institutions such as Professor Ruchi Ram wants can be established in this country and I would ask him to vote for this resolution and not withhold his vote on the ground. . . .

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : My vote is all right.

Dr. Gokul Chand Narang (continued): Thank you. I would make a similar request to those who might withhold their support to this resolution on the ground that such institutions are no longer required and that only industrial institutions should be established in this country.

Now, Sir, to come to the subject of the place or district for which an institution in the nature of an intermediate college is demanded, I would submit, Sir, that if I am not mistaken there is no college within 150 miles or so of Dharamsala which is said to be the central place of that district. I have myself had the good fortune of visiting Dharamsala before that great earthquake and I think Dharamsala is one of the finest places in the province and that students who would be living there would be having, the double benefit of education and also the benefit of living in a most healthy sanatorium.

Then again, I would submit, Sir, that the Kangra District is a district which is mostly populated by poor zamindars, and if there are any people here who are true in their professions of sympathy for the poor zamindars, I hope they would support this resolution which has been moved by a zamindar himself in the interests of the zamindars. To come to Lahore or to go to Jullundur over a distance of 150 miles even if we were to assume that there was sufficient scope and accommodation for them in Jullundur, I would submit, would entail a heavy expense which the poor people of the Kangra District cannot afford to bear. That is a very strong reason why education should be taken to their homes because they cannot leave their homes to receive education in a place like Lahore. Since we were students at college, expenses have risen tremendously and where formerly, 20 or 25 years ago, we managed to live with ease and comfort on Rs. 25 or Rs. 30, for the same comforts the students to-day require something like Rs. 60 or Rs. 70 and even more. I would submit that one of the greatest reasons why a college should be established in the Kangra Dis-

[Dr. Gokul Chand Naurang].

trict is the comparative poverty of the people. And who are these people? They are mainly Rajputs, who have shed their blood for the British Empire and who have fought in all the fields where the British have been called upon to defend justice and right and to destroy oppression and tyranny. They are the people who fought shoulder to shoulder with the British and have profusely poured out their life blood wherever a demand has been made upon them in the interests of the British Empire which might be and are said to be synonymous with the interests of right and justice. I would therefore submit that we should not wait so long, we might be waiting too long, and we should take up the question now. It would have been a very good thing if the Honourable the Minister for Education had stood up at once as soon as the resolution was proposed and declared that he would give his best consideration to this proposal and view it as favourably as he can. If that assurance had come, no speeches would have been necessary, probably he would have been voicing the feelings of the whole House assembled here irrespective of caste or creed. I need not take the time of the Council any more, but I would close with only one remark that last year we approved of the establishment of three intermediate colleges in this Province in certain districts, in Gujrat, for instance, if I am not mistaken, which is only at a distance of 30 miles from Gujranwala where a college is in existence, one at Campbellpur which is, I believe, at a distance of 40 or 45 miles from Rawalpindi where there are more colleges than one and another at Lyallpur which is in the close vicinity of Lahore and I hope that the honourable members of this House would readily support this resolution which is for the establishment of a similar institution at a place where the nearest college is at a distance of 150 miles.

Chandhri Duli Chand [Karnal (Non-Muhammadian), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, to-day I hold a very strange position so far as the resolution under discussion is concerned. I am both against and in favour of the resolution. I am in favour of this resolution to this extent only that a college should be established in the Kangra District. I am of the opinion that there should be started an intermediate college in each District and a first grade college in each Division of the Province. But to raise limitations that such and such college should be established within a fixed time is objectionable, because, if a resolution with such limitations be passed, the Education Department being a transferred subject there is every possibility of some other district having superior claims being left behind.

If we go on adopting suggestions like the present one we would naturally have recourse to taxation. We know it well that the rural population has already had enough of taxation and the urban population has also been recently taxed by the Government. After balancing the budget we can open one college at the most and as such, if the resolution is accepted it would mean that the claims of the Rohtak District would be left in the background. I can say without any fear of contradiction that Gurgaon, Karnal and Hissar are the most backward districts so far as education is concerned. Of course we find a college some 150 miles from Kangra District, but the three above-mentioned districts are twice as far away from that college as Kangra is. If a college is established in Kangra this year it would be tantamount to depriving the Hindu zamindar population of the Rohtak District from the benefits of an intermediate college.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: May I ask the honourable member whether it has not been already settled that a college should be opened at Rohtak?

Chaudhri Duli Chand (Urdu): If a college is opened at Kangra, I fear the opening of a college at Rohtak will be abandoned. At least that is what I can gather from the wording of the resolution.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: I should like to make it clear to the learned speaker that it is not at all the intention of any member of this House that the interests of Rohtak or the requirements of Rohtak should be postponed to those of Kangra and I think the learned mover will agree that a college may be opened at Rohtak and then immediately after or as immediately after as possible at Kangra.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education): Sir, may I make the position clear in order to facilitate the discussion which this, to my mind, innocent resolution appears to have invoked. The coming year, 1925-26, we are told by the Finance Department, is a deficit year, and we are given a very small amount of money for fresh expenditure. Out of that money we have been able to spare money for only one intermediate college during the year 1925-26 and that also for its constructional changes—the college will be started in the year following that. The present resolution says that this college should be established immediately, which, I presume, means during the next year, i.e., 1925-26. If we are to open this college immediately, certainly we can do that by substituting it for the one which we at present contemplate opening. Sir George Anderson in his speech made it amply clear that Kangra's interests have been nearest to the heart of the Education Department and the Minister who presides over that department. I cannot say anything more than what Sir George Anderson has said, and I think that would be enough to stop any further discussion on this resolution or the later one No. 4 * dealing with the same subject.

Chaudhri Ram Singh (Urdu): I do not stand in the way of the establishment of an intermediate college in the Rohtak District, but what I want to emphasize is this that a college be opened first in the Rohtak District and then in the Kangra District.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education): I have consulted the Director of Public Instruction. He has not seen the district yet and I have not had the privilege of seeing it either, with the result that I cannot give an undertaking that in the following year, that is 1926-27, Kangra would be the one that we will take up, but I can give you the assurance that Kangra's case will be considered along with any other case that may come up. Our inclination will be to do more for Kangra than for any other district.

Mr. President (addressing Chaudhri Duli Chand): In the face of the Honourable Minister's assurance do you still wish to speak?

Chaudhri Duli Chand: Yes, Sir (continued in Urdu): Sir, I am satisfied so far as the question under consideration concerns the Rohtak District. But I would not like the idea that the literate percentage of a part of the province should be allowed to rise as high as 90 per cent. and the people of another part should remain as ignorant and illiterate as ever. There are many backward classes in the above-mentioned districts such as Gujars, Ahirs, but the Government has not cared to provide educational

* Vide at the bottom of page 67, *infra*.

[Chaudhri Duli Chand.]

facilities to these people. I would request the Government to pay more heed to the spread of education in the Rohtak, Karnal, Gurgaon and Hissar Districts. A great difficulty has arisen since the establishment of a University at Delhi. No scholarship-holder of the Punjab University can join any college affiliated to the former University without losing the benefit of his well-earned scholarship, which means that the student has to incur heavy expenditure in coming over to Lahore and joining some college here.

As the honourable member Professor Ruchi Ram has remarked I hold that some sort of industrial education should be imparted in these intermediate colleges, but I further add that there may be some sort of military and agricultural training as well in them. In the end I request the Government that intermediate colleges be opened in places where they are required most urgently.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural]: Sir the honourable member who has preceded me has always been insisting that a college should be opened in this district or that. I go a little beyond. I do not say that a college be opened in one district or another, but I wish to bring to the notice of the House the grievance of a whole division. That division includes the districts of Rohtak, Hissar and Gurgaon for which my honourable friend has pleaded so forcibly. The Ambala Division has long been ignored by the Punjab Government. It is very kind of it that it has now diverted its attention to that division. We are thankful to Government for that and we hope that the Government will continue to pay that attention to the Ambala Division. This is one of the biggest divisions in the province, but it has been ignored so far as the educational activities of the Government are concerned. I am not, of course, opposed to the opening of a college in Kangra, rather I wish that the college asked for by my friend may be opened as early as possible; but I wish to submit that the necessities of Ambala are greater than the necessities of the Kangra District. Before we think of opening a college we should take into consideration the number of high schools and other educational institutions which will serve as feeders to the college. So far as statistics go, I see that the number of schools in the Kangra District do not warrant the opening of a college there as immediately as my friend insists upon. The educational returns of last year make it absolutely clear that the Ambala District stands perhaps the first or the second of the districts in the whole province as regards the number of high schools. In Ambala city itself, of course it includes the cantonment—there are seven high schools and then there is a high school at every tahsil head-quarters. There are several high schools even at places which are not tahsil head-quarters or district head-quarters. In all, we have about a dozen high schools, not to speak of middle schools and lower middle schools. On the other hand, the Kangra District has not got more than three or four high schools. In these circumstances—of course I do not say that Kangra does not require a college, rather I say it does require a college as any other district—the claims of the Ambala District are far greater than those of the Kangra District, at the present moment. For the same expenditure that will have to be incurred from the provincial revenues, there will be a larger number of pupils coming in in the Ambala District than in the Kangra District and thus so much of public money which is being spent on those pupils coming for Lahore from other places will be saved. I do make out a case for Ambala

rather than for Rohtak, because Ambala happens to be the head-quarters of a division and the head-quarters of a division are to be considered more important than the head-quarters of a district. Rohtak may have a college, but Ambala deserves it more than Rohtak.

Chaudhri Ram Singh [Kangra (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, the honourable Professor Ruebi Ram has said that our scheme of education should be amended. I quite agree with him, but I submit that if so many colleges have already been started on the old scheme another as well may be started, and if the scheme is amended at some later time it can be amended in this college as well. The consideration of a suitable building available without any further cost seems to have weighed much with the Director of Public Instruction. In connection with it I may say that I am not particular about the college being started at one place of the District or the other, I only want

a college somewhere in the Kangra District. But if the question of the expenses on the building is the only consideration then I present this letter from Rai Sahib Chaudhri Malla Singh, a copy of which has been sent to the Director of Public Instruction through the Inspector of Schools. In it the gentleman says that in the event of the college being opened in Indora he will be glad to give a donation of 20 thousand rupees, and if more money is needed he will supplement it by another five or ten thousands and I hope if I approach him he can be made to purchase a site for the college as well.

(And then addressing Rai Baladur Lala Sewak Ram who had asked him something.)

He has already opened a school at Indora at a cost of four lakhs of rupees

Mr. President : Order, Order, the honourable member must address the chair.

Chaudhri Ram Singh : Sir, I have a copy of the letter with me. The Director of Public Instruction has already been informed.

Now I must turn to the remarks of my friend Chaudhri Duli Chand. Only yesterday he said that he is the representative of the Hindu zamindars ; but in spite of his professions he first opposed the resolution on the excuse of demanding a college for Rohtak before Kangra, but when that objection had been removed, he began to fight for other districts as if Kangra is not a Hindu District. He is not our representative. If he had been so why should he have opposed the resolution. I do wish that colleges were opened in each district. I do not oppose it, nor have I ever done so in the past, but I do want a college for Kangra which is a necessity. Kangra is one of the most backward districts. Its population is about 8 lakhs, out of which 25,000 are literate. Chaudhri Duli Chand has objected to it without any reason. I can only withdraw the resolution on one condition, and that is this, that a college be first opened at Rohtak and after that at Kangra in preference to the claims of any other place. If the Honourable Minister for Education agrees to this condition I will be glad to withdraw my resolution, but if he does not give an undertaking to that effect, I must stick to it and see if the Council which consists of a majority of agriculturists who are very loud in their sympathy for the zamindars are true in their professions. With these words I resume my seat.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) (Urdu) : Sir, the motion before the House is that an intermediate college be immediately opened at some central place in the Kangra District. The word "immediately" means that before an intermediate college is opened at Rohtak, an intermediate college be opened in the Kangra District. I am sorry to find that the honourable mover of this resolution has not fully grasped the meanings of my remarks on the subject, which I made a short while ago. The Director of Public Instruction and myself are responsible to this House for all matters connected with the educational activities of this province, and I cannot initiate a new measure without first consulting the Director of Public Instruction. We, both of us, have given our earnest attention to the subject under discussion and it has our whole-hearted sympathy, but I regret to say that I am not in a position to give immediate effect to the desire expressed by the honourable mover of this resolution, and I am therefore compelled to oppose this resolution. Now the question is whether the Education Department has or has not given its verdict against the opening of a college in Kangra. If I were to give an undertaking that the Education Department will pay due consideration to the wishes of the honourable member, and that it will open a college in Kangra as soon as it is possible, I am afraid the honourable member will not be content with this assurance. Whatever the honourable mover of this resolution has said about Kangra, the same can be repeated by the honourable member representing the Dera Ghazi Khan District in this Council. The Dera Ghazi Khan District is as big as the Kangra District. If there is dearth of literate men in the Kangra District, similar is the case with Dera Ghazi Khan District. If the students of the Kangra District find it rather difficult to leave their homes and come down to the plains for their education, a similar obstacle lies in the way of the students of the Dera Ghazi Khan District, where on account of the wide expanse of the river Indus, this district is almost cut off from the rest of the Punjab, especially during the rainy season.

During the last four years the Education Department has tried its level best to provide educational facilities for the rural backward classes in the Kangra District and it will not withdraw the helping hand so extended. The honourable member may rest assured of this.

The honourable mover of this resolution has said that the people of the Kangra District are prepared to pay twenty thousand rupees to Government, as part payment for the cost of the proposed college, but there are other districts which are prepared to pay as much as one lakh of rupees for the same purpose, and it is obvious that it would be more convenient for the Government to open a college at a place whose inhabitants are prepared to pay such a large sum of money. The opening of a college at Ambala has been under the consideration of the Education Department for the last two years, and we are of opinion that in accordance with the wishes of the founder of the Benarsi Das college, this college may be raised to the status of a Government College. The college has already got a building of its own and we shall not be required to spend anything on the building. Buildings are a very expensive affair and the Ludhiana four-year institution is likely to cost, after drastic cuts, very nearly five lakhs of rupees. Under these circumstances it is for this House to say whether I should overlook the claims of other districts and start a college in Kangra District or whether I should open colleges in other districts of the province which have prior claims on the Government.

I agree in principle to what has fallen from the lips of my honourable friend Professor Ruchi Ram and Dr. Narang and I do admire their lofty principles, but from a practical point of view their suggestions amount to little or nothing.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadans), Urban]: Sir, I just want to put one question. I have just been speaking to the honourable mover of this resolution and I asked him whether he would be prepared to accept the assurance of the Honourable Minister for Education if the assurance were in this form. If the Benarsidas College is converted into a Government College, the case of Kangra may be postponed. After Rohtak and Ambala, the claims of Kangra should be considered first of all. If the Honourable the Minister for Education can see his way to give this assurance, I have no doubt that the honourable mover of this resolution would accept that assurance and not press his resolution.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education): Sir, this assurance I have already given, namely, that the case of Kangra will be considered along with other cases and other things being equal, preference will be given to Kangra. What the honourable mover wanted was that we should have no occasion to consider this matter. After the conversion of Benarsidas College into a Government institution, he says his college should be taken up. He says the college should be started there, there is no question of other cases being considered. As I understand it that is the whole trouble. The Director of Public Instruction and I have not examined the case of Kangra at all, how can we give that assurance?

Chaudhri Ram Singh: I am quite content with the assurance already given by Honourable the Minister for Education and I beg to withdraw the resolution.

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: There is a resolution* on the same subject by the honourable member Lala Mohan Lal.

Lala Mohan Lal: I do not propose to move that resolution.*

RESOLUTION RE. COMPENSATION FOR LAND ACQUIRED UNDER THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT.

Sardar Partap Singh [Jullundur (Sikh), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I beg to move my resolution, which is as follows:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that it should invariably offer land in exchange for any land acquired in future under the Land Acquisition Act, and that compensation in cash should be awarded only in cases where persons concerned refuse to accept land in exchange."

* This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that an intermediate college be opened at Dharmshala in the Kangra District within the next two years.

[Sardar Partap Singh:]

Sir, my resolution is based on clear facts and by your permission I beg to cite one instance. In the district of Jullundur the village of Santarpur is situated near the boundary lines of Jullundur Cantonment. The land of this village was once acquired when a cantonment was established at Jullundur and again at the time of making a road from Jullundur to Nurmahal. Thus 300 ghumaons of this village have already been acquired and the Government now wants to acquire another hundred ghumaons. There are seven wells sunk in these lands and many of these wells have pucca or kacha houses built on them. Some will have to lose their entire holding and some, owning only 20 ghumaons, will have to part with as much as 19 ghumaons. It is said that Government generously pays for the land acquired, but I submit that it is not true. The value of the land ought to be judged from the entries of the sale-deeds executed by the inhabitants of a particular village where the land is acquired. There you can find that Government does not pay much and the owners of land generally suffer. This is the one aspect of the matter. There is another kind of loss which is irretrievable. In this very case, a man can be a voter when he owns 20 ghumaons and can contest a seat in the Council, District or Municipal Board. But when the Government takes away 19 ghumaons, the poor fellow is deprived of all his rights and consequently he cannot become a Minister or a President of Legislative Council, etc. Thus the Government takes away the common rights of people. One more point I wish to urge is this, that when land is acquired for a certain fixed purpose and the purpose is achieved even without utilizing the land the same is not returned back to the owner. I would like to quote one instance. In Jullundur Cantonment land was acquired for temporary barracks. The troops stationed in those barracks have since been demobilized and the barracks have been demolished, but instead of giving the land back to the owners, it is entrusted to the Department of Agriculture. In my humble opinion the solution of the present state of affairs is that when a large tract of land, say 20 ghumaons or so, is to be acquired the person concerned may be given a rectangle somewhere in some other locality and when only a kanal or two is required Government might purchase land from other persons who are prepared to sell land of their own accord and give it as a compensation to the owners of land whose land is acquired by Government. With these words I beg to move my resolution.

Mr. President: Resolution moved runs:—

“That this Council recommends to the Government that it should invariably offer land in exchange for any land acquired in future under the Land Acquisition Act, and that compensation in cash should be awarded only in cases where persons concerned refuse to accept land in exchange.”

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhamadan) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, this resolution needs no comment. It is quite reasonable and just, and the Revenue authorities should accept it willingly. My friend the honourable mover of the resolution, has already given some examples from the Jullundur District. I also know many other instances which have occurred in Montgomery and other districts of the province. It was on these matters that I had sent in questions * Nos. 1115 and 1116. Sir, experience shows that Government makes profit in these transactions. When land is required for canal or railway purposes Government acquires it under Land Acquisition Act. But the fact of the matter is, when a man is com-

pelled to part with his only property, how would he be able to eke out his livelihood? The sum which he gets in compensation does not suffice to buy even a smaller area than that which is acquired from him. We know that Government has got Crown waste lands, but these are not given in compensation. Let us suppose that a poor zamindar possesses only 15 acres; if these are taken away by Government where will the poor man go to earn his living? Under the present circumstances poor zamindars are left quite destitute. In Jullundur District the value of land is too high and one cannot get land for any amount of money. It would be in the fitness of things if Government would give land in other villages by way of compensation. Sir, in Montgomery District land was acquired by Government for Lower Sohag Canal at Rs. 3 per ghumaon, but the canal has not since been constructed and the land is lying with Government. Lately when I put a question on the subject my honourable friend Sardar Sundar Singh replied that it was kept in reserve for other purposes. I have in my possession some written statements of certain zamindars whose land was acquired at Rs. 3 per acre. They say that when they applied for restoration of their lands Government demanded Rs. 100 per acre. Sir, this is not equity and justice. When land is acquired Government only pay a nominal sum. I may be allowed to quote one instance of Pakpattan, District Montgomery, which I referred to in my question No. 1116*. Sir, when the land was acquired the persons concerned were not prepared to accept any kind of compensation, but in face of their refusal a nominal sum was flung upon them. Some of them have not taken anything as yet. They should be given some land in the Sutlej Valley Project. The Honourable Revenue Member says that people can get their compensation enhanced through appeal in the higher tribunals of the province. This cannot easily be done. Poor zamindars cannot afford litigation. My submission is this that when land is acquired for canal and railway purposes Government must arrange to give land in compensation, no matter if it is situated at a far off place. Government have got Crown waste lands. These can be utilized for this purpose. In certain districts, zamindars have sustained a considerable loss. A person told me that he had 21 acres of land in his possession, and that he has now been left with 8 acres on one side of the railway line and 8 on the other side, while 5 acres have been acquired by the Government for railway purposes. How can he conveniently manage to cultivate his land which is cut into two parts. In conclusion, I will only say that such resolutions which are beneficial to zamindars should be unanimously passed by the House. It would be an act of kindness if Government will accept the resolution of Sardar Partap Singh and make this a standing order, in future, in the matter of acquisition of land.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh), Rural]: Sir, may I request the Honourable Revenue Member to express his views at this stage. If he agrees to accept the resolution, there will be no more speeches on it.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member): Sir, the resolution proposed by my friend Sardar Partap Singh deals with the question of giving land instead of cash for the land which is acquired under the Land Acquisition Act. To my mind there are two fallacies in the arguments of my friend. The first is that he supposes that there is always

[Hony. S. B. S. Sundar Singh, Majithia.]

at the hands of Government any amount of waste lands available for the purpose of giving land to the person from whom land is acquired under the Act. The second is that this method of distributing the property which belongs to the State in the shape of Crown lands is the only method of developing it. No doubt at the present moment Government has on its hands the waste lands of the Sutlej Valley which will be colonised when the new canal which is under construction is constructed. But as soon as this colony is colonised, so far as this part of the Punjab is concerned, there will be no more land left in the hands of the Government to give in exchange for land acquired under the Act. If the Government were to accept the proposal that the price of land acquired should be paid in kind, then a time will come when Government will find itself in very great difficulties in providing land in place of the land which is acquired.

A suggestion has been made by our friends that Government can purchase land from somebody else, either in the same village or in the adjoining villages, and give it to the person whose land is acquired, that is to say, if we acquire land from a person whom I will call *A*, it is suggested that we should further acquire land in the same village or in some other village from persons whom I will call *B* and *C*

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : No, Sir. That is not what I meant. What I meant was that Government can buy land from those people who wish to sell their lands. There are several people who wish to sell land. Government can buy land from these people and give it to those people from whom land is acquired under the Act.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : If my friend had waited, I would have come to his point. I am not so sure that sellers will be available on such an occasion. First of all it is supposed that Crown land is available. When there is Crown land available, then the question can be considered whether the land can be given in exchange for the land acquired under the Land Acquisition Act. In case where there is no such land available, naturally Government must acquire land to meet the requirements of this resolution from the person whom I will call *B*. Suppose that person *B* happens to be another agriculturist. He will be deprived of his agricultural land in order to give it in exchange for the land acquired under the Act.

(At this stage Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram rose to interrupt the speaker.)

Let my friend allow me to proceed. Now, then, Sir, this is a difficulty which I wish to point out at the present moment.

Another difficulty which I may point out is, how are we to assess the value of the land? Under the Land Acquisition Act Government has first of all to assess the value of land in money. That is the easiest method of valuation which has been in force in this province up to this time. I do not think that our friends want us to give up this method of valuation of land and in its place to adopt the system of assessing the value of land in kind. For that purpose, perhaps I think it will be necessary to have the Act modified to suit the proposals of our friends.

Now I should like to invite the attention of the House to the debates which took place on the floor of this House. At that time Mr. Casson was the Financial Commissioner. A resolution was moved by my friend Mian

Shah Nawaz and speaking on that resolution Mr. Casson gave an assurance which with your permission, Sir, I will read—

"Government will in all cases do its best to see that acquisition is unavoidable, secondly, that it has been its practice in recent years, and will continue to be its policy in future, to give land in compensation, if desired, instead of cash, subject to the following conditions:—

- (a) that land is available for grant;
- (b) that the person or persons whose land is acquired is a member of an agricultural tribe, or if not a member of an agriculturable tribe is in fact dependent on the land for a livelihood;
- (c) that the amount of land required from any person bears a reasonably large proportion to the amount of land still left to him, or affects in an appreciable degree the possibility of his making a livelihood out of the land; or that the amount of land acquired from one person is worth more than Rs. 4,000.

Finally, every case would have to be considered on its merits with reference to the above considerations"

Sir, this was the undertaking given by Mr. Casson.

A few remarks were made by the honourable mover of the resolution about certain lands acquired in the Jullundur Cantonment. He said that certain lands in the Jullundur Cantonment which were acquired for a certain purpose have not been utilized for that purpose and that the lands have not been given back to their owners. I do not know anything about the case because it has not so far come up to me, but when the time comes for their disposal, if the persons concerned come forward with a definite proposal they will be duly considered by the Financial Commissioner and the Government with due deference to the undertaking given by Mr. Casson in this House. At present I cannot deal with hypothetical cases, which have been put forward by my friend Lala Sewak Ram. I was looking at the questions which he referred to in the debates. To the first question I find the reply given was "I regret that the answer is not yet complete." I do not know from where he understood that I had given the reply.

Rai Bahadur Lal Sewak Ram : The answer has since reached me.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Very well. Leaving that question aside, I must say the Government finds it very difficult to bind itself as to the future. Members of the House know that Government does not acquire land simply for the sake of pleasure. It acquires land for the necessities of the State. Unless there is a very great necessity, land is generally not acquired.

It has been suggested that generally the value that is given to people for the land which is acquired is not what is prevalent in the place. To that I will answer that it is in the power of the people affected by the orders of the Land Acquisition Officer to appeal to higher courts against those orders. If they are not satisfied even with these higher courts they can appeal to the highest tribunal in this land. Now leaving all these things aside, I suggest to my friend that the assurance that has already been given I have no hesitation in reaffirming and if this satisfies the honourable mover I will request him not to press his resolution to a division.

Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni (Punjab University) : Sir, one would have thought that very few words were needed to commend a resolution of this kind to the acceptance of the Council. But it seems even reasonable resolutions like this are not accepted by the Government. Sir, I am glad that the resolution has been moved by a member belonging to "an agricultural tribe." The Honourable Member for Revenue has taken up the position which protects the members of a class that are already protected. If I understood him aright, the Honourable Member for Revenue repeating the words of the Financial Commissioner said that if a piece of land was taken away from the member of an agricultural tribe, then it may be possible to give him land in return. . . .

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) : It holds good for all, agriculturists and non-agriculturists alike.

Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni : I am glad to have that assurance.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : It is there.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : The exact words are :—

"That the person or persons whose land is acquired is a member of an agricultural tribe, or if not a member of an agricultural tribe is in fact dependent on the land for a livelihood."

Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni : Either he should be a member of an agricultural tribe, or, if he is not a member of an agricultural tribe, he should be dependent on the land for his livelihood. What about the man who is not entirely dependent on the land, but for whom the land forms one of his sources of income? In the case of a member of an agricultural tribe a discrimination is clearly made. He cannot be deprived of his land simply because he is a member of an agricultural tribe. In the case of another man, however, who is not a member of an agricultural tribe, that condition does not hold good.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The exact words used in this respect are—

"Or affects in an appreciable degree the possibility of his making a livelihood out of the land."

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : That is a different thing altogether. The point I was making is simply this. The distinction is made to the disadvantage of a man who does not belong to an agricultural tribe. That distinction I submit is unfair to a very large class of persons. I have myself had something to do with a case of a very unfair kind in the matter of acquisition of land. The trustees of the Dayal Singh College had, after very great trouble and as the result of a search extending over three or four years, with very great difficulty, acquired a piece of land; but that piece of land was taken away from us and since then we have been trying our best to obtain a suitable piece of land in its stead but we have not yet been able to get one. We have approached the Government again and again but with the exception of words of sympathy, which do not cost much and which are always forthcoming in plenty, we have not received any encouragement or any help towards acquiring a piece of land suitable for the location of the Dayal Singh College with results which are known to all of us. There are also other cases of a

similar kind known to me, although my knowledge and experience of such matters are very limited. There is a general complaint, specially in the case of men who do not enjoy the special privileges which the Land Alienation Act confers upon certain classes of people. There is a general complaint, that if a piece of land is taken away under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act the people are not able to get any land in lieu of it. I submit that the resolution which the honourable mover has placed before the House is an eminently reasonable one inasmuch as it does not ask for any special favour or privilege. It simply asks that so far as may be possible, within that village or in a different village where land is available in the immediate neighbourhood or in any convenient locality—or if it is an agricultural land, it may be at a distance—land may be given in lieu of the land which is so acquired. If the Government wishes to interpret the words too literally they may do so. But I am sure that if an assurance is given that every effort will be made to give land in lieu of land that is taken under the Land Acquisition Act, the honourable mover of this resolution as well as other members of the House will be satisfied. If a man has taken pains in acquiring a piece of land, whether for dwelling purposes or for agricultural purposes, and if that land is taken away, then it is only right and proper that the Government which has taken away that land should help that man in acquiring another piece of land of equal size, or a bit larger or a bit smaller, it does not matter. All that he wants is a piece of land in lieu thereof and not cash. The Honourable the Revenue Member has referred to the difficulty of calculating the equivalent of cash transaction and the changes required in the Act. All these things can be easily adjusted if there is a will to do so. That is what is lacking and this is most regrettable. Then again there was another point made by my honourable friend Lala Sewak Ram or the honourable mover—I forget by whom—and which has not been answered. He has cited the definite instance of a man who lost his land under the Land Acquisition Act, but whose land was not put to the use for which it was acquired.....

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : I am sorry to interrupt the honourable member, but the honourable member Lala Sewak Ram did not make any definite statement.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : He mentioned one instance where.....

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : He simply mentioned the hypothetical case of a person who has been left with eight acres one side of a railway line and eight on the other side, while five acres have been acquired by Government for railway purposes.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I definitely mentioned a case, Sir.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : The Honourable Revenue Member is thinking of another complaint of an uneconomic holding. A portion of land being taken away often renders the remainder uneconomic for agricultural purposes or for factory purposes. That was not the case I was referring to. I was referring to the case of a large piece of agricultural land having been taken away from a certain village which the honourable member named. The land was acquired at Rs. 3 per *ghumaon* or *bigha* and seeing that the land was not wanted by the Government for the purpose for which it was intended, the owner of the land again offered to take it back but now he was told by the Government that the price of the land had gone up to Rs. 100 and that therefore that land could not be given back to him. Is that reasonable, is that fair and is that just? The Government did not take

[Prof. Ruebi Ram Sahni.]

away that land for the purpose of speculation. If the price of the land had gone up, then surely the owner of the land from whom it was acquired should get the benefit of it, because the Government has not made use of the land for the purpose for which it was acquired. The same is the case with a piece of land which was taken away from me. It is still lying fallow and it is not being used. I was paid less than what I was offered only a few months before it was acquired. It means a long procedure to go to court and spend money. No doubt I could go to the highest court, engage lawyers and pay them handsomely and put myself to all sorts of trouble. The Government has simply to pass an order under the Land Acquisition Act to the effect that such and such a piece of land has been acquired under such and such a clause. That is all they have got to do. The rest is for the man whose land has been acquired. He may not like to put himself to all the trouble of litigation and the expenses of carrying it on. Well, Sir, I do not think it necessary to go into the details about a question so simple and so straightforward as this question certainly is and I hope there will be no difficulty on the part of Government in accepting this resolution.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :
Bristling with difficulties though?

Professor Ruebi Ram Sahni : I am sure there should be no difficulty whatsoever in accepting the resolution moved by the honourable member Jamadar Partap Singh.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq [Hoshiarpur-cum-Ludhiana, Rural] (Urdu) :
Sir, I would not waste the time of the Council by repeating the arguments which have been advanced by the previous speakers in favour of the resolution. What I wish to submit is that in acquiring land from any person the Government is not afraid of any pre-emption suits by the collaterals of that person. But in the case of private individuals, the matter is quite different. For the private individuals it is almost impossible to buy lands for any amount that any of them may be prepared to pay, especially in the districts to which the honourable mover of the resolution has referred; and if by any means some one has been able to buy land he is not allowed the peaceful enjoyment of its possession unless he has fought out successfully the different claims put in by the various relations of that person.

Consequently, this is not the whole of the question whether any compensation in cash is paid or not or how much of it is paid. The question is whether the person from whom the Government has acquired the land can buy land for himself with the money paid to him. As I have pointed out above it is very difficult to buy lands and I can cite a number of cases in which the persons, from whom the Government acquired land had to give up the occupation handed down to them from generations. I am aware that Government too has difficulties to face in the matter of giving lands in exchange of land acquired but a solution of that difficulty has been suggested by the honourable mover of the resolution and that is that the Government should buy land from those who are willing to sell. I know that in the Jullundur and Hoshiarpur Districts many applications are received by the District Magistrates asking for permission to buy and sell land. The Government, to obviate the difficulty above mentioned, can authorise such District Magistrates to buy lands on behalf of the Government and when any occasion arises the Government can give land out of that reserve to the person from whom any land may have been acquired.

Another point to note in this connection is that it very often happens that the object for which a certain piece of land is acquired by the Government is not fulfilled and the land so acquired remains unused. In such cases the Government is not justified in retaining the land. It ought to return that land to the owner at the price at which that land was bought from him. I am sorry to note that no such provision has been made in the undertaking referred to by the Honourable Revenue Member. Now, Sir, to the remarks of the Financial Commissioner my submission is that Government had always sufficient land at its disposal. Even now there is sufficient Crown waste land and that can be well reserved for the purpose.

I might repeat that there are difficulties felt by the Government. But the hardships which the people are put to, are far greater and, therefore, it is consistent with justice and fair play that Government should accept the resolution.

Chaudhri Duli Chand [Karnal (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, the resolution proposed concerns the zamindars and as such I would be failing in my duty if I do not express my views about the matter. The lands in the possession of the agriculturists have not been acquired by paying money or by interest obtained by lending out money, but have come down from their ancestors who acquired those lands by the strength of their arms and by fighting out battles in which many of their dear and near ones lost their lives, and if such lands are acquired by the Government by the payment of a few coins, it is, in my opinion, highly unfair and unjust. Of course, if land is acquired by the Government from one who has bought it, it would not matter much, but to acquire land from a person who holds it as a legacy from his ancestors is the least desirable. Therefore, Government, before acquiring land, should see under what category the land falls which is sought to be acquired. If the land is ancestral, land should be given in exchange and if that is not possible a sufficient amount of money be paid so as to enable that individual to buy land for himself. I am glad that such a provision exists in the undertaking given by Mr. Casson as Financial Commissioner. In the same undertaking it is also provided that in case a person from whom land is to be acquired depends solely for his livelihood on that land, efforts should be made to give him land in exchange and if the wording of the undertaking is made a little more clear I think it would suffice to meet the wishes of the honourable mover. In fact, I do not feel a bit if the land is acquired from a person who does not till the land with his own hands and who is afraid of going out in the night to look after his land. What I wish to impress is that the person whose occupation is, for the past generations, the tilling of land, should not be deprived of his land under the Land Acquisition Act.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Is it not already given in the undertaking?

Chaudhri Duli Chand (continued in Urdu) : It is given no doubt but it should be more explicit.

Lala Mohan Lal [North-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, in view of the so many speeches already made, I have not to say much about the matter under discussion. I have only one observation to make in this connection and that is, unfortunately, there are many in

[Lala Mohan Lal.]

this province who do not belong to the agriculturist tribes, but all the same possess land and when the Government has to acquire land from such persons, in exchange for cash payment, these persons should be permitted to buy land for the money paid to them. In the undertaking already existing such a provision should be made to enable them to do so.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh), Rural] : Sir, the Honourable the Revenue Member referred to the undertaking given in the last Council by Mr. Casson and I want to contradict him on facts. Sir, it is given that land is acquired by Government when its acquisition is unavoidable, but I want to prove by facts that lands are acquired not by Government alone for useful purposes, but they are acquired by local bodies as well far exceeding requirements and for unimportant purposes. I will cite cases here and I will show that local bodies move Government and acquire lands, and after certain number of years sell them at fabulous prices and make large profit. In my own place, Moga, I remember that out of the funds collected by people, the District Board acquired certain properties through Government at a cost of about Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 per ghumaon and on that land the District Board built certain shops and afterwards sold the site at a price of Rs. 1,000 per kanal. The land was acquired at the rate of Rs. 300 per ghumaon and it was sold at Rs. 1,000 per kanal, that is to say, Rs. 8,000 per ghumaon, or in other words at twenty times the cost price. The District Board had made a profit out of it and the man whose property was acquired was ruined altogether. In my own village I remember that land was acquired by Government either for the purpose of school or playgrounds. No doubt there has been a return, but the return has not been to the poor man whose land has been snatched away. The Municipality acquired two rectangles at the rate of about Rs. 500 a ghumaon.....

Mr. C. M. King : I should like to know if these acquisitions took place before or after this undertaking was given.

Sardar Tara Singh : If the Honourable Member could cite the date of the undertaking, I would be able to tell him.

Mr. C. M. King : The date is given there—1921.

Sardar Tara Singh : This land was acquired before 1921 and it was sold after 1921. But what I was going to say is that the Municipality acquired that land at the rate of Rs. 300 per ghumaon and recently after 1921 nearly 19 marlas have been sold for about Rs. 16,000. In my own place, the Municipality sold 19 marlas for Rs. 16,000, while the land was acquired at the rate of Rs. 500 per ghumaon, and in that way an enormous amount has been taken away from that poor zamindar. One man has remonstrated for several years, but he had no other support and therefore had to accept that amount after five years after losing even his interest on the amount. So I submit, Sir, that land is acquired by local bodies for various frivolous purposes which can easily be avoided. If they want land for a very important and urgent purpose, they should acquire at the real market value prevailing in that locality.

Another point I wish to bring to the notice of the House is that men who are rich and resourceful have got access to officials and thus escape all these mishaps. Suppose his land is required by a municipality, he at once goes to the official concerned and manages to see that his land is not acquired. Naturally the officer concerned falls upon a poor man's land who has no recommendations at his back.

The next point is that land should not be acquired for avoidable purpose and it should not be acquired from ordinary poor people. Even if it is so acquired it should be given back to the owner for the same price when it is no longer required. Thus for instance land was acquired for a play ground for the school at Moga. Now the school has been shifted to some other place, but the land acquired for a play ground is not being offered back to the owner but is held back by the district board to be sold at a very high price. I say this is very unjust. I submit that in such circumstances the land should be returned to the owner from whom it was bought.

Now I come to the conditions referred to by the Honourable the Revenue Member. One of the conditions was "that the land acquired from one person is worth more than Rs. 4,000". I am reminded of a Panjabi proverb *Na nau man tel hoga na Raddhā naclēgi*; the value of the land will not be more than Rs. 4,000 and therefore the condition will not apply and so he will have to be paid in cash. This leads me to the question how the value of land is fixed. At the time of fixing the market value, the Revenue Assistant goes to the spot and calls upon the owner, who is generally a poor man, who is afraid of appearing before the assistant and trembles at the very sight of the assistant. How can he dare oppose the valuation of the assistant? It has been suggested that there is remedy for the poor man in courts of law against the unfair valuation of the Revenue Assistant. But this fact does not seem to have been taken notice of, namely, that the man is already poor and has no legal adviser nor can he afford to engage a lawyer. If it was a regular suit it would make a difference of heaven and earth, but to the misfortune of the zamindar it is only a miscellaneous application. The Government must in these cases realise the difficulties of the poor agriculturists. Some remedies have been suggested by the speakers who preceded me. I quite realise the difficulties of Government in finding a plot of land to give in exchange for the land it acquires, but if the Government can find a plot of land why should it hesitate to give it? In these circumstances I submit, Sir, that Government should not find it difficult to accept this resolution. I am, however, quite prepared to request the honourable mover of the resolution to withdraw it if the Government is prepared to withdraw the conditions (b) and (c) of the undertaking given by Mr. Casson and referred to by the Honourable the Revenue Member.

Mr. Ernest Maya Das [Nominated, Non-official] (Urdu) : Sir, Sardar Tara Singh has remarked that sometime ago certain land was bought for the school in Moga and afterwards shops were raised on that land, which were then sold at a fabulous price. The fact really is that the land referred to was situate in the compound of the school and was near the boarding house thereon, but on account of need for making improvements in the school, it was thought advisable to sell that land in the shape of shop sites. While alleging that the land was bought by the subscription given by the people, Sardar Tara Singh has omitted to mention that some of that land was bought by private negotiations and the remaining portion was acquired under the Land Acquisition Act. As to the portion that was bought by private negotiation there can possibly be no objection. As regards the portion that was acquired, the honourable member is perhaps unaware that at the time when the land was acquired, the conditions prevailing were quite different from those of to-day. At that time Moga was a very much smaller place and was not connected by any railway. There was no market in those days and the price of the land was very low as compared with the prices that prevail to-

[Mr. Maya Das.]

day. Sardar Sahib has made another allegation that the playground attached to the school where it was first located is now lying vacant and the man from whom that ground was acquired has been refused the return of that land, although he has applied requesting the return of the land. So far as I am aware no such application has been made and if it has been made, it has not reached the office of the District Board. Moreover, at present it is being utilised for a public purpose.

Almost all the speakers on the resolution under consideration have said that when a person is dispossessed of his land under the Land Acquisition Act, he has to beg from door to door to maintain himself and his family. I am surprised at such a statement. I know something about my district, if not of others, and can say from personal experience that honest hardworking men possessing oxen can always find land to be had on lease and by dint of labour make much profit so much so that many are able in due course, to buy land for themselves out of those profits. Supposing a person has been dispossessed of his land as aforesaid, he can have land on lease and can earn sufficient for his livelihood. Besides there is another point to consider. The land that is acquired is invariably acquired for the benefit of the public and it is impossible to avoid that in some cases here and there some person may have to suffer for the sake of the general good. Of course, the officer assessing the value of the land should be careful because often complaints are made that the price given to the owner of the land acquired is not what is prevailing in the market at the time.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural]: Sir, I just want to impress the necessity of this resolution on this House from another point of view. The question of getting land for land is certainly very important from the point of view of the poor agriculturists. For by the acquisition of land by Government, the agriculturist loses not merely the land the only means of his livelihood, but he loses a number of citizen rights. It is obviously clear that the possession of land carries so many rights which the holder of the land enjoys. With a certain area in his possession for which he pays certain land revenue he becomes a voter for the district board and other local bodies. He even becomes a voter to the Legislative Council elections. He has got several other privileges which he enjoys only with the possession of the land. But when with a stroke of the pen, by a gazette notification, he is dispossessed of that land he is automatically dispossessed of his various civic rights. He cannot any longer be registered as a voter for elections to local bodies. I submit, Sir, that this way of debarring an agriculturist from enjoying the civic rights is unjustifiable. In order that he may keep on enjoying those rights it is certainly fair that an equal area of land paying the same amount of land revenue as that which is acquired should be made available for the poor cultivator.

Another point has been put before this House by my friend Mr. Maya Das. He said *main hairan hun*. . . . I do not understand why he should be astonished. He said, that a tenant is as much respectable as a landlord. Certainly not. Would he himself like to change his place from a landlord to tenant? I would not like for my part to divest myself of a certain portion of my land to Government and then go from door to door asking various landlords to give me a certain plot of land in order that I may till it and earn my livelihood.

The position of a tenant is certainly far below that of a landlord. My honourable friend Mr. Maya Das seems to be labouring under a very serious misapprehension. He should not try to practically worsen the condition of the people of this province. The general condition of the people of this country must be made better. He has been giving a lot of personal explanation as I understood him. He happens to be the Secretary of the Ferozepore District Board, but I have not been very much impressed by the explanation he gave and I suppose other honourable members of this House too were not satisfied with his explanation. The district board of Ferozepore has no justification to acquire for school purposes a land larger in area than was actually wanted. They were not justified in acquiring a large piece of land and then build a school in a small portion thereof, a market in another portion and a shop in some other portion. It was not in the general interest of the welfare of the public and also of the person who had to part with the land that the district board of Ferozepore should acquire such a large piece of land. With these few words, I just want to bring home the importance of this resolution to honourable members of this House. Whenever land is taken from a person, it is necessary not only from the point of view of his livelihood, but from the point of view of his civic rights that he enjoys along with the possession of the land, that land, in lieu of the one acquired from him, should be purchased and handed over to him and that he should be left in exactly the same position as he was when the land was acquired from him.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner): Sir, I think the House should first of all clearly understand the conditions under which land is acquired. Land is not acquired by Government as some members of this House seem to suppose merely to make a gain on it and get money by re-selling it. Land is acquired only for public interest and under the Act that public interest has to be clearly set forth. This point was also brought out in the undertaking given by my predecessor, Mr. Casson. It was emphasized by him in his speech to this House (which was entirely accepted by the Council at the time) in these words :

"Further, Government will in all cases do its best to see that acquisition is unavoidable."

You could have no undertaking stronger than that : that the Government will do its best to see that it will never acquire land unless acquisition is unavoidable. I want to press that point on the attention of the members. Sir, Government does not go about acquiring land as some people seem to think at its own sweet will and pleasure. It only acquires land when acquisition is unavoidable. And there is also this condition that it acquires land for a public purpose only. Those are the two conditions. Take for example the subject about which we have heard a great deal this afternoon, namely, the question of school building to be located in Kangra. It might be in Kangra or in any other district. You require land for a school building. Well, you may be able to obtain land by purchase in the open market, but it is most unlikely that you would get a suitable piece of land in that way. In a case like that it is usually unavoidable for Government to put into force the provisions of the "Land Acquisition Act and to proceed to acquire a piece of land. There you have a *bona fide* public purpose and there you have an unavoidable necessity. I take it that no member of this House wishes to restrict the development of this province so far as it would be restricted if Government had not the powers which it has under this Act of acquiring land whenever necessity

[Mr. King.]

arises and of acquiring it as far as possible only when it is unavoidable. That point, I think, Sir, has not been quite clearly understood by some of the speakers who have spoken on this resolution. Then, Sir, Mr. Casson in his undertaking goes on to say that even in those cases where the acquisition of land was unavoidable, instead of giving cash for the land, land would be given in lieu thereof, but there were certain conditions attached to the giving of land for land and those conditions are also set forth in his undertaking. I find that my honourable friend Sardar Tara Singh has accepted the first part and also accepted condition (a) of these conditions. The first condition is quite simple, namely, that land is available for grant. It must be obvious to every member of this House that unless land is available to be given in exchange for land which is acquired, it is useless for us to pass a resolution that land *must* be given. If there is no land to be given in exchange, where should the Government go to get the land in exchange. That point is not reckoned on in the resolution before the House. My honourable friend Sardar Tara Singh has accepted it. It is obvious that unless land is available for a land which is unavoidably acquired, you cannot give land. That point is conceded.

We now come to the second point :—

"That the person or persons whose land is acquired is a member of an agricultural tribe, or if not a member of an agricultural tribe is in fact dependent on the land for a livelihood."

That the person or persons whose land is acquired is a member of an agricultural tribe. It is here that Professor Ruchi Ram comes in. He says, no matter who the person or persons may be; if land is acquired from him and if land is available then he ought to get land. That was not the undertaking given by the Government. We say that if a person or persons whose land is acquired is a member of an agricultural tribe, he will get land in exchange. Also even if he is not a member of an agricultural tribe, if he is in fact dependent on the land for his livelihood, he will get land in exchange. That was in order to provide for those persons, mostly of the menial class who are dependent upon land for a livelihood. That is the second point of the item. To that part my honourable friend Professor Ruchi Ram has objected. He asks why should you have a condition like that? Why do you not allow every person from whom land has been acquired to get land in exchange. The reason is that when you acquire land from a person who is not a member of the agricultural tribe, you are not really doing him as much harm as you would do when you acquire from one belonging to an agricultural tribe. In the one case, you are depriving the man of his means of livelihood, in the other case, you are not doing the same. That is the reason why we have not considered it necessary to give land in exchange in the case of a person who is not a member of the agricultural tribe.

Then, Sir, there is the third condition. That also I think is a perfectly reasonable condition.

The third condition is—

"That the amount of land required from any person bears a reasonably large proportion to the amount of land still left to him."

Supposing a person holds 100 acres of land and it is necessary to acquire for the purpose of a school building one acre out of his 100 acres holding. Then it is not reasonable to suppose that he is to be given one acre of land somewhere in the colonies or somewhere else. It would be quite

useless and it would be quite ridiculous to make such a suggestion or such an offer to him. Therefore, we say that in a case where the proportion acquired is only a fraction of the whole of his holding, in such a case, we do not propose that land shall be given for land as a matter of course. But there is a final thing which does help my honourable friend Professor Ruchi Ram and it has not been emphasized before. That is, if the amount of land acquired from one person is worth more than Rs. 4,000, then land is to be offered to him in exchange. My honourable friend Sardar Tara Singh made a complaint of this condition and he quoted a Punjabi proverb which I regret to say I was not able to follow. There is a good reason for fixing this Rs. 4,000 condition. If you read those terms carefully you will see that Rs. 4,000 condition applies to all persons whether agriculturists or not. Whether a person is a member of an agricultural tribe, or whether he is a member of the commercial tribe, or whether he is any sort of person in the province, if land is acquired from him to the value of more than Rs. 4,000, then that person can come within the terms of this undertaking and if land is available he can get land in exchange. That meets one of the arguments used by my honourable friend Professor Ruchi Ram, namely, that a large or a fairly large landholder shall not be entirely expropriated by the acquisition of land from him.

Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni : Will it have retrospective effect ?

Mr. C. M. King : Of course we cannot go behind the undertaking. The undertaking is there and it has been given effect to from the date it was given. It was never intended that the undertaking should have retrospective effect. It has been strictly carried out from the date of the undertaking. I am afraid Sir, I have wasted some of the time of the Council on a matter which is perhaps not strictly relevant to the resolution under discussion, but it is necessary to a proper understanding of the reasons which prompted the Government not to accept this resolution. We have here a very clear and definite undertaking which we believe satisfies most of the necessities of the case and the reasonable requirements of zamindars and other people in the province. We do not propose to and we do not think it necessary to go further than we have gone in that undertaking.

Then, Sir, there are one or two points to which I must refer briefly. It is the question of the market price of the land and the right of voting. The right of voting is confined to being a voter for the elections to this Council or to other bodies and it depends in certain cases on the payment by the person who has the vote of a certain amount of land revenue. I think the minimum is Rs. 25 for the Council. It has been urged that if land is acquired from a person and if no land is offered to him in exchange he may be reduced from being a voter to be a non-voter. I admit that land acquisition may possibly affect him in that way; but I have not yet heard of any case in which it has actually happened. The amount of land usually acquired by Government from individual landholders is far less than land paying Rs. 25 land revenue. I am merely taking a great majority of cases. Of course when we have to acquire land, for a railway or canal, we have to take a great deal of land. But whenever that happens every condition of the undertaking comes into force and we always give land for land so that even if we acquire land in the case of these big undertakings, we give the person land in exchange and as a voter he would be no worse off after the acquisition than he would be before.

[The King]

Then one other point that was made by one speaker—I think it was the mover of the resolution or it may be one of the other speakers was that you never get true price for the land. It is always complained of by the seller that he does not get fair price for the articles sold by him. Whether it is land or whether it is any other article, the seller always thinks that he is being underpaid by the buyer. This is always said and therefore we may accept it as a general proposition of market conditions that the seller speaks badly of the buyer. We may assume it is always the case. We may try in this case to be as fair as possible. The price of the land is originally fixed by the Collector as fairly as he can possibly do so. If the person from whom the land is acquired is not satisfied with the fixing of the price, then he can go to court. That point has been well brought out by my honourable friend Sardar Sundar Singh, but it does not seem to have been appreciated. The order passed by the executive officer is not the final order. The person can go to a court and in a regular suit he can have the price of the land acquired from him decided. I am sure members of this House who are lawyers know well what the facts are. Not only is there an appeal from the orders of the executive officer to the Court but there is an appeal from the decision of that court to the High Court. Honourable members opposite know that perfectly well. To say in view of those safeguards and conditions that the price offered is unfair is to say something which is quite unjust and untrue. There are means open to every person from whom land is acquired by which he can have the unfairness done to him set right. Again it is well-known that whenever land is acquired forcibly under this Act, in addition to the fair price which is always fixed we give 15 per cent. That is well-known to every one. There is no question about that. 15 per cent is added to what is the market price, and that is given because of the nature of the forcible acquisition.

Sir, another point that has been made is this. When this land is sold back for the reason that it is no longer required by Government, it is usually sold, it has been alleged, at a price higher than what was given for it. That is absolutely untrue. That is never done. Whenever land has been acquired for a specific purpose and having fulfilled its purpose or having ceased to be required for that purpose it has to be given up by Government, in all such cases the land is offered first to the person from whom it was originally acquired at the price of acquisition, not including the 15 per cent. which is paid as part of the price owing to the forcible acquisition. In every case of acquisition from a person under the Act if the land has to be given up and is no longer required for public purposes it is always given back at a discount of 15 per cent. To say in the face of these things that there is always a profit on the sale of land is to say what is not true.

My friend Chaudhri Afzal Haq made a point which I am afraid I could not quite understand. As far as I gathered his point was this that Government should maintain a sort of reserve of land. That is to say whenever a zamindar has land for sale instead of letting that zamindar sell it to a non-zamindar as does frequently happen,—he specially mentioned the districts of Hoshiarpur and Jullundur—instead of letting the zamindar sell it to a non-zamindar, in such cases whenever a zamindar applies for leave to sell the land to a non-zamindar, Government should itself step in and buy the land at a price at which the zamindar wishes to sell it. Does any member of the house really wish that Government should commit itself to a policy of locking

up its funds in the purchase of land? Does Government in other provinces do it? Does any one really support the suggestion of Chaudhri Afzal Haq? There is another point. I do not know whether my friend the Finance Member will provide the necessary funds.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: No.

Mr. C. M. King: These, Sir, are the main points. If you look at the resolution itself, we will see that it is quite impossible to carry it out. It is either meaningless or it is harmful. We have it stated here: "This Government recommends to Government that it should *invariably*..." I notice that many of the speakers who have spoken in favour of this resolution have omitted to notice the word *invariably*. If you exclude that word *invariably*, the resolution amounts to very little more than the undertaking which Government has given through its Financial Commissioner, Mr. Casson. That word *invariably* contains the whole sting of the resolution 'should *invariably* offer land in exchange.' How is the Government to bind itself when it has no land to give in exchange? Why *invariably*? Then the resolution goes on to say "compensation in cash should be awarded only in cases where persons concerned refuse to accept land in exchange." Now if Government wish to go in for trickery, it will be very easy to accept this resolution. What we have got to do according to this resolution is to offer land in exchange. It does not say how much should be offered in exchange. You may acquire 100 acres of land and you may tell the person from whom you acquire the 100 acres: Here is one acre; It is offered to you in exchange for your 100 acres; you can take it. By an offer like that you are satisfying the resolution. You have acquired 100 acres from him and offered him one acre. The resolution merely wants that land should be offered in exchange, but the person will say: No, I am not going to accept one acre. The result is that he has to accept money. In this way you have got round the resolution at once. Now, what has become of your resolution, if Government takes up an attitude like that?

These are the points, I feel sure, that the House has got to realise. If they understand it, then they will realise that the resolution is one which will not redound to the credit of the House. It will give zamindars no more really than they have got by the undertaking which has already been given in this House and further it will have a destructive effect in binding Government in many ways in which it is quite undesirable that Government should be bound. I hope therefore that the Council will not pass this resolution.

Sardar Tara Singh: 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: The question is—

"That this Council recommends to the Government that it should *invariably* offer land in exchange for any land acquired in future under the Land Acquisition Act, and that compensation in cash should be awarded only in cases where persons concerned refuse to accept land in exchange."

The Council then divided : Ayes 27, Noes 21.

AYES 27.

Chaudhri Najib-ud-Din Khan.	Pandit Nanak Chand.
Chaudhri Nur Din.	Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.
Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan.	Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Sardar Jodh Singh.	Lala Sham Lal.
Sardar Tara Singh.	Lala Bodh Raj.
Sardar Randhir Singh.	Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Sardar Bakhtawar Singh.	Lala Banke Rai.
Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.	Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.	Mr. Labh Singh.
Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.	Lala Mohan Lal.
Sardar Har Chand Singh.	Chaudhri Ram Singh.
Sardar Partap Singh.	Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan.	Chaudhri Tek Ram.
Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah.	

NOES 21.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.	The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
Colonel C. R. Bakhla.	The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
Mr. C. A. Barron.	Mr. J. G. Beazley.
Mr. C. M. King.	Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. W. Mayes.	Mr. J. M. Dunnett.
Mr. E. A. Scott.	Mr. H. D. Craik.
Sir George Anderson.	Mr. Owen Roberts.
Lieut-Col. C. A. Gill.	Mr. J. Coldstream.
The Hon'ble Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.	Khan Bahadur Sir Sayad Mehdi Shah.
The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain.	Mr. V. F. Gray.
	Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was carried.

The Council then adjourned till 2 P.M. on Monday, the 19th January 1925.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

5TH SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 19th January 1925.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

LOCATION OF A PUNITIVE POLICE POST AT VILLAGE PITHLI IN TAHSIL MURREE.

1299. Subedar Major Farman Ali Khan : (a) Has Government received a memorial from the inhabitants of village Pithli in Tahsil Murree, District Rawalpindi, protesting against the location of a punitive police post there, as ordered in the *Punjab Gazette* notification No. 1165-S., dated 3rd October 1924 ?

(b) If so, have any orders been passed on the memorial or is the matter still under consideration ?

(c) Is it a fact that no one belonging to village Pithli has been convicted of any offence nor has the house of any one been searched in connection with any offence ?

(d) Is it a fact that even the police report on which the above orders were passed does not allege anything definite against the village Pithli ?

(e) If the answers to (c) and (d) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of modifying the notification and withdrawing the increased police so far as Pithli is concerned ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

APPOINTMENTS TO POSTS OF EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER ON REGISTERS A, B, AND C.

1300. Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan : (a) Will Government kindly state according to what proportion appointments to posts of Extra Assistant Commissioner are made from the different registers of candidates, viz., registers A, B, C ?

(b) Was this proportion kept in view when appointments of two candidates of register C were made in December 1924 ?

If not, why not ?

(c) How many candidates selected by the Financial Commissioner are at present on the Financial Commissioners' list of candidates for appointments ?

(d) Why is it that no candidate in the Financial Commissioners' list has been taken on Government list for the last two years ?

[Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan.]

(e) How many candidates does Government intend to take on Government list this year from Financial Commissioners' list?

(f) How many of such candidates of Financial Commissioners' list are expected to be appointed during the year 1925?

Mr. H. D. Craik : (a) Eight candidates from Register A, 2 from Register C and 2 from Register B are appointed to every 12 successive vacancies in the regular cadre of the Punjab Civil Service in the following rotation :—

- 1 Financial Commissioners' candidate.
- 1 Register C candidate.
- 1 High Court candidate.
- 1 Register A-III candidate.
- 2 Financial Commissioners' candidates.
- 2 High Court candidates.
- 1 Register C candidate.
- 1 Financial Commissioners' candidate.
- 2 Register B candidates.

(b) The proportion of appointments assigned to the various registers is always kept in view when filling vacancies in the regular cadre. One candidate only from Register C was appointed to the regular cadre in December 1924, in an existing vacancy.

(c) 32.

(d) A candidate from the Financial Commissioners' list was accepted on the Government Register in March 1925.

(e) and (f) The Financial Commissioners have been asked to submit the rolls of 8 candidates for acceptance on the Government register but it is not possible to say with any degree of certainty how many of these candidates will be appointed during this year.

TRANSFER OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, INUNDATION CANALS, FROM MUZAFFARGARH TO MULTAN.

1301. Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan : Will Government please state the circumstances which have necessitated the transfer of the headquarters of the office of the Executive Engineer, Inundation Canals, from Muzaffargarh to Multan? Was the fact that this transfer will put the people of Muzaffargarh to great inconvenience taken into consideration when the transfer was decided?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The headquarters of the office of the Executive Engineer, Muzaffargarh Canals Division, have not been transferred from Muzaffargarh to Multan. The Executive Engineer, Muzaffargarh Division, is permitted, as a temporary measure only, to occupy a residence in Multan while the quarters at Muzaffargarh are occupied by the Officer-in-charge of the Northern Muzaffargarh Independent Sub-Division. It is not anticipated that the people of Muzaffargarh will be put to any inconvenience as a result of this arrangement.

ABOLITION OF THE POST OF OCTROI SUPERINTENDENT IN THE BATALA MUNICIPALITY.

1302. Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar : (a) Is it a fact that the Batala municipal committee has passed a resolution abolishing the post of Octroi Superintendent.

(b) Is it a fact that the same post was abolished in 1922, and on instructions from the Local Government, the committee revised their decision ?

(c) (a) Is it a fact that since the creation of the post of Octroi Superintendent the income of the municipal committee has considerably increased ? and

(aa) Is it a fact that during the period that the post remained abolished in 1922, the income of the committee suffered and this fact was recognised in the resolution of the committee recreating the post ? -

(d) If the answers to (a), (b) and (c) be in the affirmative, will the Government please say whether it proposes to interfere with the resolution of the municipal committee ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Mian Sir 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.

NOMINATIONS TO THE AMBALA DISTRICT BOARD.

1303. Rana Firuz-ud-Din Khan : (1) Is it a fact that—

(a) in the last elections for the District Board, Ambala, out of the thirty-two seats, Muhammadans secured only nine seats, which number is much less than their due share according to population and voting strength ;

(b) the Deputy Commissioner of Ambala has sent his recommendations to the Commissioner, Ambala Division, for nominating certain non-official members to the board ; and, if so,

(c) in the recommendations no attempt has been made to make up the deficiency of the Muhammadan element ;

(d) under the rules relating to nominations of members no person can be nominated a member of the district board unless he is a registered voter ;

(e) some of the gentlemen recommended by the Deputy Commissioner for nomination as members are not registered voters ?

(2) - If the answer to (1) above be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to ask the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala, to reconsider his recommendations with a view to give the Muhammadans adequate representation in the district board and to nominate such gentlemen only as are eligible for nomination under the rules.

The Honourable Mian Sir 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.

SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, HISSAR DISTRICT.

1304. Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan : (1) Is it a fact—

- (a) that the Superintendent of Police, Hissar District, is not a permanent superintendent but an officiating one ;
 - (b) that in his officiating appointment he has superseded a number of able and experienced deputy superintendents ;
 - (c) that he has been holding this officiating appointment in the same district since April 1922, and thus has been the cause of grievance to the senior officers who have been superseded ?
- (2) If so, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of taking suitable steps to remove the discontent ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I regret the answer to this question is not ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready. May I say, Sir, that there are a number of questions to which answers are not ready. Generally speaking when it is necessary to collect facts for answering questions the collection of facts takes considerable time. It is not due to any wish to avoid giving answers, but simply the fact that the information has not yet been collected.

EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS IN THE GURGAON DISTRICT.

1305. Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan : (a) Will the Government be pleased to give a list of Extra Assistant Commissioners serving in the Gurgaon District, with dates of their posting in that district ?

(b) Is it a fact that all the posts of Extra Assistant Commissioners in the Gurgaon District are held by non-Muhammadans ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to consider the question of posting Extra Assistant Commissioners to various districts in such a way as to give no cause of complaint to any class or community ?

Mr. H. D. Craik : (a) The honourable member is referred to the Quarterly Civil List for 1st October 1924, page 340. Of the four Extra Assistant Commissioners, two were posted to the district in 1921 and two in 1924.

(b) No.

(c) This is always done so far as the exigencies of the public service permit.

SYSTEM OF *Thikri-Pakra* IN THE HASANPUR VILLAGE, GURGAON DISTRICT.

1306. Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan : (a) Is the Government aware that the system of *Thikri-Pakra* still prevails in the Hasanpur village, tahsil Palwal, Gurgaon District, and poor ill-clad people are forced in this cold weather to keep watch for benefit of a few rich people ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to take steps for the abolition of this practice ?

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.

GRANT OF LAND FOR POLICE, EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER SERVICES.

1307. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (a) Is it a fact that apart from war service persons receive grants of Government lands in recognition of their police services, settlement services and other Government departmental services?

(b) If so, do people get grants of Government lands for their educational services? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The orders of Government regulating grants of land to officers in Civil employment are to be found in paragraph 7 of Financial Commissioners Standing Order No. 44.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES AND NIGHT SCHOOLS AND READING ROOMS.

1308. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (a) With reference to the answer to my question No. 926,* put on the 14th November 1924, will the Government be pleased to say why in eight districts only have co-operative societies so far been able to start a small number of night schools while the majority of districts have done nothing in this direction and why there is only one society in the whole of the province which has started a reading room?

(b) Is Government prepared to direct the department to show more eagerness in opening night schools and reading rooms?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : The original sphere allotted to the Co-operative Departments in India was the organisation of rural credit. It is believed that it is only in the Punjab that such night schools have been started by co-operative societies. The financial stringency of the last four years has prevented the department from extending its activities as rapidly as it desired to do.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : No answer has been given to part (b) of the question with regard to reading rooms.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : This follows from the wording of the answer itself.

CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN LUDHIANA DISTRICT.

1309. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : With reference to the answer to my question No. 930,† put on the 14th November last, will the Government be pleased to say why the progress of co-operative movement is slow in the Ludhiana District as compared with that in the Hoshiarpur District?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : As stated in answer to the previous question the provision of the staff necessary for the more rapid expansion of the co-operative movement has not been possible owing to the prevailing financial stringency. It has made more progress in Hoshiarpur than in Ludhiana because an Inspector was allotted to the former district in 1909, and to the latter not until 1918.

*Volume VII, pages 420-22.

†Volume VII, pages 424-25.

ANSWERS TO CERTAIN UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

1310. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the answers to my questions Nos. 929, 981, 1105, 1106, 1107 and 1108* put in the last session of the Council?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The answer to the Council Question No. 929 is laid on the table.

(Answer to Question No. 929.)

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) Five Hindu Jat Probationary Sub-Inspectors were appointed last year in the Eastern Range and their names are as under :—

- (1) Kapur Singh of Hissar,
- (2) Nand Lal,
- (3) Hirde Ram,
- (4) Sarup Singh of Rohtak, and
- (5) Man Mohan Singh of the Karnal District.

(b) The total number of Probationary Sub-Inspectors appointed in the Eastern Range during the year was 16. Selections are made chiefly on a consideration of personal qualifications, due regard being paid to war service, educational qualifications and family claims. The large proportion of Jat candidates selected during the year merely shows that the community in question produced more candidates with outstanding qualifications than was the case with other communities.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The answer to Council Question No. 981 is laid upon the table.

(Answer to Question No. 981.)

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

(b) The system of communal representation has not been introduced in the case of any district board. In the case of municipalities it has been retained where it existed before and has been newly introduced only in response to an urgent local demand for it. In the case of small towns separate communal representation was not in existence anywhere and Government did not therefore extend the principle to these places.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : I regret that the answer to questions Nos. 1105, 1106, 1107 and 1108 are not yet ready. They will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

LAHORE BADSHAHI MOSQUE.

1311. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Will the Government be pleased to say whether they have decided to hand over the Lahore Badshahi mosque to the Muslim community unconditionally? If not, will Government state the reasons for the delay in their decision?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The matter is still under consideration.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Will the Government please say when it expects to come to a definite decision with regard to this question?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : It is not possible for me to fix a date, but I trust it will not be long before the matter is decided.

PASSPORT TO PANDIT LOK NATH TO GO TO AFRICA.

1312. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Will the Government please state if it is a fact that Pandit Lok Nath, Arya Updeshak, Pind Dadan Khan, who has been an Updeshak of the Arya Priti Nidha Sabha, Punjab (a religious body) for a large number of years applied for a passport to go to Africa?

(b) Is it a fact that in his application he expressed that he intended to go to Africa on a religious mission?

(c) Is it a fact that his application for passport has been refused by the Government? If so, for what reasons?

(d) Will the Government please lay on the table the whole correspondence that passed between Pandit Lok Nath, the Deputy Commissioner of the district and the Government on the subject?

Mr. J. M. Dunnett : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes

(c) Yes, owing to his past record.

(d) No.

Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please lay on the table a brief history of his past record?

Mr. J. M. Dunnett : No.

Lala Bodh Raj : Is the Government aware that Mrs. Sarojini Naidu went on a political mission and she was allowed a passport?

Mr. President : That is not a supplementary question.

HARDSHIP OF THE PENSIONERS OF BHIWANI IN GETTING PAYMENTS.

1313. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Has it come to the notice of Government that the pensioners of Bhiwani have been put to great hardship in getting payments at Bhiwani post office because of the irregular hours of attendance of the Tahsildar at the Tahsil?

(b) Will Government please instruct the present Tahsildar to see that payments from the Government treasury are made at regular hours to the post office for the above purpose?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :
(a) No.

(b) Would seem not to arise.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST CHAUDHRI LAJJA RAM, TAHSILDAR.

1314. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the case brought against Th. Gharsingh, M.C., by Lala Tara Chand of Bhiwani in the court of Ch. Lajja Ram, the Tahsildar, in August 1923?

(b) Was any transfer application filed by the accused in the above case?

(c) Is it a fact that the transfer application was granted on the strength of allegations contained therein against the Tahsildar?

(d) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to those various allegations against the said Tahsildar? If so, has the Government taken any action thereon?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sandar Singh, Majithia :

(a) No.

(b) and (c) Government has no information.

(d) Part (a) No.

Part (ii) Does not arise.

MONTHLY GRANT-IN-AID GIVEN TO THE M. B. HIGH SCHOOL, BHIWANI.

1315. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Is it a fact that in the year 1914, the Government withdrew the monthly grant-in-aid given to the M. B. High School, Bhiwani? If so, will Government please state the reasons? Had this action of the Government any connection with the burning of the school by some students?

(b) Is it a fact that the burden of expenditure of the school is regularly increasing?

(c) If so, will the Government please consider the desirability of renewing the grant and making provisions for the same in the next budget?

(d) Does the Government intend to provincialise the above school in the next year?

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

(ii) The grant was stopped on account of the discipline being unsatisfactory.

(iii) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) It will be considered if recommended by the local authorities and subject to funds being available.

(d) The provincialization of the school will be considered on the merits of the case if funds permit.

CORRUPTION IN BHIWANI MUNICIPALITY.

1316. Lala Bodh Raj : Has the attention of the Government been drawn to several complaints appearing in the Press, regarding the alleged

corruption in Bhiwani Municipality? If so, has the Government taken any steps to enquire into the matter?

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

(b) A complaint was received by Government in 1923, but on enquiry proved to be baseless.

CORRUPTION ENQUIRY COMMITTEE, AMBALA DIVISION.

1317. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Will the Government please lay on the table the report of the last corruption enquiry committee of the Ambala Division?

(b) Will Government please state if any officers condemned by the above committee have been given promotion either in rank or pay after the submission of the report? If so, will the Government please state their names and designation?

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.

C. I. D. IN THE PUNJAB.

1318. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please lay on the table a comparative statement of figures for the last five years from 1918 to 1923 showing—

- (i) the total strength of Criminal Investigation Department (Police) in the Punjab;
- (ii) the amount of annual expenditure for its upkeep; and
- (iii) the total number of criminal cases investigated by the department every year?

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.

LICENCES FOR MOTOR CARS PLYING FOR HIRE IN THE ROHTAK DISTRICT.

1319. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, refused to endorse the licences of motor cars plying for hire issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Hissar? If so, under what rules the endorsement of licences was refused by him?

(b) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, issued first two licences in the current year to his head clerk Mr. Theophilus for plying motor cars for hire? If so, will the Government please state whether a Government official is allowed to carry on such trade in his own name and get licences issued from his own office in his own name?

(c) Will the Government please lay on the table the correspondence that passed between the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, the Deputy Commissioner, Hissar, and Mr. K. A. Desai on the subject.

[Lala Bodh Raj.]

(d) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, after refusing to endorse the licences issued by the Deputy Commissioner of Hissar, issued licences to motor cars himself?

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.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE TAHSILDAR OF BHIWANI.

1320. Lala Bodh Raj: (a) Is it a fact that some eight members of Bhiwani Municipality submitted to Government a joint memorandum against the President of the municipality?

(b) If so, has the attention of the Government been drawn to the allegations contained therein against the Tahsildar of Bhiwani?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, has the Government enquired into those allegations and if so, with what result?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia:

(a) Yes. In 1922.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. The allegations were found to be baseless.

TAKING AWAY OF CHINIOT FROM JHANG DISTRICT AND ATTACHING IT TO THE LYALLPUR DISTRICT.

1321. Lala Bodh Raj: Is it a fact that the people of Chiniot (Jhang District) made a representation to the Government to take Chiniot away from the Jhang District and attach it to the Lyallpur District to avoid the inconveniences they are put to because of Chiniot being at a far off distance from the headquarters of the district and for some other reasons?

If so, what action has the Government taken thereon?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: The answer to the first part of the question is, yes.

As regards the second, attention is invited to the reply given to question No. 335 at the 1921 Session of Council, which for the convenience of the honourable member is reproduced below.

(Question No. 335 and answer thereto.)

Sayad Hussain Shah: (a) Is it a fact that tahsil Chiniot is situated at a distance of 52 miles from Jhang and only 15 miles from Lyallpur?

(b) Will Government consider the advisability of connecting tahsil Chiniot with the Lyallpur District.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia:

(a) The distance of Chiniot from Jhang is 52 miles but from Lyallpur it is between 20 and 21 miles, not 15 miles as stated in the question.

(b) In 1913-14 a proposal to transfer the Chiniot Tahsil to Lyallpur from the Jhang District and the Toba Tek Singh Tahsil from the former to the latter was considered but dropped. Owing to the size of the Lyallpur District and the very heavy work involved in its administration the addition of the Chiniot Tahsil to it as it is constituted at present would be impracticable.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will the Government consider the desirability of creating Chiniot as a sub-division if they are not prepared to transfer it to the Lyallpur District ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : It is a matter of policy. If you wish an answer to that question, a fresh notice must be given.

RAILWAY CONNECTION FROM CHAK JHUMRA TO CHINIOT.

1322. Lala Bodh Raj : Is it fact that the people of Chiniot made a representation to the Government to take necessary steps to get railway connection from Chak Jhumra to Chiniot ?

If so, what action has the Government taken thereon ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : No such representation appears to have been received by the Local Government. A representation was, however, received in 1920 for the construction of a railway line from Sangla Hill to Jhang *via* Chiniot. An enquiry was made as to whether the residents of Chiniot were prepared to construct the line as a local enterprise. Government heard nothing thereafter.

Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government care to make the same enquiries again ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Yes.

DACOITIES IN VILLAGE QASIM BELA, MULTAN DISTRICT.

1323. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Is it a fact that on the night of 26th December 1924, a gang of dacoits armed with guns and fire-arms attacked the village Qasim Bela which is at a distance of only one mile from the cantonment of Multan ?

(b) Is it a fact that two Hindus were shot dead and three Hindus wounded by the dacoits ?

(c) Is it a fact that the dacoits took away cash and valuables of several thousands of rupees ?

(d) If so, what steps does the Government intend to take for the protection of the people of this village and other villages within the suburbs of cantonment from the recurrence of similar attacks.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) It is a fact that a gang of seven persons committed a dacoity on the night of the 26th December 1924 and used fire-arms.

(b) Two persons were killed and two injured, one of whom succumbed to his injury a few days later in hospital.

(c) Property and cash to the value of Rs. 796 was carried off.

[The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.]

Seven accused have been arrested and all property stolen has been recovered.

(d) No special measures appear to be called for.

SEWA SAMITI AND MUNICIPAL PLAGUE CAMP AT MULTAN.

1324. Lala Bodh Raj: (a) Is it a fact that the workers of local Sewa Samiti have been attending to plague patients in the municipal plague camp at Multan and about twenty of them stay throughout day and night in the camp for service?

(b) Is it a fact that three members of the Sewa Samiti, namely, Lala Chhuta Ram, Lala Chaman Lal and Lala Uttam Chand died of plague while in this service?

(c) Does the Government intend to provide for the maintenance of the survivors or dependents of these deceased members of the Sewa Samiti or render them any other help?

(d) Will the Government please give the following figures:—

(i) the number of plague cases in Multan reported from October to December 1924;

(ii) the number of cases admitted to municipal plague camp; and

(iii) the number of cases recovered out of those admitted to camp?

(e) Has the Government sanctioned any special grant to the municipality for combating this epidemic?

The Honourable Mian Sir 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.

REGISTER OF VOTERS, MULTAN MUNICIPALITY.

1325. Lala Bodh Raj: (a) Is it a fact that the rules made by the Punjab Government in exercise of powers under section 240 of the Punjab Municipal Act, for Multan Municipality lay down among others—

(i) that the Deputy Commissioner shall cause to be prepared registers of persons entitled to be registered as voters, and

(ii) that any person whose name is not entered in the register of voters and who claims to be entitled to be registered as a voter and any person whose name is so entered and who objects to the entry of the name of any other person may on or before the date fixed give notice in writing of his claim or objection, as the case may be, to the Deputy Commissioner?

(b) Is it a fact that the person giving such notice is required to do it on a paper with the court-fee stamp of Rs. 1 affixed to it? If so, under what provision of the Court-fees Act such duty is levied?

(c) Is it a fact that it is obligatory on the Deputy Commissioner to keep a correct record of the voters?

If so, what are the reasons for levying any duty from the person who cares to bring to his notice his mistake or omission?

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

(b) Yes, under the Indian Stamp Act.

(c) It is the duty of the Deputy Commissioner to have the voters' registers compiled and he should endeavour to see that they are as correct as possible. This is, however, irrelevant to the policy of Government requiring for revenue purposes that applications to Government officials should be stamped.

ANSWERS TO CERTAIN UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

1326. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please lay on the table the answers to questions Nos. 1132, 1172 and 1175,* put by me at the last session of the Council?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The answers to Council questions Nos. 1132, 1172, and 1175 are laid on the table.

(Answer to Question No. 1132.†)

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) No. There is not a single instance in which accused persons were not placed before a magistrate within 24 hours for a remand, and within 15 days for an adjournment.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the last six months the city police have registered 146 cases, out of which adjournments for more than 15 days have been taken in 7 cases. These cases were important cases which disclosed the existence of several gangs which had been operating in the city and rural area for the past three years. As different accused persons made statements further arrests had to be made, and property recovered. Remands and adjournments were necessary to link up the cases. These cases led to the arrest of 25 persons.

(Answer to Question No. 1172.‡)

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : It is believed that this and similar allegations are at the present time the subject of judicial investigation. It is not therefore desirable to reply.

(Answer to Question No. 1175.§)

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) Yes, with few exceptions.

(b) No. All witnesses come into headquarters with challans on the evening previous to the day on which the case is placed before the magistrate for trial. The witnesses statements are recorded the same day before the magistrate and they are permitted to return home.

* Volume VII, pages 619, 687 and 674.

† Volume VII, page 619.

‡ Volume VII, page 677.

§ Volume VII, page 674.

[Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.]

In a very few instances witnesses are obliged to remain over a second day owing to the magistrates having already a full list of cases for the day. No witness has ever come into headquarters before the evening previous to the trial.

(c) No. Up to date there is an increase of 107 cases in reported crime as compared with the same period of last year.

DETECTION OF ACCUSED IN POLICE CUSTODY DURING INVESTIGATION
BY THE POLICE.

1327. Lala Bodh Raj: (a) In view of the reply to question No. 1132 (a), will the Government please state whether the adjournments asked for referred to police investigations or inquiries or to trials?

(b) In case they referred to police investigations will the Government please state under what provision of the law such adjournments were granted?

(c) Will the Government please state whether in cases in which adjournments for more than 15 days were taken as referred to in reply to question No. 1132 (c), the accused were placed in the judicial lock-up or they were allowed to remain in the custody of police for the full period of adjournments or a portion thereof?

(d) Will the Government please state the maximum period of adjournments taken in the seven cases referred to in reply to question No. 1132 (c).

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.

CASE OF RAI SAHIB BAKHSHI JAMNA DASS, JAILOR, MULTAN CENTRAL JAIL,
AGAINST "BANDEMATRAM" CO., LAHORE.

1328. Lala Bodh Raj: (a) Is it a fact that the Government has engaged the services of the public prosecutor of Multan and Muzaffargarh for the conduct of the libel case filed by Rai Sahib Bakhshi Jamna Dass, Jailor, Central Jail, Multan, against "Bandematram" Co., Lahore, which is pending in the Court of the Senior Sub-Judge, Multan?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government has appointed a temporary additional public prosecutor for Multan because of the absence of the public prosecutor from the district for the conduct of the above-mentioned civil case? If so, from what date the appointment has been made, and on what pay?

(c) What is the total amount of expenditure incurred by the Government up to the end of December 1924 for the conduct of or on account of the above case, including the fees of the counsel, the travelling allowance bills of the counsel, the cost of service stamps used by the plaintiff or his counsel in connection with this case and the remuneration of the additional public prosecutor?

(d) Is it a fact that besides the public prosecutor two other counsels have been engaged for the plaintiff in this case?

(e) Under what authority is the Government lending the support of its legal officers for the purpose of assisting the plaintiff and incurring expenditure for the conduct of this case?

(f) Will the Government please state if the expenditure incurred by it for the conduct of or on account of this case or any portion of it, is to be recovered from the plaintiff after the decision of the case? If not, what are the reasons for not so recovering?

(g) Did the plaintiff jailor correspond with the Government on the subject before instituting the case in the court? If so, will the Government please lay the correspondence on the table?

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.

RECORDING OF IRRIGATION OF THE SIDHNAI CANAL IN THE DERAJAT CIRCLE.

1329. Lala Bodh Raj: In view of the reply to question No. 1040(a)* asked on the 20th November 1924, will the Government please state the necessity or utility of recording of irrigation by the Irrigation Department revenue staff?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: The reply given to part (a) of question 1040 contains the information sought by the honourable member.

DEPUTY COLLECTORS IN THE IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT IN THE DERAJAT CIRCLE.

1330. Lala Bodh Raj: How many Deputy Collectors are maintained by the Irrigation Department in the Derajat Circle and for what purpose and what is their monthly pay?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: Four Deputy Collectors are maintained in the Derajat Circle. Their monthly pays on 1st December 1924 were Rs. 375, 275, 275 and 225.

As regards the purpose for which these Deputy Collectors are maintained, the member is referred to Chapter III and paragraph 137, Chapter X, of the Revenue Manual of the Irrigation Branch.

HORSE ALLOWANCE TO ZILLADARS, NAIB-ZILLADARS, OVERSEERS AND SUB-OVERSEERS.

1331. Lala Bodh Raj: (a) Is it a fact that in the Derajat Circle the Zilladars are paid Rs. 50 per mensem and Naib-Zilladars Rs. 40 per mensem as fixed horse allowance, while the Overseers and Sub-Overseers are paid only Rs. 30 per mensem horse allowance which even with mileage allowance does not amount to Rs. 40 per mensem?

(b) Is it a fact that the Overseers and Sub-Overseers hold a higher rank than that of Zilladars and Naib-Zilladars?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: (a) Zilladars and Naib-Zilladars draw permanent travelling allowance of Rs. 50 and Rs. 40 per mensem, respectively, in lieu of all other forms of travelling allowance including horse allowance; Overseers and Sub-Overseers draw a horse allowance of Rs. 30 per mensem, in addition to which they can draw other travelling allowance.

(b) No. Overseers and Sub-Overseers are not of superior status.

**GARDENS ATTACHED TO THE HEAD-WORKS SUB-DIVISION OF THE
MULTAN CANAL DIVISION.**

1332. Lala Bodh Raj: Will the Government please lay on the table the answer to question No. 1043,* asked by me on the 20th November 1924?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :
The answer to question No. 1043 is laid on the table.

(Answer to question No. 1043.)

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) Yes, but the approximate cost of maintenance is Rs. 7 per month for each garden.

(b) Yes, six similar gardens are attached to the inspection houses of the other sub-divisions of the Multan Canal Division. The total amount of such expenditure in the whole Division was Rs. 342 during the year 1923-24.

(c) About Rs. 10 per month.

(d) A statement containing the information asked for, is appended.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, IRRIGATION BRANCH, PUNJAB.

*Statement showing total average income accrued, during the year 1923-24,
from vegetable gardens in each Division of the Canal Department, Punjab.*

Serial No.	Canal Division.					Total average income.
						Rs.
	WESTERN JUMNA CANAL CIRCLE.					
1	Karnal	...	...	...	...	137
2	Delhi	...	...	...	...	126
3	Rohtak	...	...	...	...	103
4	Hissar	...	...	...	...	77
	Total					443
	SIRHIND CANAL CIRCLE.					
1	Ludhiana	...	...	...	...	350
2	Ferozepore	...	...	...	...	108
3	Bhatinda	...	...	...	...	100
4	Patiala	...	...	...	...	350
	Total					908

Serial No.	Canal Division.	Total average income.
		Rs.
UPPER BARI DOAB CIRCLE.		
1	I Division	142
2	II "	80
3	III "	118
4	IV "	76
5	Upper Sutlej Division, Inundation Canals ...	267
Total ...		683
LOWER BARI DOAB CANAL CIRCLE.		
1	Balloki	70
2	Okara	112
3	Montgomery	115
4	Khanewal	112
Total ...		409
DERAJAT CIRCLE.		
1	Multan Canals Division	117
2	Lower Sutlej Canals Division	320
3	Muzaffargarh " "	962
4	Dera Ghazi Khan Division	138
Total ...		1,537
LOWER CHANAB EAST CIRCLE.		
1	Upper Gugera	104
2	Lower Gugera	113
3	Borala	84
Total ...		301

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Serial No.	Canal Division.					Total average income.
						Rs.
LOWER CHENAB WEST CIRCLE.						
1	Khanki	...	...	...	...	92
2	Hafizabad	...	...	...	...	82
3	Lyallpur	...	...	...	...	125
4	Jhang	...	...	...	...	101
Total					...	400
UPPER CHENAB CANAL CIRCLE.						
1	Circle Office (Superintending Engineer)	...	...	...	...	15
2	Merala	...	...	...	...	216
3	Gujranwala	...	...	...	...	100
4	Sheikhpura	...	...	...	...	81
5	Raya	...	...	...	...	77
Total					...	489
UPPER JHELUM CANAL CIRCLE.						
1	Falia	...	...	...	...	102
2	Gujrat	...	...	...	...	77
3	Jhelum	...	...	...	...	113
Total					...	292
LOWER JHELUM CIRCLE.						
1	Rasul	...	...	...	...	55
2	Kirana	...	...	...	...	126
3	Sargodha	...	...	...	...	118
4	Shahpur	...	...	...	...	90
Total					...	389
GRAND TOTAL					...	5,351

CORRUPTION AMONGST THE ZILLADARS AND MIRABS OF THE IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.

1333. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Is it a fact that corruption is reputed to be still rampant amongst the Zilladars and Mirabs of the Irrigation Department?

(b) Is it a fact that the practice of accepting gratifications in the form of 'Faslana' by the said officers is still reputed to be prevalent on a large scale?

(c) Was any enquiry committee formed by the Government to enquire into the above matter? If so, what was the report of the committee on the matter?

(d) What action has the Government taken to put a stop to the above evil practice?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a), (b) and (c) The member is referred to the "Report of the Committee appointed to investigate the extent of corruption among officials and remedies to be applied", which was published in the year 1922.

(d) The Punjab Government issued a Resolution in Home-General Department No. 11269-Judl., dated 31st March 1922, and this was supplemented by Irrigation Branch instructions contained in Circular letter No. 03729-45-E. I., dated 6th October 1922 (copy attached).

Circular letter No. 03729-45-E.I. dated the 6th October 1922, from the Secretary to Government, Punjab, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, to all Superintending Engineers, Irrigation Branch, Punjab; Superintendent, Central Workshops Division, and Executive Engineers, Independent Divisions.

In continuation of this office No. 5530-5546-E.I., dated 10th July 1922, I am directed to issue the following instructions :—

1. In the "general remarks" in the Personal Registers of Subordinates and Zilladars, the reporting officer must expressly state whether the reputation for honesty of the official reported on is good or bad.

In the case of Gazetted Officers if the reputation for honesty of the officer reported on is bad or indifferent, the fact must be recorded in the qualification report.

Specific instances of suspected dishonesty must be recorded in support of adverse reports in all cases.

(2) In the case of those of Ministerial and Menial status action should be taken in accordance with paragraph 8 of Resolution No. 11269-Judl., dated 31st March 1922.

(3) The accompanying rules, regarding proceedings against Canal officers reported to be habitually corrupt, are forwarded for information and guidance. The absolute necessity for very careful consideration before reporting a man dishonest or having a reputation for dishonesty should be impressed upon all Sub-Divisional and other reporting officers.

RULES REGARDING PROCEEDINGS AGAINST CANAL OFFICERS REPORTED TO BE HABITUALLY CORRUPT.

Rule 1.—In all cases in which a report imputing corruption to a Canal officer is brought on to his Personal File, or Personal Register, an attested

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copy of the report shall be furnished under the orders of the officer maintaining the Personal File, or Register to the Canal Officer concerned; and his receipt therefor shall be filed with the report in question.

Rule 2.—When the number of adverse reports imputing corruption to an officer amounts to three, he shall be held liable to trial by a Commission of Enquiry under Punjab Government Resolution No. 11269-Judl., dated the 31st March 1922, on a charge of habitual corruption; and the officer in charge of the Personal File, or Register, shall bring the case to the notice of the Chief Engineer in the case of officers above the rank of Sub-Overseer or Zilladar and to the notice of Superintending Engineer in the case of ministerial and menial officials.

Rule 3.—If the Chief Engineer or Superintending Engineer considers that there is sufficient reason to believe that the officer reported against is habitually corrupt, he will convene a Commission of Enquiry which, in the case of an officer above the rank of Sub-Overseer or Zilladar, will consist of a Financial Commissioner, a Commissioner and the Chief Engineer, and in the case of ministerial and menial officials, of the Commissioner of the Division, a Deputy Commissioner and the Superintending Engineer.

Rule 4.—On being produced before the Commission of Enquiry the officer complained of will be charged in the form of a statement reciting the opinions of the officers who have recorded that the accused has a reputation for dishonesty, or has been suspected of dishonesty on specific occasions; and he will then be called upon to show cause why he should not be removed from the service or otherwise punished departmentally on the ground that he is unfit for the duties of his rank.

Rule 5.—The accused will have the right to produce such evidence in his defence as appears to the Commission to be relevant to the charge passed; and after hearing such evidence and also whatever the accused has to say in his defence, the Commission will record its recommendation; and the Chief Engineer or the Superintending Engineer, as the case may be, will thereafter pass such orders as he may deem fit for the disposal of the case, awarding any of the forms of departmental punishment, such as dismissal, reduction, stoppage of increment, forfeiture of leave.

Rule 6.—An appeal against an order passed under rule 5 to the Local Government and Chief Engineer, respectively, and the order of the appellate authority shall be final.

POLICE HOSPITALS AND ALLOWANCE TO SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS.

1334. **Lala Bodh Raj :** (a) Will the Government please state the number of police hospitals in the province with the names of places where they are located?

(b) Is it a fact that unlike the Sub-Assistant Surgeons attached to canal and railway dispensaries, no allowance is granted to those attached to police dispensaries? What are the reasons for not sanctioning the allowance for such Sub-Assistant Surgeons?

The Honourable Mian Sir 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.

SECURITY CASES CHALLENGED BY THE MULTAN POLICE.

1335. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please state according to year—

- (a) the number of security cases under section 109, Criminal Procedure Code, challenged by the Multan police during the last five years ;
- (b) (i) In how many cases were proceedings withdrawn against the accused or quashed on appeal ;
- (ii) in how many cases were the accused discharged or acquitted ;
- (c) In how many cases in Multan did the sureties in cases under sections 109 and 110, Criminal Procedure Code, apply for the cancellation of their bonds during the last two 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.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES OF THE AMBALA DIVISION.

1336. Sardar Tara Singh : Will Government kindly lay on the table a complete list of all the Honorary Magistrates in each district of the Ambala Division with their respective powers and qualifications ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : A full list is given in the periodical Civil List, which will be found in the Legislative Council Library. It is not known what is meant by the qualifications of Honorary Magistrates.

HONORARY MAGISTRATE SIRSA TAHSIL.

1337. Sardar Tara Singh : (a) Is it a fact that there are at present two first class Magistrates, three second class Magistrates (e.g., one Tahsildar, Sirsa, one Naib-Tahsildar, Dabwali) and an Honorary Magistrate (with B.A., LL.B., qualifications) in the Sirsa Tahsil.

(b) Is it a fact that Government proposes to establish another court of an Honorary Magistrate with second class powers at Sirsa and thereby incur an extra expense of its establishment ?

(c) If the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, is it a fact that the gentleman upon whom the second class powers are proposed to be conferred has not studied even up to the Middle standard and is quite ignorant of law.

(d) Is it also a fact that the work of this gentleman who is at present on the bench of Honorary Magistrates with third class powers at Sirsa has not been satisfactory ?

(e) Is it a fact that there is no Sikh gentleman on the bench of Honorary Magistrates at Sirsa ? If so, does the Government propose to consider the claims of the Sikh community and place a Sikh gentleman in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Captain A. G. Puech ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) Yes.

(b) No such proposal has reached Government.

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(c) and (d) answers to these parts do not arise.

(e) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative.

As regards the latter portion, Government can give no definite undertaking, but will bear in mind the claims of the Sikh Community when considering proposals for filling up the vacancy referred to.

TRANSFER OF MASTER MOTA SINGH (A PRISONER) FROM NAGPUR JAIL TO A JAIL IN BURMA.

1338. **Sardar Tara Singh:** Is it a fact that Master Mota Singh, originally a Punjab Jail prisoner, has been transferred from Nagpur Jail to some jail in Burma? If so, will the Government please state the reasons for the transfer?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Mota Singh is confined in a jail in Burma, but Government is unaware of the reason of his transfer to that jail from the Nagpur Jail.

DEATH OF PRISONERS IN THE CAMPBELLPUR, ATTOCK AND RAWALPINDI JAILS.

1339. **Sardar Tara Singh:** Will the Government please state how many prisoners have died in Campbellpur, Attock and Rawalpindi jails from 1st October 1924 up to 10th January 1925, giving their names, caste and the cause of their death?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

GOVERNMENT CATTLE FARMS AND EXPORT OF CATTLE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

1340. **Sardar Tara Singh:** (a) Will the Government please state—

(i) how many cattle farms are now being run and managed by the Government;

(ii) the number of cattle maintained and their total annual cost in each farm;

(iii) the number of cattle that have been exported to or purchased by agencies outside British India together with the class or quality to which these cattle belonged?

(b) Will the Government please state whether it proposes to take steps to stop the export or sale of cattle of first class quality to foreign countries and to earmark them for the Punjab for better breeding?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

TIME-SCALE OF PAY FOR THE SUBORDINATE SERVICE OF THE VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

1341. **Sardar Tara Singh:** Is it a fact that the system of time-scale of pay has not yet been introduced in the subordinate service of the Veterinary

Department? If so, will the Government please say whether it proposes to introduce this system now? If not, why not?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : The facts are not as stated in the question. Veterinary Inspectors are on a time-scale of Rs. 120—5—170. Veterinary Assistant Surgeons who have taken the new 4 years' course at the Veterinary College will be paid at the rate of Rs. 100—10—300. Veterinary Assistants who only took the old 3 years' course are graded in three grades, on Rs. 90, Rs. 75 and Rs. 60. This rate of pay is considered suitable for men with their qualifications.

MEDICINES SUPPLIED TO THE VETERINARY HOSPITALS.

1342. Sardar Tara Singh : Is it a fact that a limited quantity of medicine is placed at the disposal of veterinary hospitals and it is found insufficient to meet the requirements of the public? Will the Government please make enquiries from all such dispensaries and increase the supply where necessary?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Owing to financial stringency difficulties are occasionally encountered in maintaining a full supply of medicines at all times at veterinary hospitals. The Civil Veterinary Department, however, fully recognises the need for maintaining an adequate stock of medicines at all hospitals and is continually pressing District Boards to provide sufficient funds to enable it to do so.

SUB-JUDGES AND EFFICIENCY BAR.

1343. Sardar Tara Singh : Will the Government please lay on the table the answer to question No. 2644,* asked by Lala Kesho Ram on the 22nd October 1923?

Mr. H. D. Craik : The answer to question No. 2644 asked by Lala Kesho Ram on the 22nd October 1923 is laid on the table.

Answer to question No. 2644.

Mr. H. D. Craik : (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the negative and to the second part in the affirmative.

(d) and (e) Yes.

(f) No. The mere change in the designation of Munsiffs does not override the conditions announced in paragraph 2 of Punjab Government Resolution No. 21709, dated 24th August 1921.

(g) It has been ascertained that the Accountant-General, Punjab, has issued no salary slips intimating that this efficiency bar has ceased to exist.

(h) The efficiency bar at Rs. 390 is one of the conditions of inclusion of Munsiffs (old style) into the Punjab Civil Service, and Government sees no reason to reconsider this condition.

DISTRIBUTARY NAMED JASSOWAL RAJBABA KOKRI (SIRHIND CANAL).

1344. Sardar Tara Singh: Will the Government please state—

- (a) whether there is a scheme to lay out a new distributary named Jassowal Rajbaha Kokri (Sirhind Canal);
- (b) whether the survey of the scheme has been completed and its estimates prepared;
- (c) whether a commission consisting of the Sub-Divisional Officer, Moga, and the Revenue Assistant, Ludhiana, was formed with a view to fix up the price of land through which the Rajbaha was to run and the owners of these lands signed an undertaking in writing at Jagraon in token of their consent to the price fixed by the commission; and
- (d) whether this scheme has been strongly recommended by the Executive Engineer, Ludhiana, and the Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore?
- (e) If the answers to (a), (b), (c) and (d) be in the affirmative, will the Government please state at what stage that scheme now is and also consider the advisability of expediting it in view of the poverty of these villagers?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia:

(a) to (d) Replies are in the affirmative.

(e) The scheme is under the consideration of Government. It has not been very favourably reviewed by the Superintending Engineer of the Sirhind Canal Circle, and in view of the comparative failure of a similar scheme recently carried out in the Ferozepore District, some doubt exists as to whether it would prove to be remunerative to Government.

SMALL TOWN COMMITTEE IN VILLAGE RAM DASS.

1345. Sardar Tara Singh: (a) Is it a fact that there is a small town committee in village Ram Dass in Amritsar District?

(b) Is it a fact that the said committee contains two Hindus and three Muhammadans who were elected in 1924?

(c) Is it a fact that one (the sixth) seat has been filled up by nomination? If so, will the Government please state whether that nominee is a Sikh, Hindu or Muhammadan?

(d) Is it a fact that representations were made to the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, and Commissioner, Lahore, by the Khalsa Association, Ram Dass, for nominating a Sikh (to represent the Sikh interests)?

(e) If so, will the Government please state whether the request of the Khalsa Association was conceded? If not, why not?

(f) Is it a fact that there is one Khalsa High School and four Gurdwaras of historical importance at Ram Dass and the number of Sikh voters is 81, as compared with 306 of Hindus and 431 of Muhammadans?

(g) What provision has the Government made or proposes to make to safeguard the Sikh interests in that committee?

The Honourable Mian Sir 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.

PREVENTION OF RAT EPIDEMIC IN THE PROVINCE.

1346. Sardar Tara Singh: (a) Is it a fact that there is a great epidemic of rats this year irreparably damaging the rabi crops?

(b) Is it a fact that a special officer has been deputed on rat-killing campaign and his method has produced exceedingly good results?

(c) Will the Government please consider the advisability of making a special grant for providing him with more staff and necessary quantity of poison to meet the requirements of the rat stricken districts?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Yes, there have been complaints about damage from rats from some districts of the Province.

(b) Yes, an assistant of the Entomological Section of the Department of Agriculture was deputed on a rat-killing campaign for a short while, and the method employed has produced exceedingly good results.

(c) A special staff of 2 Agricultural Assistants, 4 Mukaddams and 8 Fieldmen has been recently sanctioned for this work.

ACTION OF GOVERNMENT ON THE REFERENCE RE ENHANCED WATER-RATES.

1347. Sardar Tara Singh: Will the Government please state what action it has taken on the resolution *re* the cancellation of notifications about enhanced water-rates and *abiana* passed in the last session of the Punjab Legislative Council?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: For reasons given in Sir John Maynard's speech of 24th November 1924 Government has been unable to accept the resolution.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

1348. Sardar Jodh Singh: Will the Government please state:—

(a) the number of Hindu, Muhammadan and Sikh District Inspectors of Schools in the Multan and Rawalpindi Divisions?

(b) the number of Hindu, Muhammadan and Sikh headmasters in the Government and Board High Schools in January 1921 and January 1925; and what steps the Government proposes to take to make up the paucity of Sikh headmasters in the Government and Board Schools;

(c) the number of Hindu, Muhammadan and Sikh Deputy Inspectors of Schools in the five divisions, and if there is no Sikh, what steps the Government proposes to take to appoint deserving Sikh officers for one of the posts when it falls vacant next year?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) The requisite information is laid on the table :—

Number of permanent District Inspectors of Schools in the :—

RAWALPINDI DIVISION.			MULTAN DIVISION.
<i>One post not permanently filled.</i>			
Hindus	...	Nil	Nil
Muhammadans	...	5	5
Sikhs	...	Nil	Nil
Indian Christians	...	...	1

(b) The requisite information regarding Government High Schools is laid on the table :—

Number of Headmasters of Government High Schools in :—

			January 1931.	January 1925.
Hindus	...	...	15	25
Muhammadans	...	...	8	26
Sikhs	...	...	3	3

Government will continue to do its best to encourage all communities. Information regarding Board High Schools is being collected, and will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

(c) Hindu Deputy Inspectors of Schools	...	2
Muhammadan Deputy Inspectors of Schools	...	3
Sikh Deputy Inspectors of Schools	...	Nil

The suggestion of the honourable member will be borne in mind.

GRANT-IN-AID TO SCHOOLS.

1349. Sardar Jodh Singh : (a) Is it a fact that according to the Punjab Education Code aided schools may charge rates of fees current in Government and Board Schools, but in determining the maximum grant the department permits the aided schools to account for only 75 per cent. of their collections?

(b) Has the Education Department now changed that rule or issued any orders for deducting the full amount of fees realised? If not, how is it that in a particular division full amount of fees realised has been deducted in determining the maximum grant? If this is by mistake, will it issue orders for rectifying it?

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

(ii) No.

(b) (i) No.

(ii) Government has no information on the point raised.

GRANT-IN-AID-TO SCHOOLS.

1350. **Sardar Jodh Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amount of grant sanctioned for aided schools for 1923-24 and 1924-25?

— Will the Government please say whether any savings effected under the head grants to aided schools have been utilized to bring more private schools on the aided list or been given to the district board schools in the Punjab?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) The statement* is laid on the table.

(b) The savings effected have enabled Government to add 14 private schools to the grant-in-aid list; and to give special assistance to 5 Board Schools, especially in relation to their high classes. Funds have also been made available to award special grants to 8 other private schools. Details of these grants are laid on the table. Many of these schools have been waiting for a considerable time for these grants, which have been withheld owing to financial stringency.

GRANT TO DISTRICT BOARD ANGLO-VERNAICULAR SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

1351. **Sardar Jodh Singh:** Will Government lay on the table a statement showing the amount of grant sanctioned for District Board A.-V. Secondary schools in 1923-24 and 1924-25.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Required statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing grants-in-aid sanctioned for the District Board Anglo-Vernacular Secondary Schools during the years 1923-24 and 1924-25.

No.	Name of school.	1923-24.	1924-25.	Name of the local body to which the grant was made payable.	REMARKS.
1	Toba Tek Singh	Rs. 3,616	Rs. 1,978	District Board, Lyallpur.	This includes Rs. 1,500 as special grant for this year.
2	Chak Jhumra	2,584	5,265	Ditto.	
3	Samundri ...	3,920	6,008	Ditto.	
4	Dijkot ...	3,400	5,397	Ditto.	
5	Shorkot ...	1,392	2,034	District Board, Jhang.	
6	Dipalpur ...	1,484	2,716	District Board, Montgomery.	
7	Kot Adu ...	1,928	4,244	District Board, Muzaffargarh.	(c) The school was transferred to the control of Notified Area Committee, Jandiala, during 1924-25 and Rs. 1,172 paid to that body.
8	Sheikhupura ...	1,184	1,924	District Board, Sheikhupura.	
9	Jandiala ...	1,298	(a)	District Board, Amritsar.	
10	Tarn Taran ...	1,470	2,868	Ditto.	
11	Dina Nagar and Shakargarh.	4,488	6,516	District Board, Gurdaspur.	
12	Dasla ...	1,824	2,885	District Board, Sialkot.	
13	Jamke ...	978	1,805	Ditto.	

* See Appendix III.

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No.	Name of school.	1923-24.	1924-25.	Name of the local body to which the grant was made payable.	REMARKS.
14	Zaffarwal ...	R. 1,168	R. 1,625	District Board, Sialkot.	(b) The school transferred to the control of Notified Area Committee, Hafizabad, during 1924-25, hence a grant of Rs. 4,337 has been paid to that body.
15	Chawinda ...	2,144	2,900	Ditto.	
36	Hafizabad ...	2,302	(b)	District Board, Gujranwala.	
17	Pundri ...	694	1,494	District Board, Karnal.	
18	Bhown ...	645	1,545	District Board, Jhelum.	
19	Bhalwal ...	2,082	3,681	District Board, Shahpur.	
20	Bhagtanwala ...	1,096	1,382	Ditto.	
21	Jowarian ...	232	1,452	Ditto.	
22	Hadali ...	2,128	2,663	Ditto.	
23	Naushebra ...	1,600	2,403	Ditto.	
24	Shahpur ...	552	686	Ditto.	
25	Chak No. 126 ...	256	392	Ditto.	
26	Gujar Khan ...	2,736	4,664	District Board, Rawalpindi.	
27	Kunjah ...	2,520	3,957	District Board, Gujrat.	
28	Garhshanker ...	964	574	District Board, Hoshiarpur.	
30	Banga ...	360	(c)	District Board, Jullundur.	(c) Raised to high grade during 1924-25, hence not eligible for grant.
30	Nakodar ...	848	1,360	Ditto.	
31	Kartarpur ...	1,262	1,810	Ditto.	
32	Namrula ...	880	1,080	District Board, Ludhiana.	
33	Palampur ...	2,340	2,465	District Board, Kangra.	
34	Nurpur ...	1,992	2,920	Ditto.	
35	Hauirpur ...	...	2,400	Ditto.	They were vernacular middle schools during 1923-24, hence no grant was given.
36	Kulu ...	...	2,400	Ditto.	
37	Zira ...	2,864	(d)	District Board, Ferozepore.	(d) Raised to high grade during 1924-25, hence no grant given.
38	Kallar ...	...	2,000	District Board, Rawalpindi.	
39	Fetto Hira Singh ...	...	3,000	District Board, Ferozepore.	These are special grants.
40	Srigobindpur ...	...	1,200	District Board, Gurdaspur.	
	Total ...	61,052	93,915 (e)	...	(e) This includes Rs. 13,602, on account of the part of grant which could not be paid last year for want of funds.

N.B.—In addition to the above grants, the District Boards, Jullundur and Hoshiarpur were given a building grant of Rs. 1,000 each in 1923-24 for the construction of buildings of the schools at Tanda and Nakodar respectively.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN RURAL AREAS.

1352. **Sardar Jodh Singh** : Will the Government lay on the table a statement showing the number of recognised secondary schools in rural areas ? How many of these are on the aided list ? Does the Government intend to issue orders that in bringing new schools on the grant-in-aid list schools situated in rural areas should be given preference ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member is requested to refer to the list of recognised secondary schools in the Punjab published by the Education Department, a copy of which has been sent to him.

The claims of rural areas are already being sympathetically considered in admitting new schools to the grant-in-aid list.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE FEROZEPUR DISTRICT.

1353. **Sardar Jodh Singh** : Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Hindu, Muhammadan and Sikh recognised secondary schools in the Ferozepur District ? Which of these are aided ? Is it not a fact that only one Khalsa Middle School gets grant from provincial revenues ? If so, will Government be pleased to accord the Sikh schools in the Ferozepur District the same treatment as to Hindu and Muhammadan schools ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) The honourable member is requested to consult the list referred to in my answer to question No. 1352.

(b) Yes, but the question of admitting new schools to the grant-in-aid list is now under consideration.

(c) The policy of Government is to give as far as possible equal treatment to all communities, and this policy is being pursued in the examination of applications forwarded to the Department.

BOUNDARIES OF THE DISTRICTS IN THE MULTAN DIVISION.

1354. **Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram** : (a) Will the Government please say whether it has under consideration the question of readjusting the boundaries of the districts in the Multan Division in view of the new colony towns that have sprung up ?

(b) If so, has the Government considered the advisability of referring this matter to a committee consisting of the members of this Council representing the districts concerned ? If so, with what result ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) The only readjustments at present under consideration are the formation of a new Pakpattan District, and the transfer of the Khanewal Tahsil from Multan to Montgomery.

(b) As these changes are of obvious administrative convenience, and are necessitated by the growth of canal colonies it has not been considered necessary to consult any committee on the subject.

Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please consider the question of readjustment of boundaries of other districts in the division ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The reply is, no.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will the Government be pleased to appoint such a committee where the boundaries of Pakpattan District and also Chiniot in Jhang District are concerned ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : If it appears necessary, the committee will be appointed ; if not, no.

GRANT OF LAND TO THE HINDU ODES IN THE SUTLEJ VALLEY.

1355. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how much area of land has been allotted to the Hindu Odes in the Multan and Montgomery Districts ?

(b) Will the Government please say whether it has received any representation stating that the area so allotted is not sufficient ?

(c) Will the Government consider the desirability of allotting them areas of land in the Sutlej Valley ?

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.

GRANT TO AMBALA DISTRICT BOARD FOR METALLING THE NABAINGARH ROAD*

1356. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the answer to my question No. 1161† asked on the 21st November 1924 ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The answer to the honourable member's question No. 1161 is laid on the table.

(Answer to Question No. 1161.)

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Rs. 50,000.

(b) The report of the Executive Engineer is a lengthy document with a number of statements attached to it, and Government do not propose to lay it on the table.

(c) Arrangements have been made for the work on the road in question to be supervised by the Executive Engineer.

ALIENATION OF LAND BY CHRISTIAN SETTLERS OF JHANG, LYALLPUR, SHEIKHUPURA AND MONTGOMERY DISTRICTS.

1357. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : (a) Will the Government please lay on the table the answer to question No. 1113† asked on the 21st November 1924 ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the answer to part (a) of that question has been given after making necessary enquiries in all the districts mentioned in my question ?

(c) Is it not a fact that more than one case has occurred ? If so, will Government be pleased to issue a circular letter as suggested in part (b) of the question as a precautionary measure ?

* Volume VII, page 632.

† Volume II, page 611.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia:

(a) A copy of the answer to question No. 1113 is laid on the table.

(b) Yes.

(c) Not that Government is aware of.

(Answer to Question No. 1113.)

(a) Only one such case has been reported, which is now pending with the revenue officers of the district concerned.

(b) As the practice is not prevalent or widespread Government sees no necessity to issue any general instructions.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: Is there any harm in issuing instructions as a precautionary measure?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: I cannot say whether there will be any harm or not. When the question arises, it will be considered.

SIKH REPRESENTATION IN THE LOCAL BODIES IN THE SHAHPUR DISTRICT.

1358. Sardar Narain Singh: (a) What is the strength of Sikh representation in Bhera and Miani Municipalities in the Shahpur District?

(b) Is it a fact that the Sikhs in these towns form an important minority?

(c) If so, what measures have been taken to safeguard their rights of representation on the local bodies?

(d) Was any representation received by the officers concerned from some Sikh bodies of these places for a seat on the municipality by nomination?

(e) If so, with what result?

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

(b) No, the Sikhs constitute only 2.1 per cent. of the population and 1.39 per cent. of the voters in Bhera and 2.8 per cent. of the population and 2.01 per cent. of the voters in Miani.

(c) Does not arise. In neither of these municipalities does separate communal representation prevail, and when draft rules revising the constitution of the committees were published no representation on the subject was received from the Sikh residents.

(d) A representation was received from the Sikhs of Bhera before the draft rules were published and was sent to the Commissioner for disposal.

(e) The claim for representation by nomination appears to have been considered by the Commissioner to be unjustified.

SHAHPUR DISTRICT BOARD.

1359. **Sardar Narain Singh :** (a) What is the total number of members of the Shahpur District Board ?

(b) How many of these are elected and how many nominated ?

(c) Of these how many are (i) Muslims, (ii) Hindus and (iii) Sikhs ?

(d) What is the amount of local rates realized for the entire district during the last year and how much of it was paid by the three communities in the district, respectively ?

(e) On what basis were the nominations to the board made ?

The Honourable Mian Sir 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.

BRIDGE ACROSS THE BHIMBAR NALA.

1360. **Sardar Narain Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that the Nala (rivulet) Bhimbar running between Gujrat and Kunjah causes heavy loss of life and property every year ?

(b) Will Government give figures for the last five years showing—

(i) the number of deaths by drowning in the said Nala each year ;

(ii) loss of property each year due to the Nala ?

(c) Has Government considered the advisability of constructing a bridge across the Nala ?

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.

LIST OF HONORARY MAGISTRATES.

1361. **Sardar Narain Singh :** Will the Government please lay on the table the answer to my question No. 661* put on the 7th August last ?

(b) With reference to the same question, will Government say how many Honorary Magistrates are there who do not possess even a working knowledge of Urdu ?

(c) In the case of such Magistrates what are the arrangements for the writing of proceedings and judgments and in what language are they written ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) The answer to the question referred to is laid on the table.

(b) The detail of such Honorary Magistrates is already furnished in answer to the question referred to in (a) above.

(c) The record is kept in Urdu by the Court Moharrir.

(Answer to Question No. 661.)

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The following Honorary Magistrates are not literate or fluent in Urdu. It does not follow that they are unacquainted with other scripts or vernaculars—

District.	Locality.	Names.
Rawalpindi	Gujar Khan Bench	Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sunder Singh.
Kangre	Dada Siba	Raja Gajinder Singh.
Do.	Daloch	Raj Hira Singh.
Lyallpur	Lyallpur Bench	Lala Bhawani Das.
Dera Ghazi Khan	Dera Ghazi Khan Bench	Bhai Hakim Chand.
Jhang	Jhang Bench	Lala Afza Ram.
Ferozapore	Fazilka Bench	Raj Sahib Seth Madan Gopal.
Do.	Ditto	S. Majhi Khan.
Do.	Ditto	M. Fatah Din Bhandara.
Do.	Ditto	S. Fatah Din, Ladhaka.
Do.	Abohar Bench	Haji Nur Baksh.
Do.	Ditto	Seth Sheopati Raj.
Do.	Ditto	Lala Datta Mal.
Do.	Ditto	Sardar Jagat Singh.
Do.	Ditto	Sardar Haraur Singh.
Jhelum	Jhelum Bench	Raj Bahadar Lala Dhanpat Raj.
Rohtak	Rohtak Bench	Lala Bihari Lal.
Do.	Gohana Bench	Honorary Captain Sardar Bahadur Gagan Singh.
Hissar	Bhiwani Bench	Lala Balla Ram.
Do.	Ditto	Risaldar Rafan Singh.
Do.	Hansi Bench	Lala Raghunath Sahai.
Do.	Ditto	Chandhri Jag Ram.
Mianwali	Ira Khol Bench	Khan Muhammad Abdur Rahman Khan.
Do.	Bhakkar Bench	Lala Moti Ram.

ZAILDAR OF MAUZA RANGPUR, TAHSIL RAJANPUR.

1362. **Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** (a) Is it a fact that a complaint was recently made to the Deputy Commissioner, Dera Ghazi Khan District, against the Zaildar of Mauza Rangpur, Tahsil Rajanpur?

(b) Is it also a fact that the Tahsildar of the place was deputed to enquire into the complaint?

(c) Is it a fact that several respectable people gave evidence against the Zaildar in the enquiry?

(d) If the answers to the above be in the affirmative, will the Government please say what action has since been taken against the Zaildar?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Government has no such information but enquiries are being made.

SUTLEJ VALLEY PROJECT.

1363. **Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** Will Government be pleased to state :—

(a) how much money has been so far spent on the Sutlej Valley Project, and

(b) how much progress has been made in the work?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : (a) Total expenditure on Sutlej Valley Project including Bahawalpur and Bikaner, Direct and Indirect, up to 31st October 1924 is Rs. 4,78,17,917.

(b) It is impossible to give a brief account of work done which would afford any idea of progress made. Reference should, therefore, be made to the published annual reports. That for year 1923-24 will be issued shortly. The programme aimed at is to give water from the Saleimank Weir to the Nili Bar in the Kharif of 1926.

BOUNDARIES OF THE DISTRICTS IN THE MULTAN DIVISION.

1364. **Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** Will Government be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that all papers including lists of voters and nomination papers were kept in the hands of the Hissar District Board establishment in connection with the recent election of the Hissar District Board; and

(b) what action do the Government propose to take to meet the grievances of the candidates whose nomination papers were disallowed?

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.

CONDUCT OF SUB-INSPECTOR SARDAR NARINDAR SINGH AT BUDHLADA.

1365. Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : (a) With reference to question No. 1024* put on the 18th November 1924, will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Deputy Superintendent of Police who made an inquiry into his case reported that the said Sub-Inspector should be prosecuted on a charge of forgery, but that no such prosecution was lodged and the said Sub-Inspector after suspension for a week or two was given black mark in his character roll and re-instated ?

(b) Do the Government propose to take any further action against the said Sub-Inspector ?

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 TRIAL OF REVENUE COURT CASES BY REVENUE OFFICERS IN CAMP.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq [Hoshiarpur-cum-Ludhiana, Rural (Urdu)] : Sir, I beg to move that—

" This Council recommends to the Government that Revenue officers be directed not to take up and try in camp Revenue court cases of any description."

Sir, In these days the people have to face many difficulties in the way of obtaining justice, and the attention of the Government has many a time been drawn to the existing state of affairs. At first it was thought that the separation of the executive from the judiciary will sound the death-knell of the existing evil but this was not to be. As a poet has very aptly said :—

" The heart was making a great deal of noise while it was inside the pericardium, but when it was opened it was found to contain not a single drop of blood."

The actual state of affairs is this that judicial powers have been taken away only from the hands of the canal officers, and if Government were pleased to accept my resolution it will go a long way towards solving these difficulties and the zamindars will also be spared the trouble of going from tahsil to tahsil for the purpose of getting justice. Sir, such insignificant suits as that of Rs. 25 are instituted in the court of a Revenue Assistant and generally it so happens that while he is on tour he sends for the parties to the dispute without giving them sufficient notice, or when the parties arrive at head-quarters the Revenue Assistant is found to have gone to some other place or is found to be busy with his executive duties, and more often than not, the date of hearing of the suits is postponed and the poor zamindars have to come back without attaining their object. The zamindar members of this Council are well aware of this state of affairs, and I am sure that Government too has received complaints to the same effect. I admit that there are certain minor drawbacks in my resolution, but taking the resolution as a whole, it is bound to prove very beneficial to the zamindars at large. It can be said that if this resolution is given effect to, the Revenue officers will not be able to take up and try cases in camp i.e., they will not be able to decide issues on the spot. I think, however, that if the parties agree these officers can even hear and

[Ch. Abdul Haq.]

try cases on the spot. It may be urged that a Tahsildar should try the cases of one particular tahsil only, but there are certain drawbacks to this proposal also. For example if a tahsil extends over an area of 20 miles and the Tahsildar fixes a certain place for hearing Revenue suits, and supposing that he leaves that place without giving information to the parties, then these poor people will have to go in search of the Tahsildar and thus waste their time and energy for nothing.

Sir, I have moved this resolution with a view to provide facilities for obtaining speedy justice and I do not see any reason why the Government should not see its way to accepting this resolution. However, before I proceed further I should like to hear the views of the Government on the subject.

Mr. President : The resolution proposed runs :

"That this Council recommends to the Government that Revenue officers be directed not to take up and try in camp Revenue Court cases of any description."

The question is that, that resolution be adopted.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath [Punjab Landholders, General (Urdu)]: Sir I venture to speak first on the resolution under consideration but I have more reasons than one for so doing. In the first place I have been a Revenue officer myself and in that capacity have been trying Revenue cases. Secondly I have occasionally been a litigant also. I can therefore consider this question from the point of view of the public and not only of officials.

What I wish to submit in this connection, and which in a way has been anticipated by the honourable mover of the resolution, in his concluding remarks, is that there is a difference between the civil and criminal cases on the one hand and Revenue cases on the other. In civil cases the plaintiff and the defendant are generally the residents of different and far off places. If the plaintiff is a resident of Amritsar, the defendant is living at a far off place, say at Ajnala. Similar is the case in regard to criminal cases. But as regards Revenue cases this is not so. Parties very often belong to the same place. Revenue cases are divided into two classes, one Revenue officer's cases and the other Revenue court cases. In the former the parties are generally the residents of the same village or adjoining villages and in the latter it very seldom happens that the parties to a case are living at a distance from each other.

The second point to note in this connection is that the revenue cases can be best tried and decided on the spot and by the inspection of the spot in respect of which the cause of action may have arisen. For example, in mutation cases it is better to deal with them on the spot. As to cases regarding partition, these cannot be fairly dealt with except on the spot. From what I have stated above, it follows that if thorough comprehension of the points at issue and doing full justice in cases of this type are in view the best thing to do for the officer trying the cases is that he should deal with them at the locality to which the case relates. If the case involves legal points, it should be tried at head-quarters.

Though I do not perfectly remember, still I have an idea that some such instructions for the guidance of the Revenue officers, do exist that the Revenue cases of one tahsil should not be taken and tried

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in another tahsil and so far as possible the parties in a case should not be put to any unnecessary inconvenience. I am myself at one with the honourable mover on the point that if cases of one tahsil are taken and tried in another tahsil, that means a lot of trouble to the parties concerned. I am also not in favour of complicated cases being tried at places other than at head-quarters. For example, mutation cases of the type which are being tried now-a-days at Lahore ought to be tried at head-quarters.

The long and short of the whole matter is that in cases where it is essential to inspect the spot, it should not be insisted, if justice is to be done, that such cases be tried at head-quarters, and where inconvenience to the parties is involved and counsel have to be dragged to long distances, and legal points have to be argued, the case should be heard at head-quarters. I therefore cannot persuade myself to agree with the resolution as it stands.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq [Amritsar City Muhammadan, Urban (Urdu)]: Sir, the arguments advanced by Raja Sahib deserve appreciation at our hands, as they come from a man who once held the position of a Revenue officer, Deputy Commissioner as well as of a Commissioner, all connected with the Revenue work; but in advancing these arguments Raja Sahib has perhaps misunderstood the honourable mover of the resolution. The mover does not mean by his resolution that inspection of the spot should be dispensed with in all cases although it may be necessary, for the purposes of justice to do so. The whole of the difficulty and trouble in the matter arises when a Revenue officer takes in his camp any number of cases and requires the parties concerned to attend the Court there in his camp, which spot can be reached only by travelling on foot 30 or 40 miles of unmetalled road and that, all will agree, is really a very troublesome business.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett: May I rise to point of order, Sir? The honourable member is not speaking on the resolution at all. The resolution definitely asks that no cases should be tried anywhere but in Sadar.

Mr. President: I think the point of order is correct. The resolution as worded does not lend itself to the interpretation which the honourable member **Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq**, is applying to it.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq (continued in English): Sir, perhaps my language was not clear. The resolution reads:—

“This Council recommends to the Government that Revenue officers be directed not to take up and try in camp Revenue Court cases of any description.”

I think I was speaking on the resolution.

Mr. President: I am afraid the honourable member was not saying what was in the resolution. He had better confine himself to the words of the resolution.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq (continued in Urdu): Sir, confining myself to the resolution I should say that the Revenue officers should be altogether prohibited from taking up and trying Revenue cases of any description in camp. The explanation for such prohibition is not far to seek. In the first place it is not possible for the Revenue officer or any other person to bring the whole of the land of a district in that place where the Officer may be in camp. The Officer in camp, therefore, cannot, as a matter of fact, decide any other cases which concern some other locality. But what happens in practice is that these Officers take up in camp 40, 50, and some times 70

[Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.]

cases and require the parties concerned, as above stated, to attend the Court in camp. All the cases cannot be decided in that camp and the parties in the evening are asked to follow the Officer in another camp. Thus the parties are dragged from one place to another and consequently are put to a lot of trouble.

The second difficulty in the matter is presented when the litigants in such cases cannot engage the best Pleaders and if they do engage, they can do so only by paying unusually high fees. Sometimes it is said that in such cases lawyers are not required, but to say so is wholly unjustifiable.

I was wonder struck to see the Government members expressing their approbation of the remarks made by Raja Sahib that Revenue cases should be tried in camp. The Government perhaps is unaware to what hardships the poor litigants are put thereby. I am sure if any of the official members is put to that sort of trouble, he will prefer giving up his claim to following the Revenue officer from one place to another. The Courts are established to do justice and not to create an impression that it is better to sit silent at home than to expect any justice in these Courts. Therefore in the interest of the general public and in the interest of justice, I hope the Government will have no hesitation in accepting the resolution.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : I wonder if the honourable member will be content if I give him an assurance which I think will meet with the main difficulties he has? He objects, I understand, to people being dragged all over the district unnecessarily. As far as that goes I entirely agree with him that it is wrong for Revenue officers unnecessarily to drag the parties to a Revenue suit all over the district. The assurance that I am willing to give is that the Financial Commissioners will issue instructions to all Revenue courts that no case shall be tried except at the head-quarters of the district or at some place nearer to the land where the cause of action arises. I am prepared to give that assurance.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadian), Urban] : Sir, will the Honourable the Financial Commissioner go one step further and include in the instructions that appeal cases too should not be heard except at head-quarters. Because in almost every appeal counsel are required, and that entails a heavy expenditure on the parties.

Mr. C. M. King : I fear I cannot do that, because I recollect one case in which there was a great difficulty in giving a decision without visiting the spot where the cause of action arose. I would ask my friend not to press his point.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I think it would be advisable in appeal cases as far as possible to try them at head-quarters.

Mr. C. M. King : I quite agree that it is sometimes desirable, but not always desirable. I would hesitate to give an assurance to that effect.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Perhaps I may put my suggestion in a slightly different way, that is, that unless inspection of the spot is necessary, appeal cases should be tried at the head-quarters.

Mr. C. M. King : I am prepared to accept it. However, I should like to have the suggestion in writing before I give an undertaking, because if

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one is to be bound by one's assurance afterwards, it may be very difficult for him.

Mr. President : Will the honourable member make his suggestion in writing ?

(At this stage Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang, handed over a slip to Mr. C.M. King containing his suggestion.)

Mr. C. M. King : Sir, I am willing to accept the proposal that my friend, Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang, has put forward, if he will confine the class of appeals to those heard by Collectors, not to those heard by Commissioners and Financial Commissioners. I am prepared to issue instructions to the effect that Collectors and Officers hearing appeals subordinate to Collectors should hear them either at the head-quarters of the district or at the spot where the land is which is the subject of the appeal or at some place which is nearer to it than the district head-quarters. The reason why such instructions cannot be issued to Commissioners is that a whole batch of appeals come up from particular districts and it would cause much less trouble to hear them at the head-quarters of the district concerned than at the head-quarters of the division.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I am perfectly agreeable to that, Sir. In fact if Commissioners were to hear appeals of a particular district at the head-quarters of that district it would be more conducive to the convenience of the litigants than if they were required to attend at the head-quarters of the division concerned. I hope my learned friend, the mover of the resolution, if he is agreeable to the suggestions that have now been made and the assurance given, will withdraw his resolution.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Sir, in view of the assurance given, I beg leave to withdraw my resolution.

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

RESOLUTION re A COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO THE PRESENT CONDITION
OF THE UNANI AND AYURVEDIC SYSTEMS OF MEDICINE.

Lala Mohan Lal [North-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban] Sir, with reference to my resolution* I beg to say that the information in connection with it is being collected by myself and by the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals. After it has been collected I will give fresh notice of the resolution. I do not propose to move it at present.

The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

[Note.—By an order of His Excellency the Governor, dated the 24th January 1925, the Council was prorogued unto a date to be hereafter fixed.]

* * This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that a committee of experts in the three systems of medicine current at present in the Punjab, i.e., Unani, Ayurvedic and Allopathic be appointed to enquire into the present condition of the two older (Unani and Ayurvedic) systems and to suggest practical measures for reviving and improving them."

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

6TH SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, the 28th February 1925.

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 :

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan—Official Nominated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

Mr. President : I have to announce to the Council that, under Rule 3 (1) of the Punjab Legislative Council Rules, I have nominated the same gentlemen to serve on the panel of chairmen for the present session as were nominated last session.

BILLS ASSENTED TO BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Mr. President : I have to acquaint the Council that His Excellency the Governor-General has been pleased to give his assent to the Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1924.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SANITARY INSPECTORS ATTACHED TO RAILWAYS IN THE PROVINCE.

1366. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please state if there are any Sanitary Inspectors working under the Director of Public Health, Punjab, attached to railways in the province? If so, will it please give their number and their pay and state the amount of annual increment awarded to them?

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

PATWARIS AND THUMB IMPRESSIONS.

1367. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Is it a fact that instructions have been issued to Patwaris that no thumb impressions of parties making reports to them to be entered in *Roznamcha* should be taken in future? If so, will it please state, why?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

"First Part." Not by or with the knowledge of Government.

"Second Part." Does not arise.

LISTS OF AKALIS IN THE PROVINCE.

1368. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Is it a fact that Government is preparing lists of Akalis in the province? If so, will it please state why?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE TO PATWARIS.

1369. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Is it a fact that the scale of travelling allowance admissible to Patwaris has recently been further reduced? If so, why?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Snadar Singh, Majithia : Patwaris' travelling allowance has only been reduced once : and then in accordance with the vote of Council.

GRADES OF PAY TO GYANIS.

1370. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please state the grades of pay that it is giving to *Gyanis* teaching Punjabi in Government schools ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Trained *Gyanis* teaching Punjabi in Government schools are placed in the Rs. 35—8—50 grade on first appointment, and are eligible for promotion to the Rs. 55—3—70, Rs. 80—4—100 and Rs. 110—5—135 grades.

SCHOOLS OF LOCAL BODIES PROVINCIALISED BY GOVERNMENT.

1371. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please state the number of schools run by local bodies that have been provincialised by it during the past five years stating the names of teachers in each school, giving the pay that each was receiving under local body concerned and the pay that he is receiving now ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Twenty-nine Board High Schools for boys have been provincialised during the five years preceding the 31st December, 1924. A statement giving the required information regarding teachers is laid on the table.

Staff statement of schools provincialised during the five years preceding 31st December 1924.

Serial No.	Name.	Pay in Board service.	Present pay.
GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, GURGAON.			
		Rs. A. P.	Rs.
1	Thakar Rama Nand Singh ...	216 0 0	190
2	L. Shyam Nath, Sahgal ...	106 0 0	100
3	P. Brahm Datt ...	80 0 0	70
4	L. Telu Ram ...	72 0 0	70
5	L. Ram Rachhpal ...	67 0 0	70
6	P. Sheoji Ram ...	65 0 0	70
7	L. Lekh Ram ...	60 0 0	67
8	L. Jugal Kishore ...	54 0 0	Retired.
9	P. Meda Ram ...	45 0 0	64
10	L. Jit Ram ...	42 0 0	Reverted.
11	M. Muhammad Shahid ...	32 0 0	44
12	M. Ram Nath Singh ...	32 0 0	44
13	M. Sukh Dev Singh ...	39 0 0	44

Serial No.	Name.	Pay in Board service.	Present pay.
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GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, JAGADHRI.

		Rs. A. P.	Rs.
1	L. Banwari Lal ...	192 0 0	Resigned.
2	L. Jagan Nath ...	100 0 0	125
3	L. Murari Lal ...	83 0 0	100
4	Manea Ram ...	71 0 0	(Temporary) 70
5	L. Ram Prasad ...	57 0 0	67
6	L. Atma Ram ...	57 0 0	67
7	P. Hari Ballabh ...	52 0 0	Reverted.
8	M. Muhammad Bakbsh ...	45 0 0	64
9	M. Hasan Ali ...	41 0 0	Resigned.
10	L. Devi Ditta Lal ...	36 0 0	41
11	L. Udam Ram ...	66 0 0	Reverted.
12	S. Sher Singh ...	36 0 0	Retired.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, FAZILKA.

1	L. Sunder Das, Bhatia ...	161 0 0	190
2	M. Rashid Ahmad ...	105 0 0	120
3	P. Shiv Singh ...	86 0 0	96
4	B. Tek Singh ...	96 0 0	100
5	Jagan Nath, Khanna ...	71 0 0	92
6	L. Piyara Lal ...	52 0 0	64
7	L. Kishan Chand (Temporary)	71 0 0	Not in Government service.
8	P. Gokal Chand ...	39 0 0	53
9	M. Wali Ahmad ...	39 0 0	53
10	B. Labh Singh ...	48 0 0	Reverted to Board Service.
11	B. Gurdit Singh ...	38 0 0	47
12	L. Lakhpai Bai (Temporary)	27 0 0	Not in Government service.
13	L. Dogar Mal (Temporary) ...	35 0 0	Ditto.
14	M. Jan Muhammad ...	52 0 0	Retired.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, RAHON.

1	L. Mohan Lal ...	151 0 0	190
2	L. Mukand Lal ...	110 0 0	125
3	P. Chhajju Ram ...	96 0 0	Reverted to Board service.
4	M. Wali Muhammad ...	96 0 0	Dispensed with.
5	L. Kashi Ram ...	90 0 0	88
6	L. Charan Das ...	61 0 0	Not in Government service.

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

Serial No.	Name.	Pay in Board service.	Present pay.
GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, RAHON—concluded.			
		Rs. A. P.	Rs.
7	L. Ram Chand	52 0 0	Retired.
8	M. Saadat Ali Khan	56 0 0	64
9	M. Fazl Muhammad	35 0 0	61
10	M. Ghulam Muhammad	29 0 0	44
11	M. Abdul Hai	38 0 0	Reverted to Board service.
12	P. Achint Ram	38 0 0	Ditto.
13	B. Amar Singh	45 0 0	Resigned.
14	L. Ram Rakha Singh	38 0 0	38
15	L. Nanak Chand	51 0 0	Reverted.
16	M. Nabi Bakhsh	51 0 0	Retired.
GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, KASUR.			
1	L. Diwan Chand	222 0 0	190
2	M. Nazir Ahmad	137 0 0	135
3	L. Kishori Lal	117 0 0	130
4	M. Muhammad Ghani	100 0 0	100
5	L. Shankar Das	79 0 0	70
6	L. Dhanpat Rai	75 0 0	70
7	M. Khurshed Ahmad	72 0 0	70
8	M. Imam Ullah	69 0 0	Dead.
9	{ Vacant } M. Maula Bakhsh, Offg. on } Rs. 69.	...	Services dispensed with.
10	L. Gopi Ram	76 0 0	Retired.
11	M. Abdur Rahman	68 0 0	70
12	P. Bihari Lal	68 0 0	70
13	M. Muhammad Said	62 0 0	70
14	M. Chiragh-ud-din	52 0 0	Left service.
15	Bahal Chand	46 0 0	38
16	L. Duni Chand	52 0 0	Dispensed with.
17	P. Ram Chand	52 0 0	Retired.
18	L. Nihal Chand	52 0 0	Dead.
GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, PASRUR.			
1	Chandhri Mubarak Ali	150 0 0	190
2	P. Ram Rakha Mal	116 0 0	136
3	M. Abdul Ghani	95 0 0	Dead.
4	L. Kirpa Ram	90 0 0	Not in Government service.

Serial No.	Name.	Pay in Board service.	Present pay.
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GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, PARBUR—(cont'd).

		Rs. A. P.	Rs.
5	L. Khanzanchi Mal	75 0 0	92
6	L. Munshi Ram	75 0 0	92
7	Ch. Ali Muhammad	75 0 0	70
8	M. Mabbub Alam	60 0 0	70
9	L. Ram Chand	55 0 0	Invalided.
10	D. Bal Makand	55 0 0	87
11	S. Hasham Ali	55 0 0	67
12	M. Ghulam Jilani	55 0 0	62
13	L. Sohan Lal	50 0 0	64
14	Thakar Das	50 0 0	Reverted to Board service.
15	P. Maat Ram	50 0 0	58
16	L. Paras Ram	55 0 0	Reverted to Board service.
17	M. Muhammad Husain	50 0 0	Retired.
18	L. Waseawa Ram	40 0 0	50
19	M. Fazl Karim	32 0 0	Reverted to Board service.
20	S. Gyan Singh	30 0 0	44
21	S. Gopal Singh	30 0 0	44
22	S. Ujagar Singh	35 0 0	44

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, PIND DADAN KHAN.

1	B. Bishen Singh	168 0 0	190
2	M. Fazl Ahmad	96 0 0	100
3	L. Madan Lal	89 0 0	100
4	M. Muhammad Bakhsch	66 0 0	70
5	L. Chiranjit Lal	66 0 0	70
6	M. Ghulam Farid	60 0 0	67
7	L. Kirpa Ram	57 0 0	Services dispensed with.
8	S. Pahlwan Shah	55 0 0	Reverted to Board service.
9	M. Khalil-ur-Rahman	55 0 0	38
10	M. Khan Muhammad	35 0 0	38
11	M. Sultan Habib	40 0 0	Services dispensed with.
12	P. Ishar Das	40 0 0	Resigned.
13	M. Ghabar Khan (Temporary)	22 0 0	Services dispensed with.
14	M. Abdul Matin	27 0 0	Reverted to Board service.

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

Serial No.	Name.		Pay in Board service.			Present pay.	
			Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	
GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, TALAGANG.							
1	M. Ghulam Husain	...	154	0	0	190	
2	L. Amar Nath	...	71	0	0	Not in Government service.	
3	M. Murtaza Khan	...	61	0	0	Dispensed with.	
4	M. Ghulam Yasin	...	51	0	0	Now working as clerk, pay Rs. 40 per mensem.	
5	L. Faqir Chand	...	55	0	0	55	
6	M. Mian Muhammad	...	45	0	0	61	
7	M. Gul Muhammad	...	40	0	0	Retired.	
8	L. Sita Ram	...	35	0	0	70	
9	M. Nizam-ud-Din	...	36	0	0	Resigned.	
10	P. Baij Nath	...	36	0	0	61	
11	M. Mehdi Shah	...	36	0	0	44	
12	M. Ghulam Husain	...	29	0	0	Reverted to service.	Board
13	Muzammal Shah	..	21	0	0	38	
14	M. Buzarg Shah	...	21	0	0	Reverted to service.	Board
15	Bh. Diyal Singh	...	21	0	0	Ditto.	
16	L. Isher Das	...	20	0	0	Ditto.	
17	L. Bhagwan Das	...	20	0	0	Ditto.	
GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, KAMALIA.							
1	L. Dhanpat Rai	...	180	0	0	190	
2	M. Muhammad Ikram	...	120	0	0	135	
3	L. Mela Ram	...	96	0	0	100	
4	M. Said Ahmad	...	80	0	0	Services dispensed with.	
5	M. Muhammad Said	...	100	0	0	(Now in Government High School, Jhang) 100.	
6	L. Kanshi Ram	...	76	0	0	88	
7	L. Raushan Lal	...	58	0	0	70	
8	Qazi Nur Ahmad	...	56	0	0	67	
9	P. Asa Nand	...	56	0	0	64	
10	L. Ranga Ram	...	49	0	0	64	
11	M. Ghulam Qasim	...	45	0	0	55	
12	M. Qadir Bakhsh	...	45	0	0	50	
13	P. Kanshi Ram	...	40	0	0	64	

Serial No.	Name.	Pay in Board service.	Present pay.
		Rs. A. P.	Rs.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, KAMALIA—(conold).

14	M. Faiz Muhammad ...	29 0 0	44
15	P. Durga Datt ...	35 0 0	Reverted to Board service.
16	Bhai Sangat Singh ...	35 0 0	44
17	P. Karta Ram ...	35 0 0	50
18	M. Sultan Mahmud (Temporary).	35 0 0	Dispensed with.
19	L. Gokal Chand (Temporary)...	76 0 0	Ditto.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, KAROR.

1	L. Asu Ram ...	125 0 0	135
2	Pir Wilayat Shah ...	80 0 0	Resigned.
3	L. Jagdish Chandra ...	80 0 0	Reverted to Board service.
4	M. Rasul Bakhsh ...	80 0 0	92.
5	J. Tahl Ram ...	60 0 0	Dispensed with.
6	L. Gokal Chand ...	58 0 0	61
7	L. Kesar Das ...	42 0 0	58
8	M. Rahmat Ullah ...	34 0 0	44
9	M. Ghulam Haider ...	30 0 0	41
10	L. Tulsa Ram ...	24 0 0	Reverted.
11	P. Ganga Vishan ...	35 0 0	64
12	M. Muhammad Zahid (Temporary).	35 0 0	64
13	L. Shiv Dayal ...	35 0 0	Dispensed with.
14	L. Govardhan Das, (Temporary)	35 0 0	45
15	M. Muhammad Khan ...	35 0 0	45
16	L. Sobh Raj (Temporary) ...	60 0 0	70

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, JAMPUR.

1	L. Ranshan Lal ...	108 0 0	125
2	M. Allah Dad ...	61 0 0	Dead.
3	M. Fir Bakhsh ...	56 0 0	Reverted to Board service.
4	L. Jammu Ram ...	33 0 0	41
5	L. Ghunean Ram ...	31 0 0	Dispensed with.
6	P. Chaman Lal ...	26 0 0	Reverted to Board service.

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

Serial No.	Name.	Pay in Board service.	Present pay.
GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, JAMPUR—(concl'd).			
7	L. Tharia Ram ...	26 0 0	38
8	L. Sadhu Ram ...	21 0 0	Reverted to Board service.
9	L. Chhakkan Lal ...	21 0 0	Ditto.
10	M. Ali Muhammad ...	21 0 0	64
11	M. Abdul Karim (Temporary) ...	55 0 0	Dispensed with.
GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, RUPAR.			
1	L. Mangoo Lal ...	180 0 0	180
2	L. Nauhriya Mal ...	90 0 0	96
3	S. Muhammad Baqir ...	67 0 0	92
4	L. Jaikishan Das ...	70 0 0	70
5	L. Munshi Ram ...	50 0 0	50
6	Ch. Amar Singh ...	50 0 0	50
7	M. Abdul Rahim ...	50 0 0	50
8	M. Nur Muhammad ...	47 0 0	47
9	Pt. Rishi Ram ...	41 0 0	47
10	M. Abdul Majid ...	47 0 0	47
11	Pt. Parma Nand ...	33 0 0	Died.
12	M. Biru Ram ...	25 0 0	25
13	M. Muhammad Ali ...	30 0 0	30
GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, JAGRAON			
1	Bhai Bhag Singh, Gill ...	160 0 0	180
2	M. Abdul Alim ...	119 0 0	No longer in Government service.
3	M. Muhammad Abdul Latif ...	116 0 0	125
4	L. Sundar Das ...	105 0 0	No longer on the staff.
5	L. Babu Ram ...	105 0 0	105
6	B. Sundar Singh ...	80 0 0	88
7	B. Bhagwan Singh ...	53 0 0	53
8	L. Hari Chand ...	62 0 0	67
9	L. Sadhu Ram ...	53 0 0	53
10	M. Sharif Ali ...	52 0 0	No longer in Government service.
11	Pt. Devi Dayal ...	52 0 0	52
12	M. Muhammad Baqir ...	52 0 0	No longer in Government service.
13	M. Karim Bakhsh ...	37 0 0	Ditto.
14	M. Kharaiti Ram ...	35 0 0	41

Serial No.	Name.	Pay in Board service.	Present pay.
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GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, JAGRAN—(contd.).

		Rs. A. P.	Rs.
15	Pt. Mela Ram ...	32 0 0	No longer in Government service.
16	M. Kalim Ullah ...	58 0 0	Ditto.
17	Bh. Sadhu Singh ...	42 0 0	Ditto.
18	Pt. Siri Ram ...	42 0 0	Ditto.
19	S. Barkat Ali Shah ...	42 0 0	47
20	P. Lekh Ram ...	35 0 0	No longer in Government service.
21	L. Kundan Lal ...	35 0 0	Ditto.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, PHILLAUR.

1	Sh. Muhammad Jan ...	160 0 0	130
2	L. Ram Lal ...	110 0 0	120
3	Bh. Thakar Singh ...	100 0 0	100
4	B. Shiv Singh Bedi ...	100 0 0	100
5	M. Shah Muhammad ...	74 0 0	74
6	M. Maula Baksh ...	62 0 0	67
7	P. Nanak Chand ...	50 0 0	55
8	S. Abou Jafar ...	50 0 0	50
9	M. Zain-ul-Abdin ...	48 0 0	48
10	P. Dhirt Ram ...	48 0 0	48
11	S. Wajid Ali Shah ..	54 0 0	54
12	B. Jagat Ram ...	42 0 0	47
13	P. Hans Raj ...	42 0 0	47
14	P. Rattan Chand ...	81 0 0	No longer in Government service.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, CHUNIAN.

1	M. Muhammad Taqi ...	165 0 0	180
2	L. Diwan Chand ...	110 0 0	120
3	Pt. Gurdas Ram ...	102 0 0	120
4	L. Ram Lal ...	80 0 0	88
5	L. Piare Lal ...	84 0 0	92
6	L. Karam Chand ...	58 0 0	64
7	L. Jawinda Mal ...	58 0 0	64
8	S. Yaqub Haider ...	54 0 0	61
9	M. Ghulam Qadar ...	35 0 0	41
10	Pt. Jagao Nath ...	37 0 0	No longer in Government service.
11	Pt. Tulsi Da ...	32 0 0	Ditto.
12	Pt. Khushi Ram ...	48 0 0	48
13	M. Nabi Baksh ...	48 0 0	48

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

Serial No.	Name.	Pay in Board service.	Present pay.
GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, CHUNIAN—(concl'd.).			
		Rs. A. P.	Rs.
14	M. Abdur Rashid ...	48 0 0	48
15	Pt. Nihal Chand ...	35 0 0	No longer in Government service.
16	L. Pirthi Ram ...	37 0 0	41
GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, BHERA.			
1	Sh. Safdar Ali ...	180 0 0	180
2	M. Nur Muhammad ...	120 0 0	130
3	Ch. Abdul Ghafur ...	110 0 0	100
4	M. Sultan Mahmud ...	110 0 0	100
5	M. Mohammad Mohsan ...	120 0 0	130
6	M. Sardar Ali ...	80 0 0	No longer in Government service.
7	M. Muhammad Mustquim ...	70 0 0	Ditto.
8	Sh. Fazal Elahi ...	68 0 0	Ditto.
9	M. Iakhmi Dass ...	64 0 0	Ditto.
10	M. Fazal Husain ...	50 0 0	Ditto.
11	L. Ram Lal ...	35 0 0	35
12	M. Shamas-ud-Din ...	86 0 0	No longer in Government service.
13	S. Ahmad Din Shah ...	53 0 0	Ditto.
14	M. Walayat Husain ...	40 0 0	47
15	S. Ata Husain ...	40 0 0	44
16	S. Farman Shah ...	40 0 0	44
17	M. Ahmad Khan ...	60 0 0	64
18	M. Nur Din ...	72 0 0	72
19	Pt. Gura Bhaj ...	44 0 0	No longer in Government service.
20	Pt. Abnashi Ram ...	49 0 0	Ditto.
GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, HAZRO.			
1	Muhammad Shaffi Khawaja, B.A., B.T., LL.B. ...	180 0 0	190
2	Ch. Sultan Ahmad, B.A., B.T. ...	110 0 0	120
3	M. Abdur Rasheed, B.A. ...	110 0 0	120
4	Syed Ghulam Haidar Shah ...	70 0 0	70
5	Ch. Abdul Ghani ...	61 0 0	67
6	M. Sant Ram ...	58 0 0	No longer in Government service.
7	M. Abdul Gafoor ...	58 0 0	64
8	Pandit Anant Ram ...	38 0 0	44
9	S. Lal Singh ...	38 0 0	44
10	M. Devi Ditta Mal ...	90 0 0	96

Serial No.	Name.	Pay in Board service.	Present pay.
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GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, HAZRO.—(concl'd.).

		Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.
11	M. Ghulam Rabbani	50	0	0	No longer in Govern- ment service.
12	S. Ishar Singh	35	0	0	Ditto.
13	M. Shanchi Khan	60	0	0	60
14	M. Muzaffar Shah	38	0	0	44
15	M. Ghulam Mujtaba	25	0	0	No longer in Govern- ment service.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, PAKPATTAN.

1	Ch. Muhammad Husain	200	0	0	190
2	M. Muhammad Shafi	150	0	0	135
3	M. Muhammad Zaman	120	0	0	115
4	M. Said Ahmad Khan	55	0	0	58
5	Bhai Nand Singh	38	0	0	38
6	M. Allah Dad	35	0	0	38

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, KHUSHAB.

1	M. Lal Din	170	0	0	170
2	L. Hans Raj	120	0	0	110 + 10 personal pay.
3	M. Rahmat Khan	110	0	0	110
*4	M. Nasir Din	76	0	0	...
5	M. Ghulam Muhammad	64	0	0	55 + 9 personal pay.
*6	M. Mehr Ilahi	80	0	0	...
*7	M. Shams-ul-Din	90	0	0	...
8	M. Muhammad Bakhsh	41	0	0	55
*9	L. Ralla Ram	41	0	0	...
10	M. Muhammad Husain	63	0	0	55 + 8 personal pay.
11	M. Nur Ilahi	49	0	0	35 + 14 do.
*12	L. Jiwan Das	70	0	0	...
13	L. Kesar Mal	46	0	0	35 + 11 personal pay.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, SIRSA.

1	L. Sarup Singh	200	0	0	140 + 50 personal pay.
2	L. Bishambhar Sahai	140	0	0	110 + 25 do.
3	L. Hari Ram	132	0	0	110 + 22 do.
4	L. Nand Kishore	80	0	0	55 + 15 do.
5	S. Ahmad Ali	68	0	0	55 + 13 do.
6	M. Maqbul Husain	58	0	0	55 + 3 do.
7	P. Ram Manohar	55	0	0	55
8	M. Muhammad Abdullah	35	0	0	35

* Reverted to Board Service.

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

Serial No.	Name.	Pay in Board service.	Present pay.
GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, SIRSA—(concl'd).			
		Rs. A. P.	Rs.
9	S. Inam Ali ...	64 0 0	55+9 personal pay.
10	L. Thakar Das ...	66 0 0	35+15 do.
11	L. Chajju Ram ...	58 0 0	35+15 do.
12	P. Hari Prasad ...	44 0 0	35+9 do.
13	P. Vishal Chand ...	25 0 0	35
GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, BAGHBANPURA.			
1	S. Ali Hasan ...	225 0 0	140+50 personal pay.
2	L. Jagat Ram ...	130 0 0	110+20 do.
3	L. Naubat Rai ...	108 0 0	80+20 do.
4	P. Ram Chand ...	70 0 0	55+15 do.
5	S. Nur Shah ...	70 0 0	55+15 do.
6	M. Jalal-ud-Din ...	70 0 0	55+15 do.
7	M. Ghulam Ullah ...	45 0 0	45
8	P. Harish Sindhu ...	41 0 0	...
9	M. Jive Khan ...	37 0 0	35+2 personal pay.
10	M. Hasau Din ...	32 0 0	35
11	M. Ahmad Din ...	32 0 0	35
12	M. Feroz Khan ...	41 0 0	35+6 personal pay.
GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, PHALIA.			
1	L. Mansa Ram ...	150 0 0	110+25 personal pay.
2	M. Abdul Aziz ...	110 0 0	110
3	M. Ghulam Ahmad ...	64 0 0	...
4	L. Mukand Lal ...	34 0 0	...
5	M. Muhammad Ali ...	30 0 0	35
6	M. Ghulam Rasul ...	28 0 0	...
GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, JARANWALA.			
1	M. Jamal-ud-Din ...	200 0 0	140+50 personal pay.
2	B. Nihal Singh ...	150 0 0	110+25 do.
3	L. Ram Ditta Mal ...	105 0 0	80+20 do.

*Reverted to Board service.

Serial No.	Name.	Pay in Board service.	Present pay.
		Rs. A. P.	Rs.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, TANDA.

1	L. Karm Chand	180 0 0	140 + 40 personal pay.
2	L. Hans Raj	115 0 0	110 + 5 personal pay.
3	B. Sadhu Singh	110 0 0	110
4	L. Sundar Das	105 0 0	80 + 20 personal pay.
5	M. Abdul Aziz	100 0 0	80 + 20 do.
6	B. Ganda Singh	100 0 0	80 + 20 do.
7	Sh. Muhammad Abdullah	100 0 0	80 + 20 do.
8	B. Jawala Singh	78 0 0	55 + 15 do.
9	Ch. Yog Raj	69 0 0	55 + 14 do.
10	L. Mohan Lal	65 0 0	55 + 10 do.
11	Ch. Jan Muhammad	62 0 0	55 + 7 do.
12	S. Inayat Ali Shah	50 0 0	50
13	L. Malla Ram	56 0 0	55 + 1 personal pay.
*14	S. Abdul Hayee	38 0 0	...
15	P. Shiv Narain	48 0 0	48
16	B. Udham Singh	60 0 0	45 + 5 personal pay.
17	B. Gian Singh	51 0 0	35 + 15 do.
18	P. Jai Ram	44 0 0	35 + 9 do.
*19	B. Mela Singh	36 0 0	...
20	B. Jagat Singh	34 0 0	35
21	B. Natha Singh	32 0 0	35
22	Ch. Ali Sher	32 0 0	35
23	L. Ishar Das	32 0 0	35
24	M. Muhammad Husain	32 0 0	35
25	B. Bhagwan Singh	46 0 0	35 + 11 personal pay.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, DERA BABA NANAK.

1	L. Karta Ram	235 0 0	140 + 50 personal pay.
2	L. Amar Chand	150 0 0	110 + 25 do.
3	L. Ram Das	120 0 0	110 + 10 do.
4	Bawa Tara Singh	120 0 0	80 + 20 do.
5	L. Sant Ram	90 0 0	80 + 10 do.
*6	Bawa Arjan Singh	82 8 0	...
7	P. Deva Ditta	75 0 0	55 + 15 personal pay.

*Reverted to Board service.

+Died on 15th November 1924. P. Chhajju Ram, F. A., officiating against the vacancy on Rs. 50 from 15th November 1924.

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

Serial No.	Name.	Pay, in Board service.	Present pay.
		Rs. A. P.	Rs.
GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, DERA BABA NANAK—(concl'd.)			
8	M. Ahmad Din ...	67 8 0	55 + 12-8 personal pay.
9	P. Gura Datt ...	52 8 0	52-8-0
10	M. Muhammad Abdullah ...	52 8 0	52-8-0
11	P. Badri Nath ...	75 0 0	70
12	M. Abdur Rahman ...	79 8 0	70
13	M. Muhammad Ibrahim ...	45 0 0	45
14	P. Khiali Ram ...	45 0 0	45
15	M. Shah Din ...	37 8 0	37-8-0
16	Bawa Dhirt Singh ...	30 0 0	35
17	Ch. Hirde Narain ...	45 0 0	35 + 10 personal pay.
GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, PALWAL.			
		Rs. A. P.	Rs.
1	P. Jai Deva ...	140 0 0	140
2	M. Khalil-ul-Hasan ...	115 0 0	110 + 5 personal pay.
3	L. Mul Chand ...	110 0 0	80 + 20 do.
4	P. Net Ram ...	90 0 0	80 + 10 do.
5	L. Hardhyan Singh ...	80 0 0	55 + 15 do.
6	L. Mani Ram ...	40 0 0	40
7	M. Rahim Khan ...	54 0 0	54
8	M. Muhammad Ismail ...	55 0 0	55
9	L. Rup Chand ...	51 0 0	50
10	P. Shib Lal ...	40 0 0	40
11	M. Muhammad Ramzan ...	38 0 0	38
12	P. Bhikhi Mal ...	34 0 0	35
13	P. Lahri Ram ...	40 0 0	35 + 5 personal pay.
GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, CHAKWAL.			
1	Ch. Muhammad Abdul Ghani ...	180 0 0	140 + 40 personal pay.
2	Ch. Masud Khan ...	116 0 0	110 + 6 do.
3	P. Lachhman Das ...	96 0 0	80 + 16 do.
4	L. Munshi Ram ...	83 0 0	80 + 4 do.
5	L. Mandhar Lal ...	84 0 0	80 + 4 do.

Serial No.	Name.	Pay in Board service.	Present pay.
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Rs. a. p.

Rs.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, CHAKWAL—(continued).

6	Q. Ghulam Mehdi	...	64 0 0	55 + 9	personal pay.
7	L. Ladhu Mal	...	60 0 0	55 + 5	do.
8	M. Abdul Latif	...	60 0 0	55 + 5	do.
9	P. Waman Dev	...	50 0 0	50	
10	M. Faiz-ul-Hasan	...	50 0 0	50	
11	M. Ghulam Jilani	...	55 0 0	55	
12	M. Ahmad Din	...	55 0 0	55	
13	Ch. Ghazi Khan	...	44 0 0	44	
14	M. Muhammad Rosban	...	32 0 0	35	
15	S. Sher Singh	...	33 0 0	35	
16	L. Raghunath Das	...	33 0 0	35	
17	M. Ghulam Nabi	...	29 0 0	35	

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, KAHUTA.

1	M. Abdur Rahim Khan	...	125 0 0	125	
2	S. Anwar Husain Shah	...	60 0 0	55 + 5	personal pay.
3	M. Ghulam Muhammad	...	55 0 0	55	
4	B. Bhagat Singh	...	37 0 0	37	
5	B. Bhagwan Singh	...	35 0 0	35	
6	M. Muhammad Akbar	...	35 0 0	35	
7	M. Fazal Ilahi	...	35 0 0	35	
8	M. Nek Muhammad	...	37 0 0	33 + 2	personal pay

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, ALIPUR.

1	M. Sher Muhammad	...	160 0 0	140 + 20	personal pay.
2	M. Muhammad Shah Wali	...	100 0 0	100	
3	L. Ram Chand	...	64 0 0	64	
4	M. Ashiq Muhammad	...	55 0 0	55	
5	L. Ganesh Das	...	55 0 0	55	
6	M. Murid Husain	...	34 0 0	35	
7	M. Ghulam Hasan	...	34 0 0	35	

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG STUDENTS IN GOVERNMENT HIGH AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS.

1372. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please state the number of Hindu, Muhammadan and Sikh students, classifying each community further into agriculturists and non-agriculturists, in the Government High and Middle schools in the Province, stating further, the number of students under each head exempted from payment of fees for the years 1914 to 1925?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The benefit to be derived from an answer to this question would not be commensurate with the labour and expense involved in the preparation of necessary statistics.

In the annual report for 1923-24 (which will shortly be published), the number of agriculturists and non-agriculturists is given; and the statistics regarding free concessions will be included in future reports.

GRANTS OF LAND TO SIKH ZAILDARS, ETC., OF AMBALA DIVISION FOR MILITARY SERVICE.

1373. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please state how many Sikh zaildars, sufedposhes and Lambardars from the Ambala Division were awarded grants of land for military 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.

GRANTS OF LAND FOR SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH POLITICAL AND AKALI AGITATION.

1374. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please state to how many persons it has made any grants of land during the years 1923 and 1924 for services in connection with political and Akali agitation?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Fifty rectangles of land were ear-marked for assistance given to the criminal administration of the Province. Allotment has been made in 10 such cases.

Rectangles have actually been given for help rendered in Babar Akali cases, and in the operations against dacoits in the Western Punjab. If by such grants of land is meant the grant of leases of land which may subsequently be converted into proprietary rights by purchase, the answer is 72.

TRANSFER OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICES.

1375. Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan : (a) Will Government kindly state if Superintendents of Deputy Commissioners' offices are liable to transfer from one district to another?

(b) If so, what is the ordinary period of their stay in one district?

(c) Will Government kindly lay on the table a statement giving the following particulars about the Superintendents of Deputy Commissioners' offices in all the divisions of the province :—

(i) name,

(ii) where posted, and

(iii) period of stay in the district on December 31st, 1924, and whether permanent or on probation?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) Superintendents of Deputy Commissioners' offices are liable to transfer: but such transfers are not usual.

(b) In view of (a) above there has been no occasion for fixing any period.

(c) In view of these facts collection of the data requested would seem to serve no useful purpose.

APPOINTMENTS OF HONORARY MAGISTRATES.

1376. Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan: Will Government please state whether the rules printed at pages 346-47 of the Punjab Debates, Vol. V, are strictly observed when appointments of honorary magistrates are made? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The rules referred to are strictly observed.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG THE STAFF OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, IRRIGATION, BUILDINGS AND ROADS BRANCHES.

1377. Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Muhammadans, Hindus, Sikhs and Christians on the clerical, upper and lower subordinate staff of the Public Works Department, Irrigation and Buildings and Roads Branches, respectively, as it stood on 31st December 1924, together with the number of candidates on the waiting list of each community separately?

(b) If the strength of the above staff is not in proportion to their respective population, will Government consider the advisability of adjusting it when making further appointments?

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.

ANNUAL REPAIRS OF THE TAHSIL BUILDINGS IN THE SIALKOT DISTRICT.

1378. Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan: Will Government be pleased to state the amount of money spent during this and the last year on the annual repairs of the Tahsil buildings in all the tahsils of the Sialkot district separately?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chandhri Chhottu Ram: The expenditure on annual repairs to Tahsil buildings in the Sialkot district during 1923-24 is as follows:—

					Rs.
Sialkot	...	...	...	...	359
Zafarwal	...	...	...	...	129
Daska	...	...	...	...	348
Raya	...	...	...	...	123
Paarur	...	...	...	...	330

[Hon'ble R. S. Ch. Chhotu Ram.]

The exact figures for 1924-25 cannot be given until the end of the present financial year but the approximate estimated expenditure anticipated for this year may be taken as being—

					Rs.
Sialkot	...	...	...	...	369
Zafarwal	...	...	...	...	328
Daska	...	...	...	...	312
Baya	...	...	...	...	310
Pasrur	...	...	...	...	207

USE OF SHOT GUNS BY THE NEAR RELATIVES OF A LICENSEE.

1379. Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan : Will Government be pleased to state whether a person bearing a good character is permitted to use, for shooting purposes, a shot gun licensed in the name of his real brother or father ? If the answer be in the negative, will Government consider the advisability of removing this restriction ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. Amendments to the Indian Arms Rules are a matter for the Government of India, but the Local Government do not consider the grant of the proposed concession to be advisable, and would not be prepared to recommend it to the Government of India.

CANDIDATES FOR EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERSHIPS.

1380. Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the names of those stenographers in the Punjab Civil Secretariat, Personal Assistants to Members and Ministers, etc., and other gazetted and non-gazetted Government servants of the Punjab Civil Secretariat who had only about five years' service to their credit at the time they were accepted for the posts of Extra Assistant Commissioners on Register A-III during the last ten years ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the names of those non-gazetted Government servants of the various departments other than the Punjab Civil Secretariat who had 8 years' approved service or above at their credit and who were recommended for the post on the above register but were not accepted as an Extra Assistant Commissioner during the period of the last ten years ?

(c) If preference was given to candidates mentioned in (a) over those in (b) above, will Government be pleased to state reasons ?

Mr. H. D. Craik : The honourable member has asked for information in a very complicated form. It is suggested that he should recast his requirements in a more simple form. On the general question, the principle followed in making selections for register A-III is to choose the fittest candidates, not those who are more senior.

MOTOR TRANSPORT ON THE PATHANKOT-DALHOUSIE ROAD.

1381. Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah Gilani :

(i) Is it a fact—

(a) that the sole monopoly of running cars for public traffic on Pathankot-Dalhousie road is given to a European firm which charges such exorbitant fares that it actually costs much less to a passenger to go to Murree or even Kashmir from Lahore than to go to the nearest hill station, i.e., Dalhousie ;

(b) that a requisition signed by nearly all non-official members of the municipal committee, including Europeans, was sent in last September requesting that the question of this monopoly may be discussed at the meeting of the municipal committee but that the Deputy Commissioner of the district who is the President disallowed any discussion on the subject ;

(c) that such a monopoly is given to no other firm on any other road in the Province ?

(ii) Is it a fact that the public have sent a memorial to the Government on the subject ? If so, will the Government please state what action they have taken or propose to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : (i) (a) first part—Yes.

The rates appear to be high, but Government is not in a position to compare the actual cost to an individual of a journey from Lahore to Murree or Kashmir and of a journey from Lahore to Dalhousie.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government has not made enquiries from all districts, but believe that the Pathankot-Dalhousie road, which is a particularly dangerous road, is the only road in the province on which the running of vehicles for hire is in the hands of a single firm,

(ii) Yes. The copy which has reached Government is unsigned. The original was presented to the Deputy Commissioner of Gurdaspur on 29th January 1925, and he convened a conference at Gurdaspur on the 26th of February to discuss rates for the motor-service on the Pathankot-Dalhousie road. The matter is thus receiving attention.

REVOLUTIONARY SOCIETY IN THE PUNJAB AND THE PASSING OF AN ORDINANCE.

1382. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Will Government please state whether there is any truth in the rumour that the Punjab Government is contemplating the passing of an ordinance similar to the Bengal Ordinance ?

If so, has the Government got any evidence to prove the existence of a revolutionary society in the Province ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The answer to the first part of the question is that the rumour is entirely without foundation. The second part does not arise.

WARABANDI ON THE TAIL OF THE MONGI RAJBABA AND WATER-RATES.

1383. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (i) Is it a fact that for the last four or four-and-a-half years there is Warabandi on the tail of the Mongi Rajbaha, district Lyallpur, owing to the scarcity of water? Is it also a fact that zamindars get the supply of water after an interval of one week after every turn?

(ii) Is it a fact that water-rate on this Rajbaha is charged at the same rate as that charged for water from an ever-flowing canal? If so, will the Government consider the desirability of charging half the water-rate as long as the supply of water is deficient?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : (i) Previous to rabi 1923-24, Mungi Distributary below R. D. 108,500 and Mungi Minor off-taking at that point were run in rotation from time to time.

Remedial measures were adopted in 1923, by which the supply was improved and rotational turns are not now enforced.

(ii) Charges for the use of canal water are based on the area of the crops matured and the total charge is thus determined by the volume of water supplied.

No question of charging half rates on account of a deficient supply of water therefore arises.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE PROVINCE.

1384. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (i) Is it a fact that the number of unemployed is daily increasing in the Province? If so, will the Government be pleased to say what steps they have taken to solve the question of unemployment?

(ii) Will the Government be pleased to give the number of unemployed persons throughout the Province? If Government is not in possession of such figures, will it be pleased to prepare these figures now?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (i) The honourable member is referred to the answer given on 17th March 1924 to question No. 291 * put by Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.

(ii) There appears to be no such indication of the prevalence of unemployment in the Punjab as would justify expenditure on the establishment of a machinery for the collection of statistics.

PANCHAYATS IN THE PROVINCE.

1385. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Will the Government be pleased to give the total number of panchayats in each district and the total number of cases decided by panchayats in 1924?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : As for the first part, the figures are being collected. As for the second part, the honourable member will have to wait for the annual report on the subject.

POPULARISATION OF THE PANCHAYAT SYSTEM.

1386. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Has Government published any booklet for free distribution in rural areas to popularise the panchayat system? If not, what other steps have they taken to explain to the rural people the advantages of this system?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain :

1. A booklet has been prepared, a copy of which is laid on the table.
2. Methods for popularising the system are under consideration.

PANCHAYAT OF VILLAGE DHAGAM, TAHSIL GARHSHANKAR.

1387. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Is it a fact that the election of members for the panchayat of village Dhagam, tahsil Garhshankar, district Hoshiarpur, was held three months ago but up till now the panchayat has not been gazetted as having been duly constituted? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reason for this delay?

The Honourable Mian Sir 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.

PANCHAYATS IN THE HOSHIARPUR AND LUDHIANA DISTRICTS.

1388. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Will the Government be pleased to state the name of those panchayats in the Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana districts—

- (a) that have not decided any case in 1924 ;
- (b) that have not been gazetted as duly constituted though the election of their members has already taken place?

The Honourable Mian Sir 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.

CONSOLIDATION OF SCATTERED HOLDINGS.

1389. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of villages in the Province wherein scattered holdings have been consolidated?
- (b) the name and number of those villages of Muhammadan zamindars in the Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana districts wherein holdings have been consolidated?
- (ii) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of co-operative societies that exist for the purpose of consolidating scattered holdings?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : (c) (a) 153-20 more are in process of consolidation.

(b) 20. The names of these villages are in the statement, which is laid on the table.

(ii) 186 registered and 8 unregistered.

[Hon'ble R. S. Ch. Chhotu Ram.]

(b) The number is 20 ; and the names are as follows :—

Hoshiarpur District.

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Ahrana. | 11. Dhidn Katrola. |
| 2. Sham Churasi. | 12. Rajpur. |
| 3. Maitiana. | 13. Birampur Patti Bhattian. |
| 4. Chotala. | 14. Birampur Patti Jitewala. |
| 5. Serain. | 15. Badhel. |
| 6. Kakor. | 16. Moila. |
| 7. Macharyal. | 17. Chak Musa. |
| 8. Salimpur. | 18. Kurki Khurd. |
| 9. Safdarpur Patti Gujran. | 19. Garbshankar Patti Jaura. |
| 10. Tur. | 20. Zainpur (Ludhiana District). |

HONORARY SUB-INSPECTORS AND DEPUTY REGISTRARS OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

1390. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of honorary sub-inspectors, inspectors and deputy registrars of co-operative societies ?

(b) Has the Department ever invited the services of honorary workers ? If not, will the Government be pleased to do so now ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : (a) There are 26 honorary sub-inspectors, 8 honorary inspectors, and one honorary assistant registrar at present.

(b) The Department is continually on the look out for honorary workers and Government has placed at the disposal of the Registrar funds for daily allowance for those who are willing to undergo training.

PROMOTION OF NAIB-TAHSILDARS TO EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERSHIP.

1391. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of naib-tahsildars, communitywise, who were promoted to the post of Extra Assistant Commissioners in the year 1924 ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : There is no direct promotion of Naib-tahsildars to Extra Assistant Commissionership. Naib-tahsildars have to be specially selected for the register of candidates, and from this register which contains the names of other officials besides Naib-tahsildars officiating Extra Assistant Commissioners are chosen.

MUHAMMADAN PERMANENT ASSISTANT SURGEONS.

1392. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : With reference to the answer to question No. 226, *will the Government be pleased to say whether they have since made up the deficiency in the number of Muhammadan permanent assistant surgeons or not ?

The Honourable Mian Sir 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.

ADMISSION TO THE TECHNICAL COLLEGE, MUGHALPURA.

1393. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Will the Government be pleased to state the number of students, communitywise, that were admitted to the Technical college, Mughalpur, in the year 1924?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: A statement giving the figures asked for is laid on the table, for the information of the honourable member:—

A Class.				
Muhammadans	...	...	...	1
Hindus	...	...	...	5
Sikhs	...	...	...	3
Europeans and Anglo-Indians (including one Indian Christian)	...	...	...	4
Total				13

B Class.				
Muhammadans	...	...	...	11
Hindus	...	...	...	17
Sikhs	...	...	...	7
Europeans and Anglo-Indians	...	...	...	10
Total				45

GRANT FOR MILITARY SCHOLARSHIPS.

1394. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Will the Government be pleased to state the total grant for military scholarships in 1924-25 and how much of it was allotted for the sons of Muhammadan military men of the Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana districts?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The total grant is Rs. 4,00,000. The amount allotted to the Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana districts is Rs. 11,828 and Rs. 30,000, respectively, for award of scholarships to those who are eligible under the rules, irrespective of the communities to which they belong.

GRANT OF LAND TO MUHAMMADANS FOR WAR SERVICES.

1395. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Will the Government be pleased to give the total grant of Government land for the Muhammadans of the Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana districts, given in recognition of war services, since 1918?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: Up to February 1924 the area distributed to Muhammadans was 1,287,026 acres. What proportion of this went to Muhammadans of the Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana districts for their war services is not on record. Government does not consider the value of the information would be commensurate with the cost and labour of obtaining it.

PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, for those who are not content with the figures of the current and the coming year but desire to look somewhat further back into the chain of causes and results, the first figures which will strike the eye in the accounts which are to-day presented to the Council are those of the year 1923-24. When I introduced the budget of the current year, the revised estimate of 1923-24 showed 10,29 lakhs of revenue receipts and 10,80 of expenditure charged to revenue, leaving a deficit of 51. The accounts of 1923-24 when finally closed show receipts 10,21 and expenditure 9,79, leaving a surplus of 42. The difference of eight lakhs in the receipts is a small matter, showing an error of less than 1 per cent. The difference of 81 lakhs in the expenditure demands full explanation. The item in which the actual accounts show the largest diminution on the revised is reduction or avoidance of debt, 25 lakhs, which is due entirely to a change in the arrangements with the Government of India for the repayment of debt and is not significant of any error in estimating revised expenditure. It is in regard to the remaining sum of 56 lakhs that explanation is called for. Without troubling the Council with details or explaining how each figure is arrived at I may say that the suspicion of overbudgetting or of underspending rests upon miscellaneous Irrigation head 15, to the extent of 13 lakhs, upon Civil Works (transferred), head 41, to the extent of 12, and upon a large number of other heads, in fact upon almost all of them, including General Administration, Police, Education, Jails, Forests, Justice, Agriculture, to the extent of smaller sums varying from 4 to 1 lakh each. Overbudgetting or underspending was in fact so generally present throughout all the departments in 1923-24, as to suggest the presence of some general cause affecting all of them alike.

The first comment which naturally suggests itself is: here is a matter in which the investigations of the Accountant-General embodied in the annual Appropriation Report will give us invaluable assistance. Unfortunately the accounts of a year are not finally closed till at least six, sometimes nine, months after the end of it, and the Appropriation Report for 1923-24 has not yet reached this Government. We are attempting to persuade the Government of India to introduce changes which will close the annual accounts earlier and give us the Appropriation Report before the budget of the year after next is prepared. In the meanwhile I can only say that the contrast between the budget and the accounts of 1923-24 will receive the close attention of the Public Accounts Committee when the Appropriation Report is received, and draw the attention of Council to two directions in which clues may be forthcoming. The year 1923-24 was the first in which effect was given to the new system of the departmental preparation of departmental budgets in replacement of the old system of partial preparation by the departments and subsequent consolidation by the Accountant-General. Under the old system it is not too much to say that the departments did not learn to be responsible for, or to understand, their own figures as a whole; and the first inauguration of a new system, from which better results are anticipated, was necessarily accompanied by some confusion and inaccuracy. In the second place, it is to be remembered that the Retrenchment Committee completed its deliberations in 1922-23, and that the decisions of Government upon its proposals were not reached till the budget of 1923-24 had actually passed through the Council. During 1924 it was realised and reported to the Council that the savings effected amounted to

about 50 lakhs. The very general underspending of the year may fairly be attributed in part to the vigorous pursuit of economies. This explanation finds support from a comparison of the figures of actual expenditure in three successive years : 10,69 lakhs in 1921-22, 10,61 in 1922-23 and only 9,79 in 1923-24, the year which I am discussing, a very evident indication of drastic retrenchment. That the anticipated reductions of expenditure ought to have made their mark upon the figures of the revised budget, and that they did not do so, will not reduce the satisfaction with which the Council will welcome the accomplished fact of an anticipated deficit converted into a surplus and of the consequent diminution of present indebtedness.

I turn now to the figures of the current year. When the final edition of the budget for 1924-25 was prepared, it was already known that there would be no reduction of the contribution to the Government of India and the anticipated proceeds of the three Bills (for the alteration of the basis of valuation for Court-fees purposes of land paying fixed land revenue, for the enhancement of stamp duties on transfers of urban lands, and for the taxation of motor vehicles) which had been made dependent upon that reduction, as an alternative to the enhancement of water rates, were therefore omitted from the receipt figures. On the other hand, the anticipated proceeds of an enhancement of the water rate from the Kharif of 1924 were added to the figures in the Final Edition, as it had become evident that the enhancement was inevitable. When honourable members compare the budget of 1924-25 with the revised budget, they will remember that the direct receipts from irrigation would in ordinary course be somewhat (perhaps eight lakhs) below the budget figures, if the budget figures had been correct, because of the modification of the enhanced rates which was effected in October last. The fiscal legislation of November scarcely affects the comparison at all, because the Stamp Act Amending Act has only been in force for a very short time, and because the Motor Vehicle Taxation Bill will not take effect till April 1st next. With this explanation, I proceed to consider the conditions of the current year and to compare the revised figures with the figures of the budget.

The year 1924-25 was, agriculturally speaking, a successful one, but the figures of land revenue in the revised are only 4 lakhs better than the budget, half of which is due to land revenue credited to irrigation. Excise is better by 5 lakhs, Forests worse by 3 lakhs. There has been a remarkable improvement in the anticipated direct receipts from irrigation, which instead of the 3,77 lakhs which should have been reached on the basis of the budget figure of 3,85, appear likely to amount to 3,98,—a virtual improvement of 21. This is mainly due to an increase, which could not have been foreseen, in Kharif irrigation by reason of the high price of cotton at sowing time. Another remarkable departure in the revised figures of receipts is under the head of Stamps, where we expect 1,07 instead of 96 lakhs. Many honourable members will remember that at the time of the amendment of the Stamp and Court-fees Acts in 1922, an increased revenue of some 30 lakhs was anticipated, which in the event was found to amount in the first year to 7 only. It was uncertain to what extent this disappointment was due to general depression and to what extent to a deliberate avoidance of litigation and of transactions for which the purchase of non-judicial stamps is required, by reason of the enhanced charge. Whatever the cause, it appears to have been of temporary operation, and in the current year the revenue from Stamps is likely to fall short only by 6 lakhs of the total which was anticipated after the general amendment of

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the Stamps and Court-fees Acts. Of the increase, 2½ lakhs is due to an increased payment by the Government of India on account of unified stamps. The only other important difference in receipts between budget figures and revised is under the head "XXXV—Miscellaneous," which is worse by 9½ lakhs, mainly because 5½ lakhs for the sale-proceeds of town sites have been transferred to the new head of extraordinary receipts in pursuance of the policy which will be explained in a later part of this speech, and partly because it has been found necessary to provide for a substantially larger deduction on account of refunds. The general result is an improvement in the revised estimate of revenue receipts by 27 lakhs.

On the expenditure side the revised estimate shows no very serious items of increase over the budget: 3 lakhs in miscellaneous irrigation expenditure, and as much again in irrigation works, head 16, 2 lakhs in Administration of Justice, 3 lakhs in Police in consequence of the employment of additional police in disturbed areas. There are small decreases in Forests (1 lakh), Education (3 lakhs), Medical (2 lakhs), Agriculture (3 lakhs), Industries (2 lakhs). There is a very notable reduction of 12 lakhs in Civil Works (transferred) which is in part due to deductions unprovided for on account of expenditure chargeable to other heads and in part to there being made no payment to the Government of India for expenditure on the Lahore Barracks, for the erection of which the provincial Government has paid in consideration of a lien on the sale-proceeds of the lands of the Fort. One group of very interesting reductions in the budget figures calls for special attention. This group falls under the head of Debt Services. Under heads 14 and 19 (Interest) our figures are better by 13 lakhs than the budget, in consequence of the discharge of principal debt, and to the decision not to take a loan from the public, and under head 21 (Reduction or Avoidance of Debt) a provision of 25 lakhs has been reduced to a little more than 1 lakh by the arrangements for the funding of debt which I shall describe later. The total expenditure is likely to be less by 48 lakhs than was anticipated when the budget was framed: a benefit of which over two-thirds is attributable to the measures adopted in dealing with debt. An anticipated deficit of 36 is thus converted into a probable surplus of 39 for the year 1924-25. The full consequences of this very great improvement in our revenue expectations for the current year will be seen later on when I explain the figures of the capital portion of the budget, and point out that it has been possible to finance the whole capital expenditure of the year without borrowing anything at all.

Our revised revenue estimate is for 10,56 lakhs of receipts and 10,17 of expenditure. The new expenditure of the year was strictly, if not parsimoniously, restricted, and the total outlay under "Civil Works charged to revenue" is surprisingly low, less than five-sevenths of that which the final accounts of 1922-23 show for that year, and little more than seven-eighths of that for 1923-24. If 5 lakhs of non-productive Civil Works charged to capital be added, the figures still remain significant of economy. The comparison then shows 1,04 lakhs in 1922-23, 83 in 1923-24, 80 in 1924-25. To exchange the condition of deficit for that of surplus, we have inevitably paid a price; not only in new taxation, but in the limitation of useful activities. Some expansion may now reasonably be allowed; but our problem is, while relaxing the rigidity of the restriction upon useful activities which the epoch of deficit made necessary, to avoid any lapse into facility of expenditure, such as inevitably tempts the enjoyers of a temporary surplus.

A great nation of antiquity, receiving its victorious generals in the glory of a public triumph, set an ill-favoured slave behind the chariot of the hero, to attract the evil eye and avert the misfortune which alternates with success. As my friend Mr. Irving and I pass proudly before the Council in the triumph of a surplus (cheers), there sits behind us—metaphorically, of course, for I make no reflection upon the appearance or manners of our neighbours upon these benches—an ominous shadow, that black care which rides behind the horseman, a memory and a warning. We have enjoyed in succession three years of successful agriculture; it is almost time, in the vicissitudes of fortune, to expect a less favourable monsoon. We have seen in that same period that abatement of political unrest and of the resultant expenditure, which the lowered prices of food-stuffs naturally bring; now the index figure of the cost of living is again on the upward grade. If it should bring happily no return of political unrest, it may bring enhanced outlay upon compensation for high cost of grain and other items which swell expenditure. The Excise revenues upon which we relied formerly for one-seventh and even now for one-tenth of our total resources, continue to show signs of precariousness and it may become necessary to replace them in part by other means. There are even indications that some members of this Council are prepared to welcome the prospect of having to raise the whole crore which Excise gives us by other methods of taxation. Our calculations, and we have made them for several years ahead, do not justify the hope of successive surpluses or even of an easy equilibrium before the completion of the Sutlej Valley Project. In the meanwhile there are urgent demands, which we do not wish to refuse, for expansion in the beneficent departments, particularly that of education.

There was every reason therefore for declining to be dazzled by the glamour of the realised surplus of 1923-24 and of the anticipated surplus of 1924-25, when we set to work to frame the budget of 1925-26, and for restricting new expenditure, particularly of the recurring class, within narrow limits. In introducing last year's budget I depicted the passage of the good ship between monster and whirlpool: the monster of the spending departments opening a six-fold mouth to snatch his victims, and the whirlpool of the Council opposition threatening to engulf the vessel with all its inmates. This year we have steered a prosaic and unromantic course. If I may so express myself without reflection upon my colleagues, we have *rationed* the monster, bargained with him to take so much and no more, allowed the different mouths to argue out together the division of the prey, and slipped past while the discussion was in progress. We found, upon our forecast of revenue and expenditure for several years ahead that it would not be safe in the sphere of expenditure charged against revenue to allow more than 10 lakhs of recurring new expenditure over and above known commitments during 1925-26, and 42 lakhs of non-recurring (exclusive of the working expenses of irrigation, and of what is really a formal provision for famine relief). To the transferred departments (including civil works carried out on behalf of transferred departments) we allotted 8,40,000 out of 9,80,000 for recurring and 31 out of 42 lakhs for non-recurring expenditure. These figures deal with the ordinary administration, both reserved and transferred, apart from productive outlay, and they exclude, of course, all of the large capital expenditure which is contemplated upon irrigation, communications in the Nili Bar, the hydro-electric scheme and other capital items. The distribution of the totals allotted for new expenditure against revenue in the transferred departments has been effected by the Ministers in consultation.

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Our proposals this year therefore are characterised by an arbitrary restriction of new expenditure under all but the technically productive heads, to the total which an advance forecast for several years to come, prepared by the careful hand of Mr. Irving, indicates to be a safe one. Such forecasts like the prophecies of meteorology, are always liable to be falsified in some degree by unforeseen circumstances; he who has foretold a bright and sunny day may have occasion to regret his neglect to take his umbrella out with him; and he who has budgetted for a normal monsoon may find to his dismay that he has no occasion for an umbrella at all. We can but do, what we always do, that is to say, assume normal conditions in the budget year until abnormal conditions are demonstrated, but by forecasting for several years ahead and restricting expansion in accordance with the results of that forecast we certainly eliminate certain possibilities of error.

On the receipt side our revenue budget for 1925-26 assumes a gross land revenue 8 lakhs worse than the current year which has been a particularly favourable one; but 24 lakhs better than the actual receipts of 1922-23. It is an estimate which does not err on the side of pessimism. The large increase of 8 lakhs under Excise will be seen to be illusory if the expenditure figures under the same head are examined. Both the receipt and the revenue figures are in fact swelled by a new method of accounting for the price of Excise opium, and their net fiscal significance is an unfavourable one. The result of the Excise and opium auctions this year has indicated a decidedly downward tendency in consequence of the prevalence of illicit distillation and smuggling, and our net budget anticipations for the coming year are worse by 6 lakhs than in the current one. Under "Stamps" the direct receipts of Irrigation, and head "XXXV—Miscellaneous" the substantial increases on the revised figures (5, 25 and 4 lakhs, respectively) are due mainly to three measures which are within the memory of the Council: the doubling of the stamp duty on transfers of urban immovable property, the raising of the water-rates on perennial canals, and the passing of the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act. The continued slump in the timber market keeps down the anticipated receipts from Forests to 40 lakhs, worse by 4 lakhs than the realised receipts of 1923-24, but if budget anticipations, based on the seven to ten convention, are realised this should mean a net revenue of 12 lakhs from this source. The growing revenue from Education is due to the growth of fees as more schools are opened; and that from Agriculture to the expansion of the sales of seed for which it is the practice to budget equally on the receipt and expenditure side.

On the expenditure side of the revenue budget, the largest real increase on the revised figures is that of 23 lakhs in Civil Works (transferred). Of this, 5 lakhs are due to the carry over of surrendered grants. The Council will remember that in order to take away from the spending departments the inducement to heavy expenditure in the last few weeks of the financial year, they are now permitted to estimate their probable lapses and surrender portions of their grants, on the understanding that these will be carried forward to the budget of the next year. The system discourages waste and tends to accuracy in the revised budget. Other causes of the difference are the charging of the pay of certain officers to other heads during the current year, together accounting for nearly 5 lakhs more. The remainder of the amount is due to that policy of relaxing the extreme rigidity of parsimony during

deficit, which I have already indicated as appropriate to existing conditions. We contemplate a somewhat increased expenditure next year on buildings for General Administration (1 lakh), Education (3 lakhs), Medical (1 lakh), Agriculture (3 lakhs) and a somewhat more liberal allowance for repairs (3 lakhs) and Communications (2 lakhs). The item of grants-in-aid shows an increase of 3½ lakhs, most of which will go to the relief of local bodies and the improvement of main roads under the new Road Classification Scheme which has been worked out by the Provincial Board of Communications. Only a part of this Road Classification Scheme will be brought into force next year, because financial caution does not allow of the immediate acceptance of the full liability for 12 lakhs per annum, until conditions improve further.

The next largest increase (after Excise which has been discussed in connection with receipts under the same head) is in Education (transferred), where the figures exceed by 11 lakhs those of the revised. I think honourable members will be gratified to find that this item, next after the Provincial contribution to the Government of India, is now the largest single item of expenditure charged to revenue. We know well enough that in the able hands which control Education this money is well spent, and that the swelling of the budget figure means a real increase both in the quality and quantity of the provision made for the youth of the Province. (Hear, hear). The next largest increase is in the item of interest on irrigation debt, where the budget in consequence of the growth of outlay on the Sutlej Valley Project exceeds the revised estimate by 10 lakhs. There is a rise of 6 lakhs under "Agriculture," partly due to expansion of seed operations, partly to the cost of the new Multan Circle and Farm, and partly to the expansion of the beneficent activities of the co-operative movement. Other increases of 2 to 3 lakhs occur in Land Revenue, Irrigation Works (head 16), Administration of Justice, Medical, Industries, Superannuation and Pensions, and Miscellaneous reserved (head 47). Notable decreases from the figures of the revised estimate to the budget are in Police (4½ lakhs) and in interest on ordinary debt (nearly 3 lakhs), the latter in consequence of debt reduction measures already alluded to. The total budgetted expenditure is 10,92 lakhs against 10,17, the revised figure for the current year; and an anticipated revenue surplus of 10 lakhs is the outcome. It is only one per cent. of our revenue, a narrow margin, which any untoward incident, such as a rise in the prices of food-grains involving the grant of grain compensation allowance, would at once obliterate.

Thus far I have dealt with the revenue receipts and with expenditure charged to revenue. After the Council has examined also the extraordinary items and the capital account, it will find, I think, some grounds for a sober self-congratulation. But before I deal in detail with these, there are certain important features in the accounts now presented on which I owe a preliminary explanation. The first of these concerns the vexed question of receipts from the sale of lands. The item is of particular importance in the Punjab because of the large areas of Crown land at the disposal of the Province, and the correct classification of the sale-proceeds profoundly affects financial policy. It will be within the recollection of honourable members that in the explanations, which have from time to time been given of the difficulties in which the Province became involved shortly after the institution of the reformed system of administration, and from which it has now happily

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emerged (though with chastening memories which emphasize the need of financial caution), stress has been laid upon the consequences of classifying receipts which are in their nature occasional and temporary, together with ordinary revenues. It would be unfair to our predecessors to assume that they ignored this danger, for the investment of a crore of rupees with the Government of India at the then prevailing rate of interest of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. some twelve years ago was a measure adopted with the deliberate intention of putting a portion of these extraordinary receipts beyond the reach of the demands of ordinary expenditure. There was, however, till recently no such complete separation of sale-proceeds from the revenue account as would bring home at a glance the true significance of the figures. The Province suffered in two ways from the misclassification. The Meston Committee, when it examined the financial capacity of each Province and assessed the contributions to be made by each to the Government of India, was struck by the substantial balances of the Punjab, as well as by the apparent elasticity of its revenues. It did not entirely ignore the source of the balances, but it was influenced by their magnitude, and was not aware that they were derived virtually in their entirety from the disposal of a capital asset. This is one of the reasons why our provincial contribution stands at the high figure of $1\frac{1}{2}$ crores. In the second place, the vigilance of the guardians of the provincial purse, and of the public whose criticism is its valued auxiliary, was not so rudely awakened by the omens of a growing public expenditure, as it would have been under a system of accounts exhibiting receipts from land as something not available for the purposes of expenditure chargeable to revenue.

The error was corrected and the proceeds of the sale of land were classified as capital receipts, and it is under this heading that honourable members will find them in the budget of last year. Technical objections have, however, been raised by the Government of India to this nomenclature. It seems that a receipt is not a capital receipt, unless there is a statistical diminution of assets to be set against it; and the fact that there is a diminution of actual assets, because the Crown estate which has once been sold is not available for a second sale, does not justify the description which we have been giving in our recent post-reform budgets. I am not deeply concerned with technicalities; but I am deeply concerned to protect the Province against the consequences of a classification which conceals from the ordinary man the fact that ordinary expenditure is proceeding at a rate more rapid than the ordinary recurring revenues can meet. The plan has therefore now been adopted of ranking sale-proceeds not as capital but as extraordinary receipts, and of placing them outside the total of revenue receipts, so as to make it plain that they are available for the reduction or avoidance of debt, but not for other purposes. For many years to come we have a series of great projects before us for which in ordinary course it would be necessary to contract interest-bearing debt. By setting aside the proceeds of the sale of Crown lands, we shall reduce very substantially the sums to be borrowed and the interest to be paid, with results greatly beneficial to the future finances of the Province. It will shortly be seen that a very notable instance of the benefits of this policy lies before the Council in the accounts which are now presented to it.

So much regarding the form of the accounts. A second novelty will be noticed in their content. If honourable members will turn to the general abstract of receipts and disbursements on page 11 of the budget volume and

look in the column of accounts of 1923-24 opposite to the heading : " Permanent debt discharged " : they will see that a sum of one crore thirty-eight thousands, representing the overdraft from the Government of India, during 1921-22, is there shown as having been paid off in 1923-24. This, with the resultant diminution of interest charges, was arranged to take effect in the accounts of 1923-24, after we had satisfied the Government of India that the crore concerned had actually been received in the sale-proceeds of land. The Council is entitled to ask me to explain how, if the application of sale-proceeds to current revenue expenditure is so objectionable as I say it is, I justify the subsequent application of funds from the same source to the extinction of the debt which the overspending of revenue has left to us. Confronted with the accomplished fact of a debt on which interest was accruing, and finding ourselves with a balance on capital account which was not immediately required for productive expenditure and which, left in the hands of our banker, might or might not yield a rate of interest equal to that which the service of the debt demanded, we judged it best to clear off the debt without regarding too closely the circumstances of its origin. We could not have employed in this manner the proceeds of the Punjab loan of 1923, which was raised specifically for productive irrigation projects : but it would have been financial prudence to retain, alongside of one another, a balance derived from the sale of Crown lands and an interest-bearing debt on current account.

We have thus completely extinguished a crore of debt resulting from the revenue overdraft of our first deficit year : and the present position of the Province in respect to indebtedness is this. It has the pre-reform irrigation debt of nearly 22 crores, against the magnificent inheritance of the Punjab Canal system, yielding an aggregate return of seven to eight per cent., and it has a debt of something under 3 crores on account of post-reform expenditure on irrigation, and of 60 lakhs on account of the revenue deficit of 1922-23, making a total of just over 25 crores in all against which must be set the crore banked with the Central Government in 1914-15. With the exception of the crore and 92 lakhs borrowed from the Indian market in 1923, all the post-reform debt has now been funded or paid off : and in the present budget a small provision (Rs. 60,600) has been made with a view to beginning the paying off of the Punjab loan of 1923. Honourable members will be interested to follow in the accounts the figures which embody and illustrate these important changes.

Last year we showed in the statements presented to the Council in addition to interest on irrigation debt (head 14) and interest on ordinary debt (head 19) a sinking fund of 25 lakhs (head 21). This was the amount intended to be set aside to pay off the overdrafts contracted with the Government of India during the deficit years. The discussions over the proposed enhancement of the water-rate, and the evident desirability of reducing it to the lowest figure compatible with the restoration of financial equilibrium, drew attention to the advantage of funding this debt and of spreading its repayment. The far smaller figures which now appear under head 21, representing an improvement of some 23 lakhs in the revenue position are the figures of the repayment of principal under this funding scheme. The repayment of overdrafts on account of productive expenditure is spread over 50 years, and that on account of ordinary revenue expenditure over 25 years. Those members of the Council who are interested in mathematical calculations will note that when repayment is spread over a long period the annual charge exceeds simple interest only by a fraction. Thus the repayment of the princi-

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pal of recent irrigation debts contracted subsequent to the reforms will be achieved in 50 years by the annual repayment of five to eight annas on each hundred rupees over and above simple interest on the total unreduced debt. The figures vividly suggest an easy method of clearing private encumbered estates, where the necessary security for regular repayments over a long period and the necessary banking facilities are forthcoming.

Turning to the head 19 (Interest on Ordinary Debt) which should show us the net amount which we pay in interest in addition to the interest upon irrigation debt, I most cordially sympathise with those honourable members who find themselves exercising their wits upon a minus item. I will not expend the time of the House by discussing how this minus figure is arrived at. It may be taken as a dogma, and faith in it as a spiritual discipline. The most satisfactory plan for practical investigators of the financial problem is to add together the figures of heads 14 and 19 and see what is the total to be paid in interest, whether for irrigation or otherwise, or to turn to the detailed estimate under head 19 and consider the total figure before the deduction of interest transferred to Commercial Departments. In the accounts of 1922-23 the aggregate was 80 lakhs; and in those of 1923-24, 91 lakhs 47 thousands; in the budget of the current year it was 1,03 lakhs 80 thousands; and in the budget for the coming year it is 97 lakhs 6 thousands. The diminution of the total from the budget of 1924-25 to the budget of 1925-26, and the slow growth of the total in four years from 90 to 97 lakhs, in spite of the heavy outlay upon the great Sutlej Valley Project, is due to the measures for the extinction and the avoidance of debt. In addition to revenue surpluses, when we are fortunate enough to have them, a sum averaging between 40 and 50 lakhs, and estimated at no less than 63 during the coming year, is available for this purpose under the head of extraordinary items.

If honourable members will now look at the capital receipts and see the figure of permanent debt entered in the column of budget estimate 1924-25, they will be reminded of the fact that they passed a resolution recommending the Government to raise a loan of 1½ crores for productive expenditure in the current year. In the column of revised estimate they will find a blank. Owing partly to underspending by the Irrigation Department and the refund of 36 lakhs advanced to the Bahawalpur Darbar, partly to delay in the commencement of the hydro-electric and the Nili Bar Communications schemes, partly to the application to capital purposes of the receipts from the sale of land, and partly to the realised surplus of 1923-24 and to the anticipated surplus of the current year, it will be unnecessary in 1924-25 to contract any debt at all for capital purposes, and the Province is richer by the 8 or 9 lakhs of annual interest which would have been payable if the loan had been necessary. I am not going to pretend to the merit of having foreseen this strikingly favourable issue. What actually occurred was this. It was found that a loan could only be raised in the open market if 6½ per cent. were offered as interest, but that the Government of India were prepared to advance the money at 5½. It was considered that the advantage of encouraging the local habit of investment ought not to be purchased at so high an additional charge as one-half per cent. annually on the sum borrowed, and it was decided to have recourse to the Government of India for an amount which was subsequently estimated to be 75 lakhs. But the circumstances already alluded to have made an advance from that quarter happily unnecessary in the current year. If—which appears unlikely—the Government of India should hold us

to our bargain and insist on advancing to us the 75 lakhs which we estimated that we were likely to require, we shall apply it to the reduction or avoidance of other debt.

In the account of extraordinary and capital items, which we keep separate from our revenue budget, we budgetted for 39 lakhs from sales of land and now expect to receive 54, an improvement of 15. The budgetted opening balance of 1,18 has been reduced in the revised, by various changes, of which the most important is the extinction of overdraft debt, to 64; not including the opening balance of the Famine Insurance Fund. The anticipated receipts from provincial loans and advances rise from 13 in the budget to 16 in the revised, while the budgetted items of permanent debt (1½ crores), overdraft from the Government of India (5 lakhs) and deposits to sinking fund (25 lakhs) go out altogether in the revised.

On the expenditure side, irrigation outlay goes down from 1,91 lakhs in the budget to 1,17, the hydro-electric scheme from 35 to 1 only, Civil Works from 57 to 22 in consequence of the later commencement of the scheme of communications in the Nili Bar. An increase of 13 lakhs under Loans and Advances (reserved) due to the advances made in flooded areas, is partly counterbalanced by a decrease of 6 lakhs under the same category (transferred). It is a natural criticism upon these figures that the capital expenditure during the current year was very gravely overestimated, and the Council will desire to know what steps we are taking to avoid a repetition of the error. So far as the delay in the beginning of the hydro-electric scheme and the Nili Bar Communications is concerned, the case is merely one of a too sanguine estimate of the pace at which preliminary difficulties could be surmounted. Out of the difference of 74 lakhs in the expenditure of the Irrigation Department, 36 lakhs are accounted for by an unexpected repayment of the irrigation advances to the Bahawalpur Darbar, for which the Government of India is assuming responsibility. There remain 38 lakhs, due to overbudgetting or underspending, according as we may prefer to put it. There is no doubt that the Irrigation Department labours under certain difficulties in framing its budget, particularly as regards orders for plant and stores from abroad, which may be executed either within one financial year or another according to conditions of which officers here are in ignorance. Thus in the current year the High Commissioner has allowed 16 lakhs of expected outlay to go unexpended. But the extreme dislike of exceeding an estimate unquestionably tends to make officers err on what they regard as the "safe side," and to put their requirements at a sanguine figure. One way of checking this tendency is to be ready to consider supplementary demands in a sympathetic spirit. For the rest it can only be said that my colleagues of the Finance Department, aware of the tendency to be oversanguine and to leave safe margins, will do their best to check them.

In 1925-26 we budget, on the receipt side of the non-revenue account, for 63 lakhs of extraordinary receipts from the sale of land, and for two items of permanent debt, one of which is described in the budget as a Rupee Loan for 1,80 lakhs and the other as a Hydro-Electric loan of 35 lakhs. The other item beside Famine Insurance Fund is the usual one of Provincial Loans and Advances, for which we provide 16. There is virtually no opening balance except under the separate head of the Famine Insurance Fund. On the expenditure side the largest item is, of course, for irrigation expenditure, 1,99 lakhs, and it is upon this figure that honourable members are likely to look with most suspicion, owing to the experience of overbudgetting in the current

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year. I trust that the assurances which I have to give will allay this suspicion. It is on the open canals that the expectation of expenditure is most likely to be falsified by the event; and during the current year there were substantial lapses on this account. But in 1925-26 the proportion of the provision required for open canals is substantially smaller than last year, only $7\frac{1}{2}$ as against $18\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. One hundred and ninety-one lakhs are budgetted for the Sutlej Valley Project, where work on three headworks is now in full swing. The chances of delay and of lapses here are small, and the figures have been so checked, and such a reduction made in the total demanded by the Department, that I think the Council can depend upon their reasonableness.

We provide 35 lakhs for the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme, of which the Financial Department has now completed its scrutiny, with the result that stage 1 of the project, as a self-contained whole, receives a cautious blessing. It is believed that it will pay its way, whether further extensions are or are not undertaken. If that forecast is correct, it is permissible to look forward to an era in which the Punjab's lack of fuel for industrial development will be forgotten in the widespread distribution of hydro-electric power. Thirty-seven lakhs are provided for capital expenditure on Civil Works; partly on non-productive works in continuation of the policy started last year, but not in extension of it; partly on construction of residences for Government servants, which will yield a return but probably not a full six per cent.; partly on the acquisition of land for the headquarters of a new Pakpattan District, a necessary complement to the Sutlej-Valley Project and the colonisation of the Nili Bar; and partly on productive works properly so called, of which the Nili Bar Communications are the most important. The expenditure includes 28 lakhs for provincial loans and advances, and small items on account of capital expenditure for Forest and Industries.

In his admirable notes on the budget, Mr. Irving has given you a retrospect in which he has analysed the financial history of the Province since the inauguration of the reforms. I shall not repeat what he has said, except to emphasize the significance of certain figures. The revenues are greater by a crore than the mean of the years preceding and following that year of drought and trouble in which the Province entered upon the reformed administration. The expenditure has risen only by one-tenth of that amount. While the revenues have grown by a crore, the direct demands upon them which represent the cost of collection have fallen, absolutely by a small percentage, relatively by a substantial one. If we add together the cost of the heads grouped together under "Civil Administration" and "Miscellaneous," we find a fall in the total. At the same time the expenditure under the seven heads classed as "beneficent departments" has risen by 49 lakhs. We have then larger revenues, more cheaply collected, a smaller proportion of them expended upon the needs of the ordinary civil administration, and a substantially larger proportion upon the work of nation building. During the later years of the Reform period with which I am more particularly concerned to-day, we show you an overdraft debt reduced by a crore, an irrigation debt unswelled during the current year, despite the progress of large productive undertakings, a record of funding effected in respect to remaining debts contracted since the commencement of the reformed administration, and an anticipation of a third annual surplus on revenue account (though a very small one) succeeding to substantial surpluses in the two preceding years.

The cost of the post-war increases in the pay of establishments has recently been recalculated at 1.23 lakhs per annum. Of this amount 87 lakhs is for the subordinate establishments, 16 lakhs for the provincial services, and 20 lakhs for the all-India services, including 9 lakhs the cost of the proposals of the Lee Commission. The deficit from which the Province suffered in the first two years of the reformed administration was due to this increased cost of establishments, to the effects of high prices in other departments, showing itself particularly in the increased working expenses of irrigation, and to the great fall in the Excise revenue. The aggregate financial deterioration produced by all these causes can now be definitely valued at not less than two crores per annum. The additional taxation imposed on the Province, including the Stamp and Court-fees legislation of 1922, amounts to nearly 90 lakhs. The remaining burden of 1.10 lakhs has been met, and equilibrium restored, by retrenchment and by the natural growth of the revenues.

These are the reasons why I foretold to the Council the possibility of a sober self-congratulation on the financial prospect of the Province. The position has been reached in spite of — or should I perhaps say, by reason of — a rigid adherence to the principle that the proceeds of the sale of land are not available for ordinary expenditure, but only for the extinction or avoidance of debt.

A certain personage of classical antiquity, when prosperity came upon him, gave offence to the jealous deity who watches for manifestations of human arrogance, by repeating, as he reviewed his successes: In all these things Fortune had no part. Let us not repeat his error. Three years of good rainfall, a careful economy, and the proceeds of fresh taxation, have floated us out of our difficulties. May no ill-luck or indiscretion or extravagance, no wasteful expenditure and no sentimental sacrifice of revenue, take us back again among those shoals and shallows among which we lay grounded.

And while we owe financial equilibrium to Fortune and the monsoons, we have a debt also to the men who have been busy in improving the financial machine, to the silent workers in the budget branch of the Secretariat and to the Financial Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries, in particular to Mr. Irving. (Hear, hear.) Since Mr. Irving brought his keen and ingenious brain to bear upon the problems of his office, we have seen many improvements. The most important of all—I have mentioned it before, but it is the corner-stone of our structure—is the separation of the capital and the revenue accounts and the separate classification from revenue receipts of the proceeds of the sale of land. Future generations of law-givers who will find the Province in possession of great productive works, in large measure unburdened with interest charges, will have cause to bless this reform in the accounts. The next change of importance is that the head of the department who is responsible for the spending of money has become also responsible for the framing of his budget, and for seeing that expenditure follows a course in conformity with it and that supplementary demands are submitted when the existing provision threatens to become exhausted. Responsibility is thus capable of being fixed, and when the departmental accounting agencies have fully learned their work, the budget will become a far more reliable instrument of financial precision than it was in the past. Again, a forecast of revenue and expenditure, extending over 5 years in advance, has been prepared. It is a means by

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which we are able to judge how much new recurring expenditure can safely be admitted to our budgets; for the admission of new recurring expenditure without calculating the ultimate cumulative effect of it, is a fertile source of financial dangers. A clear-cut, if somewhat arbitrary definition of new expenditure has been adopted, with the result that it is now possible to make a forecast of ordinary expenditure and revenue and to separate new expenditure from the former. Another change—I have already alluded to it in this speech—is that each head of a department now submits in January a list of excesses and surrenders foreseen as probable. This list of excesses and surrenders becomes the basis of a revised estimate. The excesses serve to indicate the supplementary grants which are necessary. The surrenders, when they represent postponement and not abandonment of expenditure, are carried over as fresh grants into the budget of the following year. The department gets its money, and is not tempted to throw it away in hasty spending. For the convenient form of the budget volume and the excellent graphs of expenditure which precede the accounts the Council is indebted also to Mr. Irving. Any honourable member who wishes to obtain a bird's eye view of recent financial history with a minimum of research and trouble is recommended to study these graphs.

I take this opportunity of explaining a change which has this year been made in the order of the demands which will be submitted to the vote of the Council. Hitherto the demands have been presented in an order which followed the numerical order of the heads of expenditure, except that demands under capital heads were combined with the revenue heads of the department to which they belong. The result has been that certain heads of expenditure, coming early in the period allotted to them, have received full consideration at the hands of the Council; while others, always coming late in their period or possibly excluded from discussion by the operation of the guillotining rule, have been inadequately discussed or not discussed at all. This year it is proposed to reverse the order, and so to divide the periods allotted for the consideration of particular groups, that the subjects upon which the Council is understood to feel most strongly will have a good chance of receiving full discussion. Thus Education, Police, Jails and the Administration of Justice, with certain minor departments, will have three full days allotted to them; and General Administration will come first at the beginning of the next period of three days, in which Forests, Excise and Land Revenue will also fall.

If there is reason to be grateful to our Secretaries and to the Finance Department, the Council has also grounds for legitimate pride in the vigilance and activity of its own Committees dealing with questions of finance. The Standing Committee on Finance has been for four years a keen and industrious critic of all proposals of new expenditure and of all supplementary demands and reappropriations. The Public Accounts Committee only got to work in 1923 when the Audit and Reappropriation Reports of a complete year of the Reformed Administration were available. It is this body which investigates and reports upon all cases in which money has been expended otherwise than as authorised by the Council and upon all financial irregularities. Its activities are the guarantee against violation of the Council's financial prerogatives; and the reality of the control represented by the votes upon demands, and in the long run, of the whole constitutional machine, depends upon these activities. I understand, upon high authority, that the Punjab Public Accounts Committee enjoys already the reputation of one of the most vigilant and effective in India.

This is my fifth annual budget and the last which I shall have the honour of presenting to this Council. The time which I have selected for its introduction brings me into rivalry with another event of provincial importance. I refer to the inauguration of the Baby Show, which is fixed for this afternoon. The rivalry of the two occasions has its esoteric significance. It is for me to leave the stage as these young actors enter upon it. May it be theirs to see a Punjab, freed from communal dissensions, enjoying an ordered liberty, and enriched by the rivers yielding cheap power to its looms and water to its fields and by the brain and brawn of its virile and hardy race.

Sir, I present to the Council the budget for 1925-26. (Cheers).

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CHAIR.

USE OF PRINTED FORMS FOR NOTICES OF MOTIONS TO OMIT OR REDUCE GRANTS.

Mr. President: I wish to draw the attention of the honourable members to the notice placed in their seats in regard to the use of printed forms for sending in to the Council office notices of motions to omit or reduce grants. It is hardly necessary for me to reiterate the necessity for the use of the forms referred to therein. I am sure honourable members will co-operate in this matter and help the office in its expeditious despatch of work. These forms are available in the Council and also in the members' private room.

THE PUNJAB BORSTAL BILL.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): Sir, I present the report of the Select Committee on the Punjab Borstal Bill. It will be noted that the Select Committee recommends the republication of the Bill.

The Council then adjourned till 2 p.m. on Monday, the 2nd March 1925.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

6TH SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.]

Monday, the 2nd March, 1925.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

EMPLOYMENT OF INFORMERS FOR THE ARREST OF BABAR AKALIS.

1396. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of those informers other than Government servants who were employed by the Criminal Investigation Department to effect the arrest of *Babar Akalis* in the Hoshiarpur District;
- (b) the total sum of money given to these informers by way of pay;
- (c) whether that sum thus spent was shown in the budget or not;
- (d) if the answer to part (c) of the question is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to say under what head and description this item is shown?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (a) & (b). It is not expedient to publish information on these points.

(c) & (d). It is not possible for Government to expend money for which provision is not made in the budget or in supplementary grants.

GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AND NON-CO-OPERATION MOVEMENT.

1397. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Will the Government be pleased to prepare and lay on the table a statement showing the number of all Government servants of each department who left Government service on account of the non-co-operation movement?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Figures available show the following resignations:—

Police Department	...	...	...	40
Other Departments under the Local Government	...	...	...	35
Posts and Telegraphs	...	...	...	27
Military (consisting mainly of temporary clerks in the Accounts Branch).	...	...	...	19

Total ... 121

No figures are available for certain other departments, including the North-Western Railway.

The accuracy of the foregoing figures cannot be guaranteed.

REINSTATEMENT OF ZAILDARS, ETC., DISMISSED ON ACCOUNT OF PARTICIPATION IN THE NON-CO-OPERATION MOVEMENT.

1398. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: In view of the fact that the National Congress has suspended the triple boycott, will the Government be pleased

[Chaudhri Afzal Haq.]

to say whether they will consider the advisability of reinstating those zaildars, lambardars and sufedposhes who were dismissed on account of taking part in the non-co-operation movement and reconsider the cases of those pensioners whose pensions were stopped for similar reasons ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No.

RETURNS TO OWNERS OF LAND ACQUIRED UNDER THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT, BUT NOT REQUIRED FOR USE.

1399. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (a) Is it not a fact that sometimes the land acquired by the Government for its own use or for the use of local bodies under the Land Acquisition Act ceases to be of any use to the Government or local bodies ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to say whether such land is returned to the owners or their collaterals ?

(c) If not, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of returning the land to the owners or their collaterals for the price for which it was actually acquired and instruct local bodies likewise ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) The rules regulating the disposal of land no longer required will be found in sections 493-496 of the Land Administration Manual.

REPORT ON KATAR DHAR JUNGLE IN THE HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

1400. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the report with respect to Katar Dhar jungle, district Hoshiarpur, is ready now ?

(b) If the answer to this question is in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for the delay ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) Yes. Attention is invited to the answer to question No. 720*.

(b) Does not arise.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION FOR GIRLS.

1401. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (a) Will the Government be pleased to say whether any municipal or district board has introduced compulsion for the education of girls ?

(b) Is the Government aware of the fact that the Bombay and the Madras Corporations have introduced compulsion in the matter of education of girls ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to influence the premier municipalities in the province to introduce compulsion in respect of education of girls ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) No. The Punjab Primary Education Act (Act VII of 1919) applies only to the education of boys.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

SMALL TOWNS AND GRANTS FOR READING ROOMS AND LIBRARIES.

1402. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Will the Government be pleased to state the number and names of those small towns which get a Government grant for the upkeep of reading rooms or libraries ?

Will the Government be pleased to give similar grants to all small towns constituted under the Small Towns Act ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : A statement by divisions giving the number and names of the small towns is laid on the table.

Financial stringency has prevented Government from providing funds for any more libraries at present :—

Ambala Division.

	Rs.
Thanesar	40
Jagadhri	50
Sadhaura	40
Gurgaon	40
Palwal	40
Bowari	40
Total	250

Jullundur Division.

	Rs.
Nakodar	50
Phillaur	50
Nawanshahr	50
Jagraon	40
Muktsar	50
Jafalabad	50
Abohar	50
Total	350

Lahore Division.

	Rs.
Jandiala	50
Chunian	50
Kasur	50
Gurdaspur	50
Batala	50
Sangla	50
Wazirabad	50
Gujranwala	50
Shikot	50
Total	450

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Rawalpindi Division.

				Rs.
Mianwali	100
Bhakkar	100
Khushab	50
Total				250

Multan Division.

				Rs.
Dera Ghazi Khan	...	...	...	150
Muzaffargarh	...	...	...	100
Jhang	...	...	...	75
Kamalia	...	...	...	75
Total				400

GRANT TO SMALL TOWNS FOR UPKEEP OF LIBRARIES AND READING ROOMS.

1403. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (a) Is it a fact that Government sanctions a grant of Rs. 50 per annum to certain selected small towns for the upkeep of libraries or reading rooms ?

(b) Is the Government aware that the subscriptions of newspapers and prices of books have greatly risen since that amount of grant was first fixed ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of raising this grant to Rs. 100 per annum ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : (a) Yes.

(b) The grants are not meant for expenditure on subscriptions to newspapers, and Government is not aware that the price of books such as these libraries purchase has risen.

(c) Financial stringency will not allow this at present.

VETERINARY ASSISTANTS IN THE PUNJAB.

1404. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : (a) Will the Government please state what pay it proposes to give to the new matriculate veterinary assistants now studying in the Punjab Veterinary College, Lahore, and state the difference between their proposed pay and the pay given to the veterinary assistants now a days ?

(b) Will the Government please state—

(i) what faults Government found with the working of the veterinary assistants who passed their examination in Urdu ; and

(ii) what complaints Government received about the efficiency or otherwise of these men from people either officials or private persons ?

(c) Is the Government aware that there is a strong opinion in the country that education should be through the medium of the vernaculars? If so, will the Government please state its reasons for changing the course in force for a number of years from the vernacular to English?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : (a) The honourable member's attention is invited to the answer given to question No. 1341*.

(b) The change was not introduced owing to any faults or complaints, but with a desire to provide the province with a more highly qualified type of veterinary assistant surgeon.

(c) The instruction is imparted in English because the text-books for the higher branches of veterinary science are written in that language, and teachers qualified to impart instruction in these branches can only do so in English.

ANSWERS TO CERTAIN UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

1405. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please lay on the table the answers to my questions Nos. 1317,† 1318,† 1319,† 1324,† 1327,§ 1328,§ 1334|| and 1335¶ asked in the last session of the Council on 19th January 1925?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The answers to the questions are laid on the table.

ANSWER TO QUESTION No. 1317.†

CORRUPTION ENQUIRY COMMITTEE, AMBALA DIVISION.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Only one preliminary meeting of the Divisional Corruption Enquiry Committee was held at Ambala. The discussions of this meeting were of a confidential nature and no record of its proceedings were kept, nor was any report of its deliberations submitted to Government. For the information of the honourable member, I add the following quotation *in extenso* from paragraph 14 of Punjab Government resolution No. 11269-Home—Genl., dated 31st March 1922, which indicates the grounds on which Government disapproved the formation of Advisory Corruption Committees :—

14. These are two in number, and are supported by three members, while opposed by the remaining two. The first is that a special commission should be appointed to visit all districts and make enquiries against officials who are believed to be corrupt. The second that in each district should be established an Advisory Committee whom the Deputy Commissioner should consult periodically as to the character of the various officials serving in the district.

Government has given very careful consideration to these two proposals, but it has very great doubts of the utility of a Special Commission such as is proposed. The suggestion of an Advisory Committee is on

* Pages 106-07 ante.
† Pages 93-4 ante.
‡ Page 96 ante.

§ Page 98 ante.
|| Page 104 ante.
¶ Page 105 ante.

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which has been put forward on previous occasions also. The arguments which weigh most with Government are that an Advisory Committee, unless of very large size, would not be fairly representative of all classes of the population of the district, and it would tend to substitute the permanent influence of a particular group for that general accessibility to all classes which is one of the most important duties of a district officer.

*Answer to question No. 1318.**

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT IN THE PUNJAB.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The information asked for will be found in the subjoined statement :—

Statement showing the strength and the annual expenditure of the Criminal Investigation Department from 1918-19-1923.

Year.	Deputy Inspectors-General.	Superintendents.	Assistant Superintendents.	Deputy Superintendents.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head Constables.	Foot Constables.	Cost.
									Rs.
1918-19 ...	1	3	1	3	15	31	44	59	2,61,842
1919-20 ...	1	3	1	3	15	31	44	59	2,63,818
1920-21 ...	1	3	1	3	11	36	44	59	2,55,866
1921-22 ...	1	3	...	3	9	40	36	57	3,61,455
1922-23 ...	1	3	...	3	9	40	35	58	3,32,733

Statement showing the number of cases investigated by the Criminal Investigation Department or in which the Criminal Investigation Department assisted the local police from 1918-1923.

Serial No.	Year.	Cases.
1	1918	46
2	1919	46
3	1920	24
4	1921	24
5	1922	164
6	1923	129

*Answer to question No. 1319.**

LICENSES FOR MOTOR-CARS PLYING FOR HIRE IN THE ROHTAK DISTRICT.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : (a) In the case of two motor vehicles the Deputy Commissioner of Rohtak declined to endorse road certificates granted by the Deputy Commissioner of Hissar. In doing so, he acted under the discretionary power vested in him by rule 15 of the Punjab Motor Vehicles Plying for Hire Rules, 1922.

(b) A road certificate for one motor vehicle plying for hire was issued to the Superintendent of the Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Rohtak. The propriety of the grant of a road certificate to this official is open to doubt. The matter will be examined, and such orders as may be necessary will be issued.

(c) Government regret that they are unable to produce the official correspondence asked for.

(d) Yes, as the number of vehicles was restricted owing to the state of the roads, it was decided to give preference to local applicants.

Answer to question No. 1324.†

SEWA SAMITI AND MUNICIPAL PLAGUE CAMP AT MULTAN.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) It is a fact the workers of the local Sewa Samiti at their own request have been allowed to assist the municipal plague staff in the plague camp at Multan and about ten of them stay in the camp day and night for whom the municipal committee has provided rooms.

(b) No. These persons died of pneumonia as diagnosed by the president of the Sewa Samiti, who himself is a registered medical practitioner.

(c) No representation on the subject appears to have been made by the dependents either to the Sewa Samiti or to the municipal committee.

(d) (i) There were 420 cases of plague reported in Multan from October to December 1924 ;

(ii) 143 cases were admitted to the municipal plague camp ; and

(iii) Out of those admitted to the plague camp 62 were cured, 52 discharged and 10 convalescents are still in the camp.

(e) Out of the sum of Rs. 1,950 placed by the Public Health Department at the disposal of the Commissioner, Multan Division, a sum of Rs. 500 has already been given to the Multan Municipal Committee as a grant-in-aid for combating this epidemic and an application for a further grant of Rs. 1,000 has just been received and is now under consideration.

Answer to Question No. 1327.‡

DETENTION OF ACCUSED IN POLICE CUSTODY DURING INVESTIGATION BY THE POLICE.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) Adjournments asked for referred to police investigations.

* Pages 98-4 ante. † Page 96 ante.

‡ Page 98 ante.

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(b) Under section 344, Criminal Procedure Code.

(c) The accused remained in police custody for some days with a view to complete the investigation and then were sent to the judicial lock-up.

(d) The maximum period of adjournments in the seven cases referred to in question No. 1182* is—

1.	F. I. R.	181,	section	457,	I. P. C.,	10	ys' adjournment.
2.	"	186	"	457	"	36	" "
3.	"	184	"	457	"	50	" "
4.	"	149	"	457	"	49	" "
5.	"	182	"	457	"	49	" "
6.	"	200	"	457	"	18	" "
7.	"	214	"	457	"	14	" "

Answer to question No. 1328.†

CASE OF RAI SAHIB BAKHSI JAMNA DAS, JAILOR, MULTAN CENTRAL JAIL, AGAINST THE "BANDE MATARAM" COMPANY, LAHORE.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (a) and (b). The Government Pleader, Multan, is conducting the suit with Government's permission on behalf of the jailor. The manner in which the defence is being conducted has necessitated more work by the plaintiff's counsel than was expected, and the issuing of commissions by the defendant for the recording of evidence in different parts of the Punjab has made it necessary for the counsel to leave Multan frequently. To meet the circumstances a temporary additional public prosecutor has been employed from 31st October 1924 on Rs. 500 per mensem. The period of his employment will depend largely on the conduct of their case by the defendants' counsel.

(c) The cost of the additional public prosecutor is Rs. 500 per mensem and the Government Pleader's travelling allowance paid up to 31st December 1924 has been Rs. 272-10-0. The expenditure on service stamps is not known. The Government Pleader does other work as well as work in the civil suit referred to in the question.

(d) Not at Government expense.

(e) The authority of Government to assist a public officer in a suit instituted for the vindication of his public acts or of his conduct as a public functionary.

(f) Orders on this subject will not be passed till the termination of the proceedings.

(g) Government is not prepared to lay the papers on the table.

Lala Bodh Raj: What is the authority behind the policy of the Government to lend the support of their legal officers in prosecuting cases on behalf of individuals in private cases?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: That is already answered in my answer to part (e).

Answer to question No. 1334.*

POLICE HOSPITALS AND ALLOWANCES TO SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain.

(a) A list of the hospitals referred to is attached.

(b) No allowance is granted for sub-charge of Police Hospitals, except in the districts shown in columns 2 and 4 of the list.

The question of granting allowances was considered by Government in 1915, and it was decided that no case was made out in support of the proposal to grant special allowances for holding whole-time charge of Police Hospitals :—

List.

1	2	3	4
Police and Sub-Jail Hospital Allowances:— Police—Nil. Jail, Rs. 15 per mensem.	Jail and Police Hospitals Allowances:— Jail, Rs. 40 per mensem. Police, Rs. 10 per mensem.	Separate Police Hospitals :— No Allowances.	Civil and Police Hospitals combined allowance :— Police, Rs. 10 per mensem.
Gurgaon.	Hissar.	Ambala.	Karnal.
Dharmasala.	Rohtak.	Ludhiana.	Simla.
Hoshiarpur.	Gurdaspur.	Ferozepore.	Jullundur.
Sheikhupura.	Sialkot.	Lahore.	Montgomery.
Gujrat.	Gujranwala.	Amritsar.	Muzaffargarh.
Sargodha.	Jhelum.	Rawalpindi.	
	Lyallpur.	Campbellpur.	
	Jhang.	Mianwali.	
	Dera Ghazi Khan.	Multan.	

Answer to question No. 1335.†

SECURITY CASES CHALLANED BY THE MULTAN POLICE.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (a) Number of security cases under section 109 Criminal Procedure Code, challaned by the Multan Police during the last five years—

1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
27	49	41	40	39
(b) (i) Proceedings quashed on appeal are—				
1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
8	1	1

* Page 104 ante.

† Page 105 ante.

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(ii) Number of cases in which the accused were discharged or acquitted—

1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
9	12	11	16	7

(c) Number of cases in which the sureties in cases under sections 10⁹ and 110, Criminal Procedure Code, applied for cancellation of their bonds during the last two years—1923-24, 17 cases.

ANSWERS TO CERTAIN UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

1406. Lala Bodh Raj: Will the Government please lay on the table the answers to questions Nos. 1030* and 1133† (d) asked by me on 20th and 21st November 1924, respectively?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia:

The answer to question No. 1030 is laid on the table.

Answer to question No. 1030.*

REFUSAL OF PASSPORT AND LICENCE FOR A PISTOL TO LALA RAM NARAIN.

(a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The second part does not arise.

(b) Yes. The Deputy Commissioner found that the status of the applicant did not entitle him to hold a licence for a revolver.

Answer to question No. 1133 (d) †.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: I regret that the answer to question No. 1133 (d) is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

POSTING OF HINDU TAHSILDAR TO CHINIOT, JHANG DISTRICT.

1407. Lala Bodh Raj: (a) Is it a fact that Mr. C. J. Hallifax, Commissioner of Multan, or any other Commissioner of the division left a note on record that a Hindu Tahsildar should always be posted to Chiniot, Jhang District?

(b) Is it a fact that the above instruction was followed for more than ten years?

(c) Is it a fact that a deviation has now been made from the above practice? If so, what are the reasons for such deviation?

(d) Will the Government please lay on the table the note referred to in (a) above?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) Handing over notes are not reported to Government, and Government has no information.

(b) Handing over notes are not instructions.

(c) The posting of Tahsildars is at the discretion of Commissioners.

(d) Handing over notes are confidential documents, and as such Government is not prepared to lay them on the table.

SUBSTITUTION OF THE SYSTEM OF PROVIDENT FUND AND GRATUITIES FOR PENSIONS.

1408. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Is it a fact that representations were made to the Government from time to time from various quarters to the effect that instead of the system of pensions allowed to Government employees on their retirement, the system of provident fund (compulsory deposit and bonus) and gratuity should be introduced?

(b) If so, what action was taken by the Government in the matter?

(c) Will the Government please consider the advisability of reconsidering the above question if it has already once considered it?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) No representations have been made to this Government. The attention of the honourable member is drawn to the resolution on the subject passed by the Council of State on the 18th February 1924.

"This Council recommends to the Governor-General in Council to consider the practicability of substituting either wholly, or in moiety, or in such proportion as may be found desirable, a scheme on a contributory Provident Fund basis, for the existing Pension system for Government employees, gazetted and non-gazetted, under the Government of India and the Provincial Governments and Administrations."

This Government has not been addressed so far by the Government of India on the subject.

(b) & (c) do not arise.

Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please consider this question without being addressed on the subject by the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The question is an all-India one, and this Government will naturally await an enquiry from the Government of India.

INTERNAL TRADE OF THE PUNJAB.

1409. Mr. Owen Roberts : (a) Will Government be pleased to say whether it has caused an enquiry to be made as to the desirability or otherwise of taking measures to ensure the resumption of the publication of the Report on the Internal Trade of the Punjab, and if an enquiry has been made, what was the result of the enquiry?

(b) Is it proposed to take any steps in the immediate future to ensure a resumption of this report?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : (a) & (b) The question of the resumption of the publication of the Report on the Internal Trade of the Punjab is under the consideration of Government.

FRONTIER JAGIR REVENUE COLLECTION REGULATION No. VII of 1874.

1410. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : Will Government kindly lay on the table a copy of the statement of reasons submitted by the Punjab Government to His Excellency the Governor-General in Council while forwarding the draft of the Frontier Jagir Revenue Collection Regulation No. VII of 1874 ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Government is not prepared to lay on the table of the House the correspondence with the Government of India.

JINJI BATAI.

1411. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : (a) Will Government kindly lay on the table the views expressed by Mr. W. R. Wilson as Settlement Officer on the subject of *Jinji Batai* in Dera Ghazi Khan District ?

(b) With reference to the answer to part (c) of Question No. 454* asked on the 4th August last, will Government kindly state if it has since arrived at any final decision regarding the abolition of the system of *Jinji Batai* in the above district ?

(c) Is it a fact that some of the Tumandars who still enjoy *Batai* have expressed their willingness to surrender their privilege if they are given in return a cash jagir amounting to double the land revenue of lands under *Batai* in their Tumans ?

(d) Is it a fact that sometime the Government also expressed its willingness to pay such double cash jagir in lieu of *Jinji Batai* ?

(e) Is it a fact that one of the Tumandars has actually given up his *Batai* and is now claiming such double cash jagir ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) No. Government is not prepared to lay on the table the views of any officers they may consult particularly while the point at issue is under their consideration.

(b) Not yet.

(c) Government have not called for or received any such expression.

(d) No.

(e) First part, yes ; second part, if 'claiming' means 'petitioning for,' the answer is "yes."

ABOLITION OF TUMANDARI SYSTEM.

1412. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : Will Government kindly give this Council an idea of—

(a) the area in square miles of each of the *ilqas* known as Mazari Tuman and Laghari Tuman in the Dera Ghazi Khan District ; and

- (b) the annual cost of the administrative machinery which will be required to control each of these *ilagas* if Tumandari system were to be abolished ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia :

- (a) The area of the Leghari and Mazari Tumans is 601-68 and 1,075-595 square miles respectively.

- (b) No material exists for making an estimate of the annual cost.

STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES AND CIVIL JUDGES IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS
OF THE PUNJAB.

1413. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: Will Government kindly lay on the table a statement showing the following particulars regarding the Mianwali, Muzaffargarh, Sheikhupura, Shahpur and Dera Ghazi Khan Districts:—

- (a) area in square miles,
(b) number of stipendiary magistrates and civil judges at present posted, and
(c) aggregate pay of these officials ?

Mr. H. D. Craik:—A statement containing the required particulars is laid on the table :

STATEMENT.

Name of District.		Area in square miles.	Number of Stipendiary Magistrates and Civil Judges.	Aggregate pay.
				Rg.
1.	Mianwali ...	5,378	8	3,830 per mensem.
2.	Muzaffargarh ...	5,575	8	4,050 do.
3.	Sheikhupura ...	1,908	6	2,840 do.
4.	Shahpur ...	4,799	11	5,580 do.
5.	Dera Ghazi Khan ...	5,407	9	3,990 do.

FRONTIER CRIMES REGULATION.

1414. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: (a) Will Government kindly state if the Committee appointed by the first reformed Legislative Council to suggest amendments of the Frontier Crimes Regulation has submitted its report ?

[Shaikh Faiz Muhammad]

(b) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will Government kindly lay on the table the said report and allow this Council an opportunity to discuss the report?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) It is understood that the honourable member's question refers to a Committee appointed by Government during the sitting of the first reformed Council. It is understood that the Committee has completed its deliberations, but the report has not yet been submitted.

(b) The point will be considered when Government receives the report.

ELECTIONS TO THE LYALLPUR MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

1415. **Manvi Mazhar Ali Azhar :** (a) When did the last election of the Lyallpur Municipal Committee take place?

(b) When did the ordinary term of office of the present members expire?

(c) When were the terms of office of the members extended and for what reasons?

(d) How long is the new election of the Lyallpur Municipal Committee yet likely to be postponed?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) May 1921.

(b) May 1924.

(c) The existing members have automatically remained in office under sub-section (3) of section 13 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911.

(d) As soon as proposals for the constitution of election wards are received and notified, dates for elections will be fixed.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES IN THE MULTAN DIVISION.

1416. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Government please lay on the table a statement showing for the Multan Division according to district—

(i) the names of municipal committees with their class,

(ii) the dates when they were originally constituted,

(iii) the dates when the system of election was introduced in them,

(iv) the original strength of each committee according to community and the changes it has undergone from time to time up to the present,

(v) the number and date of the notification of the Government sanctioning and approving their present constitution, and the date of its publication in the *Punjab Government Gazette*,

(vi) whether representation is joint or separate for the various communities,

(vii) whether the electorate is mixed or separate for the various communities,

- (viii) the names of members of the present committees with particulars as to whether they are elected or nominated,
- (ix) the name of the Presidents with particulars as to whether they are officials or non-officials,
- (x) the dates when the committees were allowed to elect their non-official Presidents, and
- (xi) the names of the Secretary, the Health Officer, and the Municipal Engineer, if any, of each municipal committee with their monthly pay and the dates of their appointment?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : A statement giving the answers to (i), (ii), (iii), (v), (vi), (vii) and part of (ix) is laid upon the table. The preparation of answers to (iv) and (x) would involve an amount of labour which would be incommensurate with the value of the results. The answers to questions (viii) and the rest of (ix) can be found in Parts I-A and I-B of the *Punjab Gazette* while the honourable member himself can obtain the information desired in (xi) by application to the Committees concerned.

Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please state if they have not got a record of the names referred to in part (xi) of the question?

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

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

(i)		(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi) and (vii) Communal (C) or Non-communal (N. C.) Election ratified	(viii) Pids Gazette, Parts I-A and I-B.	(ix) Whether Presi- dent is Official (i) or Non- official (N. O.)	(x)
Name of Muni- cipality.	Class.	Date of consti- tution under Act of 1861 or later.	Date of intro- duction of election.		Notification of present constitu- tion of Committee.				
Montgomery	2nd	2nd April 1886	8th April 1886		No. 743, dated 8th January 1924.	C.	...	N. O.	...
Kanalia	"	29th January 1886.	25th January 1886.		No. 29246, dated 12th December 1886.	C.	Pids Gazette, Parts I-A and I-B.	O.	...
Fakpattan	"	Ditto	Ditto		† No. 157, dated 2nd March 1906. No. 57, dated 2nd February 1912.	...	...	O.	...
Lyallpur	"	11th May 1893	25th July 1918		No. 31640, dated 23rd August 1921.	N. C.	...	N. O.	...
Gujra	"	20th February 1913.	18th January 1924.		No. 1972, dated 18th January 1924.	C.	...	O.	...
Jhang-eum-Meghi- ana	"	24th September 1885.	12th October 1885.		No. 9823, dated 22nd March 1923.	N. O.	...	N. O.	...
Chinot	"	Ditto	Ditto		No. 24933, dated 31st October 1923.	N. O.	...	O.	...
Multan	1st	4th August 1885	4th August 1885		No. 29241, dated 12th December 1923.	C.	...	N. O.	...
Shujabad	2nd	13th August 1885.	12th October 1885.		No. 6339, dated 28th February 1924.	C.	...	O.	...
Muzaffargarh	"	14th April 1886	14th April 1886		No. 7406, dated 11th March 1924.	C.	...	N. O.	...
Fauzargarh	"	Ditto	Ditto		No. 14780, dated 26th May 1924.	C.	...	N. O.	...
Alipur	"	Ditto	14th August 1913.		No. 31985, dated 11th September 1923.	C.	...	N. O.	...
Lahore	"	5th September 1867.	Ditto		No. 15309, dated 4th July 1923.	C.	...	N. O.	11th June 1921

Karor	Ditto	16th December 1922	No. 28006, dated 16th December 1922	C.	...	O.	Ditto
Dera Ghazi Khan...	12th August 1919	20th June 1923	No. 8564, dated 31st January 1923	O.	...	O.	...
Jampur	11th April 1927	22nd January 1924	No. 17608, dated 30th June 1923	N. C.	...	O.	...
Dajal	Ditto	Ditto	No. 2361, dated 22nd January 1924	N. C.	...	O.	...
Bajaur	Ditto	...	No. 2969, dated 22nd January 1924	...	...	O.	...
Miankot	Ditto	28th November 1931	No. 195, dated 17th March 1912	N. C.	...	O.	...
			No. 7402, dated 11th March 1934				
			No. 10707, dated 4th April 1934				

*Right of election subsequently taken away owing to factions and not yet restored.

†Notifications under the Act of 1873 would take long to trace.

‡Where electorates are communal, representation is also communal.

§For names of Presidents—see Gazette, Parts I-A and I-B.

NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEES IN THE MULTAN DIVISION.

1417. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please lay on the table a statement showing for the Multan Division according to district—

- (i) the names of notified area committees,
- (ii) the dates when they were originally constituted,
- (iii) the present strength of such committees,
- (iv) the names of members,
- (v) the names of Presidents,
- (vi) the names of Secretaries, whether honorary or paid and if paid what salary is being drawn, and
- (vii) the number and date of Government notification sanctioning and approving their existing constitution and the date of its publication in the *Punjab Government Gazette*?

The Honourable Mian Sir 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.

SMALL TOWNS COMMITTEES IN THE MULTAN DIVISION.

1418. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please lay on the table a statement showing for the Multan Division according to district—

- (i) the names of small towns committees,
- (ii) the existing strength of each of the committees with names of their members,
- (iii) the dates when they were originally constituted, and
- (iv) the number and date of Government notification sanctioning and approving the present constitution of such committees and the date of its publication in the *Punjab Government Gazette*?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (i) to (iv).—The attention of the honourable member is invited to Parts I-A and I-B of the *Punjab Government Gazette* for the years 1924 and 1925 in which the constitution of the Small Towns Committees in the Multan Division with the names of members (notified by the Commissioner, Multan Division) have been published from time to time.

When all Small Towns Committees in the Punjab are constituted a statement will be compiled and published by the Government in the *Gazette*.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN THE MULTAN DIVISION.

1419. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please lay on the table a statement showing for the Multan Division according to district—

- (i) the names of Government schools,
- (ii) the names of headmasters of the Government schools with their monthly pay, and
- (iii) the period of service put in by the headmasters of the Government schools?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The required statement is laid on the table :—

Serial No.	District.	Government Schools.	Headmaster or Principal.	Monthly rate of pay.	Period of Government service.
				Rs.	Y. M.
1	Multan ...	Government High and Normal School, Multan.	Sh. Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din...	425	18 5
2	Do. ...	Government High School, Karor.	M. Mubarak Ali ...	190	3 10
3	Dera Ghazi Khan.	Government High School, Dera Ghazi Khan.	M. Sardar Alam ...	170	9 0
4	Do. ...	Government High School, Jampur.	L. Madho Das, Toteja ...	230	29 8
5	Jhang ...	Government High School, Jhang.	M. Mahmud-ul-Hasan ...	150	14 9
6	Do. ...	Normal School, Jhang ...	L. Ladha Ram, Talwar ...	190	20 1
7	Muzaffargarh.	Government High School, Muzaffargarh.	Mir Abdul Wahid ...	250	21 7
8	Do. ...	Government High School, Alipur.	M. Sher Muhammad ...	160	0 3
9	Montgomery	Government High School, Montgomery.	L. Harkishen Das ...	350	18 10
10	Do. ...	Government High School, Kamalia.	L. Dhanpat Rai ...	190	3 10
11	Do. ...	Government High School, Pakpattan.	Ch. Muhammad Husain ...	190	2 1
12	Lyallpur ...	Government High School, Jaranwala.	M. Jamal-ud-Din ...	190	0 9

In many instances Government service was preceded by Board service.

AIDED SCHOOLS IN THE MULTAN DIVISION.

1420. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please lay on the table a statement showing for the Multan Division according to district—

- (i) the names of aided institutions receiving grants-in-aid from the Government,
- (ii) the strength of the various schools, i.e., the number of boys reading in each school,
- (iii) the amount of grant allowed to each school,
- (iv) the dates when they were affiliated or recognised, and
- (v) the dates when they commenced to receive grants ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (i) and (iii) for the names of institutions and the amount of grant sanctioned for each during the year 1924-25 the honourable member is referred to the answer given to Council Question No. 1350.*

(ii) As no date is given it is regretted that the information cannot be given.

(iv) and (v) In view of the exhaustive statement given in answer to Question No. 1350* above it is regretted that Government cannot undertake the labour which would be involved in collecting this information.

DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGES.

1421. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please lay on the table a statement showing the names of District and Sessions Judges with their present monthly pay and the period of service put in by them in the employ of Government and the initial pay with which each of them commenced his service under the Government ?

Mr. H. D. Craik : The honourable member is referred to the Quarterly Civil List for the greater part of the information asked for.

As regards the initial pay on which each District and Sessions Judge commenced his service under Government, the collection of this information would involve considerable labour and expense which Government do not consider would be justified by the importance of the subject.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES IN THE MULTAN DIVISION.

1422. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please lay on the table a statement showing for the Multan Division according to district—

- (i) the names of honorary magistrates with their class and the stations where they are posted,
- (ii) the dates when the powers were originally conferred upon them, and
- (iii) their educational qualifications ?

Mr. J. M. Dunnnett : (i) and (ii) The honourable member is referred to Part XXVIII of the January Issue of the Quarterly Civil List a copy of which will be found in the Council Library. The dates when powers were originally conferred, where not shown in the Civil List are not within the knowledge of Government.

(iii) Government has no detailed knowledge of the educational qualifications of Honorary Magistrates beyond such as are requisite for the exercise of their judicial functions. In this regard the honourable member is referred to the answer given to question No. 1361† put by Sardar Narain Singh in the January session. Bhai Hukam Chand of Dera Ghazi Khan and Lala Atma Ram of Jhang are the only Honorary Magistrates in Multan Division who cannot read and write Urdu fluently.

* Page 111 ante.

† Pages 116-17 ante.

Lala Bodh Raj : Will Government lay on the table what information they have got regarding the honorary magistrates referred to in the question?

Mr. J. M. Dunnett : Will the honourable member please specify what information he requires? Is it information regarding educational qualifications?

Lala Bodh Raj : Yes, Sir.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett : As I have explained we have only information as to their qualifications for the exercise of the judicial functions. That information has been given in answer to question No. 1361*. Beyond that there is no information in the possession of Government.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (BUILDINGS AND ROADS BRANCH).

1423. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Will the Government please state—

(i) the number of Executive Engineers in the province in the Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads Branch),

(ii) how many of them are Indians and how many Europeans,

(iii) the maximum and the minimum pay which a European and an Indian Executive Engineer is drawing at present, and the period of service of each of these Engineers?

(b) (i) How many officers are there in the department above the rank of Executive Engineer?

(ii) Will the Government please give the same information about these officers as is asked for above in the case of Executive Engineers?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : The information asked for will be found on pages 231 to 233 of the Punjab Quarterly Civil List corrected up to 1st October 1924.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, IRRIGATION BRANCH.

1424. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Will the Government please state—

(i) the number of Executive Engineers in the province in the Public Works Department (Irrigation Branch),

(ii) how many of them are Indians and how many Europeans,

(iii) the maximum and the minimum pay which a European and an Indian Executive Engineer is drawing and the period of service of each of these Engineers?

(b) (i) How many officers in the department are above the rank of an Executive Engineer?

(ii) Will the Government please give the same information about these officers as is called for above in the case of Executive Engineers?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) (i) 65.

(ii) 16 Indians and 49 Europeans.

[Hon'ble S. B. S. Sundar Singh, Majithia.] :

(iii) Please see the statements I and II attached.

(b) (i) 15 in this Province.

(ii) Please see the statement III attached.

STATEMENT I.

Statement showing the maximum and minimum pay which a European Executive Engineer is drawing and the period of service of each of these Engineers.

No.	Name.	PAY ON 1ST JANUARY 1925.		Period of service on 1st January 1925.		REMARKS.
		Basic pay.	Overseas pay.			
		Rs.	£	Y.	M.	
1	Mr. C. V. G. Scott ...	1,375	30	24	0	Superintending Engineer, Temporary rank, pay Rs. 2,050.
2	Mr. S. Walker ...	1,375	30	24	0	Superintending Engineer, Officiating rank, pay Rs. 1,950.
3	Major A. Murphy, O.B.E.	1,325	30	21	0	Ditto.
4	Mr. F. W. McCarthy ...	1,300	...	23	2	
5	Mr. A. G. C. Fane ...	1,325	30	22	3	Superintending Engineer, Officiating rank, pay Rs. 1,550.
6	Mr. O. W. Hindley ...	1,325	30	22	3	Ditto.
7	Mr. F. H. Burkitt, O.B.E.	1,325	30	21	3	Ditto.
8	Mr. R. M. MacGregor ...	1,325	30	21	3	On Foreign service.
9	Mr. T. B. Tate ...	1,275	30	20	3	Superintending Engineer, Officiating rank, pay Rs. 1,750.
10	Mr. I. D. E. Hughes ...	1,375	30	20	3	Ditto.
11	Mr. E. S. Lindley ...	1,275	30	20	3	
12	Mr. H. A. Chambers ...	1,275	30	21	0	
13	Mr. W. P. Thompson ...	1,275	30	19	3	
14	Mr. J. D. H. Bedford ...	1,275	30	19	3	
15	Mr. F. J. Waller ...	1,275	30	19	3	
16	Mr. G. M. Rose ...	1,275	30	19	3	
17	Mr. H. S. Nicholson ...	1,275	30	19	3	
18	Mr. H. J. Glenn ...	1,150	30	27	3	
19	Mr. A. W. H. Jenson ...	1,225	30	18	3	

No.	Name.	PAY ON 1ST JANUARY 1925.		Period of service on 1st January 1925.		REMARKS.
		Basic pay.	Overseas pay.			
		Rs.	£	P.	M.	
20	Mr. B. A. Benth ...	1,475	30	18	8	
21	Mr. T. A. Curry ...	1,225	30	18	8	
22	Mr. A. S. H. Perry ...	1,225	30	18	8	
23	Mr. E. S. Crump ...	1,225	30	18	8	
24	Mr. J. L. Sale ...	1,225	30	18	0	On deputation.
25	Mr. S. H. Bigsby ...	1,175	30	18	0	Ditto.
26	Mr. A. Croad ...	1,175	30	18	0	Ditto.
27	Mr. F. A. Farquharson ...	1,225	30	18	0	
28	Mr. J. H. Sullivan ...	1,225	30	18	0	
29	Mr. J. D. Jackson ...	1,225	30	18	0	
30	Mr. F. O. Townsend ...	1,225	30	19	4	
31	Mr. G. Gemmell ...	1,225	30	19	4	On deputation.
32	Mr. C. E. Blaker ...	1,225	30	19	4	Ditto.
33	Mr. T. I. Dixon ...	1,275	30	21	0	
34	Mr. C. A. Colyer ...	1,225	30	21	0	
35	Mr. C. C. Canney ...	1,195	30	16	8	
36	Mr. E. O. Cox ...	1,125	30	16	8	
37	Mr. W. N. McLeod ...	1,125	30	16	8	
38	Mr. D. J. Morris ...	1,125	30	16	8	
39	Mr. A. Oram ...	1,125	30	16	8	
40	Mr. G. W. M. Ball ...	1,125	30	16	8	
41	Mr. A. P. Livingstone ...	1,075	30	15	8	
42	Mr. C. E. Jeffries ...	1,075	30	15	8	
43	Mr. W. G. Quinton ...	1,025	30	14	8	
44	Mr. A. St. G. Lyster ...	1,025	30	13	8	
45	Mr. J. O. Waterhouse ...	975	30	12	8	
46	Mr. J. P. Gunn ...	925	30	11	8	
47	Mr. F. F. Haigh ...	925	30	11	8	
48	Mr. W. S. Tinsley ...	875	25	10	8	
49	Mr. A. M. B. Montagu ...	875	25	10	8	

[Hon'ble S. B. S. Sundar Singh, Majithia.]

STATEMENT II.

Statement showing the maximum and minimum pay which an Indian Executive Engineer is drawing and the period of service of each of these Engineers.

No.	Name.	PAY ON 1ST JANUARY 1925.		Period of service on 1st January 1925.	REMARKS.
		Basic pay.	Overcase pay.		
		Rs.	£	Y. M.	
1	Mr. R. K. Nariman ...	1,375	80	25 3	
2	Rai Bahadur Lala Ambika Prasad, Varma.	1,250	...	22 1	Superintending Engineer, Official rank, pay Rs. 1,650.
3	Rai Bahadur Lala Hukam Chand.	1,200	...	20 2	
4	Rai Bahadur Bawa Natha Singh.	1,200	...	19 3	
5	Khan Bahadur Sh. Abdur Rahman.	1,150	...	18 3	
6	Sardar Bahadur Sardar Prabh Singh.	1,100	...	17 3	
7	Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Rakha	1,100	...	17 3	
8	Lala Ram Lal, Batra ...	1,050	..	16 4	
9	Rai Bahadur Pt. Chander Bhan.	1,000	...	15 2	On deputation.
10	Rai Sahib Lala Thakur Das.	950	...	31 9	
11	Lala Behari Lal, Uppal ...	950	...	13 4	
12	Khan Sahib Mian Iqbal Hussain	975	30	12 3	
13	Lala Jagan Nath, Juneja	900	...	12 3	
14	Mian Muhammad Fakhr-ud-Din.	995	30	11 3	
15	Sh. Minabj-ud-Din ...	850	...	11 3	
16	Lala Sri Ram, Palta ...	500	...	10 3	Since deceased.

STATEMENT III.

Statement showing the maximum and the minimum pay which a European and Indian Superintending Engineer, and Chief Engineer, is drawing and the period of service of each of these Engineers.

No.	Name.	Pay on 1st January 1925.	Period of service on 1st January 1925.		REMARKS.
		Rs.	Y.	M.	
CHIEF ENGINEERS.					
1	Mr. W. P. Sangster, C.I.E.	3,000	30	3	
2	Mr. A. R. Murray ...	3,000	29	3	
3	Mr. E. R. Foy ...	3,000	30	0	
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEERS.					
4	Mr. J. W. B. Loughran	2,150	26	6	
5	Major W. C. W. Miller, O.B.E.	2,150	30	7	
6	Mr. J. B. G. Smith ...	2,150	25	4	
7	Mr. R. P. Hadow ...	2,150	24	3	
8	Mr. C. Quinn-Young ...	2,150	29	7	
9	Rai Bahadur Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Varma.	2,150	25	5	
10	Mr. J. P. Cook ...	2,150	25	3	
11	Rai Bahadur Lala Wazir Chand, Chopra.	2,150	24	6	
12	Mr. T. M. Bostock ...	2,150	24	3	
13	Rai Bahadur Lala Mangal Sen, Dhody.	2,050	24	5	
14	Mr. H. W. King ...	2,050	25	3	
15	Mr. H. F. Ashton ...	1,950	23	3	

FOREST CONSERVATORS, ETC., IN THE PROVINCE.

1425. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please state—

- (i) the number of Conservators, Deputy Conservators and Assistant Conservators of Forests in the province,
- (ii) how many of them are Indians and how many Europeans,
- (iii) the maximum and minimum pay which a European or an Indian holding the several ranks referred to in (i) is drawing and the period of service rendered by each of these officers?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :
The honourable member will find the information he requires in Part IV of the Quarterly Civil List, and in the Annual Record of Services of Gazetted Officers, both of which publications are in the Council Library.

RESOLUTIONS.

RESOLUTION RE THE EXCISE POLICY.

The following resolution standing in the name of Subedar Major Farman Ali Khan was not moved:—

"This Council recommends to the Government—

- (a) to abandon its present excise policy for a policy of total prohibition;
- (b) to take early steps to appoint a committee to go into the whole matter and to suggest means to make the new policy a success; and
- (c) to take such other action as may be necessary or advisable to enable it to embark on the new policy.

RESOLUTION RE DISABILITIES OF UNTOUCHABLES IN THE MATTER OF DRAWING WATER FROM WELLS IN CHARGE OF LOCAL BODIES.

Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar [Lahore and Ferozepore-cum-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan)] (Urdu): Sir, the resolution ballotted in my name reads:—

"This Council recommends to the Government to issue instructions to all local bodies having charge of public wells to cancel all rules or orders prohibiting untouchables from drawing water from public wells and to take necessary steps to ensure that people of the untouchable classes are not prevented from drawing water from such wells."

Who are untouchables, what are their grievances, and why I felt the need of moving this resolution, I shall state very briefly. Untouchables are a part of the Hindu society, but Hindus neither touch them nor have any other social intercourse with them. In the Punjab they number between 40 and 50 thousand. Hindus look down upon these untouchables as a class and this hatred is present more or less throughout India. It is most acute in the southern parts of India and is only mildly felt in the Punjab. Here people do not shun them and do not mind their touch, perhaps, because of the fact that Muhammadans form a greater part of the population and they do not consider them untouchable. Account for it as you please, the fact is that the untouchables here are least hated. The agriculturists mix with them in villages, they can take water from them and bathe in the same ponds as others do.

The Education Department has very kindly permitted the children of the so-called untouchables to be admitted in public schools, and nobody has objected to it. The railway has also done a lot in eradicating this social evil. All travel in the same compartment and nobody objects to it. The Municipal pipes are also open to them as they are to others. The only prejudice which exists in the Punjab against the untouchables consists in not allowing them to draw water from wells. But this prejudice has been greatly reduced by the Congress propaganda against this evil. In some places Hindus have allowed them the use of their wells. I got this resolution first published in August last, but no voice has been raised against it in the press or on the platform. The only complaint is that Government officers prevent untouchables from the use of public wells.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Who prevents them?

Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar: The Government officials. I know of a certain case in which some Rahtia Sikhs of Mukhtsar on drawing water

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from a public well were arrested and kept in the thana for some time and then they were let off on bail.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Is that relevant to the resolution which concerns the local bodies ?

Mr. President : I think he is simply relating the circumstances which have so far existed.

Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar : They were prevented from drawing water and the matter was reported to the Deputy Commissioner and a few days later the Police totally prohibited them from the use of the well. A civil suit was filed by these Rahtias in which two Hindus, two Muslims and two Sikhs were made defendants. All the defendants whom I had the honour to represent stated in the court that they never objected before and did not object then to their drawing water from the well. The court gave a decree for the plaintiffs but this has proved of no avail. The Rahtias are still prevented from using the well as before. If they go and draw water on the strength of that decree they are told that the decree is not against those who now object and if other Rahtias go and draw water they are told that they have no decree in their favour. I am stating all this to show that judicial decrees afford no relief. The right to draw water from the wells should be the primary right of every one, as water and air are the free gifts of nature. These untouchables also need pure water for healthy living as well as others do. It is the duty of the Government to safeguard their rights.

Now in the first part of my resolution, I have suggested that any orders or circulars that exist on the subject be cancelled. I am not certain whether there is any such order or circular. But from the proceedings of the case I have cited, it appeared to me, that there did exist some order administrative or otherwise, but Sir, I am not positive. So if there is really no order against their using the wells, the first part of my resolution goes away and it is left for the Government to issue orders regarding the second part alone. With these words, I request the Government to take some sympathetic action. I request my Muhammadan friends to accord their support and I request my Hindu friends to offer no opposition and pass the resolution.

Mr. President : Resolution proposed runs—

“This Council recommends to the Government to issue instructions to all local bodies having charge of public wells to cancel all rules or orders prohibiting untouchables from drawing water from public wells and to take necessary steps to ensure that people of the untouchable classes are not prevented from drawing water from such wells.”

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, if I have understood the honourable member aright so far as the first part of the resolution is concerned right up to “wells” and which reads:—

“This Council recommends to the Government to issue instructions to all local bodies having charge of public wells to cancel all rules or orders prohibiting untouchables from drawing water from public wells.”

he cannot ask the Council to adopt it in view of the fact that he is not able to point out any rules of local bodies dealing with the subject. If I am right, then the only course for him to adopt is not to move this part of the resolution but to withdraw it and to proceed with the rest of the resolution.

Mr. President : As I understand the honourable member, what he means is that he cannot definitely state that there is any rule to that effect, but from the one case he cited, he understands that there is some rule or regulation to that effect. He wants the Government to assure him that there is no such rule in which case he is prepared to withdraw the first part of the resolution.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : In order to be able to meet this resolution I requested, or rather to be more accurate, the Secretary, Transferred Departments, requested the honourable member to point out to him any rule he is complaining against, so that Government may make up its mind whether to cancel the rule or not. The honourable member wrote back saying that he was not aware of any. In view of that, Government is not in a position to cancel a rule or order which is not in existence. I cannot help the honourable member any further. As soon as it is pointed out to me, that such and such a rule is objectionable, I will be very pleased to go into it and be in a position to state whether I agree with the honourable member or not. It is his duty obviously to point out to me the objectionable rule. He says he has none to point out.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Panjab University) : Are there any such rules or orders? Of course we do not know if there is any such rule. If there is no such rule in existence, then I would ask the honourable mover to withdraw that part of the resolution at once.

Lala Mohan Lal Bhatnagar : I said in my speech that if there is no such rule there is no necessity for this portion of the resolution and I am prepared to withdraw it. But from the case I cited I am led to believe that there is some such rule. I think instructions issued by the Local Government on the subject will remedy the evil.

Mr. President : The best course under the circumstances is for the honourable member to withdraw the first part of the resolution and if he finds later on any rules on the subject he can move another resolution.

Lala Bodh Raj : The assurance asked for by the honourable member has not been given by the Minister for Education.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : I am not better informed than the honourable members in the opposite benches.

Mr. President : Inasmuch as the honourable member himself is not in a position to say that there is any such rule, the best course is to withdraw the first part of the resolution. We can proceed with the rest of it.

Lala Mohan Lal Bhatnagar : As far as that part of the resolution is concerned I beg leave to withdraw it.

Mr. President : The honourable member wishes to withdraw the first part of the resolution which reads as follows :—

“ This Council recommends to Government to issue instructions to all local bodies having charge of public wells to cancel all rules or orders prohibiting untouchable from drawing water from public wells.”

Has the honourable member the leave of the House to withdraw it?

Nobody dissenting, this part of the resolution was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. President : The discussion will now proceed on the second part of the resolution.

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The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : May I say a word, Sir, before further discussion is taken up. The original resolution which was a subject of my friend the Education Minister has suddenly by a sort of catastrophic change become a general resolution which I confess I am in some difficulties to deal with.

The resolution now runs somewhat as follows :—

"This Council recommends to the Government to take necessary steps to ensure that people of untouchable classes are not prevented from drawing water from public wells".

Public wells are wells to which everybody can have access and there can be no order to prevent a person from having access to wells to which all person can have access.

Mr. President : The position as explained by the honourable member seems to me to be this. The honourable member wants that public wells in charge of local bodies should be accessible to the untouchables. That does not take away the resolution from the sphere of the Honourable Minister for Education to the sphere of the Honourable Member for Finance. I think on that basis the discussion may proceed.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : May I know, Sir, how the resolution now stands ?

Mr. President : The part of the resolution that now remains runs as follows :—

"This Council recommends to the Government to take necessary steps to ensure that people of the untouchable classes are not prevented from drawing water from public wells in charge of local bodies."

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Punjab University) : Sir, I do not understand how the Government can oppose a resolution of this kind. I do not understand how anybody in this House can oppose it (A voice : Does it ?) I do not know. I do not think anybody can oppose a resolution of this kind. (Hear, hear). For, every well, if it is a public well should be accessible to everybody and everybody should be permitted to draw water from it. If it is not a public well, then it does not come within the purview of this resolution. It seems to me Sir, that further speeches on this resolution are unnecessary. I should think this is one of those obvious things which should commend themselves at once to any one who understands the plain meaning of plain words. I do not, therefore, Sir, wish to say much about the rights of untouchables. The public wells are wells built out of public money and I do not see how anybody on earth can raise any serious objection to a resolution of this kind.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, I should like to ask a few questions from the members who will take part in the debate, and from those who have already spoken, if you will permit me to do so. I am told that the matter is exceedingly simple : it is a public well and the public have a right to use it. How can anybody object to it ?

Pandit Nanak Chand : Do I understand that the Honourable Minister is making a speech ?

Mr. President : He says he wants to put a few questions to understand the position.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The resolution now stands—

"This Council recommends to the Government to take necessary steps to ensure that people of the untouchable classes are not prevented from drawing water from public wells in charge of local bodies."

I believe I am reading the resolution correctly. Now, what does the mover of the resolution want this Council to do to confirm this resolution? What am I expected to do as Minister in charge of Local Self-Government?

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : On a point of order, Sir. This is not asking a question, but making a speech.

Mr. President : Do I understand that you are making a speech?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Yes, Sir. I was saying that, if the matter is as simple as the honourable member who has just spoken has represented it to be, where is the necessity for bringing in the resolution into this Council? The honourable mover of the resolution stated that there was a case in Muktsar that made him bring this resolution forward to this Council. I ask, Sir, if I am responsible for this resolution. Has any local body issued instructions to that effect? If it has, then it is my business surely to see whether those instructions are within the jurisdiction of that local body or not. If they are within the jurisdiction of that body, then should I, as the supervising authority, advise the local body to modify its views on the subject?

But that part of the resolution has already been withdrawn. That is to say, no local body has issued any such instructions,

S. M. and therefore I am naturally not expected to cancel the instructions or modify the instructions or advise a modification of the instructions which are not in existence at all. Therefore the resolution as it stands, "that the Government has to ensure that people of the untouchable classes are not prevented from drawing water" does not obviously refer to the Local Self-Government Department. What the honourable member has in mind is that the Honourable the Finance Member in charge of the Police and Administration of Justice should himself go to Muktsar and see that the decree given by one of the civil courts of Ferozepore District in favour of certain persons is carried out and certain persons who under the cloak of law are disobeying that decree should be told not to disobey it. Short of that, I really fail to see what the purport of the resolution is. What is the use of just reeling out a string of platitudes about the aggrieved people in Muktsar? If the proposal were that special law be made on the subject or that special police be engaged to see that the aggrieved people have their relief, one could understand; but a general direction that steps be taken is a very dubious one. I can assure you, Sir, that I feel very proud indeed after hearing the various nice things that the honourable mover of the resolution has said about the Education Department's activities in the way of removing the bar that existed against the untouchables entering the schools. We have been very pleased to do that and I claim that the Education Department in the Punjab has done more for the untouchable classes during the last four years than has been done by any other association professing to help the untouchables. I trust we will continue to do so. But in this matter I cannot take any action to help the honourable mover of this resolution. Again in the matter of water-works it is, I have no doubt, the wish

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of the Director of Public Health, that in the water-works which with the help of the Sanitary Board's grants are coming into existence in several towns of the Punjab, no distinction should be made between the touchables and the untouchables. It is wrong to make any distinction. There again, with water-works and with schools, my authority comes to an end. I really cannot help these poor people who have got the decree of the court, according to the honourable mover of the resolution, in their hands, though really they cannot find much satisfaction out of it. The best thing for the honourable mover to do is to advise them as a lawyer, what other relief they can claim from a court of law; but this Council I am afraid cannot help them very much.

Lala Bodh Raj [West-Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, my honourable friend the mover of the resolution has quoted certain cases in his support in which the so-called untouchables were prohibited from drawing water from public wells. Every one, high or low, rich or poor, touchable or untouchable, has a right to draw water from the public wells. It is a misfortune that the people whom we call untouchables are not allowed the right to use the public wells. In this resolution the honourable mover has suggested to the Government to cancel or withdraw all such orders or circulars as exist on the subject and to actually help the untouchables in the exercise of their rights when and where their rights are challenged. I submit, Sir, it is the duty of the Government to safeguard and protect the rights of every citizen. But it now appears that the Government wants to avoid the real issue. It would have been proper if some of the Government members before entering into any discussion on the resolution had announced that the Government recognises everybody's right to draw water from the public wells and that they would see and take steps, if necessary, that no resistance is offered to the exercise of this right. If such a declaration were forthcoming the discussion on this resolution could have been avoided. I would request the Government to make such an announcement, if they please.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett (Home Secretary) : Sir, I only rise to make the position clear. As far as I can gather, with the general object of the mover, there is sympathy from all members of the House, from this side and that and from every quarter. But the necessity for any action on behalf of the Government has not yet been established and the nature of the action to be taken is not clear. My fear is simply this. By passing this resolution, what is the action that the Government is supposed to take? What are we supposed to do?

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : It is for the Government to decide what steps should be taken?

Mr. J. M. Dunnett : We, Sir, think that the Honourable the Minister for Education is responsible, but he thinks that the Honourable the Finance Member is responsible. Anyhow, Sir, if this resolution is passed and if the two honourable members of the Government in consultation find that no action that is being taken by the Government is objectionable and that no reasonable protection that can be provided is being neglected and that therefore no action on behalf of the Government is necessary, will the House be satisfied? That is the question. If the House passes this resolution, I do not imagine the Government has any objection to the object underlying this resolution. But do tell us what we are expected to do that we are not doing

[Mr. J. M. Dunnett.]

now. What are we not doing that we ought to do? What are we doing now that we ought not to have done? Pray tell us clearly. If this resolution is passed, what do you want us to do? But if on this discussion, without disclosing any grounds of complaint, or any wrong action on the part of the Government or any neglect on their part if this resolution is passed, I really do not see what action the Government can take at all.

Pandit Nanak Chand [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadian) Rural] : Sir, the object of the resolution is to draw the attention of the Government to the grievances from which the men of the untouchable classes are now suffering. It is known to everybody that with regard to public wells the right to draw water is not conceded to the persons of the untouchable classes. In almost every town, there are a large number of untouchable class and whenever any effort is made on their part to draw water from these public wells, there is always a stout opposition from those who do not like that these people should draw water from these public wells. The honourable member who has just sat down has enquired what steps the Government should take in a matter of this kind. So far there has been no authoritative announcement on the part of Government that these public wells are open to men of all classes. The first thing which the Government should do is to issue a proclamation, and it should be published far and wide, that so far as the public wells are concerned, they belong to everybody. No matter to what race or religion or caste a person may belong, he is entitled to draw water as a matter of right and those people who obstruct should be severely dealt with according to law. This proclamation should be issued and published far and wide. I may tell you, Sir, that so far as the untouchables are concerned, they also believe that they have not got the right to draw water from these public wells. If this proclamation is issued by the Government with the authority that the Government enjoys, then these untouchables will come to know that they have the right to draw water and they will try to enforce their right in a proper and legal manner.

Secondly, the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government can issue instructions something to this effect : that there seems to be some misapprehension in the minds of the public that these wells are meant only for a certain class of people and that these misapprehensions should be removed and that the untouchables should be told that these public wells, wells belonging to the municipalities and to the district boards are open to every person. The Honourable Minister can issue instructions to these local bodies to see that no interference takes place when these untouchables go to draw water from these wells.

Thirdly, Sir, when an attempt is being made by the reformers to place these untouchables on an equality with other men, then the police should help these people in the matter of enforcing their rights to draw water from public wells by preserving peace and order (Laughter). There is no cause for laughter. Whenever the reformers take the untouchables to the public wells, there has always been the danger of a civic commotion and the reformers have desisted from doing that on account of the absence of the police on such occasions. If the police comes to these public wells whenever these untouchables are taken thereto, then the people will come to know that Government will enforce the rights of the untouchables in the matter. Matters of this kind should suggest themselves to the members of the Government and they must be prepared to assist the untouchables in this country in the manner indicated by me or in any other suitable manner. I submit, Sir, that it is

too much to ask us for every kind of detail. I have indicated the lines on which the Government can really help the untouchables and I hope that the assurance which has been held out on behalf of the Government will be carried out in this manner.

Lala Sham Lal [Hissar (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, from the speeches that have so far been made on the subject, it appears that the principle involved in this resolution is being generally accepted. The remarks made by the Honourable Sir John Maynard and Mr. J. M. Dunnett go to show that the Government members rather feel for this right of the untouchables. The Honourable the Minister for Education, although he does not deny the principle involved, yet opposes the resolution on the ground that no necessity for the resolution is being pointed out by the mover inasmuch as no obstruction on the side of the Government in this public right is alleged to have ever been made. The only question then that requires solution is as to how the Government is concerned to help in the achievement of the end desired.

Sir, this question as to the rights of untouchables and to the recognition of a place for them, an honourable place in the social polity of India has been of great general interest throughout India for some time past. It has of course been fully discussed in all its phases on public platforms and in many a social and religious gathering. We all know the importance it has gathered around it. It is not necessary therefore for me to make any lengthy speech in the matter. I will only try to answer the above question requiring solution by citing one more instance from Sirsa town. Only last year the Municipal Committee of Sirsa passed a resolution admitting the right of untouchables to draw water from municipal wells, but the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Mr. F. A. Connor, on the petition of some person or persons suspended the operation of the said resolution of the Municipal Committee, Sirsa, under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code. I believe that the said Magistrate later on asked the Municipal Committee, Sirsa, to cancel the resolution which was accordingly done. Now, Sir, it was no business of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate to interfere in the matter of such domestic concern of the Municipality, much less to overawe the Municipality and to get the resolution cancelled. This matter was duly published in the papers and it appears that the Government has not so far taken any action in the matter. It did not direct Mr. Connor that the Government and Government officials are not to put obstructions in the way of the rights of untouchables.

Now, Sir, with particular reference to this case I enquire if Government support in favour of this resolution is not needed. Had there been Government orders in this connection the Sub-Divisional Magistrate could never have gone against them. From the speech of the Honourable Minister of Education it appears that there do not exist any orders from the Government putting obstructions in the way of untouchables exercising this public right. That may be so and there may be no orders instructing officials to put these obstructions. So far so good. But then something else is required. We require positive circulars to be issued far and wide, that where untouchables insist upon exercising their rights the forces of law and order should help the untouchables. If this is done surely no Government official will dare do in future what Mr. Connor, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Sirsa, did.

With these words I support the resolution.

Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar [Lahore and Ferezepore cum-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan)] :—Sir, I am asked what steps Government should take to ensure that people of the untouchable classes are not prevented from drawing water from public wells. In this connection what I want the Government to do is simply this, that a Press *Communiqué* may be issued to the effect that the people of the untouchable classes should, as a matter of right be allowed to draw water from the public wells, and copies of this *communiqué* be sent to all local bodies, to Tahsildars, Thanedars, Zaildars and Lambardars of villages. I need simply state this much and if the Government would like to adopt other measures as well they are welcome to do so.

(At this stage the Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain rose to speak.)

Pandit Nanak Chand : On a point of order, Sir. Can the Honourable Minister give a second speech ?

Mr. President : Yes, the Honourable Minister has the right of reply.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, I do not know what the honourable member apprehended. Still, now that the position is made clear, Sir, we can see our way to making up our mind as to what to do. So far as I am concerned, the honourable the mover of the resolution and those who support him have asked me to issue a *communiqué* to the effect that all "sarkari" wells should be open to the "untouchables", that no one has the right to prevent them from coming to these wells and using them. I do not know what the word "sarkari" means. I am a "sarkar" in a complimentary sort of way, not in a real way. No wells belong to me as Minister for Education. Wells are the property of the local bodies themselves and I am asked by this resolution to give them instructions as to how they should deal with their respective properties. Would the orders that I issue to the local body of Attock be the same as the orders that I issue to the local body of Rohtak ? I do not believe in this idea of issuing instructions from the headquarters dealing with matters of Local-Self Government, which under the law have been placed entirely and solely in charge of those local bodies. Again, take the case of a village community which has sunk its own wells. Am I to dictate from Lahore and say that the village panchayat should regulate the use of its wells ? And how am I going to enforce that instruction ? Naturally the Local Self-Government Department has to co-operate with the department of administration, and the only way to seek relief is to go to the courts of law. What it comes to is this, that certain persons claim that they have certain rights and in order to enforce those rights they have to go to court in order to obtain the orders of the court to enforce those rights. I trust that the general feeling in the Punjab is not such that a person armed with a decree of the Civil Court cannot execute his decree. I have no reason to believe that things are as they are alleged to be. I was proud to hear of the municipality which took the initiative in allowing the free use of its well to the "untouchables". One of the members alleged—I do not know, Sir, what the facts are—but he alleged that a certain Magistrate persuaded the Municipality to withdraw their first resolution and substitute another one in its place. I have no knowledge of it and I can assure you, Sir, that jealously guard as I do the independence of local bodies, I would certainly resent any interference with the free exercise of their will in a

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matter like this. But I gathered from the general statement made by the member that it was not really in the way of local self-government but possibly in the way of the maintenance of peace and order that certain provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code was brought into action. If that is so, then it is eminently a matter for the reformers with a spirit of conciliation to bring moral and social pressure to bear upon the persons who are obstructing the untouchables in the exercise of what they allege to be their rights. I do not see how it is possible for me really to issue a *Communiqué* so far as the local bodies are concerned. Each local body knows what are the rights and obligations of the various component parts of the people living within its jurisdiction. For me to say that every well within the Lahore Municipality is open to every citizen of Lahore would probably be arrogating to myself the functions of a civil court and I may be letting loose a large number of people for all sorts of disputes because it is quite conceivable that certain *mohallas* may very seriously resent the use of wells in their *mohallas* by people in other *mohallas*. For instance, Mochi Gate may resent the taking of water by the inhabitants of Shahalmi and those of the Shahalmi Gate may resent inhabitants of some other *mohalla* interfering with their wells. It is not possible for me to lay down such a principle without really taking into consideration the facts connected with each part of a city or district and without consulting the local body concerned about it. In any case, I for one cannot see my way to issue any general instructions, and I do not admit that the reasons adduced are such as to enable me to change my opinion. I really cannot do it, and I trust that the Council will realise that my inability to do what I am asked to do is in no way due to lack of sympathy for these 30,000 or so of untouchables throughout the Punjab but because of my regard for the constitution—the constitution which gives full liberty to local bodies—and I have no reason to believe that local bodies are so prejudiced or narrow-minded or in any way so disregarding of the rights of the untouchables as to need advise. On the other hand, I am sure that local bodies are inclined to do all they can for the untouchables, and it is the interests of peace and order which perhaps prevent them from doing what this resolution wants them to do.

Mr. President : Resolution under discussion runs—

“This Council recommends to the Government to take necessary steps to ensure that people of the untouchable classes are not prevented from drawing water from public wells in charge of local bodies.”

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The Council divided : Ayes 20, Noes 29.

AYES 20.

Sardar Narain Singh.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Sardar Mohindar Singh.
Sardar Partap Singh.
Sardar Buta Singh.
Pandit Nanak Chand.
Professor 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.
Mr. Labh Singh.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.
Chaudhri Kesar Singh

NOES 29.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Colonel C. Bakhle.
Mr. C. A. Barron.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. W. Mayes.
Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan.
Sir George Anderson.
Lieut.-Col. C. A. Gill.
The Hon'ble Rai Sahib Chandhri Chhotu Ram.
The Hon'ble Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain.
The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
Mr. J. G. Beazley.
Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. J. M. Dunnett.
Mr. H. D. Craik.

Mr. J. Coldstream.
Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr Shah.
Mir Maqbool Mahmood.
Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Rai Shabadat Khan.
Khan Bahadur Sir Sayad Mehdi Shah.
Sayad Husain Shah.
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
Khan Bahadur Chandhri Fazl Ali.
Chandhri Sahib Dad Khan.

The motion was lost.

RESOLUTION RE ABOLITION OF JINSI BATAI IN THE DERA GHAZI KHAN DISTRICT.

Khan Muhammad Abdulla Khan [Muzaffargarh (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move—

" This Council recommends to the Government that the system of *Jinsi Batai* as it exists in parts of the Dera Ghazi Khan District be abolished."

Sir, the resolution I have moved just now concerns that part of the Dera Ghazi Khan District which is under the possession of the Tumandars. The *ilaga* under discussion was once given to them as a *jagir*. The Tumandars enjoy magisterial as well as political powers over that part of the district. They take a big share of the land produce whether ripe or raw. Owing to this system of *Jinsi Batai* there has been a considerable fall in the price of the land and the cultivators are also faring very badly. But they, through the fear of the Tumandars, cannot bear to bring the matter to light. This system is to be seen nowhere else in the Punjab. I do not want to press my resolution, provided the Government is prepared to remove the grievances of the cultivators of that *ilaga*. In the end I hope that the Government would see their way to nip the evil in the bud before this feeling of disappointment grows and produces undesirable consequences.

Mr. President : Resolution proposed runs —

" This Council recommends to the Government that the system of *Jinsi Batai* as it exists in parts of the Dera Ghazi Khan District be abolished."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) : Sir, I may perhaps cut short the discussion on this resolution by making a suggestion to the honourable mover of the resolution. The question of *Jinsi Batai* in the Dera Ghazi Khan District is a very delicate and an intricate one. The question has already been considered by

Government once or twice, for the first time in 1919 by Sir Michael O'Dwyer and then by His Excellency Sir Edward Maclagan in 1920. I am, however, now prepared to give some sort of undertaking to this Council, on behalf of the Government. In order that my undertaking may not be misunderstood later on, I have it in writing. The undertaking is as follows—

"The question of *Jinsi Batai* bristles with intricate and chaotic details and the rights and privileges enjoyed by the Tumandars require careful consideration of Government which will take time and thought. I am, however, prepared to undertake that within a period of five years from now, Government will see that the system of *Jinsi Batai* of Tumandars is entirely abolished."

If this undertaking which I am prepared to give on behalf of Government is accepted by the honourable mover of the resolution, I would request him to withdraw his resolution.

Khan Muhammad Abdulla Khan (Urdu): Sir, may I know if the Government intends to take these steps after the expiry of the five years or they propose to finish their measures within that period to give the people of the district relief after that.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Urdu): No, we mean to finish our measures within that period.

Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan: In view of the undertaking given by the Honourable Member for Revenue, I beg leave to withdraw my resolution.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz [Lahore (Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, I want to ask from the Government whether they are prepared to take from the Tumandars nothing beyond the land revenue. They may take anything from the proprietors by way of rent whether in cash or in kind, but I suggest that the Tumandars should not be given more than sixty-seven thousand rupees.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: I am sorry I cannot go into the details any further. This question is rather chaotic, intricate and delicate. The only undertaking I am prepared to give is what I have just read out to the House.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz: I want to know whether the Government is prepared to charge anything beyond land revenue. What sum is the Government going to allow the Tumandars by way of jagir? At present they are taking Rs 2,25,000 to which they are not entitled. They are entitled only to Rs. 67,000. Government knows that full well.

Mr. President: I don't think I can allow any discussion of such details. The question before the House is whether the honourable mover should be allowed to withdraw the resolution?

No body dissenting, the resolution was by leave withdrawn.

RESOLUTION RE REMOVAL OF LAWRENCE STATUS.

Sardar Narain Singh [Rawalpindi Division and Gujranwala (Sikh) Rural] (Urdu): Sir I beg to move—

"This Council recommends to the Government that immediate steps be taken to remove the Lawrence Status from its present site on the Mall at Lahore."

Sir, when I was a young student I read something about Lord Lawrence—

[Sardar Narain Singh.]

Even now-a-days the students commit to memory from page 238 of 7th Urdu book (prescribed by the Education Department) the words "will you be governed by pen or sword." To rise from the position of a soldier to the high and distinguished office of Viceroy clearly testifies to the foresight and prudence of Lord Lawrence and it is not necessary to make any comments upon this point.

I have a great regard for Lord Lawrence, not simply because he occupied the viceregal chair but also because during his *regime* as the officer in charge of the District of Panipat, the province of the Punjab and as Viceroy of India he taught us a lesson about 55 years ago by his practical life that that nation or that country alone can succeed in the world which stands upon its own legs and possesses self-reliance. I am perfectly confident that the members of this House will agree with me when I say that we should never mention but with respect the name of such a hero as Lord Lawrence, because no nation can flourish in the world without hero-worship, regardless of the parentage, religion or the nationality of the hero. Sir, when I say that I have a great regard for Lord Lawrence I cannot fail to mention that the time servers who got those lines engraved on the Statue of Lord Lawrence and gave it a place in the capital of the province not only dishonoured the name of that great hero but also placed a standing stain of shame on the fair name of the whole Punjab. For no hero in the real sense of the word can find any honour in dishonouring humanity and no man possessing a grain of self-respect can tolerate such a dishonour. I can say without any fear of contradiction that no man who has breathed in a free atmosphere can ever justify these words. This statue was prepared originally for England but the free statesmen of England could not put up with the idea of giving a place to this statue in the free land of England. But as soon as the news reached India, the brave members of the Lahore Municipality prayed for its grant. The Punjab Government too very generously gave some site from the Nazul lands for the erection of the statue and thus the statue was erected in its present place.

Sir, we neither wish to be governed by sword nor by pen. We shall simply bow before law and that law which is the result of the deliberations of all the inhabitants of India. The honour of that great soldier and the self-respect of the Punjab demand the immediate removal of this statue from its present place. With these few words, I request the House to pass this resolution.

Mr. President : The resolution proposed runs—

"This Council recommends to the Government that immediate steps be taken to remove the Lawrence Statue from its present site on the Mall at Lahore."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz [Lahore (Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, I desire to discuss this resolution coolly and calmly. I understand that the honourable mover of the resolution objects to the inscription on the statue namely, "Will you be governed by sword or by pen" and I entirely agree with him that the inscription should be removed. But the honourable mover will agree with me, I hope, when I say that no Englishman can agree to the removal of the statue of a General who is considered to be the organiser of victories and the saviour of the British Raj in India. I say that it is the inscription that really exasperates the Indian mind and I appeal to the Government that they should agree to the removal of the inscription and substitute in its stead some words like these: John Lawrence, Soldier and Statesman, or simply, John Lawrence

It is perfectly true that Indians are a subject race and it will take a long time before they become equal partners in the common wealth of free nations within the Empire. But it is no use telling the naked truth in this manner and to tell the Indians that they are held down by sword. As a matter of fact, India is ruled by sword as well as pen. Law and Order are maintained both by sword and by statesmanship. I therefore appeal to the Government that they should not agitate Indian mind further and that they should agree to the suggestion that the inscription, namely, "Will you be governed by sword or pen," should be substituted by some other suitable words. In point of fact, Sir, the words, "will you be governed by sword or by pen" were never uttered by Lord Lawrence. I do not remember the exact words but I think he stated how he could cut sword with pen (laughter). He did not utter the words that the inscription now contains.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : It is a fact, Sir, that these words were not uttered by Lord Lawrence.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz : Some other words were used by him which I do not remember.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The honourable member is quoting a joke from the periodical known as the "Punch" where it is said : Who has been mending my pen with a sword.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz : Sir, I do not know why the statue was transferred by the municipality to the Government and why it has become a reserved subject all of a sudden. I should like to know the history of it. As far as I know the municipality was quite prepared to change the inscription. How this statue was transferred to the Government and how it became a reserved subject is a mystery to me. I do not wish to take the time of the Council any more; I only appeal to the Government to remove the present inscription and substitute some suitable words, but I am against the removal of the statue of General Lawrence from its present site.

Mian Abdul Aziz [Lahore City (Muhammadan) Urban] : Sir, this question has not suddenly risen in to prominence within the last few years. It has been before the public for a considerably longer time. The press and the platform of this country have been interested in this question for more than a decade or so. It has been sometimes falsely suggested that the people who agitate for the removal of the Lawrence Statue are seditionists and unscrupulous agitators and that they represent those who are intent on the overthrow of the Government. Sir, I submit that in the discussion of this resolution one should not be led away by such false notions. One should keep in view the real object of the resolution. It has been stated that this statue fell into disfavour only after the deplorable happenings of that unlucky year—the year 1919. But, Sir, I shall prove that this view is unfounded. This question was not a mushroom growth which sprang up suddenly after the happenings of the year 1919. Years before that it had been engaging the attention of our public men in the province. It was first, I think, introduced in the local Municipal Committee in the year 1916-17. The then proposals were either to remove the statue altogether or to remove the inscription only; as nothing was decided it remained pending. In 1921 the old proposal was reintroduced in the Municipal Committee which was still pending when the Khilafat and Swarajist members had been returned in fairly large numbers, and formed a party; therefore it was talked in some quarters that it has been considered

[Mian Abdul Aziz.]

a favourable occasion for the success of such a motion. I am inclined to think that the explanation of the charge that it is only a clever move of the wily agitator to keep the wounds of public grievances bleeding, lies in the coincidence of its being reintroduced simultaneously with the advent of the Swarajists and the Khilafatists in the Municipal Committee. Fortunately or unfortunately, in these days as a Senior Vice-President of the committee I had to do the President's work for, the Deputy Commissioner who was the official President attended very seldom. I sent the file to a European gentleman, about whose loyalty there can be no doubt, for report. This gentleman was then the chairman of the Civil Station Sub-Committee and his name is Mr. H. L. O. Garrett. His knowledge of history is unquestionable and I thought he would be the best man to offer any opinion. He suggested that as the city of Lahore got the statue for nothing it should offer the same to the city of London as a free gift; thus he was in favour of its removal. This report of Mr. Garrett's was accepted by the Civil Station Sub-Committee, and the matter came up before the general meeting which after discussion and various proposals, resolved that :

- (a) the statue be removed ;
- (b) it may be kept for the present in the Town Hall ; and
- (c) a Sub-Committee be appointed for the final disposal of the statue.

Accordingly a Sub-Committee was formed. In this meeting the Secretary read a note of the President that the Cantonment Committee had passed a resolution to the effect that they may be given the statue if not wanted by the committee; he also further stated that the President has verbally instructed him to ask the committee that the statue may be presented to His Excellency the Governor. This meeting of the Committee was presided over by Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram, Junior Vice-President, then a member of this Council. The Commissioner suspended the first two parts of this resolution, on which the matter again came up before the general meeting of the Committee on the 7th November 1921, which was presided over by me. The Committee, after discussion, appointed Pandit K. Santanam and myself to take the necessary steps, to correspond with the Commissioner, to get back the file and to see him personally even. We accordingly saw the Commissioner, and throughout all these discussions it was never even mentioned that it could by any flight of fancy be turned into a reserved subject on the strength that the statue was Government property. We explained to the Commissioner that it was never the intention of the Committee to insult in any way the memory of the great statesman and soldier. In fact, nothing was further from our mind. If the very act of the removal of the statue from its present place is an insult to the memory of the gentleman, it may well be said that the memory of the late King Edward VII has been insulted more than once for the Statue of the King has thrice been transplanted from one place to the other within our municipal limits. Why was not any objection raised then? I submit, Sir, that we honour the memory of that great builder and the saviour of the Empire and request the Government not to ignore the feelings of the whole of the population of the province in the matter. Coming to the history of the case, the Committee decided not to reconsider their decision unless the Commissioner withdrew his orders suspending the resolution of the Committee without giving any reasons for the same. Another European member present in this House, as a reporter perhaps was also present there. In those days, I think Mr. Rallia Ram, a member

of the last Council who subsequently became a Secretary of the Committee, also informed that he had a message from the President of the Committee as Deputy Commissioner, that the Government was willing to take over the statue. So far there was never any doubt as to the ownership of the statue. Henceforth the matter began to take some queer, very queer, turns. Now it began to be advanced that the susceptibilities of the Europeans would be injured, although I assured His Excellency Sir Edward Maclagan and the Commissioner that it was not our intention to offer any insult to the Statue and that we honoured Lawrence very much for his statesmanship. During all these stages, the ownership of the statue was not at all questioned. But soon after this it was stated that the statue was the property of the Government and the Municipal Committee had no right to dispose of it. Sir, it may be the opinion of an individual, whosoever, he may be, whether a Government Advocate or not from whom it may have been taken, but its accuracy can be questioned. We have the following facts which belie this claim:—

In June 1885, Mr. (afterwards Sir) William Clarke received a letter from Mr. Johnston (afterwards Sir) the then Deputy Commissioner, Lahore, that he had consulted Nawab Sahib, who was in favour of taking the Statue of John Lawrence for the Lahore Municipal Committee which was to be presented to it. Then another letter of July 1885 in which Sir Charles Aitchison, the Lieutenant-Governor, wrote to Mr. Elsmie *re* Lawrence Statue is as follows:—

"I am glad that the Municipality of Lahore has secured it."

I have with me another letter of October 1885, from the Secretary, Punjab Government, to Lord Hobhouse: "be good enough to send all necessary documents to the Secretary, Municipal Committee, Lahore."

Then another letter stating that the Committee would not have to pay to Mr. Boehm, the sculptor, except some expenses for his splendid gift. Then payment was made and a cheque was sent.

Last of all there are two letters, containing remarks that the statue was presented to the Committee. These clearly show that it is the property of the Committee. This is no doubt where it stands belongs to the Government, but like so many other pieces of Nazul land this piece also was under the management of the Committee and now the Government states that since the land is theirs the statue that stands on it is also their property.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: This is law.

Mian Abdul Aziz: I know this much of law Sir. I am a lawyer of 27 years' standing. Anyhow I thank you for that information. (Continued in Urdu): Sir, since then nothing has been mentioned, written or spoken, about its proprietorship. After this a long correspondence passed on the subject and the following letter was issued:—

"You will be good enough to send all necessary documents to the Secretary, Municipal Committee, to whom you have presented the statue."

and later on when this statue was acquired Lord Hubhouse wrote to the Municipal Committee and I would read only the last two lines which run:—

"... and what the liberality of the sculptor had been. In consequence of these services the Municipality of Lahore will not have to pay anything on this side of the world except Mr. Boehm's expenses of pocket and preliminary expenses of shipping the statue."

[Mian Abdul Aziz.]

Thus it shows that the statue was a free gift to the Municipal Committee who paid about Rs. 168-6-4 as Railway fare from Karachi to Lahore, the rest having been paid by the sculptor himself. The Secretary, Municipality, received the following letter :—

" Lord Lawrence Statue sent out as gift to your Municipality."

Now on account of these

Mr. President : Order, order, the honourable member has only two minutes more.

Mian Abdul Aziz : Very well, Sir.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Sir, we should like the honourable member to give us further information on the subject because none else seems to be in possession of the information.

Mr. President : Very well he will have 5 minutes more in addition to the 2 minutes.

Mian Abdul Aziz : I shall be very brief, Sir. (Urdu) Now I have tried to show that we cherish no notions of offering insult to the memory of the departed one. We only want to wipe away one piece of standing insult kept constantly before the gaze of our manhood to see and be ashamed of. It was only for this purpose that the Municipal Committee took the matter in hand. But, Sir, the file was tossed from one office to the other like a shuttlecock till the Municipal Office did not know anything of its whereabouts. I saw the Commissioner in 1921 and after that we received a letter from the Secretary, Transferred Departments and the Honourable Minister for Education but nothing was said about its proprietorship till then and even in the letter of Mr. Latifi, the Secretary, Transferred Departments, on the point of disrespect which I quote no mention of it is made :—

" This Government note with satisfaction that it was never meant by the party represented by these two gentlemen that the statue should be treated with anything but the respect always paid in this country to the memory of the dead "

You will find that not a word is said challenging the ownership of the statue. Now after that the Government began to go further step by step. At first they never said that it was a reserved subject but subsequently they did. Then they offered the alternative of compromise. After which they suggested the changing of the inscription, till the Government declared their ownership. But when all these statements were properly thrashed, the Committee which was by then differently constituted, suggested that the expenses of removing the statue should be shared half and half with the Government. The Committee accepted it. But soon after it was conveyed probably through Mr. Garrett that Government was prepared to pay only one-third of the expenses. On this the Committee drafted a resolution agreeing to pay two-thirds of the expenses. But slowly and steadily the Government advanced on till they declared their proprietorship. Sir, I am against the dismantling or disfiguring of the statue. I consider it highly mean and unworthy on the part of those who want to break it. What quarrel have we with the statue. I have given the history of the case and I submit that by removing the statue no insult is meant to the memory of the great soldier. But we do want that the stigma and the insult and the standing shame that has been placed on the manhood of our province be removed as soon as possible, from the fair name of the brave Punjabis.

4 P. M.

Mr. Owen Roberts [Non-official, nominated] : Sir, I oppose this resolution. It is with very real regret that I find myself brought to my feet for the first time in this Chamber on a subject of this description but I should be doing less than my duty towards those whom I am here to represent, if I failed to make their position on this subject absolutely clear.

I desire first, to thank the honourable mover of the resolution, for the tact with which he has handled a very difficult subject and for his generous references to Lord Lawrence but in spite of all he has said I must oppose the clear and unmistakable statement of fact that my community has always regarded and will always continue to regard this movement as arising out of a desire to offend their susceptibilities. Sir, one of my first tasks was to endeavour to discover the sources from which the movement has arisen and on glancing through the list of non-official business I find this motion drawn by three other persons, than the mover, all of whom are members of the Swaraj party. I take it that the honourable mover speaks on behalf of the Sikh community and to him I would say this. He is the representative of a great community; a community whose fame has spread far beyond the confines of this province and one whose history has been such that it is impossible for one to think of the Punjab without connecting with it the history of this great community or to speak of the province without mentioning this community. To this community Sir, and to the honourable mover of the resolution I would make this appeal, that it is a finer thing for a great community to suffer a small grievance itself than to use its political powers to inflict a greater one on another, especially when, as is the case in the present instance, that other community is, and must remain permanently in a minority.

I now turn to the Swaraj party Sir, and here I confess I find myself puzzled. We have evidence in the debates of this Council that the party is a well disciplined one; it is on record that one of its members withdrew from one of the Standing Committees of this Council at the behest of his party. And again Sir, one of the members of the party went out of his way to express publicly the intentions of his party towards my community. The record of this will be found in Volume VI on page 742 and I will read the actual words used—

"I think Sir, with regard to a great many amendments affecting the European and 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."

Sir, it requires no great generosity of interpretation to hold, that a party that has gone out of its way to express these sentiments towards us will dissociate itself from this movement after my explanations as to the view my community take of it and on these grounds Sir, I appeal to it to withdraw its support from the movement. And now Sir, I must turn to the merits of the question. We have been assured that objection to the Statue is in no way connected with its historical associations; that no offence is intended to the memory of Lord Lawrence and no criticism of his actions either as the head of this Province or in the wider sphere of action that he filled later; in fact, Sir, criticism by the honourable mover of the resolution is confined to the inscription it bears. If my friends will permit me to do so, I will restate their objects in the form of a principle. What they object to is not what the Statue stands to commemorate but to the methods of

[Mr. Owen Roberts.]

interpretation adopted by the artist who designed it. This Sir, is a curious political principle and may lead us anywhere.

The very first resolution on the list of non-official business for the session relates to the subject of prohibition. This resolution, Sir, was brought forward by the Temperance party, a party of whose strength there can be no doubt whatever. The honourable Financial Commissioner in charge of Excise explained to us the strength of this party during the Autumn Session. How it was strong enough on the one hand to compel us to take measures that reduced our revenue on the one hand and increased our expenditure on the other? Yes Sir, with all these evidences of political power behind it, we have yet to see a resolution tabled recommending to His Excellency the Governor-General in Council that the Quatrains of Omar Khyam be placed upon the list of interdicted literature.

Sir, I do not wish to waste the time of this Council. I have explained the feelings of my community on this subject and made my appeal that the resolution should be dropped and I have only one word to add. We are not an aggressive people Sir; if I were to appeal to the honourable members on the benches immediately in front of me, to tell me offhand what they could recollect of one of the greatest Kings in our history, all they could probably tell me is that he was soundly scolded by an old lady for letting her cakes burn. Now Sir, if my friends opposite will only allow the hand of time to deal with this subject as it has dealt with others in our history, I am certain that it will allay any bitterness that may lie in it and that nothing will survive but kindly memories that will serve to bind us together. On all these grounds Sir, I appeal to this Council to reject this resolution unanimously.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood [Amritsar (Muhammadian) Rural] : Sir, I am in perfect accord with the principle underlying the resolution. I agree with the honourable mover of the resolution in so far that to whatever party we may belong, we are all one and should be all one in upholding and vindicating the honour and self-respect of our country. I feel that we will not be worthy of this country or of our education or even of this House if we were not to be unanimous on that point. But, Sir, some of us, on this side of the House, feel that there is also another principle to which we owe allegiance and it is this : that no community which is in a majority or no combination of communities which makes up a majority should be permitted as far as possible to throttle the legitimate and reasonable susceptibilities of a minority.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Does the honourable member agree to this?

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : I said, Sir, the legitimate and reasonable susceptibilities and I stand pledged on that issue. That being so, Sir, I, and my friends, who agree with me, would like to apply that principle even if the majority happens to be a combination of the Muhammadans and the Hindus and the minority happens to be a few Europeans and the domiciled members here. I feel that if we do not act up to that principle, we would not prove our fitness for *Swaraj* for which all parties are keen. That being so, I feel that the resolution which has been moved should be considered on its merits. The honourable mover and his supporters have tried to show—and there I have no fight whatever and in fact I feel more strongly than they do—that the inscription as it stands on the statue of Lord Lawrence is not to be and ought not to be tolerated by any of us. But no case has been made out and no arguments were

advanced against the removal of the statue. What is the argument against the statue of Lord Lawrence as such? I should have expected from the honourable mover of the resolution arguments advanced against the statue. If the resolution had been that the inscription as it stands should be removed and that some other suitable words should be substituted for it, I can assure my honourable friends on the other side that I would have given my support—all the support that I am capable of—on that matter. There can be no two opinions on that. I want to make that clear. But the resolution says: remove the statue. Of whom? Of a man, who, even the honourable mover admits, was one of the greatest administrators of this country, a man whom that great Indian statesman, Mr. Gokhale, in his budget speech in the Imperial Council, described as one of the three most honoured names among the administrators of India? If my European friends had come to me as a member of this Council and said: we want you to keep for all time to come the statue of a man of our community who is to be remembered only for the policy represented by those words—I mean if the inscription had been a fair representation of the policy of Lord Lawrence—then I would have told them mildly, respectfully and sympathetically that their request was not a fair one and that their susceptibilities were not fair. I would have told my European friends that the suggestion which they had made would stand in the way of that rapprochement of the East and the West which, all value higher than anything else. I would have at once rejected their suggestion. But if they request us and tell us in a reasoned speech: here is a man of our community who has done immense work among you, which deserves to be appreciated; there is a historical inaccuracy in so far as the inscription on the statue is concerned, but we do not bother about the inscription, but take the man and his memory and honour his statue. So far as this aspect is concerned, I am afraid I find it impossible for me to support the resolution as it stands.

There is one point more which I should like to make clear at this stage. The only objection that could be taken to my suggestion is this. Supposing we remove the inscription, what about the posture? Well, Sir, I do not claim to be a student of marble, or bronze statues, but I have visited some of the galleries in Europe and I can say that I had spent greater time on this statue and its posture than I had spent on the statues in Italy or Paris. What do I find? The posture that is designed has not the challenging spirit of the naked sword nor has it the initialling spirit of the pen either. I feel that if we are to depute somebody to design the statue of Lord Lawrence, a soldier and statesman,—I have the opinion of some of the experts in the art of sculpture—that the model that will be designed will not be very much different from what it is to-day. There are also statues in Southern India—one of Lord Kitchner's—with a naked sword in his hand. But that is not being objected to. If my honourable friends state that they have no objection whatsoever to any statue of Lord Lawrence, but they have one to this, it resolves itself in final analysis to this, that the inscription on the statue is objectionable. On that there is no difference of opinion. Unfortunately that is not the resolution under discussion. Therefore I feel it my painful duty to oppose the resolution as it stands and while I do so I feel that the honourable mover of the resolution will not misunderstand me in so far as the motive underlying the inscription is concerned.

Lala Nihal Chaud, Sikri [Lahore City Non-Muhammadan] Urban (Urdu) : Sir, I represent the City of Lahore and have ample opportunities to gauge the opinions of the citizens. They are quite opposed to the policy of the Government adopted in connection with the question of the Lawrence statue. It is the keenest desire that the statue in question be removed at once. When the Lahore Municipal Committee passed a resolution for the removal of the statue the press appreciated it and people remarked that their opinion was truly reflected by the Committee. The Committee consulted their legal adviser who told them that the statue was the property of the Committee and even the Government at the time did not like to dispute the title of the Committee as to its ownership. The Government simply wanted that no disregard should be shown to the statue, but later on when they saw that the agitation had subsided a bit, they declared the statue to be the property of the Government. The honourable member, who has just sat down, has remarked that the inscription on the statue was of course questionable but he was not in favour of the removal of the statue. All right, let the inscription on the statue be raised, even then the posture of the statue would of itself speak what it means. In this case, it would be necessary to remove both the pen and the sword, which would mean the disfiguring of the statue and which the Government would not like to do.

If I were one of those who want to leave always some open sores for the agitator to sprinkle salt on and agitate against the Government I would not have supported the resolution because to my mind opposition to the resolution means nothing else.

If the Government are not prepared to accede to the wishes of the Punjabis, then I would suggest to add the words : " Ye Slaves " to the inscription on the statue to read like this : " Will you be governed by sword or pen, Ye Slaves " so that it might move the people to agitate till they achieve their end.

Take it for granted that the Lawrence statue is the property of the Government, even then it was only proper on the part of the Government to have removed the statue in order to soothe the feelings of the Punjabis. If the Government look at the statue as a historical monument, let them keep it in the Museum or somewhere in the Lawrence Hall. Now again the question arises why this question was not raised long before. There is a disease called aphasia in which a person is conscious but cannot speak. If a person suffering from that disability is insulted by another and he does not make any vocal protest against it, does it justify the act of the person offering the insult or does it mean that the insult was never felt? But now that there has been an awakening among the Punjabis and they have the consciousness of self-respect, they can no longer keep silent and tolerate the presence of the insulting statue. With these words I support the resolution.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq (Hoshiarpur-~~and~~-Ludhiana, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, Many of the honourable members have advanced various arguments for the removal of the statue. But there is another strong reason for its removal, *viz.* the presence of the statue with such an inscription on it is contrary to the proclaimed policy of the Government. Of course, before this time the presence of the statue was a standing disgrace to the people, but now, when the gradual development of self-government in India is the well known policy

of the Government, it is all the more disgraceful to them. Sir, keeping in view the Government's policy of establishing a responsible government in India, it is the prime duty of the European community, to look at the resolution under consideration in an impartial manner and without any prejudice and try to rectify a mistake committed years ago.

It is said that some of the people try to spread sedition in connection with the statue and do not sympathize with the feelings of the European community which is in the minority, but the susceptibilities of the majority are totally ignored. In my opinion, every man should have a regard for the feelings of the other. I admit the Government and the Europeans and Anglo-Indians have a great regard for the statue. We admire their hero-worship, and at the same time request that they should likewise respect the susceptibilities of hundreds of thousands of Punjabis who strongly feel against the statue and its inscription. The solution of the problem is very simple. The statue may be removed to Government House which is the proper place for it. In this way the Government would be able to satisfy the susceptibilities of both the parties.

I think it is possible that the Government members do not realize what we feel in this matter. In order to bring home to them the intensity of our feelings I would suggest them to suppose for a moment that a statue of one of our patriots, say that of the Mahatma, be erected side by side with that of Lord Lawrence bearing the inscription: "Will you surrender the Government peacefully or be beaten out?" The idea of this would certainly help the Government members to understand what is our real state of mind in this respect. The establishment of self-government by any means in a country is fair, but to rule others under any circumstances can never be justified; and yet no European will tolerate the statue of Mahatma Gandhi with the inscription that I have proposed. It is said that the susceptibilities of the European minority are touched, but, to my mind, it seems to be a groundless assertion.

Sir, it is time now that the Government should once for all give up their present policy in response to the general will of the Punjabis. At the same time, we assure the Government that we have as much regard for that great personality of Lord Lawrence as the Government have, but they should respect our feelings as much as we respect theirs. Further, we admit that the statue has its historical importance, and the attitude of the Government in this matter is also worthy of being remembered for ever. We have left no stone unturned to move the Government to accede to our wishes, but all in vain. We, the Muhammadans, are renowned in the world as idol-breakers, but, if the Government consents to the removal of the statue, I would like to go to the spot and garland the statue, and thus remove every suspicion of intended disrespect to Lord Lawrence which might be lurking in the minds of the Europeans.

This is the real state of affairs which is responsible for the agitation prevailing in the country. But, on the other hand, we are called agitators for no fault of ours. In the end, I would request the Government to remove the statue from its present situation to Government House, and thus give an opportunity to the Punjabis to say that the Government is alive to their national aspirations.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali [Gujrat East (Muhammadan) Urban] (Urdu): Sir, from what the previous speakers have said it appears

[K. B. Chaudhri Fazl Ali.]

that the question of removal of the Lawrence Statue from the Mall has been the cause of a good deal of trouble, and that with the increased efforts of the so-called well-wishers of the country in connection therewith the resistance on the part of the Government has proportionately increased. Would it not mean then "Marz barhtā gayā jun jun davā ki", which, when translated, means that the disease developed with the application of medicine. We know that there never was a time when we relaxed our efforts but went on applying the medicine, in spite of the contrary results. If allowed, I may here ask a question of those who are anxious for the removal of the statue: Whether, and how far, it was advisable on their part to continue the agitation when it resulted in aggravating the situation. The best course, in my opinion, would have been respectfully to lay our views before the Government and to leave the disposal of the question entirely with it. In this connection I might remind the House that those who have to rule are sometimes constrained to refuse certain demands of the people to maintain their prestige. Therefore I submit, Sir, that whenever any proposal is submitted, we must give sufficient time to the Government so as to enable it to take suitable action on that proposal. I again say that it would have been much better if we had left the disposal of the question with the Government after expressing our views in regard to it.

There is another thing worth noting in this connection. As far as I can see, the importance that has been attached to the matter under discussion is a result pure and simple of the agitation over it. That the statue is offending and insulting has in fact become so merely because we have repeatedly said that it is offending and insulting. If you talk of your troubles to every one you come across, you are sure to aggravate them. You cannot thereby have your troubles minimised. I was surprised to read sometime ago in a newspaper that it was decided to depute women for the removal of the statue if the efforts of the men failed to achieve that object. I ask, was it not degrading? Was it in any way in conformity with the self-respect of the people of this land? Certainly not. I am rather of opinion that it is a matter which should not attract our attention and especially so when the Government has assured us as Mian Abdul Aziz admitted, that it neither had nor has its object to offend the feeling of the Punjabis by the inscription on the statue or by the statue itself. Besides there is another important point to note. The construction we put upon the inscription might be quite in disagreement with the construction put upon it by the other party. It may be, and I think it is so, that these words and the statue stand to respect the memory of their hero. In that case, will we not offend the susceptibilities of the English people if we go on insisting like that on the removal of the statue? It may be urged by the so-called patriots that the assertion that the removal of the statue will offend the susceptibilities of the Englishmen has no basis in reality, but what reasons are there that we should believe what they say. I might say that if we are not prepared to believe, they have a right to put no faith in what we allege.

Further, I might say without fear of contradiction that at the time when these words were inscribed, the country was in a ruffled state, and as such they were quite in fitness with the circumstances then prevailing. I know what I have just said will not be palatable to most of the members present here, but I cannot refrain from giving expression to what is true

Even now we have not improved much and I should say we are still being governed by the sword. The experience of the past few years very well shows that it was the physical force that could keep the peace. The so-called patriots created such an unhealthy state of affairs; they employed undesirable means to achieve their end so much so that they could not bear to listen what was true, they prevented the people from expressing their views and so many other things they did in these last two or three years that people seemed to be on the verge of falling into a state of disorder. It was the sword that came to our rescue. We had to grant so much money for the maintenance of peace by the Police.

Mr. President : Will the honourable member confine himself to the Lawrence Statue ?

Khan Bahadur Chandhri Fazl Ali (continued in Urdu) : Sir, I was going to say that before we make any complaints, we should see whether we are in any way capable of doing so. The Council had lagged behind in making this demand. It has now taken its chance. It is well that we should stop here and should not further insist on the matter. Only a few minutes ago a member remarked in spite of himself (truth comes out of itself) that we do not lose anything by the continuance of this Statue. Therefore it behoves us not to press the matter further. We should leave the Government to decide and therefore I would ask the honourable mover to withdraw the resolution. We do not come here to fight the Government. We should always be on the look out to create good feelings between the rulers and the ruled. With these words I strongly oppose the resolution.

Sardar Buta Singh [Multan Division and Sheikhpura (Sikh) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, Chaudhri Fazl Ali has, in his speech, remarked that our repeatedly giving expression to the fact that the statue is 'offending' and insulting goes a long way in making the matter all the more serious. I admit that it is so, but I would ask the honourable member whether the words inscribed on the statue are not a sort of standing insult to the people of this province. I do not think that he can deny that it is so. We are advised that we should not insist on the removal of the statue from its present site, but may I ask whether it is not a permanent source of discontent and annoyance to the public, which the Government should not lose a minute to remove of itself ? I make this demand in the interest of the public as well as of the Government. Government knows as well as the public that there are tourists coming into India every now and then. From the words inscribed on the statue, which cannot escape their notice, they are sure to carry this impression with them that our position in our own homes is such as cannot entitle us to a good treatment in foreign countries, and as such our young-men going out cannot expect better treatment abroad. In the course of the debate it has been suggested that we should only lay our views before the Government and do nothing else and that we should entirely leave the matter to the Government to decide in any way it likes. But I might say that it is not like a good friend. In my opinion the true friends of the Government are only those who can come forward and say that it is one of the few occasions on which Government can win the public to its side. It is one of those rare occasions on which Government can, without any cost, remove the general impression that Reforms are a mere scrap of paper. The Government, I think, would be well advised to make the best of this opportunity. It has been further urged that we should guard against offending the susceptibilities of the Anglo-Indians and the English, who are in a minority. I might re-

[Sardar Buta Singh.]

mind the House that the minority referred to above is an influential minority. Leaving that aside I can assure those who urge this that we do not in any way mean to offend them or mean any disrespect to the memory of one of their heroes. Such an intention is farthest from our mind. As has been said already by Mian Abdul Aziz, we have no objection to the statue being planted somewhere else, say in the Government House. There is another point to consider in this connection. The inscription on the statue "Will you be governed by the pen or the sword" is not in conformity with the declared policy of the Government. From historical point of view also, the inscription is not true. In the book named "Expansion of England" it has been clearly stated that India was not conquered by the sword. But even admitting that India was conquered by the sword, it is not polite to remind us always that we were conquered

S.P.K.

by the sword just as it is impolite to remind a one-eyed person that he is one-eyed. I finish my speech with an appeal to the members that their self-respect demands of them that they should support the resolution. With these few words I heartily support the resolution.

Mr. H. D. Craik (Chief Secretary) : Sir, before I speak on the merits of the resolution, I should like to correct one misapprehension, in fact two misapprehensions, which have been conveyed to the House by previous speakers. My honourable friend Mian Abdul Aziz, in his history of the statue was unfortunately overtaken by time and I do not think he brought his survey down beyond the middle of the year 1921. So far as I understood him, he questioned the right of the Government to have any say whatever in the disposal of the statue and asserted that it was still, as it always has been, the absolute property of the Municipality. That, Sir, is unfortunately not correct. I doubt if the Municipality was ever in possession as owner of the statue; it was merely a trustee of the public. But in any case whatever its position was down to the middle of 1923, in October 1923 the Municipality passed a resolution asking that it should be relieved of the charge of the statue and that henceforward the Government should take charge of the statue. That is how the Government became charged with the duty of looking after this statue. With the other misapprehension to which I referred, I shall deal later on. We have been told that the agitation in regard to this statue has been going on since the year 1916 or 1917. Well, Sir, that may be correct. But all I can say is that I was in Lahore in 1916-17 and never remember hearing about it. The agitation if it existed at all must have been of the very smallest character. As a matter of historical fact this agitation became prominent in the year 1920 and it is at least a curious coincidence that it came into prominence when the party of non-co-operators secured a majority in the Lahore Municipal Committee. Till that time, I assert—and I do not think any honourable member here will contradict me—that the agitation if it existed at all had an insignificant importance. After the year 1920 it flared up from time to time whenever the non-co-operation movement became prominent. I sometimes wonder whether when honourable members tell me that this is a subject that stirs the heart of every Indian they are not unconsciously exaggerating. I have to see in the course of my official duties a great many Indians, I have had conversations in private with a great many hundreds of Indians every year, not only Government servants, but also non-officials more or less of all shades of opinions. None has

ever mentioned to me this matter of the Lawrence Statue; none has ever brought this subject of his own accord to my notice. Those with whom I spoke about it have always assured me that if there was at the moment some excitement about it, it would subside again presently: and what is more they assured me that the excitement was artificially manufactured and boiled up from time to time and that it subsided as quickly as it boiled up. We have been told by more than one speaker that it is not so much the statue—in fact very few speakers attacked the statue itself—as the inscription that it contains that provokes resentment. I am perfectly willing to accept that fact that it is the inscription which provokes the resentment; but I should have liked at least one speaker to have explained to me why it was that it provokes resentment. If it provokes such a great resentment, how is it that among the seven or eight honourable members who have expatiated at length on that topic, not a single one has given any historical explanation of that inscription or given any reason for the fact that it provokes resentment. If any among these had searched in any library, he would have found the explanation for this inscription, but not a single member of the House has given a true explanation of what it really means. Those words have no racial significance whatever, nor were they ever used by Lawrence himself. No one has yet explained to the House where they were used. What happened was that a certain Deputy Commissioner in, I think, the Hoshiarpur District, when the Hill Rajputs were in rebellion or on the point of bursting into rebellion, summoned the leading men of the *ilaga* to his camp. He placed a table outside his tent, and at one end he placed a sword and a scabbard and at the other end he put a pen and an ink pot. He said: "Now what is your choice? Am I to suppress this revolt by force of arms or are you willing to submit to the rule of law?" This was what occurred and I ask any candid and impartial student of history to tell me what racial significance is there in that. The honourable the mover of the resolution, if I recollect him aright, said: "We are a proud and an ancient people and so we are not willing to be governed by the sword." He also said: "We will not be governed by the pen either; we can only agree to be governed by the rule of law". Surely the pen represents the rule of law. Sir, I think I have said sufficient to point out that the objection to this inscription is not really well-founded. It is founded on nothing more than sentiment, a sentiment which doubtless does credit to those who cherish it, but it is not founded on reason or even on facts. Now, Sir, is it worth while in order to gratify the sentiment like that, which I think I have made clear is not one that has any real basis, to offend the very real susceptibilities of the community to which I belong and to which my honourable friend behind me belongs and which is only too anxious to live on terms of neighbourly friendship with its sister communities in India? Sir, the Englishman has his feelings as well as the Indian, though perhaps he does not speak quite as much about them as the Indian. I am quite certain that my honourable friend behind me was correct when he said that if effect is given to this resolution it would be felt by every Englishman, not only in India but by every Englishman throughout the Empire to which we all belong, as an insult to the memory of one of our greatest heroes. The honourable mover has assured us that he means no disrespect to the memory of Lord Lawrence, and I am perfectly willing to accept that assurance, but he must look to the effect of his actions. What greater disrespect could there be to a dead hero than the removal of the monument set up in his honour? Would any honourable member of the House acquiesce in such an indignity to a dead hero of his own community?

[Mr. H. D. Craik.]

I think, Sir, the answer will be that not a single member of the House would accept that. It may be that it is at the bottom of the honourable mover's mind that it is the inscription and not the statue that is objectionable. But, Sir, the question of inscription is not now before the House. The resolution as it stands is that the statue be removed and there is in it no suggestion of substituting another statue for the present one; the resolution merely recommends that the statue be removed. I trust that the House will give careful weight and fully weigh all the considerations I have urged against that course, which would throw a dishonour on one whom every Punjabi should recollect with gratitude, and will reject this resolution unanimously (Applause).]

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 lost.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar [East and West Central Towns (Muham-madan) Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, I have been all along deeply considering as to what attitude I should adopt in relation to the resolution under consideration. I have been considering whether I should support the resolution or oppose it. But from the debate carried on so far I have been able to decide what my attitude should be. Before I say what my decision is I would like to say a few words with regard to the remarks made by some of the honourable members. Mr. Craik said that Mian Abdul Aziz did not relate the whole history relating to the matter under consideration and that he made a mistake in saying that the statue was the property of the Committee. Mr. Craik further alleged that the Committee was only a trustee of the statue and not its owner. In reply to these remarks I would only repeat the well-known Punjabi proverb which means that the strong man's one hundred will be made by seven-twenties. The law is in the hands of the Government and also the interpretation of it and they are at liberty to interpret in the manner that might suit them, and they have force at their command to enforce their interpretation. Mr. Craik further remarked that the agitation over the matter began only in the year 1920 and that in 1916-17, no public demonstration was made. In this connection I might say and the honourable member Chaudhri Fazl Ali will also be interested to hear that the matter was brought to the notice of Government in 1916-17 though in a more moderate manner and calmly and quietly as Chaudhri Fazl Ali would like it, but it remained unattended to, perhaps on the ground that the persons who made that request were not supported by vociferous public opinion. I ask how then are we to have our objects achieved? Whenever we make a demand calling public opinion to our aid we are termed agitators and when only a few persons make any request it is said that they have no public opinion behind them.

Much stress has been laid on the point that we should guard against offending the susceptibilities of the Anglo-Indian and European minority. Quite so, but is it not offending and insulting to a great and overwhelming majority of Indians to continue the statue in its present place? The Anglo-Indians and Europeans who form a minority of a few lakhs in India and of 4 or 5 crores outside India keep under their thumb the 33 crores of

Indians and proclaim to them by means of this statue that their orders should be obeyed by the majority without murmur, and in case of protest or disobedience the sword is hanging on their heads to subject them to the will of the powerful minority. The statue with its inscription sends a message to the people that they are slaves ruled by the strength of the sword. It is for the minority community therefore to condescend to respect the susceptibilities of the injured majority, and the fears of the majority injuring the susceptibilities of the minority are absolutely groundless. Mir Maqbool Mahmood has asked "What is there against this statue as such if the inscription is removed?" My friend is labouring under the misapprehension that the words "Will you be governed by pen or sword" mean what they mean but the statue *per se* is meaningless. And here I must submit that my honourable friend's tour in the Art Galleries of Europe generally and of Italy especially has not enlightened him much. The sculptor who was responsible for the statue made the statue an embodiment of the idea expressed by the inscription thereon, and my friend's declaration that the statue has no meaning is an insult to the skill of the artist. We have assured that we do not mean that the feelings of any community should be injured and if even on that assurance the Government and its friends are not prepared to yield, I can suggest nothing else than this that the inscription be written rather rewritten in bold letters and its translation be placed side by side in all the vernacular characters, in Urdu, Hindi and Punjabi, and even more such statues be placed in other public places, so that our brothers who have not as yet realised their present position of enslavement may have an incentive to realise their real position, and if their hearts do not burn to attain liberty there is still a hope that their future generations at least would learn the lesson that the statue teaches and make up their minds to break the chains of bondage. I have found from the attitude of some of the honourable members to-day that they do not realise the true meaning of the statue or if they do realise they have not the courage to express their views. In view of what I have said I would like to oppose the resolution.

Mr. President : I should like to know before we proceed further with this matter whether Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram intends to move his amendment* of which he has given notice.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram (Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan) Rural) : Sir, If Government is willing to come to an understanding on the lines of the amendment, I will move it.

Mr. President : I just want to know whether you intend to move your amendment so that I may be able to regulate the course of the debate.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I do not move it, Sir.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh Urban) : Sir I want to ask the Honourable Sir John Maynard for information on one point.

Mr. President : What is the information you want.

Sardar Jodh Singh : I will state it, Sir. At the end of his speech he appealed to the members of this House to keep in view the feelings of the minority.

*That for the original resolution the following be substituted :—

"This Council recommends to the Government to appoint a Committee to consider the question of the Lawrence Statue and its present site on the Mall at Lahore."

Mr. President : Sir John Maynard made no speech at all.

Sardar Jodh Singh : I am sorry I made a mistake. I meant Mr. Craik's speech. The question is whether in view of the feelings of the majority the Government is prepared to remove the inscription.

Mr. President : That question does not arise. Mr. Craik did not purport to speak on behalf of the Government. He just spoke as one of the members of this House. I understood him to express one side of the case.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Probably Sardar Jodh Singh meant to say this. . . .

(Cries of order, order).

If the Honourable President calls me to order I shall obey him. (Again cries of order, order.) What Sardar Jodh Singh wanted to know was whether the Government was prepared to give an assurance that the inscription. . . .

Mr. J. M. Dunnett : On a point of order, Sir, is the honourable member in order ? I ask for a ruling, Sir.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I think the honourable member is out of order to stand up when I am speaking.

Mr. President : I do not want this matter to be discussed. I have already decided that the question whether an assurance can be given by Government does not arise. If the honourable member wants to discuss that, he cannot do so. If he wants to make a speech on the resolution he may do so.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadian) Urban] : Sir, I thought that by the adoption of a reasonable attitude by the Government perhaps it would not be necessary to carry on any further discussion on the resolution. But it seems the Government feels its strength and despises all overtures which have been made to it impliedly by this House and wants to force this resolution to a vote. But before it is put to the vote I think it my duty to make a few remarks on the resolution itself. Now, Sir, before I make any remarks with respect to the statue itself, I want to make it clear that in the whole of the agitation which has been carried on in connection with this statue, whether wisely or unwisely, there has been no sentiment of hatred against the European or the Anglo-Indian community. (Hear, hear). If, as Mr. Craik put it, this agitation was the outcome of the non-co-operation movement, he knows very well that the author of that non-co-operation movement is a person who has always been preaching that there should be absolutely no hatred of one community against another, and that charity, fairness and justice should be introduced as elements of political discussion and agitation. Therefore I give an assurance to my honourable friend Mr. Owen Roberts and also to Mr. Craik, on behalf of all the gentlemen who are sitting on this side of the House (meaning the opposition benches) and those sitting on the benches on my left, if they will permit it, that there is absolutely no idea of any expression of hatred for the British or the Anglo-Indians nor is there any idea, even the remotest idea of showing any disrespect to the memory of Lord Lawrence. The agitation over this question has been only the outcome of an awakening of national consciousness in this province. There is no doubt that the Punjabis have been watching this

inscription for many years in the past and have not in any notable manner shown their disapproval either of the inscription or of the statue itself. But it would be erroneous to suppose that there has been no sentiment amongst the Punjabis against the inscription or against the posture of the statue itself. I remember quite well when I was a child reading perhaps in the 4th upper class, hardly 15 years, that this matter was talked about in our school at Gujranwala, a Mission school. I can assure the honourable members on that side of the House (meaning the treasury benches) that although the agitation against the statue did not gain strength and volume in the past, the resentment against the statue has been always there, and if resentment is now shown in a more palpable manner and in a more effective manner it is simply because there is now an awakening among the Punjabis which did not exist before. I think it was an apt illustration that Dr. Nihal Chand gave of the attitude of the Punjabis towards this statue. So that, so far as the *factum* of resentment is concerned there cannot be the least possible doubt. The experience of my honourable friend Mr. Craik seems to have been much happier than mine, perhaps it depends upon the position and character of the people who have been visiting him in their hundreds and perhaps in thousands during his official career and expressing to him the public opinion with respect to this statue during their interviews with him. So far as the *factum* is concerned there is no reasonable doubt as to the resentment that has been expressed in more forms than one. The next question then is, whether that resentment is justified, or whether it is childish, whether it is simply puerile, unreasonable and unjustified. My submission is that although perhaps the thing is not so serious, as to make the Punjabis go into convulsions over it, because there are perhaps many more serious things in existence in the Punjab and in other parts of the country which would excite greater resentment than the appearance of this statue on the Mall, still I would submit that there is sufficient justification for the resentment that the Punjabis feel about this statue. In the first place, the explanation which my learned friend Mr. Craik has given of the existence or rather the origin of this inscription does not really meet the situation. Granted that this expression was used by some Deputy Commissioner when a riot or rebellion was about to burst out in a certain part of this province, the application or importation of that inscription on this statue can mean only one thing. It is not a Deputy Commissioner who is addressing some recalcitrant and misguided hill chieftains, it is not the sergeant of a regiment who is trying to bring to order his recalcitrant soldiers or recruits. The inscription as it stands is practically a message from a person who was once the head of the province to the people of this province. It can have no other meaning whatsoever. Lord Lawrence—he was not a lord at the time—had been the Chief Commissioner of this province, then he rose to the position of Governor-General of India. The statue came into existence after he had been the Governor-General of this country and that statue comes with this inscription. What meaning can it have except this, that Lord Lawrence when he was ruling this country ruled either by the sword or by the pen, but in any case it was a challenge to the people of this province to be governed by him either by the pen or by the sword. So far, therefore, as the inscription is concerned there cannot be the least doubt that it is an offending and provoking inscription. I think many honourable members of this House who may not be in favour of the removal of the statue admit, as my friend Mir Maqbool Mahmood did, that the inscription is an offending one. Then the question is whether if the inscription is removed any objection would be left to the statue. My submission

[Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.]

is that the inscription is only the verbal representation of the attitude and posture of the statue. The statue is a standing challenge to the people of this country. I would remind my honourable friend Mr. Craik with all respect, whether such a statue would be tolerated in a free country or a country that had set itself free. Would Mr. Craik still insist on the continuance of such a statue when the people of that country had expressed their disapproval either of the inscription or the posture of a statue of this kind? Would the Government of that country dare to keep it in position when the country as a body has expressed itself against its continuance?

I would again submit, Sir, that there is absolutely no idea of disrespect or racial animosity underlying this agitation. It is only an assertion of their own self-respect by the people of this country. My submission is that so long as the statue remains, that resentment will continue. That feeling and that sense of burning in their hearts will still continue, and there are people who would like that that feeling should continue. There are people who, to quote Ghalib's well-known verse, would like that that agitation and that feeling of smarting pain should always continue. You, Sir, are quite familiar with the verse but I would quote it here for the delectation of those honourable members who are perhaps not aware of it. Addressing his beloved the poet says:—

*Koi mere dil se puchhe tera tir-i-nautash ko yeh khwahish kahan
se hoti jo jigar ke par hota.*

"The pleasure of thy arrow shot from a half-pulled bow is very dear to me. Had it passed out through my body I would have lost the joys of smarting irritation."

There are many people who are of this view that the statue should continue. In fact they want that the inscription should be put in bolder letters so that every Punjabi may read that inscription and become conscious of his political position in this country.

Mr. H. D. Craik : Does the honourable member suggest that I am anxious that the feeling should continue?

Mr. President : The honourable member evidently means otherwise. He says there are some people who desire the continuance of those feelings. He does not mean anybody on the side of the Government.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Of course, I did not. But, Sir, as this point has been raised, I would submit, that the result is the same. There is an agreement on this point between the Anglo-Indian and the British communities on the one side and the extra revolutionaries and the extremists of this country on the other. If there was ever any agreement between the Government on the one side and the revolutionaries on the other, I think it is on this point, though with different motives. The Government does not want that this feeling of pain and resentment should continue, but the extremists and the revolutionaries do want this feeling to continue and they would want that the Government should act as the agents provocateurs of Russia and that there should be provocation from the Government so that they might lend edge to their agitation and succeed with the masses by telling them that the Government is giving them the provocation and that it is treading rough shod over their feelings and sentiments. Although the Government may be anxious and although some of the honourable members sitting on these

benches are very anxious that there should be feelings of friendship and cordiality between the rulers and the ruled of this country, unfortunately the result of the action of the Government in so far as the continuance of this statue is concerned would be otherwise and the Government would be helping the cause of the extremists and the revolutionaries by keeping this statue there. The question to be considered is whether by the removal of this statue there would be any offence given to the Anglo-Indian and the British communities. The honourable member Mr. Craik put it frankly and I submit very rightly and proudly that the British people have also sentiments of their own. Certainly, the British people have more sentiment than even we have, because people who are free and who enjoy liberty have more sentiment and deeper sense of self-respect than the people who have not yet tasted the joys of freedom and liberty. Certainly I admit that the British people's sense of self-respect and sensitiveness on this point is keener and stronger than that of the Punjabi. Otherwise, perhaps the statue would have been removed long ago. On the other hand, giving full weight and showing every respect for the sentiments and the feelings of the British community, I cannot help saying that now there is a question between the Indians on the one side and the Anglo-Indians and the British community on the other and judging by whatever standard you like, I think that the judgment of an impartial person would go in favour of the Indians. Let us see how. If the sentiments of the majority are to be respected, then the Indians are in a majority. If somebody's susceptibilities have to be wounded—I do not see how they are to be wounded—but if somebody's susceptibilities have to be wounded, then it is better that resentment or disappointment should be caused to as few as possible and not to as many as possible. The action of the Government would cause resentment among a larger number of people. Then again the English people are more enlightened and much wiser and have got more self control and can gauge the situation better than we poor backward Punjabis,—who are called *dhaggas* even by our own countrymen in the other provinces of India—can do. Supposing it is a question of mere sentiment and supposing it is mere childish feeling then the Englishmen like elder brothers and like more advanced brothers ought to sacrifice their own sentiments for the sake of the sentiments of their less advanced younger brothers the Punjabi people. Even on that ground I would submit that the European community ought to yield. Yet there is another thing. The suggestion was already made, but if it was not made already, I am quite prepared to make that suggestion here. If the Government agrees to remove the statue from the Mall and put it somewhere else, the memory of that great man would be honoured by placing another statue of his in place of the present one. I am sure I am voicing the feelings of honourable members on this side at least in this matter. If it is necessary to guard against giving offence to the sentiments and feelings of the Anglo-Indian and the British communities, that can be done by substituting another statue without this inscription and without the pen and the sword. I am told, Sir, there is a statue of Lord Lawrence in Calcutta. Nobody has raised any objection to that. You would concede Sir, that the English are more sensitive than the Punjabis and they are also more voluble than we are and they are also past masters in agitation and yet we have heard no voice against the statue of Lord Lawrence at Calcutta. We, Punjabis, have not become mad. In fact one of the great successors of Lord Lawrence has been praising the Punjabis for their strong common sense. It is not out of mere fun or out of childish petulance that we are asking this statue to be removed. There must be something. Some credit must be given to us for common sense and surely it is not out of madness that we are asking for the removal of the statue.

[Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.]

Then, again, Sir, I would submit another point in connection with this no matter whether the judgment should go in favour of the Anglo-Indian or the British community or in favour of the Punjabi community. It has been said that this inscription is historically wrong. As it stands, of course every one would say that the words bearing the inscription were uttered by Lord Lawrence himself. That this is historically inaccurate has been demonstrated by the honourable member Mr. Craik this afternoon. If it is historically inaccurate and if the inscription is offending the Punjabis, then why disgrace the memory of a great man like Lord Lawrence by ascribing such a nasty expression to him? That point, it seems to me, has never occurred to the honourable members sitting on the opposite side. If the inscription is bad, if it is insulting and if it is offending and if Lord Lawrence was never guilty of uttering such a nasty expression, then why do you allow it to remain in such a public place and thus lead every one to assume that Lord Lawrence did utter such a phrase? I think those who revere the memory of Lord Lawrence should be the first to make it clear to the world that Lord Lawrence was an honourable man, that he had due regard for the feelings and sentiments of the people among whom he was placed and that he was the last person to utter such a phrase and therefore that phrase should be removed and that everything that is offending in connection with the statue should be done away with. That is another argument why the honourable members on the opposite side should side with us.

Then, again, Sir, a point of law was raised by the honourable member Mr. Craik. He referred to the proceedings of the municipal committee.

Mr. H. D. Craik : I did not raise any point of law.

Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : The honourable member Mr. Craik said that the municipal committee had by its resolution said that they had nothing whatever to do with the statue and that the Government could do anything it liked in the matter. He implied that the people whose representatives the members of the Lahore municipal committee were supposed to be were estopped from saying anything against the continuance of the statue there. I would explain that position, Sir. Here I have got the proceedings of the Lahore municipal committee which an ex-vice president of that committee has kindly placed in my hands for which I am very much indebted to him. Here is the resolution passed by the Municipal Committee—

“Resolved unanimously that the Municipality was quite within its rights in deciding to remove the statue, and the reasons given by the Commissioner in suspending the resolution, were insufficient and unsatisfactory.”

“Resolved unanimously that the contention of the Government contained in its letter No. 829282, dated the 23rd November 1921, from the Secretary to the Punjab Government, to the Commissioner, Lahore Division, to the effect that the statue was trust property was untenable and unsupported by any evidence; that the statue was an out-and-out gift to the Municipality and as such was the absolute property of the committee, and that in this view the committee was supported by the opinion of its Legal Adviser.”

These were the resolutions passed by the committee in 1922. But the resolution to which my honourable friend Mr. Craik refers was passed by a committee which was perhaps shorn of half its members.

Mr. H. D. Craik : I rise to a personal explanation, Sir. I think I would save much of the time of the House if I make it clear that I raised no legal

point whatever. I simply stated that the Lahore Municipal Committee passed a resolution on a certain date handing over the statue to the Government. That is a question of fact. I raised no legal point and I only expressed a doubt whether the Lahore Municipal Committee was ever more than a trustee.

Dr. Gokul Chand Narang: I accept this explanation, but I submit, Sir, that the question of ownership or even surrender of the statue by the municipal committee is really immaterial. All that it means is this. The Government now says that the statue is theirs. The statue was handed over to the ownership or the trusteeship of the Government. Let us assume that. But does it mean that if the statue has been surrendered now to the Government, it changes the character of the statue? Does it mean the posture of the statue or the offending inscription should in no way be modified? Supposing I had a portrait descendable to my heirs. Supposing it was an offending portrait; does it mean that myself or my heirs can take that portrait and parade it either in the bazaars of Anarkali or on the Mall when it was really calculated to give offence to the susceptibilities of those who look at the portrait? So that, my submission is that the ownership of the statue or its custody either by the Government or the Municipal Committee is absolutely immaterial. The question is entirely confined to the nature of the inscription and the posture of the statue. If the inscription or the pose of the statue is really offending, it does not in the least matter who owns the statue. The claim of trusteeship or ownership is beside the mark. I submit the question should have been looked at purely on its own merits and on the merits of the statue as it stands. My honourable friend Mir Maqbool Mahmood although he said he was not a great expert on statues, of either marble or bronze, yet he thinks that this is the finest of all the statues he has seen, either in France or Italy (*Mir Maqbool Mahmood; No.*) My honourable friend did say, Sir, that the posture of the statue does great credit to the sculptor or the artist.

Apart from that, that is whether it does credit to the artist or not, the statue as it stands offends those who are the best judges in the matter and who have decided that it does offend the susceptibilities of the people. My honourable friend Mr. Craik and my honourable friend Mir Maqbool Mahmood practically say that the people of the Punjab are not the best judges to decide whether it is or it is not offending. My submission is that it is the people who are the best judges in the matter and not my honourable friends sitting on the opposite benches. The people have decided that the statue does give offence and that should be sufficient reason for the removal of the statue.

One word more, Sir, and I have done. I submit Sir, the Government should really give their serious thought to this question. We are moving this resolution in a constitutional and systematic manner. It is for the Government to show to the people that they are fair, that they are just and that they have a due regard for the sentiments of the people of the province. The Government should avoid giving the impression that now that agitation is dead and that the political leaders are all dead and gone and that the Hindus and Muhammadans are fighting among themselves and that therefore the Government are absolutely safe and can ignore the opinion and the sentiments of the people and that they can do whatever they like. That would be an extremely unwise step on the part of the Government and they should avoid it as far as possible.

The Council then adjourned till 2 P.M. on Tuesday, the 3rd March 1925.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

6TH SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 3rd March 1925.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

APPOINTMENT OR POSTING OF REVENUE OR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS IN THEIR HOME DISTRICTS.

1426. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Is it a fact that it is the policy of the Government not to appoint or post revenue or executive officers in their home districts ?

(b) If so, are there any circumstances when a deviation can be made from the above policy ?

(c) Will the Government please state if there are any such officers in Multan ?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, will the Government please state the names of such officers and the reasons why they have not been transferred from their home districts ?

Mr. H. D. Craik : (a) If the honourable member refers to officers serving on the executive side of the Punjab Civil Service, the answer is in the affirmative.

(b) Occasionally circumstances arise when it is desirable for reasons of administrative convenience to depart from the policy referred to.

(c) and (d). One officer, whose home is in the Multan District, has recently been posted to Multan for training. His posting is purely temporary.

Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please state the name of the officer referred to in parts (c) and (d) ?

Mr. H. D. Craik : No, Sir.

Lala Bodh Raj : Is it a fact that the Tahsildar of Multan has his home in Multan and has been there for the last so many years ?

Mr. H. D. Craik : I must have notice of that question.

GRANT-IN-AID FOR SANITATION.

1427. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (i) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) the total grant-in-aid given to rural and urban areas respectively in the year 1924 for the improvement of sanitation ?

(b) the grant-in-aid given to the Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana District Boards respectively for improving sanitation for the year 1924 ?

(ii) Will the Government be also pleased to state—

(a) whether the district boards of Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana were ever urged by the Sanitary Board to draw up any scheme for improving sanitation in their respective rural areas ?

[Chaudhri Afzal Haq.]

(b) If so, with what result ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to urge both the district boards again on this point ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (i) (a) The total grants-in-aid given by the Sanitary Board during the year 1924 for the improvement of sanitation in rural and urban areas were Rs. 62,451 and Rs. 3,78,545, respectively.

(b) No grant-in-aid was given during the year 1924 to the district boards of Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana for the improvement of sanitation.

(ii) (a) In 1921 all district boards in the Punjab were urged through the Commissioners of Divisions to improve their rural water supplies and they were requested to inform the Sanitary Board whether they required any assistance or expert advice for doing so.

(b) As the result of this invitation the district board of Hoshiarpur submitted a project costing Rs. 53,750 and the Sanitary Board gave a grant-in-aid of Rs. 7,196 during 1922-23 for that portion of the scheme which had for its object the clearance of silt from the village tanks. The rest of the project met with certain technical objections on the part of the Sanitary Engineer, and was returned for reconsideration to the district board, with whom it is still pending.

The district board of Ludhiana has never submitted any project in response to the Sanitary Board's invitation.

(c) Yes.

INTERMEDIATE COLLEGE IN HOSHIARPUR.

1428. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (a) Is it a fact that Hoshiarpur is one of those districts which have got the largest number of high schools ?

(b) Is it a fact that there is no Intermediate College in Hoshiarpur ?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, is Government considering the desirability of opening an Intermediate College in Hoshiarpur in the near future ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) The Hoshiarpur District has eleven high schools.

(b) Yes.

(c) The claims of Hoshiarpur District will be considered along with those of other districts if and when the question of increasing the number of Government Intermediate Colleges is considered.

CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, PUNJAB.

1429. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (a) Is it a fact that no Indian has hitherto been appointed to the post of Chief Secretary to the Government, Punjab ?

(b) Is it a fact that many Indians have been appointed as Commissioners ?

(c) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for not doing so ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The best qualified officer available is selected for the appointment of Chief Secretary, and racial considerations do not enter into the matter at all.

PUNITIVE POST, VILLAGE CHAURA.

1430. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (i) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) why the continuance of a punitive post was sanctioned in village Chaura, tahsil Garhshankar, district Hoshiarpur ; and

(b) whether it is a fact that no political meeting was held in this village in the year 1924 ?

(ii) Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of now withdrawing the punitive police post of village Chaura, tahsil Garhshankar ?

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.

AVERAGE HOLDINGS OF ZAMINDARS.

1431. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) the average holdings per head of a zamindar of this province ; and

(b) the average holdings per head of a zamindar of the Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana and Jullundur districts respectively ?

(c) If no such statistics exist at present, will the Government be pleased to collect these statistics now ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : If the honourable member will be good enough to define exactly what he means by " holdings ", *e. g.*, areas held by tenants-at-will—occupancy tenants, or proprietors—and also by " zamindars ", *e. g.*, absentee landlords, cultivating owners or any tenant, including kamins, I shall be glad to give his question further consideration.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

1432. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Co-operative Societies that were dissolved in Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana in 1924 ; and

(b) the main cause of their dissolution ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : (a) During the co-operative year ending July 1924, 31 Societies in Hoshiarpur and 3 Societies in Ludhiana were cancelled.

(b) The main cause of their failure was lack of interest on the part of the members.

**ILL-TREATMENT OF PROBATIONARY SUB-INSPECTORS AND INSPECTORS BY THE
DRILL INSTRUCTOR OF THE TRAINING SCHOOL, PHILLAUR.**

1433. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (a) Is Government aware of the long standing complaint of all old and new probationary Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors of Police that they have been very often kicked and abused by the Drill Instructor of the Training School, Phillaur?

(b) If so, what has Government done to remedy the state of affairs?

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.

CIVIL HOSPITAL, HOSHIARPUR.

1434. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that there is not enough accommodation for indoor patients in the Civil Hospital, Hoshiarpur?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state why no steps have been taken for the extension of this hospital?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) The accommodation for ordinary indoor patients is sufficient. There are 28 beds for male patients and 18 beds for female patients, while the daily average of in-patients during 1924 was 22.47, and the maximum number of in-patients on any one day was 43. There is, however, no accommodation for patients suffering from infectious diseases, and it is understood that the Municipal Committee of Hoshiarpur have been considering the provision of such accommodation.

(b) Does not arise.

GOVERNMENT OR SHAMLAT FORESTS IN THE KANGRA DISTRICT.

1435. Chaudhri Ram Singh : Will Government please state the number of villages in each tahsil of the Kangra District where there are no Government or Shamlat forests?

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.

RAJPUT WIDOWS AND PENSIONS.

1436. Chaudhri Ram Singh : Is it a fact—

(a) that thousands of Rajputs of the Hoshiarpur, Kangra and Gurdaspur Districts were killed during the war;

(b) that their widows have been granted pensions by the Government to receive which they have to go to the post offices; and

- (c) that Rajput women as a rule observe *pardah*, and consequently it is inconvenient for them to receive their pensions from the post offices?
- (d) If the answers to (a), (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to make such arrangements as would enable these Rajput widows to get their pensions at their homes?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (a), (b), (c) and (d) Government has already issued the necessary instructions, a copy of which is laid on the table.

Procedure for pension payments in the case of severely wounded and infirm Indian military pensioners and also female pensioners who are not accustomed to appear in public.

1. In the above cases personal attendance is not necessary, but payment will be made to the representative under the following conditions.
2. In the Punjab and the North-West Frontier Circle where pensions are disbursed by post offices the representative of the pensioner may receive payment on production of—

- (i) The pensioner's pension certificate.
- (ii) A certificate signed by a responsible Government officer or by some well-known and trustworthy person that the pensioner is alive. The certificate must bear the impression of the ball of the thumb of the pensioner's left hand taken in the presence of that officer or person.
- (iii) A written authority from the pensioner to the representative bearing the pensioner's thumb-impression, together with a specimen of the representative's signature.

PROVINCIALIZATION OF THE HAMIRPUR DISTRICT BOARD HIGH SCHOOL.

1437. Chaudhri Ram Singh: Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) if it is a fact that the Kangra District is educationally the most backward district in the Punjab; and
- (b) that there is only one Government high school in the district?
- (c) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that in April 1925 six new Government high schools are to be opened in the Punjab?
- (d) If so, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of provincializing the Hamirpur District Board High School?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain:

- (a) No.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) and (d). The case of the District Board High School, Hamirpur, will receive due consideration if and when opportunity arises.

Chaudhri Ram Singh: Is there any other district in the Province except Kangra which is so backward in education?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Is that a supplementary question, Sir? I thought that the honourable member was reading out a question the notice of which he had not yet sent in.

BOOKS ENTITLED "MAHARISHI OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY" AND
"RANGILA RASUL."

1438. Chaudhri Ram Singh : (i) With reference to the answer to question No. 996,* will Government please state—

- (a) how they arrived at the conclusion that the book entitled "Maharishi of the Nineteenth Century" had not obtained sufficient publicity, while the book entitled "Rangila Rasul" had attracted general attention and obtained sufficient publicity, when the title-pages of both the books show that one thousand copies of each had been printed ; and
- (b) the standard adopted by them for determining the amount of publicity of a book ?
- (c) Will Government be pleased to make inquiries with regard to the amount of publicity obtained by the book entitled "Maharishi of the Nineteenth Century" and to launch a prosecution against its author, inasmuch as its language has been admitted by them to be objectionable ? If not, why not ?
- (d) If, for any reasons, Government does not consider it advisable to prosecute the author of the abovementioned book, will it please state what its reasons are for not withdrawing the case against Mahashe Rajpal, the author of "Rangila Rasul" ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (i) (a) The book "Maharishi of the Nineteenth Century" was published in September 1923. No general public feeling appears to have been caused by the lectures of which it is a reprint, nor did the publication of the pamphlet attract any attention. No complaint reached Government regarding the pamphlet, nor does any comment appear to have been made in the press regarding the work until the 5th July 1924, after the institution of proceedings against the author of "Rangila Rasul". The publication of the "Rangila Rasul", on the other hand, attracted immediate attention. It received wide publicity and was condemned by certain Hindu as well as by Muhammadan papers. Complaints also reached Government. All copies of the work were reported to have been sold within a few weeks and the publication of a second edition was announced at the end of June.

- (b) This is a matter for the discretion of Government.
- (c) There are no grounds for further enquiry.
- (d) As the case is still *sub judice* no reply can be given.

GRIEVANCES OF ZAMINDARS IN THE KULU AND SURAJ ILAQAS OF THE KANGRA DISTRICT.

1439. Chaudhri Ram Singh : (i) Will Government please state if it is a fact—

- (a) that in the Kulu and Suraj ilaqas of the Kangra District the Forest Department, in order to prepare charcoal, is cutting down those trees which are adjacent to the houses of zamindars, while the trees which are at a distance from their houses are allowed to stand ;
- (b) that formerly, the zamindars of the said ilaqas were allowed to prepare charcoal from *kail* and other trees, and they were also

allowed to use these trees for the construction of their agricultural implements, but now this privilege has been withdrawn from them ;

(c) that the Forest Department wants to put obstacles in the way of the grazing of the cattle of the zamindars by cutting down the forests which are adjacent to the houses of the zamindars ?

(ii) If the answer to (i) above be in the affirmative, will Government please take steps to remove the abovementioned grievances of the zamindars ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The answer to part (i) of the question is in the negative. Part (ii) therefore does not arise.

Chaudhri Ram Singh : Will the Government please state whether any restrictions are placed in the way of the public using charcoal from the forest for agricultural implements ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Is that a supplementary question, may I ask ?

“ BEGAR.”

1440. Chaudhri Ram Singh : Will Government please state if it has stopped the system of *begar* in the province ? If so, will it please lay on the table a copy of the order or notification on the subject ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The word *begar* has several meanings and, until the honourable member defines exactly the meaning he here attributes to the word, I regret that I cannot provide an exact answer.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the honourable member please give those meanings and the meaning which is commonly understood ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : It is not for me to give those meanings. It is for the questioner to give them.

Chaudhri Ram Singh : The meaning of the word *begar* is clear. It means whether any remuneration is given to coolies employed by officers on tours ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : If the honourable member will look at the answer to the next question, he will find the reply there.

FORCED LABOUR IN THE KULU AND SURAJ TAHSILS.

1441. Chaudhri Ram Singh : (i) Will Government please state if it is a fact—

(a) that Government officials in the tahsils of Kulu and Suraj, District Kangra, extract forced labour from the people ;

(b) that the contractors at the various *paraos* do not supply coolies ; and

(c) that the coolies are compelled to present themselves at the various *paraos* ?

(ii) If the answer to (i) above be in the affirmative, will Government please instruct its officers to stop taking *begar* ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(i) (a) Government officers touring on duty are entitled to be supplied on payment with coolie transport up to a limited number for stages where pack transport cannot be employed. Such transport is paid for at rates which are higher than the current rates for labour.

(b) Such coolies are supplied through official agency, and not by contractors.

(ii) (c) No.

No system of *begar*, i.e., the compulsory supply of labour without payment, is in force. Government have, however, regulated the supply of coolies, which is restricted to outlying places and hilly tracts, on payment, till such time as the system can be supplanted by a system of regularly employed paid labour.

Chaudhri Ram Singh : Will the Government please state what remuneration is paid to the coolies for the days for which they are made to wait without work at the halting stations of the officers ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : I must ask for a notice of that question.

OFFICIAL RATES OF PRICES FOR GRASS AND FUEL AND WAGES
FOR COOLIES.

1442. Chaudhri Ram Singh : Will Government please state with reference to tahsils Kulu and Suraj—

(a) the official rate of prices fixed for grass and fuel ; and

(b) the official rate of wages fixed for a coolie *per diem* or *per parao* ?

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.

SHAH NEHR, MUKERIAN, HOSHIAHPUR DISTRICT.

1443. Chaudhri Ram Singh : Will Government please lay on the table the answers to my questions Nos. 881, 882, 883 and 960 *re* Shah Nehr, Mukerian, District Hoshiahpur, put in the fourth session of the Council ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Replies to questions Nos. 881, 882 and 883 are laid on the table. As regards the answer to question No. 960,* it cannot be given before the middle of March next as the honourable member has already been informed.

Answer to question No. 881.†

BRANCHES ON THE SHAH NEHR CANAL, MUKERIAN, IN DISTRICT HOSHIAHPUR.

(a) Yes. But they were only partly due to river floods. On the 25th July 1924 it rained 8.25 inches. The breaches were caused by rain water running into the canal from the uplands and the Shah Nehr was also breached opposite village Bhamnal and further down. In order to allow the rain water to escape from the uplands, the people of Muradpur and Mansarpur cut the canal bank at several places to pass the rain water off to save their *abadi*.

- (b) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The answer to the second part is that two *chhapars* received slight damage. No houses were damaged by the Shah Nehr. Some *kacha* houses in Muradpur, Mansurpur and Khanpur were damaged, but the damage was caused by rain, and not by floods from the canal.
- (c) Two petitions were received by registered post in the Deputy Commissioner's office at Hoshiarpur on the 15th October 1924 (two months and 20 days after the breach). Both were undated. No complaint was made to the Naib-Tahsildar in charge, who was present on the spot when the breaches occurred.
- (d) In view of the replies to (a) to (c), no compensation is necessary.
- (e) The question is too vague to admit of a reply.

*Answer to question No. 882.**

OVERFLOODING OF *barani* LANDS BY THE WATER OF THE SHAH NEHR CANAL,
MUKERIAN.

- (a) No.
- (b) Does not arise.

*Answer to question No. 883.**

OBSERVANCE OF THE TERMS OF AGREEMENT DEED OF SHAH NEHR.

- (a) No.
- (b) Does not arise.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE TO VETERINARY ASSISTANT SURGEONS IN THE
KANGRA DISTRICT.

1444. Chaudhri Ram Singh : (a) With reference to the answer to question No. 1003† asked on the 18th November last, will Government please state if it is prepared to ascertain whether the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons in the Kangra District are paid any travelling allowance when on tour ; and

(b) if it is proved on inquiry that no travelling allowance is paid to them, to issue instructions for the payment of an allowance to Veterinary Assistant Surgeons ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Enquiries are being made and the result will be communicated to the honourable member.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE RAJPUT ZAMINDARS OF THE KANGRA, HOSHIARPUR
AND GURDASPUR DISTRICTS.

1445. Chaudhri Ram Singh : (a) With reference to the answer to question No. 1004‡ asked on the 18th November last, will Government please state if it is prepared to inquire into the financial position of the Rajput zamindars of the Kangra, Hoshiarpur and Gurdaspur Districts ?

(b) If, on inquiry, it is proved that their financial condition is really very bad, what steps do Government propose to take to improve their financial position ?

*Volume VII, pages 230-31.

†Volume VII, page 493.

‡Volume VII, page 494.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) Except in so far as this subject is touched on in the inquiries of the Board of Economic Inquiry, the answer is No.

(b) None.

MOTOR TRANSPORT BETWEEN PATHANKOT AND DALHOUSIE.

1446 Chaudhri Ram Singh : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the answer to my question No. 1005* put in the fourth session of the Council ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :
A copy of the answer is laid on the table.

Answer to question No. 1005.

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No—the fares were fixed in 1920.

(d) Government are not aware what the fares are from Pathankot to Dharmasala, but the Dalhousie road is a very much more difficult road, with a steep gradient, entailing a great strain on cars.

(e) No.

(f) It would be contrary to the interests and safety of the travelling public to do so.

Lala Mohan Lal : With regard to part (d) will the Government be pleased to make an enquiry as to what the fares are from Pathankot to Dharmasala ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :
The matter is already under enquiry.

TIME SCALE OF PAY FOR VETERINARY ASSISTANT SURGEONS.

1447. Chaudhri Ram Singh : (a) Will Government please state the different grades of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, and whether they are promoted from one grade to the other on the basis of a time-scale ?

(b) If they are not promoted on the time-scale basis, will Government consider the advisability of promoting them on a time-scale basis and providing them with a Gradation List in order to enable them to know their exact position in the service ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : (a) The honourable member is referred to the answer given to question No. 1341.†

(b) A Gradation List is already in existence.

PAY OF VETERINARY COMPOUNDERS.

1448. Chaudhri Ram Singh : Will Government please state if it is a fact that compounders in Veterinary Hospitals are paid much lower pay than Compounders in Civil Hospitals ?

If so, will Government please consider the advisability of increasing the pay of Veterinary Compounders ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

ANSWERS TO CERTAIN UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

1449. Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan : Will the Government please lay on the table the answers to questions Nos. 1025 and 1071 asked by me on the 18th November 1924 and the 20th November 1924, respectively ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The answer to question No. 1025 is laid in the table.

*Answer to question No. 1025.**

DAMAGE TO SADHURA BY HILL STREAM CALLED "BEGAM NADI."

(a) (i) Yes.

(ii) Yes.

(b) Government await an application from the Municipal Committee, on whom primarily devolves the preparation of a scheme for the safety of the town.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The answer to question No. 1071 is laid on the table.

Answer to question No. 1071.†

HARASSMENT OF SUBEDAR-MAJOR FARMAN ALI KHAN BY THE RAWALPINDI POLICE.

(a) (i) and (ii) No.

(iii) Proceedings under section 174, Indian Penal Code, were taken against certain lambardars by order of the Superintendent of Police. The accused were acquitted.

(iv) No. There was a quarrel, and cross-cases between two parties, to one of which the member of the Legislative Council referred to in the question belonged. The complaints were sent to the police for inquiry. The parties effected a compromise.

(v) No.

(b) The disputes referred to in the question do not raise the issue suggested in this part of it.

REWARI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

1450. Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan : (i) (a) Is it a fact that under the old constitution the number of Muslim and non-Muslim elected members was equal in the Rewari Municipal Committee ?

[Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan]

(b) Is it a fact that under the new rules the number of Muslim and non-Muslim elected members in the Rewari Municipal Committee is 4 and 6, respectively, or in the ratio of 40 to 80 ?

(c) Is it a fact that the population of Muslims and non-Muslims in the Rewari town is 10,143 and 12,981 respectively, i.e., in the ratio of 78 to 100 ?

(d) Is it further a fact that the voting strength of Muslims and non-Muslims is 1,540 and 1,729 or in the ratio of 89 to 100 ?

(ii) If the answers to (a), (b), (c) and (d) above be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to take early steps to increase the Muslim elected element ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain :

(i) (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) and (d) No.

(ii) Does not arise.

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan : Will the Government please say what are the correct figures with regard to (c) and (d) ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : I require notice.

BENCH OF HONORARY MAGISTRATES IN REWARI.

1451. Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan : (a) Is it a fact that on the Bench of Honorary Magistrates in Rewari which is constituted of four members there is only one Muhammadan ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Muslim and non-Muslim population in Rewari is 10,148 and 12,981, respectively, i.e., in the ratio of 78 to 100 ?

(c) If the answers to (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, will the Government kindly consider the desirability of increasing the Muslim element in the Bench of Honorary Magistrates in Rewari ?

Mr. J. M. Dunnett :

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The claims of suitable Muslim candidates will be fully considered, as in the past, on vacancies occurring.

PATWARIS AND JAMABANDIS.

1452. Chaudhri Ram Singh : Arising out of the answer to question No. 1253* asked on the 17th January last, will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) the source from which the wages for carrying *jamabandis* to tahsil headquarters and back are paid ; and

(b) whether these wages are paid out of the tahsil contingencies or whether people are forced to carry *jamabandi* papers, to tahsil headquarters and back at no expense to Government ?

(c) If the answer to the latter portion of (b) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state their reasons for the same ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) Ordinarily the patwari carries his own *jamabandi*, but if the bundle is too heavy for him, he usually obtains the services of the village chaukidar.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Chaudhri Ram Singh : If the *jamabandi* papers are so heavy that they cannot be carried by both the patwari and the chaukidar, who carries them in that case?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : He had better make use of an ass from that place (laughter).

ALLUVION AND DILUVION ALLOWANCES TO PATWARIS.

1453. Chaudhri Ram Singh : Will Government be pleased to state whether in any part of the Punjab patwaris are allowed to draw alluvion and diluvion allowances? If so, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of allowing the patwaris of the Kangra District also to draw these allowances?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The expression the "alluvion and diluvion allowances" is not understood. If the honourable member will enlighten me, I will make further inquiries.

ALLOWANCES TO PATWARIS AND LAMBARDARS OF THE HOISHIARPUR DISTRICT.

1454. Chaudhri Ram Singh : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the patwaris and lambardars of the Hoshiarpur District are granted an allowance and *panchotra* for preparing and collecting the *abiana* instalments on the Shah Nehr, Mukerian?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state their reasons for not granting a similar allowance and *panchotra* to the patwaris and lambardars of Tahsil Nurpur?

If this question has not already been considered, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of granting an allowance and *panchotra* to the patwaris and lambardars of Tahsil Nurpur?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) Yes.

(b) Inquiries are being made.

RESTRICTIONS ON LANDLORDS RE CUTTING DOWN TREES ON THEIR LANDS.

1455. Chaudhri Ram Singh : Will Government be pleased to state if there is any other district in the province besides the Kangra District where the landlords are not allowed to cut down trees from the lands owned by them on the ground that they do not appreciate the importance of preserving tree growth?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Similar restrictions exist in the Murree and Kahuta Tahsils of the Rawalpindi District.

RESOLUTIONS.

RESOLUTION RE REMOVAL OF LAWRENCE STATUE—(continued).

Mr. President : The discussion on the resolution *re* the removal of the Lawrence Statue will now be resumed.

Lala Sham Lal : I request that Dr. Gokul Chand's speech of yesterday be translated.

Mr. President : The translation to-day of Dr. Gokul Chand's speech of yesterday will be out of order.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] : Sir, the issue before the House is whether the statue of Lord Lawrence should be removed from its present site on the Mall. Much has been said about the susceptibilities of the various communities, the Anglo-Indians and Europeans on the one side and the Indians on the other. Sufficient assurance has been given by the members who spoke for the resolution, that by passing the resolution they did not mean any disrespect to the statue nor any dishonour to the memory of Lord Lawrence. I cannot understand how the susceptibilities of the Anglo-Indians or of the Europeans are injured by the mere removal of the statue itself. An instance was quoted by Mian Abdul Aziz of the removal of the statue of King Edward VII, the Emperor of India from time to time from one place to another and their feelings were not aroused at that time. Is it because the feelings of the Indians will be appeased by the removal of the statue, the feelings of the Anglo-Indians or the Europeans are injured? Up till now the discussion on the resolution has been going on, but no argument has been advanced to show how their feelings will be injured by the removal of the statue. The statue as was explained yesterday was originally intended for an open square in the city of London and because of the offensiveness of its posture and of the insulting inscription thereon the statue was not acceptable to the people of England, although a philosopher tried to remove both these difficulties by a characteristic cartoon the letter press of which was 'I have got a broken pen and I have nothing to mend it with but the sword!'. In spite of this cartoon the statue was not acceptable in the sensible city of London and the artist was kind enough to make a present of it to the Municipality of Lahore, the scene of activities of Lord Lawrence.

Various suggestions have been thrown that the inscription be removed, or that a change be made in the posture of the statue and so on. The question now is, whether the removal of the inscription or of the sword and the pen will serve the purpose or not. If the inscription is removed the sword and the pen remain there, that will not serve the purpose, because the sword and the pen in the hands of Lord Lawrence clearly indicate the meaning which the artist had at the time the statue was designed. This statue represents a conqueror offering terms of settlement to the conquered at a time of turmoil and strife and in the disturbed areas. These are days of progress and if these terms are now offered to the Indians as the statue appears to offer, the Indians will surely take it as an insult. This statue is a standing reminder to the Indians of their political subjection and inferiority. A suggestion was made from these benches that if the Europeans or the Anglo-Indians had the least apprehension that by passing the resolution we

mean any disrespect to the statue, another like the one in Calcutta can be erected. The statute in Calcutta does not afford any ground for agitation and that statue represents the attributes possessed by Lord Lawrence and which are characteristic of him as statesman and soldier. But the present statue does injustice to Lord Lawrence himself, because as has been explained, and also admitted, these words were never uttered or used by Lord Lawrence. I cannot understand why, when these words were not uttered by him, and are said to be the mere utterances of a Deputy Commissioner of Hoshiarpur, they should be attributed to him and why the Government should persist that such a statue should ever remain in its present condition. If the object of the architect was to commemorate an incident in history, for which Lord Lawrence is not responsible, then surely that is still greater reason why the statue should be removed from its present site and another statue substituted in its place. I think Government will be prepared to accept this proposal. The Government can very well make a provision in the budget for expenditure for a new statue and we shall gladly support the demand.

A remark has been made that the agitation over the statue was strong in the days of the non-co-operation. The whole correspondence or the gist of the correspondence that the municipal committee have had with the Government on the subject was explained yesterday by Mian Abdul Aziz, and if the Government thinks that the agitation on the subject is now in a state of lull, then I would say that this is the appropriate time when the Government should consider the question in a calm spirit. If in course of time the agitation gets into full swing, the Government will then begin to think that its prestige is at stake and will not care a bit for the agitators and will say, 'let the agitation stop and then Government will consider the question.' I remember that in reply to a question by the late Sardar Sangat Singh asking whether the Government was prepared to cancel the notification under the Criminal Law Amendment Act the Government replied that the conditions in the province did not permit of the notification being cancelled. I think this is the proper time when the Government should consider the question with a sober mind. Government should not be out of touch with the popular agitation outside simply because there are some members in this house who are ready to support the Government and have the resolution defeated. If I were the only man concerned in the subject I would associate myself with what was said by Maulvi Mazhar Ali when he observed that if our reasonable suggestion is not acceptable then perhaps it would be better to allow the statue to remain with the inscription in bolder type so that every one of us, every Indian who passes by the side of the statue, may feel that he is a slave and he may not rest until and unless his motherland is liberated both politically and economically. But here I am a representative of thousands of voters in my constituency and I feel as a representative of their views that this statue should not be allowed to remain where it is. There are several sections in the Indian Penal Code to punish a man who excites disaffection, by his act or speech, against Government established by law or against one community or another and there are magistrates appointed by the Government to punish such persons. I think if there is a statue whose posture is exciting disaffection against the present Government, the only punishment for it that I can suggest is that it should be confined within the four walls of the Government House where it will not obtrude upon public view.

[Lala Bodh Raj.]

With these remarks, Sir, I commend the resolution to the House and hope that it will be passed if not unanimously at least by a majority of votes.

Mr. Labh Singh [Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Division, North (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, in view of what has been said. . . .

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : Is it not advisable for the honourable member to speak in Urdu ?

Mr. President : It is open to the honourable member to speak in English or Urdu as he pleases.

Mr. Labh Singh : I was going to say, Sir, that in view of what has been stated by member after member of this House on this side, it leaves no further room for protesting that it is not the intention of those who are in favour of the resolution to wound the susceptibilities of any section or of any community. It has also been abundantly made clear that no disrespect or dishonour to the memory of the great man whom the statue commemorates is intended. Therefore no further words need be wanted on this aspect of the question (Hear, hear). I have given the most anxious consideration to the matter in order to discover if there was any the least plausible justification for the attitude which the Government have persistently adopted in regard to this question of the statue. I am afraid, Sir, I have not been able to find any conceivable justification for it. The statue as has been shown belonged and indubitably belonged to the municipal committee of Lahore. It was demonstrably the property of the committee. It stood on the site which also was in possession of the committee. The committee, as I understand, Sir, passed a resolution for the removal of the statue and that resolution was adopted unanimously ; if I remember aright, the Government intervened and countermanded the execution of the resolution. This step on the part of the Government was a clear interference with the liberty and the freedom of the local municipal committee and no justification can possibly be pleaded for it. The fact that at a later stage the committee was compelled under circumstances of which we have no knowledge to transfer the property in the statue to the Government. . . .

Mr. H. D. Craik : There was no compulsion whatsoever about it.

Mr. Labh Singh : We have not been told of the circumstances under which the statue was transferred ; we are absolutely ignorant about the facts which led to the transfer. Nor have the people been taken into confidence as regards the circumstances under which this transfer was designed and carried through. But all this is beside the point. The question is what is the nature of the statue, whether it wounds the susceptibilities of the public and whether the public has unanimously and unequivocally expressed itself against the retention of this statue in its present posture and at its present site. That is the question of questions. It is no use confounding the issues. Sir, as I was remarking, the attitude adopted by the Government in this matter is quite enigmatical and is not susceptible of explanation on any rational grounds. One might strive hard to discover the reason why the Government should adopt the attitude which they are adopting now in this matter. The reason to my mind is to be discovered in the peculiar psychology of the bureaucratic mind. There is nothing more in it than the mere irrational assertion : *bas hamara hukam hai*, and you have to

yield to it. That is the attitude of mind which is being expressed in the view taken by honourable members on the opposite side. How long, one might ask, is this attitude going to last? There must be an end to this sort of thing. If the average bureaucrat really knew how ridiculous the assumption of such an attitude makes him in the eyes of thinking persons, I believe, Sir, he will tend to modify his views regarding things. I am afraid, Sir, it might appear that I am digressing or at any rate am going off at a tangent. But that is not so. To my mind there is a very central and vital similarity between the attitude which is being adopted by the honourable members opposite

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I rise to a point of order. Have the honourable members opposite assumed such an attitude?

Mr. Labh Singh : Sir, so far as I can see, they have not yet responded to the overtures made from this side of the House for the removal even of the inscription. It was asked whether they were prepared to remove the inscription letting alone the statue. No answer was vouchsafed; as a matter of fact, it was stoutly asserted on the contrary that this question was out of order. In the absence of any explicit assurance from the opposite side, I am entitled to assume, Sir, that their attitude to this resolution is hostile.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : That assumption is wrong.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Thank you very much.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Do I understand that the honourable mover is prepared to withdraw the resolution so far as removal of the statue is concerned and confine himself to the inscription?

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : No, no.

Mr. Labh Singh : For very obvious reasons which I shall presently mention, this statue is nothing if it is not an incarnation of the official mind. The moral pose which is being assumed by honourable members opposite and which would brush aside the resolution as a mere sentiment, finds its embodiment in the shape of that statue, in brass or bronze, whatever it may be. How can the Government really consent to the removal of this statue which is a visible representation of the very spirit of the Government which rules over us? It has been said that there has been a change of heart and a change in the angle of vision. Where is that much vaunted change in the angle of vision? At any rate, none is visible in this part of the country. The Honourable Sir Charles Innes the other day in another House twitted the honourable Pandit Moti Lal Nehru with the remark that if the venerable Pandit wanted that his ideas should be accepted, he should retire to Allahabad, his stronghold, gather together his Swarajist forces and give battle to the British Commander-in-Chief in India. That was the only way in which the venerable Pandit could give effect to his ideas or could have his ideas or policy accepted by the Government. The Honourable Sir Charles Innes subsequently explained that these words were not uttered in a serious manner, but this explanation would not mend matters. The Honourable Sir Charles Innes was really giving expression to the spirit which underlies the statue under discussion. It would be intelligible, Sir, if the Government took up the attitude that the

[Mr. Labh Singh.]

statue represented a work of art, and that its exhibition was designed as it were to instruct the people in the appreciation of that art. But that is not the attitude, that is not the view of the honourable members opposite. I submit, Sir, and that very positively that the statue is not a work of art at all, rather it is the very negation of art. It is not a thing of beauty, but a thing essentially of ugliness and as such it has no right to be there. I submit, Sir, that the statue is wrong in design and conception and quite wrong also in the execution. With these remarks, I shall request the House to vote for the removal of the statue. It is a standing insult to the manhood of the province. The mad man so called who proceeded along the Mall the other day with a tiny hammer in hand to demolish the insult was not a solitary individual of his type. His madness is shared by every son of the soil who is not willing to barter away his birthright of national self-respect for a mere mess of pottage. While I am discussing this question, it brings me, Sir, to the point raised by my honourable friend Mir Maqbool Mahmood. My honourable friend told us that he wandered round the art galleries of Europe. I must accept that as a point of fact. He might have wandered round the art galleries of Europe, but I must submit very respectfully that he did so to no great advantage. Possibly he had no tutor or guide with him or else he would not have pronounced this statue to be a work of art. Further my honourable friend says that the inscription is certainly wrong, and that it is objectionable and that it should be done away with, but the statue that should at the same time be allowed to remain. By saying so and by reasoning in this manner, my honourable friend is committing the fallacy of *hysteron proteron*, that is the fallacy of putting the cart before the horse. My honourable friend ought to know that the inscription which was materialised and embodied into the statue preceded the statue and not that it followed the statue. The inscription was the inspiration of the artist.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : On a point of personal explanation, Sir. My inference from the statue was that the designer, whoever he was, was a bad artist. He was not a perfect designer. As a student of art, he had not given that idea which he wanted to embody in the statue. The real pose that is given to the statue does not tally with the inscription it contains. That was my inference.

Mr. Labh Singh : Sir, I am glad to accept that explanation of my honourable friend. But the honourable member's explanation comes to this, that we are so circumstanced that we are being compelled to reconcile ourselves to two different sets of standards and two different sets of morality. We are asked to content ourselves with one set of notions of self-respect, while the honourable members opposite want to have quite a different set of standards, quite a different way and quite a different set of notions of right and wrong. What we feel is this : that this is a state of things which ought not to be tolerated and which ought not to be permitted to continue any longer. If we say that this statue offends us, we are told point blank that our notions of right and wrong are erroneous, and that this statue has nothing in it which is calculated to offend our susceptibilities. While, on the other hand, if the Governor of a province happens to visit a mofassil town or a municipality and if the municipal commissioners of the locality for good and legitimate reasons rightly or wrongly, but very respectfully at the same time want to get themselves excused from presenting

an address of welcome to the Governor, the Governor has no hesitation in saying that their conduct constitutes an affront to the very might of the British Empire. I submit, Sir, that these two different sets of standards of judging things—one for the Rulers and the other for the Ruled are not and ought not to be permitted to continue. I beg to repeat, Sir, reason as well as sentiment, good sense as well as expediency demand that this statue should be removed and removed at once with the least avoidable delay from its present place.

One word more I have to say and I shall have finished. Early this morning the mover of this resolution was conferring with me as to whether there was any necessity for his making a final reply to the debate and we both of us came to the conclusion that it was not necessary as the question had been discussed almost threadbare. Members on this side of the House have used arguments, they have used reason, some of them have perhaps uttered mild protests, or perhaps issued some mild threats in so far as they explained that the retention of the statue was calculated to exacerbate the feelings of the people and might lead to mischievous consequences. They have furthermore used the method of supplication. But what do we find on the other side? The official members are adamant, they are not prepared to yield either to reason or to supplication or to the demands of justice. All that we can say under the circumstances therefore is this, that you can please yourselves, or if one might be permitted to use the more expressive Punjabi phraseology—I am not sure if the use of the phrase would be quite Parliamentary—one would say "*khaos khaaman nra*." We have tried all methods with you. We have tried reason, we have tried to convince you that justice is on our side, we have tried to convince you that history is on our side, that the inscription on the statue is a meaningless phrase, that it is even historically inaccurate and that it is dishonouring the memory of a great man to ascribe this utterance to him but we have failed to make any impression. All that we can say at the end is that you can please yourselves.

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.

Sardar Narain Singh [Rawalpindi Division and Gujranwala (Sikh) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, the resolution under discussion has been so ably and thoroughly discussed that I cannot but appreciate it. It has been placed before the Council in such full details as to leave no room for further discussion. I am glad to find that all the honourable members who have participated in the debate are all of them in agreement with me that the posture and the inscription on the statue are not worthy of the great statesman and soldier. In fact they neither voice the feelings nor can in any way be called the index of the views cherished by Lord Lawrence. Besides that the self-respect of the Punjabis does not permit the continuance of the statue on the Mall for any further length of time. About the members who have not so far expressed their views on the subject, I can say with confidence that in their hearts too runs the same current of thoughts and that they too are in sympathy with the resolution. But I am given to understand, that they have been privately assured by the Government that it will remove

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the statue itself and therefore they have been advised not to vote for the resolution on this occasion. I might say that I have reasons to believe that such an assurance has been given to them by the Government.

I find the House divided into two sections. One of them is of opinion that only the inscription be erased and the statue be allowed to remain as it is. The other section definitely wants that not only the inscription but the statue as well be removed from its present site. The latter section is of opinion and, rightly too, that the posture of the statue is the physical expression of the spirit contained in the inscription itself. I might assure again that I do not want the removal of the statue because I mean any disrespect to the great man. What surprises me in this connection is that the just demand made in the resolution is being refused by the Government members on the ground that the sentiment leading us to make this demand is not real and genuine, while, on the other hand, it is alleged that the removal of the statue will go to offend the real susceptibilities of the community interested in its retention. This logic I fail to understand. They oppose the resolution because their feelings are, as they say, genuine and that ours are in their opinion not genuine. In this connection I am reminded of the story of a *Pathan* who had employed a tutor for his son. In the absence of his father, the son somehow or other picked up a quarrel with his tutor and on getting excited drew out a dagger and rushed upon the tutor to kill him. The tutor ran for his life followed by the ward. While so running the tutor was stopped by the father who was at that time returning home with the remarks that the tutor should receive the blow from his son, so that the son should not get disappointed, it being his first blow. If I rightly understand the Government members, I can say that the same attitude is being adopted by them in connection with the resolution. Although demonstrations have been made by the whole public on many occasions and although Government has been approached many a time, the Government still sits unmoved and the answer given to our legitimate demand is that it is mere sentiment and nothing serious. One of the honourable members on my left has gone to the length of suggesting that we should be more liberal-minded and should not mind the presence of the statue on the Mall. The question still remains unanswered as to what justification is there for the continuance of the statue on the present site. As I have said before and as has been admitted by the honourable members occupying the official benches the inscription on the statue is not an index of the views of Lord Lawrence. Why then disgrace the memory of him who was himself a brave man and as such could never have meant to disgrace the brave and self-respecting Punjabis. It has been contended that the inscription means no harm to any one, but what I say is that even if we accept this explanation these words cannot but mislead a man who happens to see it. He is sure to ascribe them as being uttered by Lord Lawrence himself. The historical fact that these words were uttered by a Deputy Commissioner on an occasion when certain hilly tribes had gone into rebellion does not justify their being placed so conspicuously on the Mall at Lahore. I am sure if we remove the statue from its site to some other place we will be doing service to the great man.

Before I take my seat I once more appeal in the name of humanity and self-respect that the resolution be allowed to pass, for it will go a long way in creating better feelings between the rulers and the ruled.

S. R. K.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): Sir, after what the honourable member opposite has said, I presume a great many members of this House will expect me to say *Bas bas jao jao kamara kutam kas* or something of that kind. Sir, this is not the spirit in which I approach the question. I recognise that this debate in this House has stood in some respects upon a very high level. When first I knew that it was inevitable that this subject should be discussed, I confess I pictured to myself the probability that feelings would be aroused, strong expressions would be used and that bitterness would be expressed, and that at the end of it we should be worse off than at the beginning, because something like animosity would have been engendered. I am happy to say that with quite insignificant exceptions any expectation of that kind has been most happily disappointed. I have heard no bitterness, no expressions of animosity and no expressions of racial feeling such as I had feared. But what I have heard and what the House has heard has been quite sufficient to show how delicate a question this is. It is not a question in which only the feelings of one set of persons are concerned. It is a matter in which the feelings of more than one class or type of men are concerned and one in which it is fairly evident that even the feelings of those who desire the removal of the statue are not entirely undivided. It was quite evident from the course of the debate that every one recognised the great and unparalleled services of John Lawrence to the Punjab. (Hear, hear). That great Irishman came to this province at a time when it was suffering from disorder and trouble and almost from anarchy and it was a splendid service, that he restored or rather he began the restoration of it to a condition which has led to a state of affairs in which the people of the province face their rulers on terms of equality, sitting opposite to them in the Council Chamber and telling them without fear or favour precisely what they think of him. (Hear, hear). If any proof is needed to show how great is the advance in independence of spirit which has been made by this province, surely the speeches which have been made here should suffice to show it. We have heard the members sitting opposite to us speak, without any trace of bitterness or animosity, but nevertheless not hesitating to tell us that we have been opposed to what they regard as being the natural desires of the people of this province. If it had not been for men such as Lord Lawrence and those who followed him, is it conceivable to any one who remembers the history of the old rulers of this province, is it conceivable that any one could have ventured to express himself as so many members have done to-day in the perfect confidence that they would not in any way forfeit any consideration and that they were not in any way in danger of their own safety? If there has been, as there has been, a feeling even among those who desire a change of some sort in respect to the statue, that the removal of the statue may be taken as in some sort a reproach to the person whose memory was honoured by its erection, if this feeling exists even among those who desire a change, what should we think of the feelings of those others who are in a small minority in the province and who clearly consider that the removal of the memorial would be an insult to their feelings (A voice: A new statue may be put up easily). I did not catch what the honourable member said, but I will only remind the House that this feeling does exist among a certain community that community is in a minority and the feelings of that community must also be considered.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: The honourable member suggested that a new statue may be substituted in its place.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : That is irrelevant to the question I am discussing. The fact remains that the feeling exists and it is the duty of the Government to consider the feelings of all classes of its subjects. Let me not be misunderstood. I am not one of those who say that the feelings of the other section should not be regarded. I recognise that there are Indians, and not a few of them, who regard this statue as a sort of a standing reminder of the fact of conquest. That I recognise to be probably a perfectly genuine feeling. (Hear, hear). Those members who said that I regard that feeling as merely imaginary and an exaggeration misunderstood me and misunderstood the Government. We know such a feeling does exist. It has been demonstrated here. I fully realise also the importance and strength of that argument which one honourable member put to this House when he said 'we must not help the extremists by leaving intact something by means of which they can arouse ill-feeling against the existing Government'. All those things I fully recognise. But I ask those who feel aggrieved by the statue to analyse their own feelings and to see to what extent they are actually justified by the facts. I have tried to put myself in the position of those honourable members who feel that this statue is a standing reminder of something of which they ought not to be rudely reminded. I have tried to analyse that feeling and I think that there are two currents of thought running through their feelings on the subject of the statue. One of these as it appears to me is the feeling that this statue was rejected in London where its erection was originally intended, because the people in London regarded it as an affront to the spirit of liberty. Honourable members who have this view have misread the situation. The statue was made at a time when conventionalism in art and in everything else was rampant in English society. What the Englishmen who did not desire to have the statue in London saw was that it was a statue of an extremely unconventional type and attitude and so they did not like to have it erected in a public place in London. There was no such feeling on the subject of thought of conquest in the statue. A little reflection will convince everyone that the notion that the statue is an affront to the spirit of liberty could not have affected the feelings of people in London; for the supposed sentiment of the statue and its inscription could not anyhow have been an offence to Londoners, who were not directly concerned in events in the Punjab. This is one of the misunderstandings which I think are responsible for the creation of this feeling on the subject of the statue. But there is another and this other is to my mind an even more potent explanation of the feeling which the statue has created. It appears to me that some people fancy that the mere suggestion of the use of force in any form is an insult to any people against whom it is suggested or rather against a section of whom it is suggested that force might be used. That of course is based on the idea that the use of the sword suggests the notion that the people in question is a conquered people. Now if honourable members will reflect for a moment and will remember history and will remember politics, they will see that there is not a single country on the face of the earth where it is not necessary to make use of force, to make use of the sword, against some section which threatens the tranquility of the whole. Even in America, that republican country, theoretically freest of all, you may see the police going about armed with revolvers and singularly ready to use them against any one who infringes public tranquility. Even in England the police are equipped in

order to deal with disorder and there also is a force which will be used if necessary for suppressing any menace to public tranquility. This statue and the sword it bears is not a suggestion of conquest, but a reminder that even in the most civilized and perfect conditions it still remains necessary to make use of force for the repression of the criminal and the repression of disorder. (Hear and hear and cheers).

There are many services, Sir, which Lord Lawrence rendered to the cause of peace. I am not going to give a catalogue of all those services. I am sure they are very fresh in the minds of many honourable members here present to-day. But certain things, I must remind this Council of, because they have not hitherto been mentioned in detail, by any speaker. If any one might have had any complaint against John Lawrence, it must be the representatives of the old aristocracy of this province. He was not always very tender to the representatives of the old aristocracy. He was not very tender to the holders of jagirs. He was always the champion of the common men, of the ordinary masses of the people. It was he who fought for tenant rights not only in the Punjab, but also in Bengal and in Oudh. Always he had before him the great object of improving the lot of the common man. Let that be remembered by those who perhaps are at present only too ready to think that the removal of the statue is a matter which can be lightly undertaken. He it was who brought the chaotic land revenue and other local taxation to order. Land revenue was being collected at the rate of two-fifths to one-third of the gross produce. He reduced it to that standard which to-day makes it a very little more than one-tenth of the gross produce. He it was who put an end to that confusion which existed in the matter of internal taxation. No less than 47 articles were being taxed by various authorities who had established barriers on twelve different lines across the province. All that was put an end to when John Lawrence took the reins of power. It was he who cut the first sod of the first Punjab Railway. It was he who first set in motion the making of plans for the Upper Bari Doab Canal, the first of those canals which have brought irrigation to the uplands of this province. It was he who first established the Letter Post which is a boon to the ordinary man in this province. It was he who first taught men to cease to slaughter infant daughters. It was he who put an end to the practice of *sati* in the Punjab. All these were things which John Lawrence did for this province. It was he who brought this province into that mould in which it has now proudly advanced so far in the path of civilisation. And let me remind honourable members again of this. Among the acts which John Lawrence did in the cause of peace there are certain things which he could never have done if the sword had not been in his hand. When he entered upon his period of power in the province, the country was full of thugs and dacoits. The dacoits were oppressing the inhabitants of the country and the thugs, the very meaning of which perhaps the gentlemen of to-day have almost forgotten, were also ruining the security of the country and destroying the lives of many innocent persons.

The extent and the virulence of that evil was well-illustrated in a conversation which General Lawrence had with a certain old offender who had given himself up to justice and become an approver. General Lawrence said to this Thug: Can you give me a list of persons whom you have done to death in all these years of destruction. The Thug replied with a smile: "Sir, do you remember all the animals that you have killed in the course of your *siftar* during all these years?" Sir, could these things have been dealt with without the sword? Could these things have been put an

[Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.]

end to without the use of force and will people now say that because it is suggested that General Lawrence had to use the sword as well as the pen, therefore the people of the Province are insulted and that they complain of the taunt as being uttered against them as being a race of cowards? (Hear, hear). Where no insult is intended, none should be imagined and I ask the Council to reject this resolution and so, enable the Government to seek a proper solution of this delicate question in a calm atmosphere and I assure the Council, that I personally shall consider it my duty to help to find such a solution (Hear, hear).

Mr. President : The resolution proposed runs—

"This Council recommends to the Government that immediate steps be taken to remove the Lawrence Statue from its present site on the Mall, at Lahore."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The Council divided : Ayes 24, Noes 38.

AYES 24.

Chaudhri Najib-ud-Din Khan.
Sardar Narain Singh.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Mian Abdul Aziz.
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
Sardar Har Chand Singh.
Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.
Sayad Muhammad Husain.
Pandit Nanak Chand.
Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.

Professor Buchi 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.
Mr. Labh Singh.
Lala Mohan Lal.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.

NOES 38.

Mr. W. P. Sargster.
Colonel C. R. Bakble.
Mr. C. A. Farron.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. W. Mayes.
Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan
Sir George Anderson.
Lieut.-Col. C. A. Gill.
The Hon'ble Rai Sahib Chaudhri
Chhotu Ram.
The Hon'ble Mian Sir Fazl-i-
Husain.
The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar
Sundar Singh, Majithia.
The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
Mr. J. G. Beazley.
Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. J. M. Dunnett.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
Dr. C. A. Owen.
Mr. Owen Roberts.
Mr. J. Coldstream.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-
Din.
Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
Mir Maqbool Mahmood.
Sardar Bahadur Sardar Jowahir
Singh.
Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Rai Shahadat Khan.
Khan Bahadur Sir Sayad Mehdi
Shah.
Sayad Husain Shah.
Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
Chaudhri Nur Din.
Chaudhri Muhammad Shah Ali
Khan.
Sardar Randhir Singh.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Mr. E. Maya Das.
Chaudhri Kesar Singh.

The motion was lost.

**RESOLUTION RE REFUND OF INDEMNITY TO THE INHABITANTS AND
THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, GUJRANWALA.**

Lala Diwan Chand [Amritsar City (Non-Muhammadan)] (Urdu) : Sir, the resolution balloted in my name runs thus :—

"This Council recommends to the Government that the indemnity realised from the inhabitants and the Municipal Committee of Gujranwala under the Police Act (V of 1861) in 1919 may be refunded."

Sir, as a result of the disturbances of March 1919 indemnities were imposed on Amritsar, Kasur and Gujranwala, but later on the indemnities of the former two cities were remitted and refunded and a very invidious distinction was made in the case of Gujranwala which cannot be justified. The violence committed at Amritsar and Kasur had nothing in common with the disturbance that took place at Gujranwala. Whatever happened at Gujranwala was the direct outcome of the general excitement prevailing in those days. I would not like to consider the causes of this excitement at this moment for I believe that every one of us is fully aware of the facts that were responsible for it. The city and the Municipal Committee had to pay off one and one-and-a-half lakhs of rupees respectively by way of indemnity. The main object underlying the resolution is to move the Government to take mercy in the case of Gujranwala as well and refund the indemnity realized from the inhabitants and Municipal Committee of Gujranwala.

Mr. President : Resolution proposed runs—

"This Council recommends to the Government that the indemnity realised from the inhabitants and the Municipal Committee of Gujranwala under the Police Act (V of 1861) in 1919 may be refunded."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

Mr. Labh Singh [Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Division, North (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, the proposition that has been moved by my esteemed friend Lala Diwan Chand needs no lengthy argument to commend itself to the House. I shall briefly with your permission touch upon some of the aspects of the question which seem to me to be important. The history of the case is something like this that an indemnity to the tune of Rs. 2,50,000 was levied as a fine on the inhabitants of Gujranwala under section 15-A of the Police Act, in connection with the disturbances of 1919. The terms of the Government order were that the whole amount must be realised by direct taxation and the entire amount must be paid in three instalments, and that each instalment must consist of one-third of the whole sum required. So the instalments would amount to nine months' rent. A fruitseller perhaps paying Rs. 20 for a shop front would have to pay Rs. 80 by way of direct taxation in addition to rent. Those who were assessed to income-tax had to pay $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the income-tax. The owners of buildings were taxed at 3 per cent. of the ground-value. This is in substance, Sir, the order that was passed by the Government. My first contention is this. This order levying fine on the inhabitants of Gujranwala under the Police Act is *ultra vires* the powers of Government. Section 15-A of the Police Act reads like this :—

"(1) If, in any area in regard to which any proclamation notified under the last preceding section is in force, death or grievous hurt or loss of, or damage to, property has been caused by or has ensued from the misconduct of the inhabitants of such area or any class or section of them, it shall be lawful for any person, being an inhabitant of such area, who claims to have suffered injury from such misconduct to make, within one month from the date of

[Mr. Labh Singh.]

the injury or such shorter period as may be prescribed, an application for compensation to the Magistrate of the district or of the sub-division of a district within which such area is situated.

(2) It shall thereupon be lawful for the Magistrate of the District, with the sanction of the Local Government after such enquiry as he may deem necessary, and whether any additional Police force has or has not been quartered in such area under the last preceding section, to—

- (a) declare the person to whom injury has been caused by or has been ensued from such misconduct;
- (b) fix the amount of compensation to be paid to such persons and the manner in which it is to be distributed among them; and
- (c) assess the proportion in which the same shall be paid by the inhabitants of such area other than the applicant who shall not have been exempted from liability to pay under the next succeeding sub-section."

and so on. The orders passed by the Government purported to have been passed under section 15-A of the Police Act. As I have already read, this section contemplates that action will not be taken unless the conditions enumerated in section 15 have already been fulfilled.

Section 15 says—

"(1) It shall be lawful for the Local Government, by proclamation, to be notified in the Official Gazette, and in such other manner as the Local Government shall direct, to declare that any area subject to its authority has been found to be in a disturbed or dangerous state, or that, from the conduct of the inhabitants of such area or of any class or section of them, it is expedient to increase the number of Police.

(2) It shall thereupon be lawful for the Inspector-General of Police, etc., etc."

In other words, before any order under section 15-A levying fine on the inhabitants of any locality is passed, conditions under section 15 should be fulfilled. I respectfully submit, Sir, that this order under section 15-A levying fine on the people of Gujranwala was passed when no such notification had been issued nor had the other conditions laid down in section 15 been fulfilled. Firstly, as I have indicated, Sir, the proclamation notifying the town to be in a disturbed or dangerous state must be in force at the time the damage to property has been caused by or has ensued from the misconduct of the inhabitants. The disturbance took place on the 14th April while the notification by the Government under section 15 of the Police Act was not issued till the 15th or the 16th April, and therefore I would submit that this condition which is laid down under section 15 had not been fulfilled. Another condition which also was not fulfilled is that the real miscreants cannot be traced after due diligence. This condition also cannot be said to have been fulfilled for the very simple and obvious reason that hundreds of people were sentenced to varying terms of imprisonments, by the magistrates and the martial law tribunals in connection with offences alleged to have been committed during the disturbances. So it cannot be said reasonably that the real miscreants who had done the mischief or caused damage or loss to property were not forthcoming or could not be traced. The third condition, Sir, is that the persons who suffered injury should be those who were themselves free from blame in respect of the occurrences which led to such loss or injury. This is a very important condition, Sir, which is laid down in section 15-A. I respectfully submit, Sir, that even this condition had not been fulfilled, as I shall attempt to show subsequently. In

view of these things, Sir, I have to submit that section 15-A of the Police Act under which this fine was levied did not apply to the case of Gujranwala for the reasons which I have tried to enumerate. I therefore assert that the order of the Government was altogether illegal and *ultra vires* the authority of the Government.

Secondly, Sir, there is another good reason why this amount which was levied should be refunded. This fine was levied most arbitrarily. Its incidence was manifestly unjust and unequal. It happened like this. In the first place no enquiry as is contemplated in section 15-A was made. If any enquiry was made, it was made in camera to which the public had no access, and therefore that enquiry was really not worth much and did not come within the meaning of the law as enunciated in section 15-A of the Police Act. Secondly, Sir, certain arbitrary exemptions were made in favour of persons who were in the good books of the authorities. Certain persons were without rhyme or reason exempted. The order of the local officer laid down that no person was to be exempted except Government servants, municipal and district board servants. Government servants of the railway, telegraph and post office were arbitrarily excluded even from this exemption and had to pay like other individuals. That is one of the arbitrary orders passed by the magistrate responsible for the levy of this fine. Again, elsewhere I find specified individuals exempted and one whole class exempted, for example the Christian population of the station in their capacity as Christians. In addition to these exemptions in favour of particular classes and in favour of particular sections, exemptions were made in favour of particular individuals for no rhyme or reason except the sweet will of the person who was charged with the authority to levy these fines. Sir, this was quite iniquitous. Sir, I have with me receipts issued to persons who had been compelled to pay these fines and they paid under protest and it was so recited in the receipts issued to them. This, I say is iniquitous, and that is another reason why these fines should be refunded.

Another aspect of the question which has a bearing here is this, that about a lakh of rupees were realized from the people indiscriminately without the burden being evenly distributed. The remaining one lakh and fifty thousand were appropriated, or shall I say misappropriated, from the municipal funds. It should be remembered that after the disturbances the municipal committee of Gujranwala was suspended and in its place was substituted a body of members nominated by the Magistrate who was in charge of the affairs there. It was during the régime of this wholly nominated body that a sum of one lakh and fifty thousand was taken away from the funds of the municipal committee and paid towards the liquidation of this fine. From this it is apparent that a sum of rupees one lakh was collected directly from certain individuals and another one lakh and fifty thousand was realized indirectly, so to speak, from the people and thus some had to pay twice while others went entirely free.

Another reason why I claim that refund should be made to the municipal committee of Gujranwala is this. I understand that these fines have been remitted in the case of Amritsar, Kasur and other places. In the report annually submitted to Parliament and compiled by Dr. Rushbrook Williams under the authority of the Government of India entitled 'India in 1921-22' on page 51 it is set out that—

"Public opinion was further gratified by the payment of compensation to Indian sufferers upon a liberal scale, and the relief of the towns of Amritsar, Kasur and Gujranwala from the indemnities imposed upon them."

[Mr. Labh Singh.]

It is admitted that the relief was granted in the case of Amritsar and Kasur, while in the case of Gujranwala matters stand where they stood and no relief has been granted at all. There seems to be no earthly reason why invidious treatment should be meted out to Gujranwala. I shall show later on that there are very good reasons why, if remission was to be made at all, it should have been made first of all in favour of Gujranwala. The last and most important reason why this refund should be made is that the people of Gujranwala were really more sinned against than sinning; I do not propose to rake up the bitter memories of old days. It will serve no purpose to allude to past events except to the extent that it will be necessary to do so to reinforce my argument in the case submitted before you. It is known to all that the people of Gujranwala were subjected to all sorts of humiliations and indignities. They suffered much beyond what they deserved. Moreover, what happened in Gujranwala was nothing compared to what took place at Kasur or Amritsar.

As a matter of fact, there was only one single instance of a reported assault on a police officer. It was not exactly an assault, but it was magnified into a murderous assault by the standards of magnification which prevailed in those days. It was really an attempt on the part of a young man to snatch a pistol from the hands of the District Superintendent of Police who was going to fire at him, in a way imploring him not to fire at him because he was not doing any mischief. That was what happened at Gujranwala so far as any attempt in the direction of assaults and personal injury were concerned. Then there remains only the question of damage that was done to property. It is a well-known fact that one of the most disconcerting mysteries connected with the affairs at Gujranwala on the 14th April 1919 was that a carcass was hung up by the girders of a railway bridge. This bridge was situated in the close vicinity of as many as half a dozen places of public worship. This exasperated the holiday makers, the Baisakhi revellers who had gathered together at the railway station and most of whom were on their way from Eminabad to Wazirabad. The sight or the news of the butchered calf gave great offence to the people who thereupon became roudy with the result that the police fired indiscriminately; the people on their part having been thus doubly provoked took to setting fire to the buildings which were immediately before them. As I was saying, Sir, it is one of the most disconcerting mysteries surrounding Gujranwala affairs in those days that up till now, no clue has been furnished as to who were the persons whose malignant ingenuity designed the hanging of a carcass by the girders of a railway bridge in the vicinity of temples. Special police was deputed to investigate into this affair. The energies of the C. I. D. were spent to the very best on this investigation and yet up till now no light has been thrown as to who were the persons responsible for the hanging up of a carcass. It is incredible that the Government should be ignorant of the real culprit. Or if knowing it, the Government do not divulge his identity, the people cannot be blamed for believing that it must have been some agent provocateur of the police who did the nefarious deed. My submission at all events is that what happened at Gujranwala happened under very grave and sudden provocation and the people were responsible for it only in an indirect way. The people of Gujranwala town in any event had only a very limited hand in the matter.

Sir, as I have already submitted it is a well-known fact which anybody who takes the trouble of reading the evidence which was led before the Hunter Committee or the one which was tendered before the Congress Enquiry Committee may learn that the people who were responsible for the mischief done at Gujranwala were not the people of the town, but they were really mostly rustic people from outside who had come there for holiday making. It is those people who were on their way to the Wazirabad fair and who detained at Gujranwala for merry making that had set fire to the various buildings under grave and sudden provocation as the evidence which was laid before the Hunter Committee and the Congress Enquiry Committee amply shows. For all these reasons, Sir, to my mind it seems that a very cogent and a good case has been made out for the refund of the indemnity which was levied from the people as well as the municipal committee of Gujranwala. As I have already submitted, there seems to be no warrant for making any invidious distinction against the people of Gujranwala. They have terribly suffered, they have suffered most tragically and there seems to be absolutely no reason why an adversely discriminative treatment should be meted out to them. With these words, Sir, I request the House to vote unanimously for this resolution.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood [Amritsar (Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, I rise to support the resolution even though I differ from some of the arguments advanced by my honourable friends. I am not concerned with the legal aspect of this indemnity, nor am I here to argue out whether the officials committed excesses in Gujranwala or the people there did so. That is not the issue at the present moment. I feel that in the martial law days, excesses were committed by the officials and by the non-officials and I condemn both these excesses be they by officials or non-officials. That question does not arise for the moment. After the martial law days, when feelings on both sides were bitter, there came the proclamation of the King-Emperor. His Majesty wanted the people to forget those unhappy memories and in response to that proclamation many of us tried our best to make the people forget them. But I declare that we were not successful in our attempts and at that time the declaration of the King-Emperor was not followed by remission of indemnity in Amritsar and similar other concessions; but there were only remission of sentences against some of the leaders. The indemnity imposed upon Gujranwala formed part of this episode. My submission to the Government benches and the honourable member in charge of this department is: have they proved that they have any special reasons for indicting a whole city. I dare say that the Government will concede that during martial law days there were in Gujranwala itself people who had no hand in this mischief either directly or indirectly. All the people would not have had a hand in the atrocities committed by some of the people. There were some innocent men in Gujranwala who had no direct concern whatsoever with these matters. There were certainly in Gujranwala during those martial law days people who were actively sympathising and supporting the Government in the maintenance of law and order. This imposition of indemnity on the municipal committee as a whole makes no distinction between those who had nothing to do with the atrocities committed and those who were active participants in the crime. So far as I have been able to see, there is none and I feel that especially after the proclamation of His Majesty wherein he wants us to forgive and forget, there is no justification for continuing the indictment on a whole city. After the grievances were redressed and after the bitterness

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

between the people and the Government was removed, some of us were very anxious to work in the interest of law and order. But I feel that lack of exemptions in places like Gujranwala deprives us of the many arguments which we mean to advance in the public in assurance and in support of the point of view of the Government. After the martial law atrocities, the King-Emperor's desire was that we should forgive and forget those atrocities. As my honourable friend pointed out, no concessions were made and as far as I can study the files, Gujranwala has been taken to be an exception from the general remission of indemnities. Unless the Government can prove to us, and they have not proved so far, that Gujranwala was in any way worse off than the other places and that the indemnity imposed on the municipality will not fall on many innocent people, I and those who agree with me must support the resolution.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar [East and West Central Towns (Muham-madan) Urban] (Urdu): Sir, there is a very short time at our disposal, hence I would not dwell long on the subject. I would say a few words in support of the resolution. I would like to say quite frankly in the very first instance that I do not take lightly the disturbances that took place at Amritsar, Kasur and Gujranwala. I can never approve of the criminal assaults made on various persons or other excesses of the people committed in those days. I equally disapprove the action taken by many of the Government servants in this respect. To my mind the chief reason in favour of the resolution is that the indemnities thus realized from the city and the municipal committee fell equally on the innocent and the guilty. I believe that the majority of the citizens who were thus penalized had absolutely no hand in the commission of offences like arson and plunder and although some of the inhabitants have been exempted, those who have not been exempted include a large number of innocent persons. As regards the sum paid by the municipal committee of Gujranwala I would submit that that also came out of the pockets of all the citizens. When the indemnities imposed on cities like Amritsar and Kasur that were directly responsible for the occurrences at Gujranwala had been remitted I do not see any earthly reason to make Gujranwala an exception to this. We are often advised by the Government to act on the policy of forgive and forget. Let the Government forgive and the people would forget, otherwise there is a danger that bad blood would continue to breed amongst the people.

The legal aspect of the question has already been clearly and fully dealt with by Mr. Labh Singh and I do not see any necessity of discussing the question any further from the legal point of view. I hope the honourable members would give their support to the resolution and the Government would see their way to refund the indemnities realized from the inhabitants and municipal committee of Gujranwala.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett (Home Secretary): Sir, I have an initial difficulty, apart from the difficulty of having been somewhat taken by surprise, and it is this. I do not know whether to reply to the honourable mover of the resolution and one or two of his supporters who spoke in Urdu or to reply to what I consider to be the most detailed speech made by the honourable member Mr. Labh Singh, in English.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: Speak in English.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett: My object is merely to give the information on which the House can frame its opinion. A number of arguments has been advanced in favour of this resolution and the objections taken in regard to this particular question of indemnity concern to a very large extent what we know as *baakh* of the demand. But that is not the real scope of the resolution. The real object of the resolution was raised by my honourable friend Mr. Labh Singh towards the end of his speech. The real question is whether an unjust and an unduly heavy assessment has not only been placed upon Gujranwala but realized from Gujranwala and which should now be refunded. I can only speak for a short time and must necessarily pass hastily over the points I have to make and I would make this point clear now and here. There is no analogy between Gujranwala and Amritsar as far as this resolution goes. All that the Government has done so far was to leave the case of Amritsar to the discretion of the House absolutely and its decision was to waive the outstanding demand. No sum that has been collected from any of these places named has yet been refunded. There is no precedent for what we are now asked to do and it is something that goes far beyond what the House has done till now.

Now, Sir, as to the actual assessment. I will presently come to the point whether the assessment should not have been made or should be made. As to the amount of assessment, all I would say is that when section 15-A was applied, it was really the duty of the district magistrate to find out the actual amount to be levied. A special officer was placed at his disposal and an enquiry was made and the result of this enquiry was that the damage done was assessed at Rs. 6.50 lakhs or thereabouts.

Mr. Labh Singh: It was only assessed at Rs. 2.50 lakhs.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett: I am further told that it cost nearly 11 lakhs to build the railway station.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: I submit, Sir, that is a new station and the impression should not be conveyed to the House that the whole sum was spent in repairs.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett: The point is this, investigation was made at the time and the claims put in were scrutinized. Excluding the damage done to the goods and the goods shed, the damage caused was assessed at Rs. 6.50 lakhs.

Mr. Labh Singh: The damage was only Rs. 2.50 lakhs.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett: The amount of damage assessed by the investigating officer was Rs. 6.50 lakhs.

Mr. Labh Singh: No, Sir, the damage was only, assessed at Rs. 2.50 lakhs.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett: I am not talking of the final amount imposed. A special officer was deputed to estimate the damage done to the various buildings and the amount assessed under section 15-A (1) was Rs. 6.50 lakhs. That was in the year 1919. At the beginning of 1920 the Government ordered a further investigation to be made in order to see how much of the materials and the buildings damaged could be used again for rebuilding and how far the demand already made could be reduced. As a result of subjecting the estimate to the closest scrutiny and after giving to the burnt up materials and the buildings their full value the Government reduced the claim and after such reduction the total claim came to Rs. 2.50 lakhs.

[Mr. J. M. Dunnett.]

That is to say, what was ascertained under section 15-A was 6½ lakhs and by *re'ayat* and cutting down the demand and allowing for all materials and so on it was reduced to Rs. 2,40,000. That is I think section 15-A. There is a small demand which no one has yet dealt with, for punitive police which was something like Rs. 11,000, and as no one in the House has thought of discussing it, I presume I can pass it over. Now, Sir, the point I wish to make is that the total demand has been made with the greatest generosity. A vindictive spirit has not been specifically attributed to Government, but it is *naflum* in the argument, but if that spirit had been in Government the demand of Rs. 6,50,000 would have been retained and it would not have been curtailed to Rs. 2,40,000. I would like to proceed with that argument, but I must push on. It is then said not that it was unjust to assess this whole demand on Gujranwala, but that Gujranwala acted under sudden excitement. It has been suggested that some malign person insulted the religion of various pilgrims and therefore all this happened. On the other hand, I would point out to you that when a judicial inquiry was made in Gujranwala it was found that when all the disturbances took place in other places, Amritsar and so on, nothing happened here. On the 12th the city people met and decided that they would follow Amritsar. On the 18th, a private meeting was held and the Commission found that they determined to follow the example of Amritsar and arrange for the burning of bridges and the cutting of telegraph wires. Did these people act under excitement?

Then, Sir, various objections and most of the objections have been taken to the "*back*" and not to the assessment. Then it is said that various people have been let off. And one or two of the speakers have assumed that the whole of the demand was thrown on the municipality and therefore it fell on the just and the unjust alike.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar: I did not mean that the whole of it was thrown on the municipality. All I said was that that portion of it which was realized from the municipality was so to say realized from all.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett (continued): The demand having been reduced to Rs. 2,40,000 the actual collections, I think, from private persons were Rs. 88,000. The rest was accepted as a liability by the committee and paid by them. My friend Mr. Beazley will explain to you what was paid, but I do not think it actually was the fact that since Government could not realize from individual persons the Government went and put its hand in peoples' pockets by taking it out of the municipality.

Sir, I do not wish to take the time of the House too much because after all this is not by any means a burning question of very great importance. The small attendance of members at this debate shows how little interest is taken in the matter. I will sum up and say that the assessment was made with the greatest leniency, that there is no analogy between Gujranwala and the other cities, that we are asked to refund money that has been realized, and that no injustice to the people of Gujranwala has been done.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban]: Sir, I think it my duty to support the resolution which has been moved by Lala Diwan Chand and so ably supported by my honourable friend Mr. Labh Singh. The question involved in this resolution is really the justi-

fication of the imposition of the indemnity at the time and the propriety of refunding it at this time. Mr. La'h Singh has dealt with both the questions at a fair length and I do not think it necessary to repeat the arguments that he has given. I would just say one or two things in connection with the question. Before a whole city can be penalised, I think there ought to be some material before the Government or Government's agents to believe that the city as a whole had something to do with the damage that was done to public property. There is not the least doubt that a good deal of public property and perhaps some semi-public property was destroyed or damaged at Gujranwala. We all know that the station was nearly burnt down, the post office and the telegraph office also were destroyed and a part of the courts was also destroyed and perhaps an English church was also damaged. We all regretted it very much at that time and we all regret it very much at this time. I do not think there will be anyone either in this House or outside this House who could ever justify in the remotest possible manner the deeds of those persons who were responsible for the destruction of this property. Still there is an important fact that this Council should not be led away by the mere fact of the damage done to that property. The question is what hand the city of Gujranwala had in the destruction of that property. We know and you know, Sir, very well that in those days the plea of conspiracy was raised in all the prosecutions that were launched by the Government against a number of persons and in fact the foundation of all those prosecutions was that there was a general conspiracy into which some people in this province had entered either among themselves or with some people of other provinces. A number of trials were held and a large number of witnesses were produced in those trials and yet I say and I say it without any fear of contradiction that the prosecution in every case had miserably failed to prove the existence of any conspiracy. If that is so, my submission is that the city of Gujranwala as such is entirely exonerated from any responsibility for the destruction of the property at Gujranwala which no doubt everybody regrets. The 13th of April was a fatal day and that led to another fatal day, the 14th, at Gujranwala and perhaps other places in the Punjab. That day fell on the Baisakhi day and as honourable members of this House are aware, the Baisakhi fair lasts in many places for more than one day. It is held in fact on the real Baisakhi day, on the 1st of Baisakh in the Gujranwala District at Eminabad and on the next day at Wazirabad. People celebrated this fell on the 13th at Eminabad and then in the usual course they were going from Eminabad to Wazirabad, and it was really in the train that they learnt from some people who had returned from Amritsar of the dreadful occurrences at Amritsar. They had also heard of the massacre that had taken place by that time in the now well-known Jallianwala Bagh. That was responsible for the excitement that was caused among hundreds of people who travelled from Eminabad to Gujranwala in various trains. Perhaps in those days some special trains are run between these places, so that the number of people travelling between Eminabad and Wazirabad must have been very large. Naturally when they found that such dreadful things had happened at Amritsar, their feelings got excited. Many passengers from Eminabad got down at the Gujranwala station either because they had no intention to go to Wazirabad or just to break their journey there or only as a matter of fun during the short halt of the train. It was somehow by mob psychology, some influence which guides the actions of mobs assembling on the occasions of fairs or such other occasions that entered into the

[Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.]

heads of the people who had got down from the trains to do something to show their resentment at what had occurred at Amritsar. And I believe, Sir, that it was merely an expression of resentment at the occurrences of Amritsar that those people started doing damage to the property. So far as we are aware, even up to the 14th, people as a whole even in Lahore had not come to know of what had taken place in Amritsar, so that the people of Gujranwala could not have known what had happened at Amritsar. They had had no immediate provocation. The whole affair of the destruction of property is to be traced practically to people who had either returned from Amritsar or to people who had been excited by hearing the stories of excesses at Amritsar. If this is so, my submission is that this damage was done by people who are not traceable and the people of Gujranwala as such had absolutely no hand in it. I do not say for a moment that some people who are generally bent upon mischief of some sort did not join in this affair, but that number is certainly very small as compared with the number of people who were penalised in this incident.

Then there is the question of iniquity in the imposition of the fine which stares us in the face. I myself belong to that district and I went to Gujranwala after the atmosphere had cleared up. I made enquiries in various places and found that the people had been subjected to all sorts of humiliations and all sorts of injury. A number of persons lost their lives, a number of persons were injured by bombs thrown from aeroplanes which it is extremely to be regretted were thrown without any discrimination whatsoever. If those people suffered for the misdeeds of those with whom they had no connection, can it be said that it was fair that on the top of those sufferings they should be made to pay such a large sum as two lakhs and fifty thousand for damages, to property with which they had no connection. (A voice : Question). Even after the reservation made by me and the qualified manner in which I have made my statement, if there is still any room for question, I regret I cannot help it. But the question broadly stated comes to this, that out of a population of some 40,000 in Gujranwala, not a single person except those who were specially exempted without any rhyme or reason as stated by Mr. Labh Singh, escaped the payment of this fine. There were widows and orphans who did not know even what political agitation meant, who did not even know what had happened at Amritsar, who did not even feel any resentment at what took place at Amritsar or elsewhere, and yet they had also to pay this iniquitous tax. Certainly there were some people from whom money could be easily and readily collected and they were denuded of a lakh of rupees and there were others from whom money could not be realized without difficulty. In lieu of that one lakh and fifty thousand were realised from the municipality which is really the custodian of the purse of the people, so that the same people had to pay heavily twice over once by way of direct taxation and again indirectly by way of indirect taxation, inasmuch as it was their money that was lying in the hands of the municipality. There were some who escaped payment because by their creed or by their occupation they were exempted from the payment of this indemnity.

Then again, Sir, if you look at the legal aspect of the question, of course, I am speaking subject to correction and with full realization of the possibility of difference of opinion on a question of law such as this, I feel that Mr. Labh Singh has made out a very strong case from a purely legal point of

view that the imposition of this indemnity at Gujranwala was absolutely illegal. If there had been any likelihood of disturbances breaking out at Gujranwala, it was necessary that some steps should be taken and proclamation under section 15 of the Police Act issued. If after this proclamation the disturbances had taken place and damage to property caused, then I think from a purely legal point of view the indemnity would have been justified and no legal objection could have been raised against it. The proclamation was issued some days after the disturbances took place, and therefore to impose this indemnity upon the people *prima facie* appears to be absolutely illegal. I am not sure if the people of Gujranwala have been advised to test the legality of the imposition of the indemnity by bringing in a civil suit against the Secretary of State. Whether the matter is within limitation it is for the legal advisers of the people to advise them, but if there is time I will certainly advise them to test the legality of this imposition unless this strictly just, sound and humane resolution is accepted by the Government.....

Mr. President : The honourable member has two minutes more.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Very well, Sir, Mr. Dunnett just remarked, judging from the paucity of attendance in this House, that the honourable members were not taking interest in this question. I may respectfully submit that his reading of the situation is entirely wrong. So far as I can gauge the feelings of honourable members of this House, they feel that it is a resolution about which they need not be very anxious, because it is so sound and so reasonable that even the Government members would not offer any opposition to it. Therefore no inference can be drawn from the temporary absence from the House of the members that they are not interested in this subject. They believe in the good sense of the Government and expect that even without showing any mass force on this occasion the resolution would succeed. Whether their confidence is justified is for the honourable members opposite to prove.

Mr. J. G. Beazley (Secretary, Transferred Departments) : Sir, I wish to deal with only one aspect of the question. I am not concerned here in meeting the arguments whether the original imposition of this fine was justified or not. The resolution proposed that the amount paid should be refunded. I shall merely examine what has been paid by the municipality. Much has been made of the fact that the municipality took upon itself to pay this levy on behalf of the people on whom it had been directly imposed, the levy thereby being distributed on almost all the municipal inhabitants indirectly. But what are the facts of the case? In 1919 the municipal committee received from the Government Rs. 1,28,000 for a water supply scheme. No additional taxation was imposed on the people by the municipality. The municipal committee found it convenient to abandon its water supply scheme on the ground that the rise in water level had enabled the people to sink their own wells. The fine of a lakh and a half was paid out of the municipal balances of which Rs. 1,23,000 came from the Government.....

Mr. Labh Singh : Sir, I rise to a word of explanation. The sum of Rs. 1,28,000 was originally paid to the municipality for water supply scheme, but it was subsequently transferred.....

Mr. J. G. Beazley : I rise to a point of order, Sir. He is not entitled to reply to what I am saying.

Mr. Labh Singh : I am only correcting the statement made by the honourable member. The grant of Rs. 1,28,000 which was originally made in connection with the water supply scheme was subsequently transferred to drainage and so it is a grant to the municipality for purposes of executing its drainage scheme.

Mr. J. G. Beazley : Sir, the honourable member compels me to delve still further into the peculiarities of municipal administration in Gujranwala. The municipality having paid the fine from the money granted for the water supply scheme applied to be allowed to divert the money to a drainage scheme. The Sanitary Board agreed to this proposal and awaited the completion of the necessary formalities. In 1922 the papers were returned to the municipal committee at its own request when it was asked to assure the Sanitary Board that it would maintain the drainage scheme. Nothing more was heard for sometime. The drainage scheme has never been carried out and in fact cannot now be carried out as the committee has so neglected its duty of controlling building operations that many of the lines of drainage projected are now built over. Therefore, as a matter of fact so far as the municipal contribution to the fine is concerned it has made practically no payment whatsoever and there is nothing to be refunded. On the contrary it looks as if the municipality should refund to Government the money which has been granted to it. (Cheers).

Sardar Narain Singh [Rawalpindi Division and Gujranwala (Sikh) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, we have now a very limited time at our disposal and there is hardly any occasion for a long speech. I have studied section 15-A of the Police Act and I am of opinion that it does not at all apply to the case of Gujranwala. The notification (section 15, Act V of 1861) was not in force at the time when the alleged damage to property was caused.

The point I want to emphasise is that in Gujranwala those people who showing their regard and respect for the law paid up the indemnity have been penalised, so to say for their law abiding nature while those who disregarded the Government orders went away scot free. Nothing has been charged from them.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Then it should be recovered now.

Sardar Narain Singh : Yes you are welcome, if you are so minded. But just look at the injustice. A man who obeys the law has to pay the fine while another who defies it is let off scot free. With these words I support the resolution.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Sir, may I know what are your orders regarding the amendment* that stands in my name.

Mr. President : So far as the amendment is concerned the honourable member lost his opportunity of moving it. He ought to have moved it while making his speech on the resolution.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : I move —

That the question be now put.

Mr. President : The question is —

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

* " That after the word ' Gujranwala ' the words ' Gujrat and Wazirabad ' be inserted. "

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Sir, I beg to submit . . .

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, has my honourable friend opposite any right to speak now ?

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I was not making a speech.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Has the honourable member any right to interrupt now ?

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : The same right as the honourable the Finance Member has in interrupting now.

Lala Diwan Chand (Urdu) : Sir, after the speeches delivered during the discussion on the resolution, I do not feel any need of a speech. Justice demands that the amount of indemnity realized from Gujranwala Municipality and the people of Gujranwala be refunded. It has been stated that Rs. 1,28,000 that have been paid to the municipality for water works by Government, are in reality the money that Government advanced to it. But, Sir, the municipality did pay the fine. I therefore, request the Government to refund the money.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, many very curious arguments have been advanced in the course of this debate and I think one of the most curious arguments was that a good many people have been exempted who should not have been exempted. I do not know whether the suggestion was that those exemptions should now be cancelled and those persons should now be made to pay up their share. That was one of the arguments which struck me as somewhat strange. Another was that a good many people did not pay. While of course it is never too late to mend and if as appears to be suggested on the other side the period of limitation regarding this question has not already expired, I have no doubt that the Government will be prepared to consider representations made by any member on the opposite benches to the effect that those who have so far failed to pay should now be required to pay. For one thing, I confess, I really felt grateful to the speeches of the honourable gentlemen opposite. One of the honourable members opposite made a very excellent speech, indeed a very learned speech as the lawyers would call it. I feel very much indebted to him for the speech, for it really carried me back to my youth. It is always a very pleasant thing to be carried back to one's youth. As I listened to the honourable member opposite and as I heard him giving his legal arguments on the subject, it carried me back to the days in the past when in a somewhat stuffy dingy room in a little cutchery, I was sitting as a second class magistrate listening to the legal arguments of lawyers who appeared before me, and I seemed to be young again when I heard the arguments of the honourable member opposite. He, apparently had been carried away by some reminiscences of the past and I think he thought that he was addressing a judicial court. This was an illusion of the same kind, no doubt, as that which overwhelmed me when I fancied that I was a second class Magistrate listening to the arguments of counsel. But, Sir, it was only an illusion for both of us. This is not a judicial court. There are methods by which people who are aggrieved by the collection of sums in contravention of law can appeal to a judicial court and can have the sum refunded if a case is properly made out. I do not propose therefore to attempt to touch the legal arguments. There are some gentlemen here who are very well

[Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.]

qualified to deal with them. But this House is not a House of lawyers and it is certainly not a House of Judges. There is no reason why this House should attempt to take upon itself a judicial function. That is a matter purely for the courts and any one who is aggrieved and who is within the period of limitation can set his grievance before the court and obtain refund, if for any reason the collection made from him is illegal. One legal argument which was suggested by one or two honourable members in speaking on this subject but which was not perhaps very fully developed, was—I speak subject to correction—that the order for the collection of money under section 15-A from the municipality was *ultra vires*. But here again I must say that if the collection was illegal, then the municipal committee or the body from which money was taken had the right to go to the courts and obtain such relief as the courts might be able to give; but so far as the Government is concerned, they, in these matters, take the best legal advice that they can get and act upon it. Of course that action is subject to the ultimate judicial determination of the regular courts. In this particular case what the Government did was not to be content with the legal opinion which it could get on the spot, but it went to the Advocate-General in Calcutta and obtained his opinion, and having obtained his opinion, it considered itself justified in adopting this particular method of recovery. All I can say on that point is that if the Advocate-General was wrong and if my honourable friends opposite are right, then all that has to be done is to go to courts for the matter to be put straight.

One honourable member said that no inquiry was made into this matter before the order was passed for the recovery of the money. Well, Sir, there were no less than two inquiries made into the actual amount of damage done. In one of them it was found that the damage done amounted to 6.50 lakhs. In the second enquiry, on review, it was found that the damage amounted only to 2.50 lakhs and the figure which was ultimately taken as correct by the Government was the smaller figure. I do not quite understand how anybody can say in these circumstances that no enquiry was made. There was a sort of, what I believe my honourable friends the lawyers would call *corpus delicti* in this case which somehow requires some sort of explanation and was in itself rather a formidable matter for anybody to encounter. This *corpus delicti* consisted of first a burnt cutchery, secondly a burnt post office, and thirdly a partly burnt railway station. These are rather large things to explain away. We are not judges here and I do not therefore expatiate any further on this matter. But if this was not sufficient by way of enquiry, if the actual existence of these burnt up and damaged buildings was not enough, I do not know what is enough. Anyhow it was only after a considerable degree of investigation that a calculation was arrived at of the actual amount to be collected by way of damages. Some honourable members seem to think that it is sufficient to say that because you have not proved as regards every individual in a particular place that they, he or she had shared in the doing of a particular thing therefore there is no right to collect money from that person. Of course it may be that they are applying some very high ethical principle, but it is anyhow not the law. I observe that my honourable friends opposite have relied considerably upon what they take to be the law and what they consider to be the proper interpretation of the law. The law says that there are certain circumstances in which the inhabitants of a locality may be made pecuniarily responsible for damages done under certain circumstances and it was in accordance with that law that these proceedings were taken. It only remains for me now to say that if the collection was really

a grievance and if it was a grievance which might not properly have been taken before the judicial courts established for this purpose, then it is surely a very strange thing that now nearly six years after the event honourable members should suddenly have discovered the necessity of bringing this before a body of which only very few are personally acquainted with the actual facts. They desire at this interval of between five and six years to get a sort of catch vote on the ground of general sympathy from a body of men who have not had an opportunity of acquainting themselves with all the circumstances of the case (Hear, hear). It appears to me that this is not a matter upon which the House should be prepared to endorse a resolution of this character and I trust that it will show that it considers that such a matter should have been dealt with and disposed of long ago by declining to re-open it now upon this resolution.

Mr. President : The resolution proposed runs :—

" This Council recommends to the Government that the indemnity realised from the inhabitants and Municipal Committee of Gujranwala under the Police Act (V of 1861) in 1919 may be refunded."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The Council then divided : Ayes 30 ; Noes 29.

AYES 30.

Munshi Fazal Khan.
Mir Maqbool Mahmood.
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan.
Sardar Narain Singh.
Sardar Jodh Singh.
Mian Abdul Aziz.
Sardar Randhir Singh.
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
Manvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
Sardar Partap Singh.
Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.
Sayad Muhammad Husain.

Pandit Nanak Chand
Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.
Professor 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.
Mr. Labh Singh.
Lala Mohan Lal.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.

NOES—29.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Colonel C. R. Bakhle.
Mr. C. A. Barron.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. W. Mayes.
Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan.
Sir George Anderson.
Lieut.-Col. C. A. Gill.
The Hon'ble Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
The Hon'ble Mian Sir Fazli-Husain.
The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
Mr. J. G. Beazley.
Mr. Miles Irving.

Mr. J. M. Punnett.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
Dr. C. A. Owen.
Mr. Owen Roberts.
Mr. J. Coldstream.
Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
Sardar Bahadur Sardar Jowahir Singh.
Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Khan Bahadur Sir Sayad Mehdi Shah.
Sayad Husain Shah.
Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was carried.

RESOLUTION RE GRANT OF PROPRIETARY RIGHTS TO THE LESSEES OF THE
TAHT-KHAHI AREAS IN THE TAHSILS OF DIPALPUR AND PAKPATTAN.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan) Rural]] (Urdu):
Sir, I beg to move—

" This Council recommends to the Government to grant proprietary rights to the lessees of the Taht-Khahi area situated in the Tahsils of Dipalpur and Pakpattan on whom such rights have not hitherto been conferred on the conditions on which proprietary rights were granted to Sohagpura lessees."

Before proceeding with my resolution I beg with your permission to give a brief history of these leases. Immediately after the annexation of our province the early policy of the Government was to plant agricultural population on all waste land. The policy then and for many years afterwards was to encourage the breaking up of waste by the grant of leases on easy terms, and both the lessees and the officers of the Government accepted that on fulfilment of the terms of the lease as regards the bringing of land under cultivation ownership would be conceded free of charge or on the payment of a very brief and moderate sum of money. More like the *nazrana*, which used to be exacted by Native Governments from Founders of villages in waste than a full value,—*vide* Land Administration Manual, page 291. According to these rules proprietary rights were conferred free of any charge on those who had broken these lands.

In 1890 Sir James Lyall remarked that he was not aware that any lessee under the rules of 1850 had ever been refused proprietary rights or been made to pay for it. These rules remained in force till 1868, when for the first time general rules for the lease of waste land were issued by the Government. These rules enunciated that a lessee should be permitted to become a proprietor at any time on payment of two years' land revenue at ordinary *pargana* rates, and further that he might become a proprietor free of all land revenue for ever by paying down twenty years' land revenue,—*Vide* Land Administration Manual, page 293. Rules were further modified and the rules of 1885 clearly stated that the lessees could purchase proprietary rights at any time by paying five times the amount of the maximum rent, that is to say 8½ times the land revenue,—*vide* page 294, Land Administration Manual. Though leases were restricted these rules remained in force till 1897. Now Sir, all the leases of Taht-Khahi area, for whom I am not speaking fall within the purview of the rules of 1885 and no rules were ever framed which forbade endowment of proprietary rights on the lessees, even the rules of 1897 now in force stipulate that occupation rights can be claimed after the occupation of five years.

Sohagpura colonists who settled later after the introduction of irrigation, under the rules of 1885, and who had fulfilled the colony conditions prior to 1917 were granted proprietary rights on the payment of Rs. 3 per acre and those completing later at Rs. 10 per cultivated acre and Rs. 5 per uncultivated acre.

In an answer to my question the Honourable Revenue Member remarked that the leases referred to in Part (a) meaning the Taht-Khahi for whom I am now leading before the House cannot be conceded the proprietary rights.

because their lease does not carry with them any condition for the acquisition of proprietary rights. I most respectfully through you, Sir, ask the Honourable Revenue Member to state under what rules the right of the grant of proprietary rights or even occupancy rights were not incorporated in their lease. The rules of 1885 do not embrace any such rule not even of 1897.

There is not on record any rule, which stipulates that a lessee after being in possession for three generations, or for more than 40 years having fulfilled all conditions can be chucked out at the sweet will of the executive.

The anomaly becomes all the more glaring, when we note, that the list contains a good many lessees whose lease dates back to between 1868—1885, who did not avail themselves of the sale condition merely through their ignorance, and who are denied this right, notwithstanding any existing rule, to the contrary. The part of Land Administration Manual dealing with these rules has not been even translated in Vernacular as yet. One example will clarify my argument, Mir Jafir Ali, Rahmat Ullah Beg were granted each 500 acres of land in lieu of military services before 1885. A single letter was issued in the time of the settlement proceedings, 1896-97, to confer the proprietary rights on both, the conditions being identical. Mirza Rahmat Ullah Beg got proprietary rights; Risaldar Jafir Ali did not. The descendants of one are the virtual owners of one piece, the descendants of the other are liable to evacuation from the land secured by their ancestor by shedding his blood. I may add here that a considerable element of lessees are military reward grantees. Their forefathers served the Government, and in lieu of that they secured this land. It is divided and sub-divided among their children. Besides there are petty holders, whose holdings are less than a square of land. They sunk wells, paid land revenue, under adverse circumstances, formed villages and built houses. Their ancestors, the original grantees of land lie buried in their hamlets, after they struggled hard to pull on with this land when no irrigation existed. What a considerable injustice it would be to demand from their descendants, full market value or to evict them from their hearths and homes, if they are unable to pay, as they will be, for most of them are woefully involved in debt, incurred to reclaim this land and keep it in cultivation under adverse circumstances. Those who think that they have derived enough profit out of it, are perhaps unacquainted with the economic condition of a zamindar in non-irrigated tracts.

He is the backbone of the country and yet he is poor, awfully poor; his life is worse than that of any slave in the world, he is a prey to famine and has no resources whatsoever to draw upon. If the peasant proprietors of other similar districts have made money, he should have made too. Let anyone go and see their condition. No magnificent house to live in, no good clothing to wear, no ornament round their women, but a few cattle and earthen vessels are his sole capital. What a great hardship it would be to these people if they are turned out of their holdings. What a great misery will be created if an agricultural population at the time planted to break the earth were to migrate from their lands reclaimed by the efforts of their fathers and forefathers. In 1910 the Financial Commissioners issued a correction slip for the benefit of these people which has been incorporated in the Land Administration Manual on page 294. It was expressly stated "that on the expiry of the original term the lessee was entitled to claim renewal on such terms as to payment of land revenue and malikana as the officer renewing this lease might determine. The term of lease of this Teht Khahis ex-

[Sayad Muhammad Husain].

pired with the last settlement. They were reassessed by Nawab Muhammad Hayat Khan. Their land revenue and *malikana* was enhanced and wilfully accepted by all. The settlement of the Tahsil of Dipalpur and Pakpattan received the sanction of His Excellency Sir Edward MacLagan. Nawab Muhammad Hayat Khan strongly recommended that the proprietary rights be conferred on these people ; for two years after the announcement the Taht-Khabis of Pakpattan and for one year the Taht-Khabis of Dipalpur paid the enhanced revenue into the treasury of the Government. People were satisfied that they have received a charter for 30 years, when all of a sudden they were unsettled again. In answer to my question the Honourable Revenue Member remarked that the levy was without any authority. I most respectfully ask Sir, whether Sir Patrick Fagan and Mr. King who reviewed the assessment were not in authority, or whether Sir Edward MacLagan who gave his formal sanction to the Settlement was not in authority, whether any reservation clause was inserted in the orders of the Government conveying the sanction, if not what constitutional right had the present Government to unsettle the settlement of the former authorities. How did we know that Nawab Muhammad Hayat Khan's doings were unauthoritative, and that he was officer without any authority and responsibility ? If the permanent settlement of Bengal cannot be undone, our settlement ought not to be undone before its term if the words of the Government are sacred.

Under these circumstances, Sir, I beg this House through you to pass my resolution which demands no preferential treatment to these Taht-Khabis but only claims that the same treatment be meted out to them, under the rules as was meted out to Sohagpura colonists, who settled later and a good many of them were granted irrigated lands in 1908, and they have by now secured proprietary rights.

Mr. President : The resolution proposed runs—

" This Council recommends to the Government to grant proprietary rights to the lessees of the Taht-Khahi areas situated in the Tahsils of Dipalpur and Pakpattan on whom such rights have not hitherto been conferred on the condition on which proprietary rights were granted to Sohagpura lessees ".

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

Rai Bahadar Lala Sewak Ram [(Multan Division (Non-Muhamadan) Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, I would very briefly support the resolution moved by my honourable friend Sayad Muhammad Husain. In doing that I beg to submit that when a promise had been made by the Government that the land would be sold to those cultivators who were holding it on temporary lease, this promise was as good as the conferment of the proprietary rights on them. It cannot be denied that the zamindars showed a great negligence in not purchasing the rights when they were offered to do so, but the word of the Government was always considered to be unchangeable. The promise of the Government was considered to be as good as an actual possession of the land ; at least that is what those zamindars felt, for otherwise they could not have invested so much capital on these lands by way of sinking wells, digging canals and building villages. These lessees were for all purposes considered as owners of these lands. They have been in possession of these lands since 1850, but now after the expiry of about three quarters of a century they are being dispossessed of the lands which they have been holding for generations past. How can they pay so heavy prices ? It would be better if Government agrees to sell them on the latest rate

announced. These people have acquired a right to a favourable consideration at the hands of the Government, for their having taken up these lands and paid revenues to the Government coffers in such times when the resources of the Government were limited and there were no other source of income. I, therefore, submit that such persons should be given proprietary rights on very low rates of payment. Again, there are others who helped the Government in digging the canals and are still helping them. These men have also a claim to be considered. I, therefore, submit that these people should be dealt with leniently or their loyalty will be sorely tried. With these words I support the resolution.

Mr. C. A. Barron (Financial Commissioner): Sir, I wish first of all to congratulate the honourable mover of the resolution on the industry he has displayed in studying the Land Administration Manual. I must also acknowledge his courtesy in informing the Honourable the Revenue Member and myself yesterday of the line of argument he proposed to take. If we had not known that line of argument it would be very difficult indeed to answer him at a moment's notice. But I am afraid that the honourable mover's study of the Manual has rather led him astray and that he has conveyed to the members of this House a somewhat wrong impression. His argument seems to me to lead to the idea that the last set of conditions on which Government offered leases of Crown lands should apply to all pre-existing leases. That argument, Sir, I think even the honourable mover of the resolution will admit is rather a double-edged one. Supposing Government finds it necessary or even advisable to put more stringent conditions on later leases, would the honourable member agree to these stringent conditions being imposed on all leases which previously existed? I rather think he would not.

Now to give a few facts about these Taht-Khahi leases. The leases as I suppose most of the members of this Council are aware are in scattered plots, out in the jungle and in the Bar, where of course there are places to be found with natural depressions where wells can be sunk and certain amount of cultivation carried on. The well areas are cultivated and around them and sometimes attached to them there are large areas of uncultivated and practically unculturable lands which comprise these leases. There are about 270 such leases comprising an area of 59,125 acres. These were not all granted at one time, but they were granted from time to time between the years 1867 and 1919. They do not go so far back as 1850 as the last speaker suggested. There are very few years in which one or more such leases were not granted and in some years a very large number of allotments took place. For instance in 1875, 26 plots were leased, and in 1889, 40 plots were leased. As a general rule there are two or three or sometimes only one in a year. During this long period of over fifty years, the policy of the Government towards the disposal of Crown waste lands naturally enough was changed and modified from time to time, and different sets of rules governing the grant of leases and conditions of sale were issued by Government. The rules are known as the rules of 1868, 1882, 1885 and 1897 and the general effect of the rules are stated in the paragraphs of the Land Administration Manual from which the honourable member has made quotations. Of the 270 leases with which we are concerned, about 100 were given under the 1868 rules, 50 under the 1882 rules, 90 under the 1885 rules and 30 allotments have been made since the issue of the 1897 rules. The mere fact that these leases have been issued under so many different sets of

[Mr. C. A. Barron.]

conditions renders the subject an intricate one, and it is not quite the simple business that the honourable mover has made out.

These leases were the subject of a very careful enquiry in 1897-98 made by Mr. Fagan during the course of the Montgomery settlement operations. It was then found that some of the earliest leases had been given on a very simple form of lease for ten year periods during which time the lessees were entitled to sink wells, make water-courses, plant trees, build houses and otherwise improve the land on condition that if the leases were not renewed, they would have no claim against the Government for compensation but would be at liberty to remove the materials. Not very liberal conditions, my honourable friend Lala Sewak Ram would say. Under the 1868 and 1882 rules the lessees became entitled to compensation if their leases were not renewed, the compensation taking the form of purchase by Government at a price to be fixed by mutual consent of all materials connected with improvements made by the lessees. If the lease was renewed, no compensation was of course claimable, and in the event of non-renewal and non-purchase of materials by the Government the lessee has to remove the material at his own expense. It was not until the 1885 rules came into force that a right to purchase the proprietary rights in leased lands was conceded. This was the right to purchase, as has been admitted by the honourable mover himself, on the very liberal terms of payment of five times the amount of the maximum rent or $6\frac{1}{2}$ times the land revenue. But, though this was the general form for leasing Crown waste lands, in many of these Taht-Khahi leases the purchase clause was cut out.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : Under what authority were these rules cut out?

Mr. C. A. Barron : By the orders of the Government, by whose order the rules were issued in 1885 : it decided where the orders of 1885 were to be applied wholly, and where they were to be applied with modifications as in the case of these Taht-Khahi leases.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : Are these orders embodied in any book?

Mr. C. A. Barron : They are in the letters and correspondence dealing with the subject. The purchase clause being cut out, the lessees in such cases had no claim to buy the proprietary right.

In the 1897 rules, which will be found in Appendix III of the Land Administration Manual, the orders are that when a lease carries a promise of proprietary right on fulfilment of certain conditions, the lessees can purchase that right at any time during the currency of the lease at the full market value of the land to be fixed by the Deputy Commissioner, subject to any sanction of higher authority that might be necessary. But there was one important point in which the 1897 rules differed from all the previous rules ; that is, a very important reservation was made in the 1897 rules. That reservation was that no leases were to be given under the 1897 rules in tracts which are likely to come under irrigation in future colonisation schemes. This, Sir, as the Council knows perfectly well, excluded the Montgomery District where the Lower Bari Doab Canal and now the Pakpattan canal had long been contemplated. In areas likely to come under colonisation schemes, leases could only be granted with the express permission of the Local Government.

I have already referred to the examination of these Taht-Khahi leases by the Settlement Officer, Montgomery, in 1897, when every lease was subject-

ed to scrutiny and the results were submitted in very voluminous registers to Government for orders. The term of the leases had come to an end with the expiry of the previous settlement. All the cases were examined by the Financial Commissioner and in the Government Office, and orders suitable to each case were passed in 1899. In a few doubtful cases further enquiries were directed and final orders in a number of individual cases were passed in July 1900. So far as the purchase of proprietary rights is concerned, it was found that in 21 cases the lessees had that right under the 1845 rules, and orders were issued to sell the land accordingly to the lessees under these rules. There I think will be found an instance of redemption of promises to which the last speaker just now referred. The promise was there and it was redeemed. In a few other cases in which the conditions of cultivation had not been fulfilled, the leases were resumed. In all or nearly all other cases in which the lessees had no claim to purchase their land, the leases were renewed on certain terms which more or less followed the 1897 lease rules, but differed from them in two important particulars. These differences followed, as the Council will realise, from the fact that the term of the leases was to be for the period of settlement or until the commencement of the construction within the Montgomery District of the Lower Bari Doab Canal whichever was earliest. The 1897 rules contained clauses regarding the grant of occupancy rights as well as clauses regarding the grant of proprietary rights. As the renewed leases were for specified terms, "time of settlement" or "until the advent of the canals" the clause regarding occupancy rights was also cut out from these leases and these two clauses did not apply to the leases renewed under the orders of Government in 1899-1900.

As the Lieutenant-Governor remarked at the time of the passing of these orders, the terms and conditions of the leases would require revision when the canal was constructed. That of course is a self-evident fact. This period has now arrived so far as these two tahsils are concerned, by the construction of the Pakpattan canal, and during the course of the colonisation proceedings it will be one of the duties of the Colonization Officer to submit proposals as to how these Taht-Khahi leases should be treated. There will be many complicated questions for as the Council has heard, the original conditions of a great many of the leases differ and new conditions were imposed in 1899-1900. If proprietary rights had been granted at the time of Sohagpura Settlement the difficulties in the way of colonisation of the Nili Bar would have been greatly increased. The scattered plots with proprietary rights coming in the way, perhaps, of canal distributaries, and preventing the formation of homogeneous *chaks* by the Colonization Officer would have led to a great many difficulties. But there is a still more important point, and I think the Council will admit that a very proper and a very prudent policy was followed by Government in dealing with these leases 25 years ago.

The resolution proposes that the same rights should be given to the Tahsils of Dipalpur and Pakpattan as were given to the Sohagpura lessees. Those of them who had completed their conditions of cultivation prior to 1917 were allowed to purchase proprietary rights at Rs. 3 per acre, and those completing later, Rs. 10 per cultivated acre and Rs. 5 per uncultivated acre. Those are extraordinarily generous terms considering the price at which land sells now in the colony areas, and I imagine that this Council would not have considered that the Government of the time had been fulfilling its duty if it had allowed this valuable area of 59,000 acres to be frittered away at these low prices.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : What is the present price of the land in that area under present conditions ?

Mr. C. A. Barron : We shall not be surprised if we get Rs. 400 per acre.

Mr. Labh Singh : What is the total area involved ?

Mr. C. A. Barron : Nearly 60,000 acres.

Nor do I think would the Council be likely to agree now with the honourable mover's proposition that this land should be given away at Rs. 10 or Rs. 5 or Rs. 3 per acre. I have not made a calculation of the loss of money that would be involved, but according to a ready calculation kindly made by the Honourable Member, Finance, it comes to Rs. 2,40,00,000.

Mr. President : The honourable member's time is up. Will he bring his remarks to a close ?

Mr. C. A. Barron : Just one more point. The honourable member while moving his resolution mentioned that the answer to question No. 933,* put by him in this Council on the 14th November last, asking for the reasons why the enhanced assessment levied for two years on the Taht-Khabi areas had been remitted, has given rise to great anxiety among the lessees. That answer was prepared in another branch of the office and I admit that it might have been more explanatory. But the reason why no enhancement was taken from these leased areas under the new assessment orders is fairly obvious. The leases had expired with the expiry of the old settlement, and if any of the conditions, for instance, as regards rent were to be changed, new leases would have had to be given. But as colonization operations were on the verge of commencing, and having regard to the fact that all these leases would gradually become absorbed in colony chaks, an order of the Governor in Council was passed in January 1923, sanctioning the continuance of the current leases from year to year at the same rent and subject to the same agricultural conditions as had obtained during the previous leases. That is the reason why the mistaken collection of increased land revenue on these leased areas was cancelled. I do not think, however, that the zamindars concerned need be under any apprehension that this means that they will be subjected to any harsh treatment in regard to their lands, when the Colonization Officer of the Nili Bar comes to make his proposals. It may interest the honourable mover to know that in spite of the clamour which he suggests exists for the purchase of proprietary rights, out of the nine cases in Dipalpur and twelve cases in Pakpattan, that is out of the twenty-one cases in which the purchase of proprietary rights was sanctioned under the 1885 rules, only two lessees had up to June 1922 availed themselves of the sanction in Pakpattan and none had done so in Dipalpur. These lessees seem to have been quite content to remain as tenants under the existing conditions; and the other lessees who are not at present entitled to purchase proprietary rights are probably also content to await the decision of Government during the colonization proceedings.

For these reasons, Sir, Government cannot accept this resolution.

Sayad Muhammad 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 carried.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : I want to refer briefly to some of the observations made by Mr. Barron. He has admitted that most of these leases belong to the year 1885, that is they are 40 years old. They are very long standing. Now, Sir, according to the 1890 rules every man who gets land, whether he is a landed gentry grantee, or whether he is a peasant grantee, he is entitled to occupancy rights after five years. Then Mr. Barron says that the value of this land has gone up to Rs. 400 per acre. This is not right. It is not perennially irrigated land. It is only irrigated by inundation canals and that even has been introduced recently. From the landed gentry grantee and the peasant grantee they have not charged more than Rs. 100 per acre, and that where irrigation is perennial. They could have bought this land which is only irrigated by inundation canals at a much less price than they are being asked to pay. Now they have invested much more capital, in fact more than it could have cost them to purchase double the amount of land.

One word more. Mr. Barron said that out of 21 lessees who were given the right in 1908 only two lessees availed themselves of the sanction in Pakpattan and none did so in Dipalpur. What was the reason? They were poor and they had no money. They had not derived any benefit out of the land. They could have bought land by paying three times the land revenue instead of paying 6½ times the land revenue. Now all the money they had they have spent on its reclamation. They could get land at Rs. 2 per acre and that right they possessed for a very long time and which right they are being deprived of now. Can Mr. Barron give me any instance where a settlement once made has been unsettled? There is no precedent that an entry once made has been removed. Now after two years Government feel that they have given rather too easy terms and therefore they have withdrawn those terms. After a settlement has been accepted, there is no precedent under which Government can unsettle those people again. The rules referred to have not been published and are not public property and therefore people cannot study them. In fact they are not even translated.

Mr. C. A. Barron : These rules are out of date. That is why they are not published.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : I must sit down now and if a little extra time is not extended this resolution may go out. I hope that the Council will pass this resolution which does not ask for any preferential treatment, but for what the lessees deserve under the rules of 1885. I do not ask a favour but only claim a right.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) : Sir, I know my friend (Sayad Muhammad Husain) is looking at the clock and so am I, but I have my right to speak and I wish to claim that right.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : As short as possible.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: Yes, it is to be seen. . . .

Mr. President: The honourable member can go on.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: I am thankful to my friend for giving me the real term "tabid-khahi." It could be "Taht-Khahi," or anything else and I must admit at once that when this resolution was received I had a doubt as to what this word signified. My honourable friend has been very kind in telling me what the word really means. It means, he said, that the persons who wanted to get land had to do so under certain covenants with the Government, that is under certain rules and conditions on which these lands were granted. The first thing to be considered is that these lands have been granted to the persons under certain rules and conditions which have been laid down in the leases which these people hold. During the course of this debate my friend said at one place that some of these gentlemen had their leases and some of them had not got them. I could not understand what he meant by it. If they got the leases under certain conditions, those conditions must have been given to them in writing, but if they do not possess them it is their own fault. . . .

Sayad Muhammad Husain: Sir, I rise to offer a word of explanation.
(Contd.)
6 P. M. What I meant is that these leases were given more than fifty years ago and when I came across the records I found them in a dilapidated condition, all soaked in water or spoiled in such a way that I could not read them. Some of these records are even lost. If the honourable member can find out the record with Government he may give a copy of it.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: Well, Sir, these gentlemen have lost all their leases which were given to them. But fortunately Government has got a record, of these leases and the Government is not going to move an inch more on this side or that in carrying out the conditions of these leases. . . .

Mr. C. M. King: I rise to a point of order, Sir. It is now past six o'clock.

Sayad Muhammad Husain: Sir, there are many instances when the Council has continued to sit after six.

Mr. President: As this is the only speech left and the resolution can be put to the House, I am inclined to extend the time of the sitting, if it is the wish of the House that a little time should be given to the Honourable the Revenue Member to conclude the remarks he has begun.

There were some voices of "yes" and "no".

Sayad Muhammad Husain: .Votes may be taken, Sir.

Mr. President agreed and accordingly the question whether a little more time should be given was put to the House and the Council divided: Ayes 23, Noes 29.

RESOLUTION RE GRANT OF PROPRIETARY RIGHTS TO THE LESSEES OF THE 271
TART-KHANI AREAS IN THE TASHILS OF DIPALPUR AND PAKPATTAN.

AYES 23.

Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr
Shah.
Munshi Fazal Khan.
Mir Maqbool Mahmood.
Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Rai Shabadat Khan.
Khan Bahadur Sir Sayad Mehdi
Shah.
Sayad Hussain Shah.
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat
Khan.

Khan Bahadar Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
Chaudhri Ghulam Mohammad.
Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan.
Mian Abdul Aziz.
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.
Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan.
Sayad Muhammad Hussain.
Rai Bahadar Lala Sewak Ram.

NOES 29.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Colonel C. B. Bakble.
Mr. C. A. Barron.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. W. Mayes.
Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar
Khan.
Sir George Anderson.
Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. Gill.
The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri
Chhotu Ram.
The Honourable Sardar Bahadur
Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
The Honourable Sir John Maynard.
Mr. J. G. Beazley.
Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. J. M. Dunnott.

Mr. H. D. Craik.
Mr. J. Goldstream.
Sardar Bahadur Sardar Jowahir
Singh.
Sardar Narain Singh.
Pandit Nanak Chand.
Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.
Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Lala Diwan Chand.
Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.
Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram.
Mr. Labh Singh.
Lala Mohan Lal.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.
Chaudhri Kesar Singh.

The motion was lost.

The Council then adjourned till 2 P.M. on Thursday, the 5th March
1925.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

8TH SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 5th March 1925.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ELECTORAL RULES OF THE LYALLPUR MUNICIPALITY.

1456. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) With reference to the reply given to question No. 772* asked in the Council on the 8th August 1924, will the Government please state if any decision has been arrived at by the Government on the electoral rules of the Lyallpur Municipality? If so, when are the new elections to take place?

(b) What are the new rules re eligibility for election as a member of the Lyallpur Municipality?

(c) (i) Is it a fact that the new electoral rules do not provide for the eligibility of a person holding educational qualifications only and no property qualification to stand for election to the committee?

(ii) If so, was any protest made by the rate-payers of Lyallpur against the omission of such a provision?

(iii) What are the reasons for not providing such a rule?

(iv) Is it a fact that a person paying not less than Rs. 15 house-tax is eligible for election as a member under the rules?

(v) Is it a fact that the house-tax of Rs. 15 is levied only on property of the value of Rs. 20,000 or thereabouts? If not, what is the calculated value of property on which Rs. 15 are levied as house-tax?

(vi) Will the Government consider it desirable to remove the above property qualification?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) It has been decided that the municipality should be divided into six wards returning two members each, and proposals for the constitution of these wards have been called for. It is not possible at present to say when the elections will take place.

(b) and (c) Revised draft rules regarding the qualifications of members of the Lyallpur Committee have not yet been published, but a copy of the standard qualifications which will probably be adopted is laid on the table.

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

SCHEDULE A.

Standard alternative qualifications for candidates for membership.

	(a) Property within municipality.	(b) Land revenue within tahsil or assignment of land revenue.	(c) Income per month.	Educational.
I.—Municipalities with population below 20,000.	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 10	Rs. 50	Matriculation, School Leaving Certificate or any other equivalent or higher examination recognized by the Punjab University or any Oriental Title examination of the Punjab University.
II.—Municipalities with population exceeding 20,000.	Rs. 1,500	Rs. 15	Rs. 75	Intermediate or any other equivalent or higher examination recognized by the Punjab University.

SCHEDULE B.

Standard alternative franchise qualifications.

	(a) Property within municipality.	(b) Land revenue per annum within tabul or assignment of land revenue.	(c) Rent per mansab (within municipality).	(d) Income per mansab.	(e) Educational.	(f) No house-tax in cases where it is levied.
I.—Municipalities with population below 20,000.	Rs. 200	Rs. A. P. 5 0 0	Rs. 1	Rs. 15	Matriculation, School-Leaving Certif- cate or any other equivalent or higher examination recognized by the Punjab University or any Oriental Title ex- amination of the Punjab University.	Pays house-tax for a house in the municipality.
II.—Municipalities with population exceeding 20,000.	Rs. 300	Rs. A. P. 8 0 0	Rs. 2	Rs. 20	Matriculation, School-Leaving Certif- cate or any other equivalent or higher examination recognized by the Punjab University or any Oriental Title exam- ination of the Punjab University.	Pays house-tax for a house in the municipality.

**REMOVAL OF KHWAJA ABDUL RAHMAN, GHAZI, FROM THE LYALLPUR
MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.**

1457. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Is it a fact that Khwaja Abdul Rahman, Ghazi, a member of the Lyallpur Municipality, was removed from membership for not attending the meetings of the municipal committee while he was in jail?

(b) Did any correspondence pass between him and the Government on the question of his removal? If so, will the Government please lay it on the table?

(c) When was Khwaja Abdul Rahman removed from the committee?

(d) Is it a fact that the vacancy caused by his removal has not been filled up till now? If so, what are the reasons for not doing so?

(e) Is it a fact that the vacancy caused by the death of Lala Bhiwani Dass, a nominated member, was immediately filled up after his death?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain :

(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) 20th September 1922.

(d) Yes. At the time when the vacancy occurred it was decided not to fill it up as it was then thought that a general election would take place shortly.

(e) Yes.

Lala Bodh Raj : Sir, in view of the reply to question No. 1456, that it is not possible at present to say when the election will take place, will the Government please state whether they are prepared to fill up the vacancy caused by the removal of Khwaja Abdul Rahman?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Enquiries have to be made from the Commissioner with whom the appointment of members of municipalities like Lyallpur rests.

Lala Bodh Raj : Khwaja Abdul Rahman was an elected member and I think the vacancy caused by his removal has to be filled in by election.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member is welcome to think as he likes.

ANSWERS TO CERTAIN UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

1458. Sardar Partap Singh : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the answers to my questions Nos. 1142*, 1145† and 1297‡ put by me in the 4th and 5th sessions of the second reformed Council?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The answer to question No. 1145 is laid on the table. The answers to the other two questions are not yet ready. They will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

Answer to Question No. 1145†.

PUNITIVE POLICE POSTS IN THE HOSHIARPUR AND JULLUNDUR DISTRICTS.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The information has been compiled and is available for the honourable member's inspection. It is too voluminous to be printed in proceedings.

*Vol. VII, pages 623-24.

† Vol. VII, page 623.

‡ Pages 49-50 ante.

MURDER OF CERTAIN PERSONS IN VILLAGE DHALIWAL, JULLUNDUR DISTRICT.

1459. Sardar Partap Singh : Will the Government be pleased to state--

- (a) whether it is a fact that two persons belonging to the village of Dhaliwal, Tahsil Nakodar, District Jullundur, were murdered in broad daylight in October 1922, and that one of them just before his death had his statement recorded by the police on which Roop Singh, Sarbarah Lambardar, Shankar, and Diwan Singh, son of Jhanda Singh, resident of Shankar, affixed their signatures or thumb-impressions?
- (b) whether the statement in question and the witnesses were produced in the court while the case was on trial?
- (c) If the answers to (a) be in the affirmative and to (b) be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state why the statement and the two witnesses were not produced in the court, and will the Government also be pleased to lay a copy of the statement on the table?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : It is a fact that two persons of village Dhaliwal, Tahsil Nakodar, District Jullundur, were murdered on the 7th October 1922, but neither of those persons made any statement before death to the police, nor was any such statement recorded.

ELECTION PETITION AND ELECTIONS TO THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

1460. Sardar Partap Singh : Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact--

- (a) that no election petition has been filed against any of the candidates from the Jullundur District since the last elections to the Punjab Legislative Council;
- (b) that the Deputy Commissioner of Jullundur received a petition to the effect that a certain person had unduly influenced the voters in voting for a particular candidate;
- (c) that a Magistrate was deputed by the Deputy Commissioner to inquire into the allegation made in the petition referred to in (b);
- (d) that the person alleged to have unduly influenced the voters was summoned and his statement was recorded by the Magistrate, and that he was also intimidated by the same Magistrate;
- (e) that the statements of the Lambardars of Mauzas Sureh, Husainabad, Tabli, Gurae, Chak Kalan, Chak Khurd, Chak Wahndal, Boparai in Tahsil Nakodar were recorded, and that they were intimidated;
- (f) if the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to ask for an explanation from the officers concerned and state what steps it proposes taking against these officers for their action, which constitutes a breach of the Punjab Electoral Rules?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

a) Yes.

(b) An allegation was received against a certain Lambardar to the effect that he was openly lecturing against Government in certain villages of Nakodar Tahsil, and at the same time advising the people to return one of the candidates to the Legislative Council.

(c) The Revenue Assistant was appointed after the elections to hold an executive inquiry and make a report on the allegations made in the petition regarding the attitude of the Lambardar to Government.

(d) He was not summoned, nor was his statement recorded, and consequently there was no opportunity to intimidate him.

(e) The statements of the Lambardars of Sureh, Boparai and Chak Wahndal, &c., the villages in which the Lambardar in question was alleged to have lectured against Government, were recorded, and were to the effect that he had never visited their villages, or spoken against Government.

(f) Government do not propose to take any action.

SUSPENSION AND DISMISSAL OF LAMBARDARS, ETC.

1461. Sardar Partap Singh : Will Government be pleased to state the number of Hindu, Muslim and Sikh Lambardars, Sufedposhes and Zaildars who have been either suspended or dismissed during the last four years ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Government does not consider that the value of the information asked for is commensurate with the labour and expense that would be involved in collecting it.

PERFORMANCE OF THE DUTIES OF ZAILDARS AND SUFEDPOSHEES.

1462. Sardar Partap Singh : Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a)* the number of Zaildars and Sufedposhes in each district of the province who are performing their respective duties themselves ;
- (b)* the number of Zaildars and Sufedposhes in each district who are not performing the duties of their respective offices themselves, but have entrusted the performance of their duties to *Sarbarahs* ; and
- (c)* whether the real office-holder is made responsible for the work performed by the *Sarbarah* ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) and *(b)* Government do not consider the value of the information requested would be commensurate with the labour and expense of obtaining it ; and

(c) ordinarily both the *sarbarah* and the substantive holder are jointly responsible, but when the substantive holder is a minor the *sarbarah* alone is responsible.

ARREST AND CONVICTION OF PERSONS FOR ENTERTAINING SHAHIDI JATHAS.

1463. Sardar Partap Singh : Will Government be pleased to state the number of persons arrested and convicted in the British Punjab for entertaining or providing *rasad* to the Shahidi Jathas proceeding to Jaito between 1st February 1924 and 31st January 1925?

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.

CASES AGAINST RAI BAHADUR TARA CHAND AND HIS SON AT BHIWANI.

1464. Pandit Nanak Chand : Has the Government any idea as to the expenses likely to be incurred by the Government in prosecuting the cases against Rai Bahadur Tara Chand and his son at Bhiwani?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : So far as Government is aware, the only expense incurred by Government in connection with the prosecution of the case referred to is that involved by the engagement of a special Public Prosecutor. The cost is estimated to be Rs. 750 per mensem. It is not known how long the trial is likely to last.

ELECTIONS TO THE LYALLPUR MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

1465. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (a) Is it a fact that the general election for the Lyallpur Municipal Committee has not taken place for the past four years?

(b) Is it a fact that even now the date for holding the next general election has not been notified?

(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the cause of this delay?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) The last election took place in May 1921.

(b) Yes.

(c) The revised constitution of the Lyallpur Municipality has been under consideration.

VACANCY IN THE LYALLPUR MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE CAUSED BY THE REMOVAL OF KHWAJA ABDUL RAHMAN.

1466. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (a) Is it a fact that Khwaja Abdul Rahman, B.A., was an elected member of the Lyallpur Municipal Committee?

(b) Is it a fact that he was removed from membership of the committee by Government for the reason that he did not attend the meetings of the committee for six months, being imprisoned in jail?

(c) Is it a fact that his seat has remained vacant for about two years and up till now his place has not been filled up either by nomination or by election?

[Chaudhri Afzal Haq.]

(d) Is it a fact that the seat of the late Lala Bhiwani Dass had been filled up immediately on his death by the nomination of his son?

(e) If so, will Government be pleased to state why the seat of Khwaja Abdul Rahman is kept vacant?

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

(e) At the time when the vacancy occurred it was decided not to fill it as it was then thought that a general election for all elected seats on the committee would shortly take place.

ELECTORAL RULES OF THE LYALLPUR MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

1467. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: (a) Is it a fact that the Lyallpur Municipality has proposed certain alterations in the electoral rules of the committee relating to the qualifications of candidates for membership?

(b) Is it a fact that the public of Lyallpur has protested against the proposals of the municipality?

(c) Is it a fact that the Lyallpur Municipality is a second-class committee?

(d) Is it a fact that the qualification of candidates for membership which has been proposed by the Lyallpur Municipality is even much higher than that prescribed for membership of first-class municipalities in the province?

(e) Is it a fact that in all first-class municipal committees a graduate is a voter, and can also stand as a candidate for membership, while the Lyallpur Municipality has proposed an additional qualification of a minimum income for graduates and assistant surgeons?

(f) Is it a fact that a person owning property of the value of Rs. 1,500 is qualified to stand as a candidate for municipal commissionership in the Amritsar Municipality, which is a first-class committee, while in the Lyallpur Municipality a person can stand for election only if he owns a property of the value of Rs. 4,000?

(g) If so, will the Government consider the desirability of rejecting the proposal of the Lyallpur Municipality or of so amending it as to meet the wishes of the Lyallpur public?

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

(b) Yes; a section of the residents of Lyallpur.

(c) Yes.

(d) to (g). No copy of the resolution of the Lyallpur Committee has been submitted to Government, but it is unlikely that the standard qualifications laid down for all municipalities will be departed from in this instance.

BAN ON DR. ABDUL HAFIZ.

1468. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: (a) Will Government be pleased to say whether they have imposed any restriction on the return of Dr. Abdul Hafiz, Ph.D., M.Sc., etc., who remained in the different belligerent countries during the Great War?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for the same?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Government is not prepared to answer.

RESTRICTIONS ON THE RETURN OF CERTAIN PUNJABIS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

1469. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the names of those Punjabis on whose return from foreign countries the Local Government intends to impose, or has imposed, restrictions, and the reasons for the same?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have considered the advisability of removing the restrictions on the return of those Punjabis who are willing to give an undertaking to live a life of good and peaceful citizens?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Government is not prepared to answer.

NAIB-TAHSELDAR AT NATHANA, DISTRICT FERROZPORE.

1470. Sardar Tara Singh: (a) Is it a fact that the present Naib-Tahsildar at Nathana, District Ferozepore, is an officiating hand, and has been invested with second-class powers? If so, will Government please state how many officers senior to him have been superseded by him, and for what reasons?

(b) Is it a fact that several complaints of corruption and ill-treatment have been made by the people of Nathana Sub-Tahsil to the district authorities against the present Naib-Tahsildar? If so, what action has been taken on these complaints? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia:

(a) First part yes, second part no.

(b) No substantiated complaint has been made against the officer. It is, however, to be regretted that anonymous complaints should be advertised in the form of a Council question.

NEWSPAPER NAMED "PAINDU".

1471. Sardar Tara Singh: (a) Is Government aware that a paper "Paindu" by name has been started in Amritsar? If so, will Government please state whether it has given any pecuniary help to this paper? If so, how much, and why?

[Sardar Tara Singh.]

(b) Is it a fact that this paper is distributed among the public through Sub-Divisional Officers and Tahsildars? If so, will Government please state why?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (a) Yes. The paper stopped publication in November last. Government gave no direct financial assistance to the paper, but undertook to purchase 1,000 copies of each issue for the first three months of the paper's existence.

(b) Government has no information that the copies purchased by it were distributed in the manner suggested.

Sardar Tara Singh: Will the Government please state the necessity for purchasing this paper?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: It was thought desirable to encourage it at its first institution.

Sardar Tara Singh: Will the Government please state how these copies were distributed?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The Government has no information as to the method of distribution.

Sardar Tara Singh: How do Government dispose of these copies?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I must have notice of this question.

NEWSPAPER NAMED "SIKH".

1472. Sardar Tara Singh: (a) Is it a fact that a paper "Sikh" by name has recently been started in Ludhiana? If so, will Government please state whether it has given any pecuniary help to this paper? If so how much, and why?

(b) Is it a fact that this paper is distributed amongst the public through Sub-Divisional Officers and Tahsildars? If so, will Government please state why?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (a) Yes; Government has given no pecuniary help to this paper.

(b) Government has no information to this effect.

Sardar Tara Singh: Will the Government please enquire and stop this practice if it prevails in the district?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: No, Sir.

SUDHAR COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

1473. Sardar Tara Singh: Is Government aware that meetings of Sudhar Committees are convened through official help, and that regular parwanas are issued from tahsil headquarters to zaildars and sufedposhes to bring people together on certain dates? If so, will Government please state whether it is being done under the orders of Government, and, if so, will Government please lay a copy of these orders on the table, and, if not, will it issue instructions that officers should not take part in convening, arranging and running these Sudhar Committees?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) Government has no precise information on this point, but it is quite possible that in certain districts the practice is, as stated, in the question.

(b) No orders to this effect were issued by Government, but Government sees no objection to the practice.

(c) Government sees no reason whatever for issuing instructions of the nature suggested.

Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please state if it has no objection to suggest such a practice being adopted in the case of Arya Samaj and other societies ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I must have notice of the question.

OFFICIAL AID FOR ENLISTING MEMBERS FOR SUDHAR COMMITTEES.

1474. Sardar Tara Singh : Will Government please state if it is a fact that sub-inspectors of police, tahsildars and other civil officers distribute forms of membership of Sudhar Committees and help in enlisting members for these committees ? If the answer be in the affirmative, will Government please issue orders to these officers not to do so in future ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Government has no information to this effect.

Sardar Tara Singh : Will the Government please enquire and stop this practice if it prevails in the Punjab ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No, Sir.

GRANT OF A HOLIDAY ON SUNDAYS TO PATWARIS.

1475. Sardar Tara Singh : Is it a fact that patwaris cannot leave their headquarters even on Sundays ? If so, will Government please consider the advisability of granting them a holiday every Sunday ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The answer to the first part of the question is no. The second part does not arise.

DETECTION OF EXCISE CASES.

1476. Sardar Tara Singh : Will Government please state how many excise cases have been detected or challaned by the newly-appointed Excise Sub-Inspectors (recently sanctioned by the Panjab Council) up till now ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : No figures are available of the number of cases detected or challaned by the newly appointed Sub-Inspectors, but in the five districts, to which they were posted, 271 persons were arrested between 1st December 1924 and 12th February 1925, for offences under the Excise and Opium Acts, while in the remaining 24 districts of the Province 244 arrests were made between the same dates.

FIXED HORSE ALLOWANCE TO DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF POLICE.

1477. Sardar Tara Singh : (a) Is it a fact that City and Cantonment Inspectors of Police receive Rs. 40 as fixed horse allowance, in addition to their ordinary travelling allowance ?

(b) Is it a fact that District Inspectors of Police do not get any such horse allowance, although it is obligatory on them to keep a horse ?

(c) If the answers to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, has Government considered, or does it propose to consider, the advisability of giving fixed horse allowance of Rs. 40 to District Inspectors of Police as well, in addition to their ordinary travelling allowance, like City and Cantonment Inspectors ?

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.

SECOND-CLASS TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE TO POLICE SUB-INSPECTORS.

1478. Sardar Tara Singh : Is there any department under the Local Government where the officers' monthly salary is Rs. 150 only, but who draw second-class travelling allowance ? If so, does Government propose to consider the advisability of giving second-class travelling allowance to Police Sub-Inspectors also whose salary is or exceeds Rs. 150 ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : It is possible that Agricultural Assistants in the A division and members of the Subordinate Engineering Service and Upper Subordinates when in charge of sub-divisions occasionally receive salaries not exceeding Rs. 150 per mensem. They are entitled when travelling by rail, to accommodation by the second-class. Government does not think it necessary to give second-class travelling allowance to Police Sub-Inspectors whose salary exceeds Rs. 150 per mensem.

DRILL INSPECTORS FOR THE CENTRAL TRAINING COLLEGE, LAHORE.

1479. Sardar Tara Singh : (a) Is it a fact that there is now a Drill Inspector (or a person with some such designation) in the Central Training College, Lahore, getting Rs. 500 or thereabouts per mensem ?

(b) Is it also a fact that there is an Assistant Drill Inspector in the Central Training College getting Rs. 100 or thereabouts per mensem ?

(c) If the answers to (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, will Government please state which of the two posts has been recently created, and from what date and for what reasons ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) According to arrangements which have been in existence since 1915, the services of the Physical Director of the Young Men's Christian Association, Lahore, are placed for a part of time at the disposal of the Education Department in return for a grant to the association. This officer is a member of the staff of the Central Training College, Lahore, and is designated Adviser in Physical Education. His duties are to instruct teachers under training in the college, to inspect the teaching of drill in schools throughout the province and to advise Government generally on the promotion of physical training.

(b) Yes. The post of Assistant to the Adviser in Physical Education is in the Rs. 140—10—190 grade of the Subordinate Educational Service, and was created from the 1st September 1920, to provide an Assistant to the Adviser whose duties, which are detailed in the reply to (a), necessitate the assistance of such an officer.

(c) The honourable member is referred to the answer to (a) and (b).

CANAL ENGINEERS AND GARDENS IN CANAL BUNGALOWS.

1480. Sardar Tara Singh: (a) Is it a fact that Executive Engineers and Sub-Divisional Officers (Canal) send for *dalis* from various canal bungalows by turn and the carriers of these *dalis* are paid from the Government treasury? If so, what is the total amount of pay of all the carriers?

(b) Is it a fact that *beldars* are employed in canal bungalows in addition to *malis*? If so, what is the total pay of these *beldars*? How much is deducted from the salaries of the Executive Engineers and Sub-Divisional Officers to meet the cost of maintaining gardens in canal bungalows, and what is the net income from these gardens?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia:

(a) Yes; occasionally, when they are touring in tracts where no vegetables are available. No special carriers are maintained for this purpose.

Latter part does not arise.

(b) No *beldars* are employed to assist *malis* in vegetable gardens. Second part does not arise.

Rs. 2 per mensem from Executive Engineers and Re. 1 per mensem from Sub-Divisional Officers.

There is no net income to Government. Expenditure approximately balances the income.

WAD WATTAR FIELDS.

1481. Sardar Tara Singh: (i) Will Government please state—

(a) how many fields of *wad wattar* there were during the last five years per zilla or canal?

(b) how much loss (both in area and income) has accrued to Government by the exclusion of *wad wattar* fields in this *rabi* by the recent resolution of Government prescribing enhanced water-rates, but exempting the *wad wattar* area?

(ii) Will Government please state—

(a) whether nahri patwaris are required to do the kacha girdawari of *wad wattar* fields in the month of October and November and issue *kacha parchis* (khataunis) to the zamindars then and there (or within a short time)?

(b) Is it a fact that these *parchis* are prepared in January and are distributed to the zamindars in the month of March?

[Sardar Tara Singh.]

- (c) Will Government please issue instructions to the officers that girdawari of these *wad watta* fields be done at the proper time, and that *parchis* be issued to zamindars immediately ?

(iii) (a) Is it a fact that deputy collectors and zilladars have orally instructed their patwaris to show as little area as possible as *wad watta* in this *rabi* ?

(b) Will Government please direct these officers not to bring such pressure on the patwaris ?

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.

CANAL SIDE ROADS.

1482. Sardar Tara Singh : (a) Will Government please state the annual expenses per canal for maintaining the canal side roads ?

(b) Will Government please consider the advisability of opening these roads for public traffic by tonga or similar other conveyances ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : (a) Separate accounts are not maintained for expenses on the maintenance of canal roads.

(b) The question has already been considered on several occasions by the Communications Board. The honourable member is referred to the minutes of the Board meeting held on the 12th March 1920 and published in the *Punjab Government Gazette*, dated the 2nd April 1920 (a copy of relevant extract is laid on the table for reference).

Extract from Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Communications Board held on the 12th March 1920.

III.—Considered His Honour's suggestions regarding the throwing open to public traffic of roadways within Railway and Canal Lands.

The question of canal roadways was taken up first. Mr. Woods explained that there was considerable difficulty in making any general statement owing to the divergent conditions existing in different parts of the Province, some canals having only one bank wide enough to serve as a roadway for wheeled traffic, while others have no boundary roads. He was emphatically of opinion, however, that it would be essential in every case to reserve one bank or one boundary road as an inspection road, but stated that, provided District Boards were prepared to meet the cost, the Irrigation Branch could arrange to widen, or to put in proper order, and to maintain one boundary road as a public highway on a specific request from the District Board concerned in each case ; it being distinctly under

stood that the concession would be liable to be withdrawn in the event, for instance, of damage being done to plantations or to canal works. Further, he considered that in certain cases permission might be granted

to the use of one bank as a public road, provided Conditions under which it was metalled at the expense of the District permissible. Board ; and he added that, as a corollary, any

alterations to bridges necessitated by the throwing open to the public of canal roads, as proposed above, would naturally have to be paid for by the District Boards concerned. Finally, he pointed out that Government would have to maintain its right of way by closing all such roads for one day in the year.

The Board resolved that the above conditions on which canal roads could be used as public highways should be made known to all District Boards in the Province, it being clearly laid down that no dual control could be allowed, and that all work would be carried out by the Irrigation Branch at the expense of the body concerned.

CHANGE OF A MOGA FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER.

1483. **Sardar Tara Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that the expenses of changing a Moga (distributary) from one place to another are charged to the zamindars ? If so, will Government please state the amount now in deposit with Government or Canal Officers on this account ?

(b) Will Government please consider the advisability of discontinuing this practice of charging the zamindars and paying the charges from the Government treasury ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia :

(a) No ; unless the change is made at the request of the shareholders on the watercourse. No such deposits are held by Government.

(b) The existing practice is fair, and Government finds no valid reason for altering it.

CANAL TELEGRAPH OFFICES.

1484. **Sardar Tara Singh :** Is it a fact that canal telegraph offices are not open for public use ? If so, will Government consider the advisability of making them accessible to the public ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia : Yes. The suggestion made by the honourable member is not feasible as the canal telegraph line is already congested with canal work.

LAHORE AND AMRITSAR SETTLEMENTS.

1485. **Sardar Tara Singh :** Is it a fact that the Lahore and Amritsar settlements were finished and their assessments declared in 1912 ? If so, will Government please state when the chakbandi files were completed and announced to the zamindars ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia : The answer to the first part of the question is : No. The second part is not intelligible.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

Mr. President : There has been only one name proposed for the office of Deputy President, namely, Sardar Mohindar Singh proposed by Sardar Jodh Singh and seconded by Sardar Randhir Singh, proposed by Sardar Randhir Singh and seconded by Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh, proposed by Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan and seconded by Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq, proposed by Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan and seconded by Chaudhri Duli Chand and proposed by Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang, and seconded by Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram. I declare that gentleman duly elected. I have in anticipation obtained His Excellency the Governor's approval of Sardar Mohindar Singh as Deputy President under section 72-C of the Government of India Act. I would ask him to take the seat reserved for the Deputy President.

The honourable member took his seat amidst cheers.

Sardar Mohindar Singh [Ludhiana (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I am indeed very thankful to the House for the honour it has done me in electing me unanimously to the office of Deputy President. I assure the House that I shall discharge the duties entrusted to me to the best of my ability.

RESOLUTION.

RESOLUTION RE. GUARANTEE FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE LAHORE-MULTAN TRUNK TELEPHONE LINE TO KARACHI.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadar Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) : Sir, I beg to move —

"That this Council recommends the acceptance by Government of an annual guarantee of Rs. 11,770 (subject to revision when the actual cost of construction is known) for a period of five years on account of the proposed extension of the Lahore-Multan Trunk Telephone Line to Karachi."

The honourable members of this House know the importance of Karachi as a trading centre and it was thought that the connection between Lahore and Multan should be extended to this trading centre. The Government of Bombay is expected to pay their share from Jampur to Karachi and the Punjab Government has been asked to give the necessary guarantee of its share from Multan onwards. It is estimated that this share will come up to Rs. 11,770. It may be a little more or a little less; but when the actual cost of construction is known, most probably there will not be any necessity of the guarantee amount being demanded. The trunk line is to be of copper; the Postal Department of the Government of India would not take up this construction unless this guarantee is given. The trunk line system has been extended to several important centres of the Province and if a connection is established between Karachi and other important centres I think it will be a very great convenience to the trading public. I hope this guarantee for a period of five years, which is being asked on behalf of Government will be accepted by the Council.

Mr. President : The resolution proposed runs—

"That this Council recommends the acceptance by Government of an annual guarantee of Rs. 11,770 (subject to revision when the actual cost of construction is known) for a period of five years on account of the proposed extension of the Lahore-Multan Trunk Telephone Line to Karachi."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried.

GOVERNMENT'S DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY AND ADDITIONAL GRANTS, 1924-25.

EXCISE GRANT.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (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 1925 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 1925 in respect of Excise.”

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban]. (Urdu) : Sir, The demand before us for a sum of Rs. 2,000 was discussed in this House at some length in March last. Accordingly when a supplementary demand for that sum was made in November last the Honourable Minister for Agriculture in deference to the wishes of the House withdrew it. Now, Sir, the Honourable Minister had before him the progress of expenditure incurred by the department during eight months up to the end of October 1924. With all those estimates of expenditure before him he did not feel any necessity to make the demand and I do not understand what immediate need has sprung up during these two months to necessitate this grant now. We must know what new circumstances have come into existence before we sanction this grant. How is it expected of us that we would accede to the request without being told of the real need for the grant. I submit, Sir, that the sanction of the demand now would mean a sheer disregard of the considered opinion of this House, and I ask the honourable members, through you, Sir, to stick to their decisions, so that the Heads of the Departments may feel that they have to keep themselves within their budget allotment. Knowing that they can have the sanction of supplementary grants in a quite easy manner they withdraw a demand once with a view to reintroduce it later on. A similar demand was made and discussed in January 1924, and the House did not give its approval to the demand. The decisions of this Council are being set at naught without any rhyme or reason. The only proper course left to the Council in order to show their protest against such a procedure is to reject the demand.

Chaudhri Duli Chand [Karnal (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, it has been complained that no regard is paid to the decisions of this Council and that the opinions of this House are not respected. I quite agree with the honourable member's suggestion and submit that the decisions of the Council arrived at by a majority of the members should be obeyed. But, Sir, I submit that to err is human and that if a demand has once been rejected, through an insufficient understanding of the reasons advanced for the demand or through some other cause it should be restored at the earliest opportunity. I do not remember well if this item has ever been rejected before, and even if it has been disallowed once, I do not understand why it should not be granted in the face of the present circumstances.

[Chaudhri Duli Chand.]

The reasons for the demand have been fully explained in the explanatory memorandum and we cannot take any exception to them. There was a time when some of us picketted the liquor shops to stop the drink evil but now that the Government is adopting some measures to stop drinking no stone is left unturned to create obstacles in their way. Sir, I would quote an example. Last year the late Minister for Agriculture issued an order prohibiting the sale of liquor in theatres and other places of public amusements. The Missionaries objected to it and said that if you do not want the Indian theatres to be given licences you are welcome, but do not treat in the same way the European places of amusements for they do not think drinking an evil.

Pandit Nanak Chand : May I ask whether this is relevant to the travelling allowance item which is now under discussion ?

Chaudhri Duli Chand : Yes, it is. I want to show that when Government makes any effort to stop illicit distillation or to prevent people from drinking, those efforts are nullified.

(Continued in Urdu) : Sir, a certain hotel was also deprived of its licence as a result of this order, when the proprietor of the hotel applied for the cancellation of the order, the Government refused to revise or withdraw their orders. Strange to say, the prohibitionists did not scruple to sign a petition for the renewal of the licence.

Sir, this allowance is for journey by rail. It is well known that it is only possible to travel fast by trains or motors. Tongas take long time to travel from one place to another and if one were to travel by a tonga on the receipt of a report of the presence of excisable articles, one's efforts will go in vain, for by the time one reaches and raids the place, the smugglers would have destroyed and removed all the traces of such articles. Many cases can be cited in which the smugglers on receipt of the news of the raid broke the earthen vessels containing liquor and thus deprived the Excise Officers of the means of tracing the offenders. It is, therefore, necessary that the Excise staff should be in possession of some means of speedy action in order to stop liquor trade. I therefore, submit, Sir, that such demands should at once be granted.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, perhaps the honourable member who opposed this demand is not aware that we have recently been making special efforts to put down not only illicit distillation, but the smuggling of *charas* and opium, and especially in connection with the smuggling of *charas* it has been necessary to increase the amount of railway travelling by Sub-Inspectors. Our procedure has been to have a travelling Sub-Inspector who gets into the train at Campbellpur and travels down to Rawalpindi searching the train and keeping his eyes open and watching passengers from trans-frontier and finding out if they have *charas* with them or not. In that way several seizures of *charas* have been made. If we are not allowed this grant then travelling Sub-Inspectors will have to be abolished and the loss to Government will be very great. I can assure the House that Government will lose very much more than Rs. 2,000. I hope that my friend Lala Bodh Raj will not press his objection.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Minister for Agriculture) (Urdu) : Sir, Lala Bodh Raj has asked for new reasons which have necessitated the demand. Sir, there is a reason though quite a different one

from what my friend had ascribed to my withdrawal of this demand during the last session. Sir, I was myself then labouring under a wrong impression. The Council was objecting generally to the travelling allowance item and the House had decided to allow first class travelling allowance to those officers only whose pay was over Rs. 800 and to give all other officers drawing less than Rs. 800, second class travelling allowance. But, Sir, there were a certain class of officers who though not drawing Rs. 800 or more as pay were still classed by Government among those who were entitled to be given first class travelling allowance. The Council objected to first class travelling allowance being given to this class. I thought at the time that this item of Rs. 2,000 was partly meant for officers of the category I have just described. But it was not so. Later on I found that this item of Rs. 2,000 covered only the travelling allowance of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors. Moreover, the newly appointed Sub-Inspectors and 39 peons had not been employed then. Their employment naturally resulted in an increase in the travelling allowance. Five districts to which the activities of these newly appointed Sub-Inspectors extend have shown a great increase in the detection of crime against Excise Act. In a short period of two months or so, from the 1st December 1924 to the 12th February 1925, the number of arrests in the five central districts is 271 and in the remaining districts of the Province it is 244. This is the result of the vigorous activities of the department which necessarily involve extensive touring. This explains the rise in the amount of the travelling allowance required. If steady progress in the detection of crime is to be maintained until smuggling ceases then I submit that this amount of Rs. 2,000 should be granted; otherwise the money spent on the pay of the newly appointed 34 Sub-Inspectors and 39 Chaprasis will practically be a waste.

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 1925 in respect of Excise.”

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION GRANT.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia
(Revenue Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

“That an additional 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 1925 in respect of Irrigation.”

Mr. President : The question is—

“That an additional 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 1925 in respect of Irrigation.”

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, I do not oppose this demand on the ground that I am against the establishment of the proposed new division or that the work contemplated should be abandoned. But I oppose the demand on the ground of economy. The staff for whose appointment this sum is being demanded can be easily had from the existing establishment. When there is a general cry outside against the heaviness of expenditure of the Province, and there is a general desire for retrenchment it would be better if the required staff is provided from the staff of existing divisions which are already over-manned. No big establishment is needed for the proposed division. The small establishment that is mentioned on pages 8 and 9 of the explanatory memorandum can be very easily secured from the existing regiment of staff in the Irrigation Department. Sir, I submit that in the interests of economy the department should work on the existing staff and that the demand should be rejected.

Mr. W. P. Sangster (Chief Engineer, Irrigation) : Sir, I would like to explain that this work cannot possibly be done by the staff of the existing divisions. We have been trying to do some work during the last three years to ameliorate the condition of this town and the neighbouring tracts but we have not been able to accomplish anything simply because we have not had a sufficient staff. It is therefore absolutely necessary to put on extra staff to do the work. If the people of Sambrial town are willing to wait for a few years more, we might again try to get some work done by the existing staff during the few occasions on which they might be able to divert their attention from other urgent and multifarious duties. But if the work is to be done at once then the extra staff is necessary.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member), (Urdu) : Sir, I would not take long on the subject but would simply say a few words in connection with the remarks made just now by the honourable member, Lala Bodh Raj. Had he taken the trouble of visiting the *ilaga* and witnessing the miserable plight of the poor people, I am sure he would not have moved the Council to reject the demand.

Lala Bodh Raj : I am not opposing on that ground.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Honourable members Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din and Sardar Randhir Singh asked me to visit that *ilaga*. Consequently in company with Mr. Sangster and the abovementioned gentlemen I paid a visit to the *ilaga* and witnessed the sufferings of the people. We could not go over to Sambrial, but saw some other villages greatly damaged by water-logging. At some places the water rose so high that the walls were crumbling. The houses were in such a bad condition that I could not imagine how the poor people managed to live therein. Had the honourable member lived there a single day I am perfectly sure he would have formed an opinion different from that which he is expressing now. I am therefore astonished to hear that a sub-division should not be established to remedy the water logging of the place. Previously the population of Sambrial was about six thousand, but now it has been reduced to three thousand; the place is situated on a very low level and water accumulates there. If we neglect the present situation it would render the *ilaga* still more unhealthy. Under these circumstances I hope the Council would agree to the demand.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Punjab University) (Urdu): Sir, I do not rise to oppose the demand but simply to make a suggestion which has been made so many times before by me and which is applicable to this and all other demands coming after this. Whenever a demand is made nothing as to its necessity and other circumstances responsible for it, is brought to the notice of the House. There is given something in the explanatory memorandum pertaining to the present demand but it is not so in all cases. To stand up and simply say that the demand be accepted is not sufficient. The circumstances which necessitate a demand must in all cases be explained. Whatever Sardar Sabib has said in connection with the demand under consideration was mentioned in the Sub-Committee and if it had been given in the explanatory memorandum as well, I think much of the discussion will be avoided.

Mr. President : The question is—

“That an additional 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 1925 in respect of Irrigation.”

The motion was carried.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (RESERVED) 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 1925 in respect of General Administration (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 1925 in respect of General Administration (Reserved).”

After some pause the motion was declared carried.

Lala Bodh Raj : Sir, I have got an amendment* to move.

Mr. President : I am sorry your opportunity to move an amendment is gone. I paused for sometime, but you did not get up to move your amendment.

Lala Bodh Raj : On a point of order, Sir, may I know whether it is for the member who has given notice of an amendment to get up and move it or for the President to call on the member to move it?

Mr. President : When the question is before the House, it is for the member who has given notice of the amendment to get up and move the amendment if he wishes to do so.

*That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2 in respect of the item of Rs. 4,000—Travelling Allowance for officers.

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 1925 in respect of Administration of Justice.

Sir, sufficient explanation is given for this demand in pages 11 and 12 of the explanatory memorandum, but in deference to the wishes of my honourable friend Professor Ruchi Ram, I shall explain a little further. The items are, firstly, travelling allowance to Public Prosecutors, Rs. 1,250. That is explained in the foot note. The large item is on account of the Counsel who is taking a particular case and he has to travel all over the Province, because the accused in that case has obtained commissions for the local examination of a large number of witnesses in different parts of the Province. That is the explanation of the first item. The next item is contingencies for Subordinate Judges. On calculation it was found that there was a probability of the expenditure exceeding the actual grant by Rs. 2,000. That is why we are now asking for this amount.

The next item is on account of the process-serving establishment. This sum is required for local allowances to low paid officials in the process-serving establishment. It does not profit any one whose pay amounts to Rs. 100 per month.

The next item is District and Sessions Judges, pay of establishment and other allowances. There is an excess which is justified by actuals, and new establishments now existing in Jullundur and Montgomery Districts. There is also an item included as the probable earnings of the European bailiff at Rawalpindi on account of his commission. On that point I will explain again, though it was explained once before in this House. It was decided to pay the European bailiffs not solely by salary, but by a diminished salary plus commission on the actual number of processes which they serve. This amount is found necessary in order to make up the remuneration due to one particular official under that arrangement.

The next item is judicial record room charges and pay of establishment. This is due to the fact that provision was not made for leave salaries owing to an oversight. The next item is under Court of Small Causes, pay of officers travelling allowance and local allowances amounting to Rs. 2,000. A very large portion of this sum is due to the fact that a provincial service officer, an officer whose pay is voted has been posted to a particular centre instead of an officer whose pay is non-voted.

The last item in the list is diet and road money to witnesses. This is due to the fact that under the rules a certain sum has to be paid to witnesses and that amount was under-calculated. The number of witnesses called has been so large that it is necessary to provide more sum. Finally, there is an item on account of the expenses of Jirga. That is I believe daily allowances paid to members of the Jirga. Actually there is a larger number of Jirgadars who have to receive this allowance than was anticipated.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1 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."

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadian) Urban]
(Urdu) :—

Sir, I beg to move :—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2 in respect of Rs. 1,200 out of the item of Rs. 1,250—Travelling Allowance for Public Prosecutors."

Sir, the reason advanced in support of this demand is given on page 11 of the explanatory memorandum. It is given :—"Rupees 1,000 more is required for travelling allowance of the counsel conducting the case Rai Sahib Jamna Das, ex-Jailor, Multan Jail *versus* Bande Mataram. The manner of the defence has caused the case to assume proportions which were not anticipated at the time the case was started. The counsel has had to travel throughout the Province to hear evidence on commission and it is impossible to meet his expenditure on travelling allowance out of the present grant."

Sir, I submit that before the defendants had recourse to any procedure of examining their evidence on commission, the plaintiff himself had adopted the same procedure by producing evidence from Rawalpindi, Jhelum and other places. The defendant had, therefore, perforce to do the same thing. The defendants put in the list of their witnesses on or about the 1st of October 1924 and they did not submit any supplementary list at any later stage. The plaintiff knew very well that the witnesses belonged to various districts of the Province and that sufficient time would be required for the hearing of their evidence. All these facts ought to have been placed before the Government so that it would have been in a position to decide whether the case should be conducted by the Public Prosecutor at such a heavy expense or that a special lawyer be engaged for the case which would have avoided the unnecessary expenditure of engaging an Assistant Public Prosecutor on Rs. 500 per mensem, and the expenditure of travelling allowance at exorbitant rates for the Public Prosecutor. It was because the Public Prosecutor had got engaged in this case that the Government had to engage an Assistant Public Prosecutor lest the criminal work should suffer. Had the Government weighed all these things beforehand such a heavy expenditure could have been avoided. But now it can be urged that these expenses having already been incurred should be sanctioned. The defendants have now finished their evidence and the plaintiff is going to cite 40 or more witnesses from far off places within the Province and out of it. This will naturally necessitate the travelling of the Public Prosecutor at public expense. With all this we do not know where this extravagance will end. I, therefore, submit that the grant should be rejected altogether, so that the Government may be forced to finish the case with the least expenditure possible and to dispense with the services of the Assistant Public Prosecutor and thus save the public money from being wasted unnecessarily.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration : reduction moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2 in respect of Rs. 1,000 out of the item of Rs. 1,250 travelling allowance for Public Prosecutors.”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Chaudhri Duli Chand [Karnal (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I am in favour of the demand. My reasons are strong. The proposed cut is to be made in the travelling allowance of the Government Pleader engaged in the case, Rai Sahib Jamna Das, *ex-Jailor, versus Bande Mataram*. In my opinion it is quite expedient that newspapers should be adequately dealt with for publishing libels. Such papers as publish defamatory articles unmindful of the consequences must be prosecuted under all circumstances even if the Government has to incur a heavy expenditure. But if on the other hand the Government does not restrain their liberties, nobody in the Province would feel safe from the attacks of such newspapers. The dissensions and the bad blood prevailing among the various communities of the Province are matters for which the vernacular press is wholly responsible. If certain vernacular papers be stopped altogether, I am sure all the dissensions would terminate. If the vernacular press is not properly checked, I think many troubles like the Hindu-Muslim differences would crop up.

Lala Bodh Raj : I rise to a point of order. The matter is *sub judice*.

Mr. President : The honourable member is not referring, as I understand him, to any particular case. Having mentioned that this case refers to a particular newspaper, the honourable member is now telling us that it is expedient to start cases against newspapers which offend against certain laws. That proposition does not refer to any pending case.

Chaudhri Duli Chand (continued in Urdu) : Such papers as never hesitate to publish libels must be brought to book, otherwise the present tendency of the papers would develop all the more. I shall illustrate in what irresponsible manner some papers act. A resolution was moved the other day in this House that land must be given in exchange for the land acquired under the Land Acquisition Act. I never voted either way, but some papers gave out that I voted in favour of the resolution. As regards the removal of the Lawrence Statue, the *Bande Mataram* published that if I had been present in the Council I would have voted in favour of the resolution. . . .

Mian Abdul Aziz : I rise to a point of order. Is the honourable member replying to any personal attacks ?

Mr. President : Will the honourable member come to the real point ?

Chaudhri Duli Chand (continued in Urdu) : Sir, I have tried to make my point clear by giving certain concrete examples. Before I resume my seat I must say that it is necessary, in my opinion, to provide the Government Pleader with travelling allowance so that the case started may be properly conducted.

Mr. Labh Singh [Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Division North (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, we on this side of the House are perfectly glad to accept the explanation given by the last speaker (Chaudhri Duli

Chand), and I was really very glad to understand that he would have voted for the resolution about the removal of the Lawrence Statue. As regards the honourable member's general diatribe against the newspapers, I do not think I should concern myself with it.

Chaudhri Duli Chand : Just a word of personal explanation. How does the honourable member know that I would have voted in favour of the Lawrence Statue?

Mr. Labh Singh : The explanatory note, Sir, appended to the supplementary estimates comments on the manner of the defence in the *Bande Mataram* case and insinuates as it were that the heavy expenditure is being necessitated by the manner of the defence. As it has been considered advisable to comment on the manner of the defence, I would very respectfully like to point out that the entire proceedings from the start right to the middle—the end is not yet in sight—are a pure piece of extravagance and this prosecution, for that indeed it is, should not have been launched at all. How is it conceived that prosecutions of this description could possibly. . . .

Mr. H. D. Craik : On a point of order, Sir. Is the honourable member entitled in this Council to say, regarding the prosecution which is still *sub judice*, that it should not have been launched at all?

Mr. President : As I understood the point that the honourable member was trying to make, he was not going into the merits of the case which is *sub judice* but in attacking the travelling allowance demanded; he was saying that the travelling allowance is not needed and even the prosecution itself is not needed. That cannot be regarded as a comment on the merits of the case which is *sub judice*.

Mr. Labh Singh : I have absolutely no desire to comment on the case which is *sub judice*. I was on the contrary pointing out that this note very nearly amounts to a comment on the merits of the defence in the manner in which it is conducted by those who are responsible for it.

Mr. President : I hope the honourable member will direct himself to the point whether this travelling allowance should be allowed or not. Whatever arguments he uses should be connected with that point.

Mr. Labh Singh : The only thing I wanted to say was that the prosecution from the very start was unnecessary and that it ought not to have been launched at all. The case is entailing a very heavy and unnecessary expenditure of public money and it is not the defence merely who are to blame for it.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon [Shahpur East (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdn) : Sir, there can be raised only two objections to the item under consideration. First, that such suits should not be instituted at all. Secondly, that the money that is being spent on the present case is too much. As to the first objection the question arises whether it is the duty of the Government to help their servants when they are, while in the discharge of their duties, attacked by the press. As far as I can see it should be the duty of the Government to safeguard their servants against unfounded allegations whether made in the press or on the platform. As to the money that is being spent on this account, it is needless for me to say that without money no case, of whatever nature it may be, can be instituted and proceeded with and in cases where the honour of a man is involved, he never minds risking

[Malik Firoz Khan Noon.]

the whole of his property for the successful termination of the case. Moreover the Government are not spending so much at their sweet will, but have been compelled to do so. I think at this stage it would not be in the fitness of things that the Government should hesitate to spend a few hundred rupees more. I hope the Council would be satisfied as to the above mentioned two objections and would grant the demand under consideration.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan) (Rural)] (Urdu) : Sir, I had no mind to speak on the amendment under discussion, but for the remarks just made by Malik Firoz Khan Noon. He has remarked that it is the duty of the Government to help their servants who in the discharge of public duties are attacked by the press. Yes, the Government can do so with great pleasure, but before lending their help to their servants Government should satisfy themselves as to the absolute innocence of their servants; otherwise, if the Government takes upon itself the duty of sheltering them in all cases irrespective of the nature of their conduct, this would certainly go a long way towards spoiling their character as they would be under the impression that they can very easily institute suits against the newspapers on any pretence they like. I entirely disapprove of this idea.

Now turning to the particular case under consideration, I would submit that there is no use of spending so much money on the Government Pleader by way of his travelling allowance. It is quite unnecessary that the Government Pleader should go to each and every place for examining the witnesses even if it is situated hundreds of miles away from Multan. In such a case why should not the court send interrogatories to the persons concerned through the proper court under whose jurisdiction the persons reside? We are daily taxed in one form or another and the public money realised from us is being spent without any justification for the expenditure. Further, it is the duty of the press to comment on the conduct of the public servants and if they do not do so the question is, what else are they to do? In my opinion the Government should not make it a rule to help its servants in season and out of season. With these words I would ask the House to accept the amendment, because I feel that the money that is being spent on this case is derived from the newly enhanced water rates which has made Government so rich.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett (Home Secretary) (Urdu) : Sir, I did not rise earlier, because I was astonished at the speeches made from the opposite benches. I was really surprised to hear Mr. Labh Singh suggesting that this case should not have been started for the lot of money that is being spent on it could have been saved. I recalled that Mr. Labh Singh is the member who was left without an answer yesterday when Mr. Beazley explained how the large sums given by Government to the Gujranwala Municipality had been wasted. Then, Sir, it surprised me still more to hear Lala Bodh Raj charging us with certain things. Sir, it appears from a remark made by Lala Bodh Raj that he was appearing as a Counsel for one of the parties perhaps. That is why he is so much interested in the discussion of this grant.

Mr. Labh Singh : Is the honourable member in order in imputing motives to the gentleman who has been speaking in favour of the amendment.

Mr. President : I do not think the honourable member wants to impute motives. He says that he infers from something which fell from Lala Bodh Raj that he may be engaged in the case and if that is so it would not be

purely a disinterested matter. That is how he worked it in Urdu and in that form I do not think that it can be said that he was imputing motives.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett: Sir, I am not attributing motives of personal selfishness to any one and if my lack of mastery of the Urdu language has admitted of such a construction to be put on my words then I beg the honourable member's pardon. Anyhow I conclude from his speech that he thinks it wrong on the part of the Government to help the plaintiff, a Government servant in vindicating his honour. The plaintiff's counsel should not have been allowed to move out of Multan and to hear evidence on commission. Let the case take care of itself. My honourable friend has not tackled this question from the point of view of economy which I think is the real function of this House; but has attacked us for conducting the case so well. Should I understand the honourable member to mean that he does not want the plaintiff to conduct the case vigorously and efficiently? Sir, I do not say that his argument smacks of selfishness, but I leave it to the House to draw its own conclusions. The only question that has to be decided is whether the money entrusted to us is being spent economically and carefully. In discussing this grant two things have to be considered. First, is the money being spent economically? We shall see. Rupees 20,000 were originally demanded, out of which Rs. 1,250 having been cut down Rs. 18,750 were granted. Had the case been conducted in its ordinary course, this sum would have been quite enough; for those in whose hands rests the expenditure of the grant have been very careful in the expending of it. But as we know, an unusual procedure has been adopted for hearing the evidence which has necessitated the grant of Rs. 1,000 more. The other question is a general one. Is it or is it not the duty of an employer to defend his employee if in the honest discharge of his duty he has been exposed, undeservedly to public criticism and insult? Now had I been answering this question before an English audience in England perhaps I might have had to speak at some length, but speaking as I am in India, before an Indian assembly whose forefathers have from the very day of Adam, recognised the duty of a master to protect his servants, I do not think I need labour this point further. But my friend Rai Bahadur Sewak Ram has argued that this would be a dangerous principle to follow. I assure him that Government will never defend its servants if they are the wrong doers. They can only expect any support from the Government if they are the wronged. Again it has been suggested that Government should help Government servants only to get a judicial certificate as to their character. I submit that is the only thing that Government does. We help a Government servant to go to court to prove his innocence. We do not help him to save himself from the nemesis of his deeds. We take the best means of ascertaining the real facts. If you, therefore, think it the duty of the Government to help its servants in such a case I submit that this grant should be sanctioned.

Mian Abdul Aziz [Lahore City (Muhammandan) (Urban)] (Urdu): Sir, let me first express my sense of pleasure to hear for the first time at least in my presence, a European Member of this House speaking in Urdu. I do hope that other members of the opposite benches will also follow this worthy example so that the time spent in translations may be saved. I congratulate Mr. Dunnett on his so successful an effort. To come to the point under discussion, I am afraid I cannot refer to the facts of the case, it being *sub-judice*. I differ in certain matters from the ideas expressed by my predecessor.

[Mian Abdul Aziz.]

This case claims compensation for defamation to the extent of Rs. 5,190. The Government have taken their stand on the fact that it is their duty to protect Government servants from public criticism to which they are exposed in the discharge of their duty. Sir, as far as the principle underlying the statement is considered it is absolutely faultless. But we have first to make sure, if the Government have satisfied themselves as to the innocence of the servant about the charge, or if they have only accepted the one-sided explanation of the official concerned. Sir, I am afraid such statements coming from officers like Mr. Dunnett are likely to influence the findings of the court. He should not pronounce any kind of verdict upon the matter. It is for the court to decide whether the official concerned is innocent of the charges alleged against him. Now I must turn to the question of expenses. The plaintiff has two lawyers of his own, over and above the Public Prosecutor, and the demand is for the expenses of the latter, who is conducting the case at the expense of the Government. The plaintiff is now-a-days on pension, though the case concerns his actions while he was a Government servant. We have to see if the money is being spent well. No doubt the case once started must be carried to the finish. But I cannot understand the extravagant waste incurred in the Public Prosecutor's once coming down to Lahore to hear evidence, then going back to Multan, again coming down to Amritsar and then a third time running down to Gujranwala and thus spending unnecessarily the public money. Why could not he have heard all these witnesses together and thus avoided waste of money in travelling allowance? He would surely be charging double first class railway fare.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: No, Sir, there is some misapprehension. There is no double first class fare.

A Voice:—One and a half.

Mian Abdul Aziz (Urdu): Well, Sir, if it is not double first class let it be 1½ first class fare. I say let us suppose it is single fare or even his actual expenses that are paid to him. My objection still holds. Why should he be spinning forward and backward now from Multan to Lahore, again from Multan to Amritsar and again from Multan to Gujranwala? Why could he not finish all these witnesses in a single long trip? Another thing we hear about the case is that a long supplementary list of witnesses has been submitted or is about to be filed including witnesses belonging to far off places within the province and outside it. This means that he is to have another tour round the whole of the country. How good it is that enjoyment, travel and money all can be had in a single transaction! Sir it is our duty to consider all these things. It is no good disposing of such a matter lightly for the reason that the matter is *sub judice*. If such flimsy excuses have to be advanced to avoid discussion, I do not find any reason why such matters should at all be placed before the Council. We have something else to know. Is there any understanding that in the event of the compensation being granted the Government costs will be refunded? Supposing the case is dismissed, is it not likely that the public money will be wasted altogether and the plaintiff will sit quietly in his house without paying anything to the Government? We should consider all these things before launching any prosecution of such a kind. We may enquire if cases will be started against the *C. and M. Gazette* and the *Pioneer* if they write similar articles about the conduct of Government servants. We should not start prosecution against a

paper which has criticised the conduct of a Government servant because it belongs to some particular school of thought. If this is going to be the policy of the Government then I am afraid there will be no end to such cases. Sir, I submit there is no need of starting such civil suits. Publish the real facts, make independent inquiries about the matter complained and let the public take action against the paper which has concocted stories. But nowadays these cases are in reality between the Government and the papers concerned and some body is nominally placed to act as plaintiff to fight it out. Suppose the plaintiff is willing to compromise, are the Government willing to allow him to do so? I hear the plaintiff is ready to compromise, but the Government perhaps would not allow him to do so. Plaintiff himself does seldom attend the court. He has two more lawyers and he can see the case through without the help of the Government. Under the circumstances, I submit that we should not sanction even a sum of Rs. 100.

Malik Firoz Khan Noon : Sir, I move—

“ That the question be now put.”

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I wish to speak before the motion for closure is put to the House.

Pandit Nanak Chand : I have already risen to speak before the Honourable the Finance Member stood up.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I am quite content to give room to the honourable members opposite to speak provided my right to speak afterwards is maintained.

Lala Mohan Lal [North-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, I doubt if there is any member of the Council who would deny that the Government should help its officers in prosecuting cases that are brought against them by newspapers in which defamatory articles against them appear; but the question is when should the State aid be given. In cases in which the Government feels that a servant of its should vindicate his character against an alleged defamatory article, the Government should direct its officer to institute proceedings, and tell him that if he vindicates his character, he will be recompensed by the Government. Under the present system the public does feel, and rightly, that the Government helps its servants and encourages litigation and a good deal of money is wasted. In case the officer is asked to spend money from his pocket in the beginning, he would be more careful in his expenditure than he would be when he knows that the Government is to finance him. If my suggestion is followed the public would have less cause to complain. It is a well-known principle that if a man has to spend from his own pocket he is more careful than when he knows that somebody else is to finance him. The public has got an idea that by financing its officers it is the Government, which conducts these prosecutions and this impression in the mind of the public is undesirable.

Pandit Nanak Chand [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, I had no intention of taking part in the debate this afternoon, but the grounds on which it has been sought to defend this action are so dangerous that they must be contradicted at least from this side of the House. My honourable friend Mr. Dunnett said that if he had been speaking to an English audience he would have taken a long time to convince them that this was a necessary

[Pandit Nanak Chand.]

expenditure; but here in India he has only to speak to us to get his demand accepted on the principle that has been recognised by Indian politicians that whenever a servant of Government has to be defended the Government should at once go to his help. My submission is that it is entirely a misreading of the Indian political opinion either of the past or of the present. Now, I would refer my honourable friend Mr. Dunnett, who is standing outside this Chamber and listening to me (*At this stage Mr. Dunnett entered the Chamber and took his seat*) to the *Shanti Parva* of *The Mahabharata*, where it has been laid down distinctly that the Government servants are not so much the servants of the Government as they are the servants of the people.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett: I quoted Baba Adam.

Pandit Nanak Chand: Baba Adam wrote no book; besides he was not born in India.

Mr. President: At any rate the *Mahabharata* would be within the time from Baba Adam till now.

Pandit Nanak Chand: The second book to which I would refer my honourable friend is *Sukra Niti* where also it is stated that the Government servants are more the servants of the public than of the Government, and if somehow or other this idea of the Government servants being the servants of the Government and not those of the public is prevalent here, my submission is that we want to bring this country to the level of the English people, and therefore the Government servants should realise that they owe a duty to the public and that they are there to serve the public and therefore they must be careful in what they do in all their official affairs.

Then, the second thing on which my honourable friend Mr. Dunnett was wrong is this. If the Government gives help to the Government servants in this matter, justice is impeded thereby. It is a well-known fact that the Government has got a very long purse and that these poor newspapers cannot spend much money.

Mr. H. D. Craik: Question.

Pandit Nanak Chand: Then are you a poor Government? Not only does the Government give help to the Government servants in defending, but the fact that Government helps the plaintiffs in such cases influences the witnesses. The witnesses are afraid to come forward in a case of this kind where they think that the Government is taking sides in the matter. My submission is, there is a civil suit pending between a newspaper on the one side and one of the Government officials on the other, in which certain allegations made by the newspaper against the Government official are under adjudication by the Court. Now my honourable friend Mr. Dunnett says that where a Government servant is attacked in a *nahaq* manner there it is the duty of the Government to give help to the Government servant. The very point to be decided is whether the Government servant was attacked in a *nahaq* manner or in a *non-nahaq* manner.

Mr. President: I understood Mr. Dunnett to make general remarks; he was not referring to the particular case.

Pandit Nanak Chand: I am not referring to any particular case. What I am submitting is this. When any newspaper which owes a duty to the public has to discharge that duty to the public and when certain

grievances of the public come to light, then it is the duty of that newspaper to ventilate that grievance. If any Government official thinks that he has been wrongly attacked, the civil Court is open to him. He goes to the Civil Court and the Civil Court which is a Government institution has to decide whether the allegations are correct or not. Now if the Government were to take sides in a matter of this kind, that would not be the right and proper thing for the Government to do. Moreover in civil cases if a decree is passed and the Court thinks that the man has been wrongly defamed, the Court always awards costs; or in a case of this kind when costs are awarded that is sufficient compensation for the Government servant. On that ground also there is no justification for the Government to help a Government servant in this condition. My submission is, it is as much the duty of the Government to protect its officials as it is its duty to protect its subjects. Where Government interferes in a case like this where an adjudication in a Court of law is to be sought, my submission is that justice cannot be obtained in the right and proper manner. Moreover, in this particular case, the gentleman has engaged two private pleaders. It seems he is rich enough to spend money and why should Government help this gentleman?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Does not one of the pleaders engaged by the plaintiff come from the honourable members opposite?

Pandit Nanak Chand: If the gentleman has engaged two pleaders privately, my submission is there is no necessity for the Government to spend money in this extravagant manner. If the Government has got funds and if a certain person who is unjustly attacked is poor, then the Government *may*, I doubt whether it *should*, but it *may* in a case of this kind grant some help, but not to a rich man who can afford to engage two pleaders privately.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: They may be doing honorary work for him.

Pandit Nanak Chand: My honourable friend Chaudhri Duli Chand gave a personal instance, which I could not follow. May I ask what he meant by giving that personal instance? Did he mean that if a member of the Legislative Council was attacked in this manner, he should also be provided with help by the Government? My submission is, if my honourable friend Chaudhri Duli Chand is maligned or abused in this manner, he has got his remedy in a Court of law. He can sue the newspaper and get his honour vindicated. On these grounds, Sir, I oppose the grant and support the motion for reduction.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq [Ludhiana-cum-Hoshiarpur, Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I had no mind to speak on the demand under discussion, but for the principle put forward by the honourable member Mr. Dunnett. This principle is such that every reasonable man must object to it. If the Government make it a rule that they would help any of their servants in case he is defamed by public press, it would prove fuel to the fire, for these Government servants who have already been condemned more than once for all their diverse activities would all the more be encouraged and would think that Government are at their back. Sir, I have not been able to make out what the Honourable Member Mr. Dunnett has meant by saying that all men are sons of Adam. I am, in this connection reminded of a story that once a beggar went to the house of a wealthy person whom he

[Chaudhri Afzal Haq.]

asked for some help on the ground that they were both sons of Adam and therefore brothers. Thereupon the wealthy person gave him half a pice (Dhela) but the beggar hesitated to accept it. The former asked him to accept it and be silent lest others should become aware of it, for there were so many sons of Adam that if he should give each half a pice nothing would be left for him. Likewise if the Government would act upon this principle they would sooner or later become penniless and every tax-payer would be grieved to see that the money received from him is being spent so carelessly on a matter of no political importance. Along with this wrong principle a fallacious statement has also been made that in India it has been usual to uphold the doings of a servant whether right or wrong. I cannot understand wherefrom the honourable member has taken it or on what authority his belief is founded. Contrary to this I know of a historical fact of the despotic days, Noor Jahan the beloved queen of Jahangir was once held guilty of murder but not a single penny of public money was spent on the case. When it was decided that she should be released on payment of the blood money not a single penny was taken from the public funds but the whole of that amount was paid off by her relations. I am really sorry to notice that a responsible Government officer has made such an unfounded statement and I hope other Government members would contradict it.

Again it has been remarked that the honourable member Lala Bodh Raj is a Counsel for the defence and as such he is wasting the time of the Council. In reply to this I would submit that just in the same way it can be said of the Government that they are wasting both the public money and the time of the Council, for they are interested in the cause of the plaintiff. Further it is urged that day before yesterday the honourable members of this House asked the Government to refund the indemnities imposed on Gujranwala and now those very members are pressing the Government very hard to curtail their expenses. To this I would reply that it is not the only case in which Government is interested, many other public servants have been likewise defended by the Government and if the Government had followed our advice lakhs of rupees could have been saved. Many newspapers have been prosecuted at the instance of the Government and lot of public money has been spent on this account. In the end I would request the Government to leave such Government servants as are defamed by the public press to seek justice in the courts in the capacity of private citizens. The courts of law can better decide which party is at fault.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): Sir, in this discussion a good many small matters have been touched upon and one matter of very grave importance indeed. I wish only to touch on those matters very briefly which I think are small matters and I shall reserve my remarks mainly for the real question at issue which is of very great importance indeed. Various statements have been made in order to deal with which one would have to have an intimate acquaintance with a particular case such as only the counsel for the defence is likely to have. A certain member objected to the travelling allowance for the counsel for the plaintiff. That is a matter which will be checked in the ordinary course of administrative arrangements and it cannot be dealt with on the floor of this House because none of us here has a knowledge of the details of the case. Among the minor matters which I shall notice is the query put by one

member who said, will Government expenses be recovered from the plaintiff if the plaintiff gets a decree? The answer to that question is yes. All the expenses which Government will incur on the case will be recovered from the defendant if he obtains and is able to execute his decree.

The same member also asked, supposing that the plaintiff should be unsuccessful what will happen then? That is a matter which, of course, will be considered when that situation arises. As I shall point out the great object of these proceedings is to have the truth investigated and ascertained. Therefore if, when the truth has been judicially investigated and ascertained, the result should be to prove that a particular person is in the wrong when such measure will be taken by Government against that person as may be appropriate in the circumstances.

Now, Sir, I come to what is really, as I understand, the important question. If I understand correctly this amendment has been moved by way of contention that it is wrong for Government to assist its officers in defending their character when they are personally attacked. This is a general question and I am going to treat it as a general question. I am not going to enter into the details of a particular case. I do not know whether the plaintiff in this particular case engaged a counsel of his own, that is a fact which may be very well-known to the counsel for the defence; but it is not known to me, nor do I know whether he engaged him after Government had decided to assist him in the conduct of the case, or before. I know none of these points nor are they relevant to this large general question. Is it right for Government to assist its officers when their characters as such are attacked in a public manner? That is the point to which I propose to address myself.

Now, Sir, we officials are not men of property, we are poor people. That may be surprising to members of this House but it is unfortunately a fact that we have not the means at our disposal to conduct costly litigation. Of course, if it were in our power to combine the lucrative function of a counsel for the defence with that of a member of the Legislative Council, then we might possibly have the means at our disposal. But ordinarily, Sir, with very few exceptions we have no means to conduct litigation. We cannot indulge in that sort of thing. What then is going to happen when an officer is attacked and he has not the means for undertaking costly litigation? There are the allegations made against that officer's character. What are we to do in order to ascertain whether those allegations are true or whether they are false? Am I not right in saying that there is only one method by which the truth or the falsehood of those allegations can be satisfactorily ascertained? There is only one method, namely, to procure a judicial investigation into the facts and in order that there may be a judicial investigation into the facts it is essential that legal proceedings should be taken and the proper course when a person is defamed is that he should be the person who shall institute proceedings. Therefore on the assumptions which I have made, namely, that the man who has been defamed is an ordinary official not having the means of undertaking costly litigation, that it is desired to have a proper judicial investigation into the facts and to have the truth or falsehood of the charges judicially ascertained, then it is necessary that Government should assist in bringing about these legal proceedings. My friend, Mr. Dunnett has been very grossly misrepresented by many members of this Council who spoke after him. I do not say that they did this intentionally but they misunderstood him and in spite of the fact that he spoke in Urdu they did not listen to the careful

[The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.]

reservations which he made in his speech. He said : I cannot give the precise words but I noticed them and made a careful note of them as they were uttered because I saw the importance of them. What he said was this, that it is the duty of Government to give assistance to its officers when they are maligned, *to this extent that it shall assist them to procure a judicial investigation* into the truth or falsehood of the allegations made. That is the attitude of Government on this subject. It does not decide for itself beforehand that a particular statement is true or is false. How can it do so when its object is to obtain a judicial investigation into that question? It does not decide anything except that there is a *prima facie* reason for obtaining a judicial investigation and judicially ascertaining the correctness or otherwise of the allegations. That, Sir, is the ground on which Government pursues this policy and that is the ground on which it intends to continue this policy.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, reduction moved—
" That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2 in respect of Rs. 1,000 out of the item of Rs. 1,250—Travelling Allowance for Public Prosecutors."

4 P.M.

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided : Ayes 20, Noes 31.

AYES 20.

Chaudhri Saadullah Khan.
Chaudhri Najib-ud-Din Khan.
Chaudhri Nur Din.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Mian Abdul Aziz.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Sardar Partap Singh.
Pandit Nanak Chand.
Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.
Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni.

Lala Sham Lal.
Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.
Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Lala Banke Rai.
Lala Diwan Chand.
Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.
Mr. Labh Singh.
Lala Mohan Lal.

NOES 31.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Colonel C. R. Bakhle.
Mr. C. A. Barron.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. W. Mayes.
Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan.
Sir George Anderson.
Lieut.-Col. C. A. Gill.
The Hon'ble Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
The Hon'ble Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain.
The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
Mr. J. G. Beazley.
Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. J. M. Dunnett.
The motion was lost.

Mr. H. D. Craik.
Dr. C. A. Owen.
Mr. Owen Roberts.
Mr. J. Coldstream.
Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
Sardar Bahadur Sardar Jowahir Singh.
Lieut. Malik Muzaffar Khan.
Rai Shahadat Khan.
Khan Bahadur Sir Sayad Mehdi Shah.
Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
Khan Haibat Khan Daba.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Mr. E. Maya Das.
Chaudhri Duli Chand.
Rao Pohap Singh.
Chaudhri Kesar Singh.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I do not rise to oppose the demand, but I wish to bring to the notice of Government the sufferings of police witnesses in the courts in the mofussil. I am referring to the item 'diet and road money to witnesses'. My complaint is that this money is too small. In political cases or cases of a political nature generally the presiding officers or the Government pay the witnesses handsomely. But in cases of an ordinary nature the position of witnesses is pitiable. They have to appear very often in courts and they have to depend upon the moharrirs or the court nazirs. They often attend courts and when asked for the diet money, etc., they often receive the curt and short reply, "money is not available." This naturally affects the successful conduct of police cases. It is the prevailing opinion of the people that they are called in as witnesses and are not paid their actual expenses and that they have to waste a whole day without any remuneration. Therefore generally people hesitate to come in as police witnesses. That is why I bring this to the notice of Government so that necessary instructions may be issued to presiding officers of these courts that they should take steps to see that the diet and road money is properly and duly paid to witnesses. Sometimes due to pressure of work or some other cause some cases are postponed and there are occasions when witnesses are called in on several days without being examined, but they are paid diet and road money only for the last day on which they are examined. This causes much inconvenience to the witnesses. I therefore request Government to issue necessary instructions to see that diet and road money is paid regularly and at the proper time and for every hearing, so that successful dispensing of justice may not be deteriorated.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I am much obliged to the honourable member for drawing my attention to this point. I shall forward these remarks to the High Court which will no doubt issue necessary orders on the subject to the subordinate courts.

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 1925 in respect of Administration of Justice."

The motion was carried.

EDUCATION (RESERVED) 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 1925 in respect of Education (Reserved)."

Sir, I wish to draw attention to the fact that the sum which is reappropriated is only Rs. 200, a very small sum.

The motion was carried.

EDUCATION (TRANSFERRED) GRANT.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) :
Sir, I beg to move—

"That an additional 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 1925 in respect of Education (Transferred)."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That an additional 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 1925 in respect of Education (Transferred)."

Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : Sir, in the explanatory memorandum in respect of this item it is said the object of the association is one to be encouraged. May I know what the object is ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Helping Indian students in England.

Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : In what ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : In trying to make the best use they can of the money their parents give them and also of the time they are spending in England.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That an additional 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 1925 in respect of Education (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

MEDICAL GRANT.

The Honourable Mian Sir 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 1925 in respect of Medical."

The motion was carried.

AGRICULTURE GRANT.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (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 1925 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 1925 in respect of Agriculture."

Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : Sir, can the Honourable Minister say whether the effects of the floods have been removed and the country side which suffered during the floods has assumed normal conditions?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : I am afraid it will take at least 15 to 20 prosperous years to remove the effects of the floods. The money of course, to which this demand relates is to be paid to the officers of the Agricultural Department who have to undertake very extensive touring in order to afford relief to the flood-stricken people.

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 1925 in respect of Agriculture."

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS (RESERVED) 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 1925 in respect of Miscellaneous Departments (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

REFUNDS (RESERVED) GRANT.

Mr. Miles Irving (Financial 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 1925 in respect of refunds (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

REFUNDS (TRANSFERRED) GRANT.

The Honourable Mian Sir 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 (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.

THE PUNJAB DISTRICT BOARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education): Sir, the Punjab District Boards (Amendment) Bill has been published in the Gazette and therefore it is not necessary to ask for leave to introduce this Bill.

I therefore beg to move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. President: There are two steps before coming to the Select Committee, one is to move for leave to introduce the Bill; but this is not necessary in view of its publication in the Gazette which has been referred to by the honourable member. Now the honourable member has to introduce the Bill and then proceed to move for the Bill being referred to the Select Committee.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Sir, I beg to introduce the Punjab District Boards (Amendment) Bill:—

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Sir I beg to move:—

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

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali,

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muhammad Jamal Khan,

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram,

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Jowahir Singh,

Mr. J. G. Beazley,

A nominee of the Honourable the President,

Mr. J. Coldstream, and

The Mover;

and that the Council direct the Select Committee to submit its report during the present session of the Council.

Mr. President: The nominee of the President in this case is Sayad Muhammad Husain.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Sir, this Bill is practically a non-controversial measure and it is drafted on the same lines as the Punjab Municipal Act (Amendment) Bill which is going to be taken up for consideration later on either to-day or to-morrow. The provisions of the Punjab District Board (Amendment) Bill are very simple, indeed. Clause 2 places Small Towns on the same footing as Municipalities in regard to the proceeds of the local rate. Clause 2 (ii) became necessary in view of the passing of the Cantonment Act of 1924. Clause 3 will place the Sub-Registrars on the same footing as non-officials. There was a doubt whether they were whole time officials or not. Clause 4 (i) places persons in Government service under the necessity to pay taxes to local bodies. This clause has been rendered necessary by a recent ruling of the High Court. Clause 4 (ii) amends the Act so as to bring it into conformity with the provisions in the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911. Clause 5 refers to the way in which the taxes are to be levied. Clause 6 deals with the matter of deposits in the banks and brings the law into conformity with the provisions of the Punjab Municipal Act. Clause 7 has become necessary because doubts were expressed whether under section 37 of the Punjab District Boards Act the district fund can be applied to the payment of any charges outside the jurisdiction of the District Board. Clause 8 is again with reference to the Punjab Municipal (Amendment) Bill and provisions

are made here in conformity with it. In clause 9 provision has been made for investing with judicial powers officers enquiring into the conduct of elections. The present law has been found defective. Clause 10 was necessary in order to validate taxes previously levied. As I have already submitted, the provisions of this Bill are practically of a non-controversial nature and at this stage I have nothing more to say about it.

Mr. President : The question is :—

“That the Punjab District Boards (Amendment) Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following :—

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali,

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muhammad Jamal Khan,

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram,

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Jowahir Singh,

Mr. J. G. Beazley,

Sayad Muhammad Husain,

Mr. J. Coldstream, and

The Mover ;

and that the Council direct the Select Committee to submit its report during the present session of the Council.

The motion was carried.

THE OPIUM (PUNJAB AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Opium (Punjab Amendment) Bill.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Sir I beg to move :—

“That the Opium (Punjab Amendment) Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.”

Mr. President : The question is :—

“That the Opium (Punjab Amendment) Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.”

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is :—

“That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is :—

“That these be the title and preamble to the Bill.”

The motion was carried.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir I beg to move :—

“That the Opium (Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.”

Mr. President : The question is :—

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

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (non-Muhammadan), Rural] : Sir, I oppose the passing of this Bill as a whole because I find there is absolutely no necessity for this Bill at all. The minute of dissent recorded by my honourable friend Captain Dhan Raj Bhasin is quite sufficient and I suppose it is in the hands of the honourable members. I do not think there is any necessity for me to read out that minute of dissent. I fail to see why the Government considers that there is any necessity to double the punishment in the case of first offenders. It is quite unnecessary to place this Bill on the statute book. If this Bill is passed, I suppose most of the cases will have to be entrusted to section 30 magistrates and that will also enhance the work of these magistrates. If the fine is not raised from one thousand to two thousand the case will go to a first class magistrate. In connection with another Bill, I am going to move an amendment in regard to an identical punishment embodied therein and I think the same arguments would apply to this Bill also. Under these circumstances, I consider that this Bill is quite unnecessary and that it will be a kind of dead letter on the statute book.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : My honourable friend Lala Sewak Ram has mentioned this increase in the fine from one thousand to two thousand, but he has not said a word at all about the increase in imprisonment from one year to two years. That is really the most important part of the Bill. The reason why we have decided that it is necessary to raise the maximum punishment which can be inflicted for offences against the Opium Act is because we find that with the existing maximum punishment the full nature of the gravity of the offence against this law is not made manifest to magistrates with the result that the punishment inflicted are in most cases totally inadequate. The result is that not only is there a great increase in the amount of opium smuggled into this province but there is a great loss of revenue to this province. The main object, I may say, of raising the maximum punishment is to induce the magistracy and the judiciary as well as the public to see that this offence of smuggling of opium is a very serious offence and that it has to be dealt with with severity. We do not expect that on every occasion the maximum sentence will be inflicted. But at any rate we hope that the average sentence inflicted will be increased. That is the reason why we have proposed to double the period of imprisonment that would be inflicted under the old Act. My honourable friend Lala Sewak Ram has spoken about the fine of two thousand necessitating a reference to section 30 magistrates. Undoubtedly if the offence committed is of such a nature that the sentence which can be passed by a first class magistrate is inadequate, it may be necessary to have recourse to the maximum period of imprisonment as well as to the maximum fine and then the case will have to go to a section 30 magistrate. I see no objection in that. The number of such cases will be very few and I for one would not suggest to this House that because there may be one case in a hundred which would go to section 30 magistrate, therefore the maximum sentence should be lowered. In view of what I have said, I hope the honourable member will withdraw his opposition to this Bill.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (non-Muhammadan), Urban] : Sir, an offence against the excise law is surely an offence against the fiscal policy of the Government but it is not necessarily an offence against the morality.....

Mr. C. M. King : Even opium ?

Lala Bodh Raj : I said, not necessarily. By the passing of this Opium Amendment Bill, we are strengthening the hands of the magistracy. Sometimes the first offenders are apt to fall into the hands of confirmed culprits and because of their inexperience, or their rashness, they are apt to commit this offence. If the Bill is passed the magistrates will then be justified to sentence even the first offenders for a term of imprisonment which the existing law provides for an offender who has been previously convicted. If it is the desire of the Government to punish confirmed culprits heavily, then, I think the law as it now stands provides sufficient punishment, for such offenders. One year's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of one thousand rupees are not small punishments and I think there are no peculiar circumstances which should warrant that this punishment be enhanced. So I beg to support my honourable friend Lala Sewak Ram in his opposition to the Bill.

Mr. President : The question is :—

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

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB EXCISE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I beg to present the Select Committee's report on the Punjab Excise (Amendment) Bill.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the Punjab Excise (Amendment) Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is :—

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (non-Muhammadan), Rural] : Sir, the amendment to this clause which I move runs as follows—

"In clause 2, sub-clause (1) the words 'and for the words 'one thousand' the words 'two thousand' shall be omitted.

Sir, in this section a similar thing as in the case of the Opium Bill is going to take place, that is to say the fine is going to be raised from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000 and the imprisonment from one year to two years. My amendment is to the effect that though the imprisonment may be raised to two years, the fine may remain as before, for then all the cases under this Act will always be tried and convicted by a first class magistrate and in no case will any necessity arise for the sending of cases to section 80 magistrates. My submission is that the less work we shift from the shoulders of the first class magistrate to those of the section 80 magistrate the better, for I believe that Government's policy should be not to invest more magistrates with higher powers, and the first class magistrate will be the final authority if the fine remains at Rs. 1,000.

[Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.]

My second point is that in such cases if you raise the fine to as high as Rs. 2,000, you encourage people to go on manufacturing illicit liquor in order to make money which they have already paid. So I think there is hardly any wisdom in our raising the fine.

Then there is Dr. Dhan Raj Bhasin's minute of dissent. It is not advisable to go on raising the convictions and strengthening the hands of the magistrates to be merely convicting magistrates. Therefore I think that my amendment should be accepted.

Mr. President : Clause under consideration, amendment moved :—

"In clause 2, sub-clause (1), the words and for the words 'one thousand' the words 'two thousand' shall be omitted."

The question is that that amendment be made.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, I would only point out to the honourable member that Rs. 2,000 is already in the Act itself as the punishment for cocaine and we are only raising the punishment for excise to what it is in the case of cocaine. There is no reason why punishment in the case of cocaine should be higher.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Sir, I am not supposed necessarily to confine myself to the amendment, but I can oppose the adoption of the clause itself.

Mr. President : That will come afterwards.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Then I shall speak later.

Mr. President : Clause under consideration, amendment moved :—

"In clause 2, sub-clause (1), the words and for the words 'one thousand' the words 'two thousand' shall be omitted."

The question is that that amendment be made.

The amendment was lost.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (non-Muhammadan), Rural] : Sir, I move a similar amendment to clause 2, sub-clause (2), which runs as follows :—

"In clause 2, sub-clause (2), the words and for the words 'one thousand' the words 'two thousand' shall be omitted."

It says that the fine may not be raised from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000 and the same arguments which I have already submitted apply in this case. I submit that the fine should remain at Rs. 1,000.

Mr. President : Clause under consideration, amendment moved :—

"In clause 2, sub-clause (2), the words and for the words 'one thousand' the words 'two thousand' shall be omitted."

The question is that that amendment be made.

The amendment was lost.

Dr. Gokul Chand Narang [North-West Towns (non-Muhammadan), Urban] : Sir, when the Opium Act (Amendment) Bill was before us, I did not think it necessary to speak on it because I think offences with respect to opium are much rarer than offences under the Excise Act. That might be *prima facie* a reason for enhancing the sentence, as perhaps some gentle-

man from the opposite side has just now remarked, but there is another very important circumstance which must be taken into consideration when we are discussing this clause, and that is this that there is a great deal of chance under the Excise Act to bring false cases against one's enemies and I can say from my own experience at the Bar that many of the cases brought under the Excise Act are really the result of enmity. Opium is a thing which is mostly imported from outside the Punjab, but there is plenty of material for manufacturing illicit liquor in this province itself. You have only to collect together two or three things. I do not want to give you the prescription lest it might be attempted by some one.

Mr. C. M. King : By member of the Swaraj Party (laughter).

Dr. Gokul Chand Narang (continued): No, to put the Swaraj Party into trouble. But everybody knows what the ingredients are. They are very simple and are easily obtainable. You have only to take a sort of pitcher and a sort of tube and make a little decoction.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : You are giving out the secret (laughter).

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : No, not the whole of it. Do not be so jubilant over it (laughter). Then it is only to be put either in the dungheap of an agriculturist at his farm or under his fodder or under some heap of fuel and then one has to go to the police and just lodge a report. The police comes at a convenient time and the discovery is made. A case is concocted and even if ultimately the accused is discharged or acquitted he is sufficiently punished in the very attempt of obtaining a discharge or acquittal. I think this is one more reason why the same principle should not be applied to the Excise Act as one might apply to the Opium Act and I hope this argument which I have submitted would appeal to Government and they would not insist on the enhancement of the sentence in this case.

Moreover, as Dr. Bhasin has put it in his note of dissent, severe sentences are not always effective and they are really at a par with the repressive policy which Government sometimes adopts to root out agitation or to suppress disturbances or things of that sort. They never succeed. So, severe sentences never succeed in suppressing crime or even reducing it by any considerable degree. All that they may do may be to make people more cautious and more secretive and therefore more criminally-minded, and that by itself would be a loss to the morality of the people of this province. For these reasons, Sir, I submit that this clause should not be passed.

Mr. Labh Singh [Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Division, North (non-Muhammadan), Rural] : Sir, I will say just one word in opposition to clause 2. It may be accepted as a general principle that heavy sentences do not act as a deterrent in the commission of crime.....

Mr. C. M. King : I cannot hear one word.

Mr. President : Will the honourable member please speak a little louder.

Mr. Labh Singh : It is not always the case that maximum sentences act as a sufficient deterrent and the offenders do not mend their ways in spite of the heavy punishment.

My contention is that a wrong remedy is being applied. The real remedy should have been to increase the efficiency of our agency for the detection of crime. That would be the proper method or procedure instead.

[Mr. Labh Singh.]

of our applying the wrong method of enhancing the punishment. My submission is that the very purpose which we have in view will be frustrated if we enhance the punishment. Moreover, I believe that in no other province or country are the sentences inflicted for these offences so heavy as those proposed in the Bill. The manufacturing of liquor is an offence against the revenue law and ought not to be so severely dealt with. Offences against fiscal statutes are everywhere treated on a separate basis. For these reasons I beg to oppose it.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I shall say only a few words in reply to the points that have been raised by Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang, and by Mr. Labh Singh. As a matter of fact one of the reasons advanced by Dr. Gokul Chand is in favour of the Bill and not against it. He said that he did not oppose the Opium Amendment Bill because the offences under the Opium Act were very few, and that offences against the Excise Act were very common and therefore he must oppose any enhancement of the sentence provided under the law.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I said "more common."

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Anyway that makes my case stronger and not weaker. There is another argument used by Dr. Gokul Chand. He said there was a great danger of false cases being started by certain persons against their enemies. As a matter of fact I do not understand the force of this argument. If false cases are likely to be started, it does not matter whether the maximum sentence is one year or two. Nobody would like to see a man sent to jail even for a day if he is really innocent. Therefore I do not see how it goes against the principle of enhancing the maximum sentence provided in the present Act.

Then a third point was raised that people will be harassed by false cases. That again I say is no answer to the enhancement of the present sentence. Mr. Labh Singh said that this was a wrong remedy. Imprisonment, fines and such other punishments are remedies that have been recognised from time immemorial as very effective. I do not see why if I propose to enhance the maximum punishment provided in the present Act that should not be regarded as a true remedy or why that should be regarded as a bar to any other remedy. As a matter of fact I would welcome any suggestion for the improvement of the efficiency of the present detecting or prosecuting agency but at the same time I should like to have a more deterrent sentence provided under the law.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That these be the title and the preamble to the Bill."

The motion was carried.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I beg to move—

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

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB MUNICIPAL (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Punjab Municipal (Amendment) Bill.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the Punjab Municipal (Amendment) Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken in to consideration."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Clause 2.

Mr. J. G. Beazley (Secretary, Transferred Departments) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That for sub-clause (ii) of clause 2 the following sub-clause be substituted :—

"(ii) After sub-section (7) the following new sub-sections shall be inserted, namely :—

"(7a) When a local area, the whole or part of which was a notified area under this Act, is declared to be a municipality under this section, the municipal committee shall be deemed to be the perpetual successor of such notified area committee in respect of all its rules, bye-laws, taxes and all other matters whatsoever.

"(7b) When a local area, the whole or part of which was a small town under the Punjab Small Towns Act, 1921, is declared to be a municipality under this section, the municipal committee shall be deemed to be the perpetual successor of such small town committee in respect of all its rules, bye-laws, taxes and all other matters whatsoever."

Sir, I do not propose to speak much in favour of the amendment. It is purely a drafting amendment. After the Bill had passed through the Select Committee I had occasion again to go through the clauses of the Bill and it was observed that the drafting of this clause was in certain respects rather unfortunate and that it should be improved in the manner set forth in the amendment.

Mr. President : Clause under consideration, amendment moved :—

"That for sub-clause (ii) of clause 2 the following sub-clause be substituted :—

"(ii) After sub-section (7) the following new sub-sections shall be inserted, namely :—

"(7a) When a local area, the whole or part of which was a notified area under this Act, is declared to be a municipality under this section, the municipal committee shall be deemed to be the perpetual successor of such notified area committee in respect of all its rules, bye-laws, taxes and all other matters whatsoever.

"(7b) When a local area, the whole or part of which was a small town under the Punjab Small Towns Act, 1921, is declared to be a municipality under this section, the municipal committee shall be deemed to be the perpetual successor of such small town committee in respect of all its rules, bye-laws, taxes and all other matters whatsoever."

The question is that that amendment be made?

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clause 2 as amended stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clause 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clause 8 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clause 9 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clause 10 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clause 11 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clause 12 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That these be the title and the preamble to the Bill."

The motion was carried.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) :
Sir, I beg to move—

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

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB SMALL TOWNS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) :
Sir, I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Punjab Small Towns (Amendment) Bill.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) :
Sir, I beg to move—

"That the Punjab Small Towns (Amendment) Bill, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Clause 2.

Mr. J. G. Beazley (Secretary, Transferred Departments) : Sir, I beg to move :—

"In clause 2, for the words after the word "namely" the following words be substituted :—

"(3a) When a local area, the whole or part of which was a Notified Area under the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, is declared to be a Small Town under this section, the Small Town Committee shall be deemed to be the perpetual successor of such Notified Area Committee in respect of all its rules, bye-laws, taxes and all other matters whatever to the extent to which they are lawful for a Small Town under this or any other Act."

This amendment again is purely a drafting matter. The clause as it stands makes small towns perpetual successors of notified areas, but a perpetual successor must be a person of some sort and therefore the amendment that is proposed improves the language. The words "Small Town Committee" and "Notified Area Committee" have been substituted.

Mr. President : Clause under consideration, amendment moved :—

"In clause 2, for the words after the word "namely" the following words be substituted :—

"(3a) When a local area, the whole or part of which was a Notified Area under the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, is declared to be a Small Town under this section, the Small Town Committee shall be deemed to be the perpetual successor of such Notified Area Committee in respect of all its rules, bye-laws, taxes and all other matters whatever to the extent to which they are lawful for a Small Town under this or any other Act."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is :

"That clause 2 as amended stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is :—

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is :—

“ That clause 4 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is :—

“ That clause 5 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is :—

“ That clause 6 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is :—

“ That clause 7 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is :—

“ That clause 8 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is :—

“ That clause 9 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is :—

“ That clause 10 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is :—

“ That clause 11 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was carried.

Mr. J. G. Beazley (Secretary, Transferred Departments) : Sir, I beg to move :—

After clause 11, the following new clause be added :—

“ 12. The amendment made in the said Act by section 2, shall have effect as if it had been made on the 7th day of May 1923.”

Retrospective effect.

Sir, the 7th day of May 1923 is the date from which the Punjab Small Towns Act, 1921, was put into force. Unless clause 2 of the Bill is given retrospective effect, it will be necessary for the small town committees which are succeeding the notified area committees to remake all their bye-laws and reimpose all their taxes. This will cause great administrative inconvenience to the towns concerned and in order to bridge the gap between abolition of the notified area committee and the functioning of the small town committee, it is proposed to give retrospective effect to the amendment of section 3 of the principal Act made by clause 2 of this Bill.

Mr. President: Bill under consideration : amendment moved—

"That after clause 11, the following new clause be added:

"12. The amendment made in the said Act by section 2 shall have effect as if it
Retrospective effect. had been made on the 7th day of May 1923."

The question is that that amendment be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That there be the title and the preamble to the Bill."

The motion was carried.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fasil-i-Husain: I move, Sir—

"That the Punjab Small Towns (Amendment) Bill, as amended by the Council, be passed."

The motion was carried.

SITTINGS OF THE COUNCIL ON 6TH MARCH.

Mr. President: As no business is left over for to-morrow, the Council will not meet to-morrow that is the 6th, and the questions appearing in the list of business for to-morrow will be taken up on Monday, the 9th instant.

The Council then adjourned till 2 P. M. on Monday, the 9th March 1925.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

6TH SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Monday, the 9th March, 1925.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE TO CHAPRASIS, KHALASIS AND PANSALNAWISES IN THE IRRIGATION BRANCH.

1486. **Sardar Tara Singh :** Is it a fact that no travelling allowance is allowed to Canal officers for tours within a radius of 5 miles from their headquarters? If so, does this restriction apply to *chaprasis*, *khalasis* and *pansalnawises* as well? If so, will the Government consider the advisability of exempting them from this restriction?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

The reply to the first two parts of the question is in the affirmative, but 8 miles should be read instead of 5 miles.

The matter will be considered when the Travelling Allowance rules come under review after March 1925.

GRANT OF LAND TO ABADKARS.

1487. **Sardar Tara Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that the Government has been giving land to abadkars for cultivation in the various Bars?

(b) Will the Government please state the rules regulating the distribution of land to these abadkars together with the condition, if any?

(c) Is it a fact that no such land has been given to the abadkars of the Ferozepore district? If so, will the Government consider the advisability of granting land to abadkars of Ferozepore district also and especially of Moga tahsil?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) Yes.

(b) No set of rules exist, but the statement of conditions for the various colonies will be found in Colony Manual, Volume II.

(c) Government has no definite information on this point, but it appears *prima facie* unlikely that no abadkar of the Ferozepore district has obtained land in any colony.

SALE OF PROPRIETARY RIGHTS IN LANDS OF THE LOWER JHELUM COLONY.

1488. **Sardar Tara Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that Government has proposed a price (*vide* Punjab Government letter No. 14828—31-19-2-201, dated 15th November 1924) for the sale of proprietary rights in lands of the Lower Jhelum Colony?

[Sardar Tara Singh.]

(b) Has Government received representations from the civil, military and jaggli grantees of the Lower Jhelum Canal of the Sargodha district in the matter?

(c) Will the Government consider the advisability of appointing a mixed commission of officials and non-officials to go to the spot and after examining the local persons and circumstances to recommend a value to the Government?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : (a) Yes, for the sale of occupancy tenancies not subject to horse-breeding conditions.

(b) Yes.

(c) As the price was fixed after careful consideration of the prices obtained at recent sales of land, Government see no necessity for appointing any such commission. It is optional for the grantees to purchase proprietary rights or not.

MILITARY SCHOLARSHIPS.

1489. Sardar Tara Singh : (a) Is it a fact that there are advisory committees in every district controlling the distribution of military scholarships? If so, by whom and under what orders these District Committees have been constituted?

(b) What are the rules regarding the distribution of these military scholarships?

(c) What are the qualifications required of a candidate to deserve this scholarship?

(d) What is the remedy against the unjust and unfair distribution of these scholarships by the District Advisory Committees?

(e) Is it a fact that Nagindar Singh and Swaran Singh, sons of Jamadar Partap Singh, M.L.C., of Shankar, District Jullundur, were receiving these scholarships? If so, since when has the payment of these scholarships to them been discontinued and for what reasons? Will the Government please consider the advisability of reconsidering the order of the District Advisory Committee and restoring these scholarships to the students concerned?

(f) Will the Government please lay on the table a list of students of the Jullundur District receiving military scholarships together with their father's names, their military rank, pension and the number of rectangles, if any, received by them for their services?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Yes; by the order of the Government contained in paragraph 7 of Punjab Government C. M. No. 18503-A., dated the 29th November 1922.

(b) and (c) A copy of the rules is laid on the table.

(d) and (e) These scholarships are an act of grace and cannot be claimed as a right.

(f) The labour involved by the collection of these statistics would not be commensurate with the benefit to be gained thereby.

C. M. No. 5505-A., dated 13th May 1920.

From—The Honourable Mr. W. T. WRIGHT, I.E.S., Officiating Under-Secretary to Government, Punjab, Home (Education) Department.

To—All Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners in the Punjab.

WITH Punjab Government endorsement No. 2758-S. (Home—Military), dated 13th July 1918, you were furnished with certain rules for the education of the children (boys and girls) of men of the combatant and non-combatant ranks of the Army who have since August 4th, 1914, died while on active service or become permanently incapacitated owing to wounds or disease contracted while on such service.

2. I am now to inform you that with effect from 1st April 1920, the rules applicable to such children will also (with minor modifications) be applicable to the children (boys and girls) of all men of the combatant or non-combatant ranks of the Army who were on the active list between 4th August 1914 and 11th November 1919, in all cases in which the parents or guardians of such children are not in affluent circumstances. The rules as applicable to this class of children are appended to this letter.

RULES.

(1) The rules below will apply to the children (boys and girls) of all men of whatever rank, whether combatants or non-combatants, who were on the active list between the 4th August 1914, and the 11th November 1919, both dates inclusive, who are in indigent circumstances.

(2) (a) It will be the duty of masters to enquire into the circumstances of scholars and see that all who are entitled are brought under the scheme. Members of District Boards, Zaildars, Lambardars and rural notables, and also any existing military agencies, will also be asked to bring it to the notice of the guardians of children entitled to benefit and to induce them to send them to school. For this purpose hand bills explaining the scheme will be supplied through District Inspectors of Schools. The scheme will also be explained at meetings of Teachers' Associations.

(b) Applications stating—

- (i) Name, sex and date of birth of child ;
- (ii) Father's name and caste ;
- (iii) Unit, rank and number ;
- (iv) Division in India to which attached and dates of service on active list ;
- (v) Present means (approximate annual income) ;
- (vi) Residence—village, tahsil or taluqa ;

and accompanied either by a certified copy of the father's discharge certificate or a certificate from his Commanding Officer stating the date of his joining the army, are to be made to the District Inspector, who will make local enquiry in each case and draw up a quarterly list for his district and submit it to the Deputy Commissioner, who will forward it to the Director of Public Instruction, Punjab.

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

(3) Every child will be entitled.—

- (a) to free primary education *plus* an allowance of Rs. 2 per annum while in the 1st and 2nd classes, and Rs. 3 per annum while in the 3rd and 4th classes to cover incidental expenses such as books ;
- (b) to a scholarship of Rs. 2 per mensem if a day scholar and of Rs. 8 per mensem if a boarder, in any middle school together with remission of the school fees ;
- (c) Without prejudice to his or her competency for open scholarship to enter into competition for such scholarships in high school and colleges as the Local Government may reserve for the benefit of persons eligible under this scheme, provided that :—
- (i) A concession or scholarship under these rules may be withdrawn if, in the opinion of the Inspector of Schools concerned the progress of the pupil is inadequate or his or her conduct unsatisfactory.
- (ii) No scholarship will be given to a pupil who has not passed such test as may be prescribed for entry into the class of school for which the scholarship is given.

4. Government will not interfere with the discretion of guardians as to the institution to which a child should be sent. In order to recoup the authorities of institutions other than Government institutions to which children may be sent under these rules, Government will place at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner such sums as they estimate will be required. These sums will be disbursed through the District Inspectors of Schools who will obtain receipts from the heads of the Institutions which the children attend. Payments will be audited by the Inspecting Staff of the Education Department at their annual inspection of the School Registers.

5. It will be open to the Officer Commanding any military unit to address the Deputy Commissioner concerned for information regarding the education of the children of any man of his unit coming under the category described in rule 1 above, and the Deputy Commissioner will give such information as is possible in reply to such enquiries.

Circular No. 11419-A., dated Lahore, the 17th November 1920.

From—G. ANDERSON, Esq., C.I.E., M.A., Offg. Under-Secretary to Government, Punjab, Home (Education) Department,

To—All Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners in the Punjab.

I AM directed to request that the following may be substituted for rule 3 of the rules appended to Punjab Government, Home (Education) Department, C. M. No. 5055-A, dated the 13th May 1920 :—

3. Every child will be entitled—

- (a) to free primary education *plus* an allowance of Rs. 2 per annum while in the 1st and 2nd classes and Rs. 3 per annum while in the 3rd and 4th classes to cover incidental expenses such as books ;

- (b) to a scholarship of Rs. 2 per mensem if a day scholar, and of Rs. 8 per mensem if a boarder, in the Middle Department together with remission of the school fees ;
- (c) without prejudice to his or her competency to compete for open scholarships to a scholarship of Rs. 2 per mensem if a day scholar and of Rs. 8 per mensem if a boarder in the High Department with remission of school fees, provided that—
- (i) A concession or scholarship under these rules may be withdrawn if, in the opinion of the Inspector of Schools concerned, the progress of the pupil is inadequate or his or her conduct unsatisfactory.
- (ii) No scholarship will be given to a pupil who has not passed such test as may be prescribed for entry into the class of school for which the scholarship is given.

For college students a scholarship of Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 per mensem (according to the fees charged and to the class in which the student is reading) should be sufficient both to cover college dues and fees for boarding.

C. M. No. 12633-A., dated Lahore, the 15th December 1920.

From—G. ANDERSON, Esq., C.I.E., M.A., Offg. Under-Secretary to Government, Punjab, Home (Education) Department,

To—All Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners in the Punjab.

I AM directed to request that the following may be added as note to rule 8 (a) of the rules appended to Punjab Government, Home (Education) Department, C.M. No. 5505, dated the 13th May 1920, as subsequently amended by Punjab Government, Home (Education) Department, C.M. No. 11419-A., dated the 17th November 1920 :—

Note.—In girls' schools the allowance of Rs. 2 per annum will be given in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd classes and of Rs. 3 per annum in the 4th and 5th classes."

C. M. No. 5938-A., dated Lahore, the 5th May 1921.

From—G. ANDERSON, Esq., C.I.E., M.A., Under-Secretary to Government, Punjab, Home (Education), Department,

To—All Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners in the Punjab,

I AM directed by the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) to state that the rules regarding the award of scholarships to the children of Indian soldiers appended to Punjab Government, Home (Education) Department, C. M. No. 5505-A., dated the 13th May 1920, as subsequently amended, shall also apply to the own brothers and sisters of Indian soldiers in cases wherein the child is wholly dependent upon his or her own brother who served in the Great War. These orders shall take effect from 1st April 1921.

Ji SIRIS.

1490. **Sardar Tara Singh :** (a) Is the Government aware that a great deal of trouble is experienced by the zamindars of the Punjab at the hands of Ji Siris who receive big sums at the time of being employed as Ji Siris, but decamp after a short time?

(b) Will the Government cause an enquiry into the matter to be made by the district officers and if their reports support this complaint of the zamindars, will Government consider the advisability of taking steps to amend the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act so as to apply it to these Ji Siris or to devise some other remedy?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : (a) and (b). The term 'Ji Siris' used in part (a) of the question is not understood; and unless the honourable member puts his question in an intelligible form, information required cannot be given.

THEFTS IN KASUR.

1491. Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

- (a) the number of thefts (including thefts of cattle) committed in the town of Kasur during the year 1924-25;
- (b) the number of those that were traced and those that were not traced; and
- (c) the approximate value of damage done?

(ii) Is it a fact—

- (a) that the house of the sub-judge of Kasur was broken open by thieves and property worth about Rs. 3,000 stolen; and
- (b) that the theft could not be traced?

(iii) (a) Is it a fact that the number of thefts has enormously increased since the present sub-inspector of police took charge of Kasur city thana?

(b) If the reply to clause (a) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to direct that a capable and experienced police sub-inspector be posted at Kasur city thana?

(c) If reply to clause (a) be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a comparative statement showing—

- (1) number of thefts committed;
- (2) number of thefts traced; and
- (3) number of thefts untraced

during the year before and the year after the posting at Kasur of the present police sub-inspector?

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.

LOCAL ALLOWANCE TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AT SARGODHA.

1492. Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Is it a fact that Government employees drawing less than Rs. 100 per month get Rs. 5 per month as local allowance at Sargodha? If so, will the Government consider the advisability of extending this privilege to the *Naqsha Navis* class of their employees also?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) Compensatory allowances ranging from Re. 1 to Rs. 5 were sanctioned in 1921 for clerks serving at Lyallpur, Sargodha, Rawalpindi and Amritsar.

(b) The allowance was definitely restricted to clerks for financial reasons as already explained by the Honourable Revenue Member in answer to a Council Question* (No. 1374 of 1922) put by Chaudhri Ali Akbar and Government sees no reason now for extending it to the *Naqsha Navis* or any other class of non-clerical establishment.

GRIEVANCES OF THE PROVINCIAL FOREST SERVICE.

1493. Lala Mohan Lal: (a) Is it a fact that in 1922, when the Provincial Forest Service men memorialised on their grievances to the Secretary of State and prayed that officers of that service may be granted official equality with those of the All-India Forest Service, when they are placed in similar charges, Government of India in their Despatch No. 5, dated 6th July 1922, wrote that "No remarks were called for, as official equality was assured under the rules?"

(b) Is it also a fact that the above view of the Government of India was confirmed by the Secretary of State in his Despatch No. 7, dated the 31st August 1922?

(c) Is it a fact that according to the travelling allowance rules now in force, Provincial Forest Service officers, when in charge of divisions are allowed only second class travelling allowance for railway journeys while officers of the All-India Service are allowed first class travelling allowance?

(d) If the answers to the above be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state how the present position obtaining from the new travelling allowance rules reconciles with the status outlined by the Government of India in 1922 for the Provincial Forest Service officers in charge of divisions?

(e) Has Government received a memorial from members of the Provincial Forest Service on this subject? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the reply which has been given to that memorial?

(f) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(i) how many divisions there are in all in the Forest Department;

(ii) how many of them are held by the Provincial Forest Service officers;

(iii) how many officers there are in all on the list of Provincial Forest Service, and

(iv) how much more money will be required monthly by Government if first class travelling allowance for the railway journeys is to be allowed to Provincial Forest Service officers in charge of divisions?

(g) Is it a fact that police officers and officers of the Public Works Department in the Provincial Services are allowed first class travelling allowance for railway journeys when holding district or divisional charges respectively? Is it a fact that it is only the divisional forest officers of Provincial Service, who have been isolated by the grant of second class travelling allowance for railway journeys?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia:

(a) (b) and (c). The memorials were submitted in 1921 and the reply to the first three parts of the question is in the affirmative.

(d) The Government of India despatch relates to official precedence and not to travelling allowance.

(e) Yes. The reply was to the effect that Government saw no reason for reconsidering the orders.

(f) (i) 16.

(ii) 6.

(iii) 26.

(iv) The calculation would be a difficult one and has not been undertaken.

[Hon'ble S. B. S. Sundar Singh, Majithia.]

(g) Yes. The post of Divisional Forest Officer is not one of those reserved for members of the Imperial Forest Service and therefore under the rules members of the Punjab Forest Service holding the post of a Divisional Forest Officer are not entitled to 1st class travelling allowance by rail.

MUSLIM AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANT FOR THE DERA GHAZI KHAN DISTRICT.

1494. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : (a) Is Government aware that Dera Ghazi Khan is a predominantly Muslim agricultural district ?

(b) Will Government kindly consider the advisability of posting a Muslim Agricultural Assistant in this district ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : (a) Yes.

(b) The honourable member's suggestion will be borne in mind.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG SUPERINTENDENTS OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICES.

1495. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : Will Government kindly lay on the table a statement showing the number of Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Christian Superintendents of Deputy Commissioners' offices in each division ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The information is not available at headquarters and Government does not think it necessary to obtain it from Districts.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : Is it a fact that out of 29 posts held by these officials, only five are held by Muhammadans ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : require notice.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : Is it a fact that appointments on the clerical staff of the Deputy Commissioners are made on the recommendation of the Superintendents ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : I require notice.

ADMISSION OF MUSLIM STUDENTS IN VARIOUS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT.

1496. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : (a) Will Government kindly state how many Muslims from the Dera Ghazi Khan district were admitted to the following institutions during the last four years :—

- (1) Central Training College, Lahore,
- (2) Veterinary College, Lahore,
- (3) Engineering School, Rasul,
- (4) Medical School, Amritsar,
- (5) Agricultural College, Lyallpur.

(b) What facilities exist for candidates from backward areas to join these professional institutions ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) (1) 6.

(2), (3), (4) and (5)—Nil.

(b) No special facilities exist except in the case of the Central Training College, where candidates from backward areas are given preference to others of equal qualifications.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : Will the principle applied to the Central College be extended to other colleges also so far as Dera Ghazi Khan is concerned?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The matter will require further consideration.

EMPLOYMENT OF MUSLIMS IN VARIOUS BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

1497. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : Will Government kindly state how many Muslims from the Dera Ghazi Khan district have been taken into the service of Government during the last 10 years as (1) Extra Assistant Commissioners, (2) Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars, (3) Subordinate Judges, (4) Deputy Superintendents of Police, (5) Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police, (6) Excise Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors, (7) Agricultural Assistants, (8) Assistant District Inspectors of Schools, and (9) Superintendents or Head Vernacular Clerks in the Deputy Commissioners' office?

Mr. H. D. Craik : The collection of the information asked for will involve an expenditure of time and money which Government does not feel justified in incurring.

GRANT-IN-AID TO SCHOOLS.

1498. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : Will Government kindly lay on the table a statement showing what new Hindu, Sikh, Christian and Muslim Secondary schools in each division have been brought on the grant-in-aid list during the year 1924-25?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The statement asked for is laid on the table.

Statement showing the names of schools or their departments brought on the grant-in-aid list in the year 1924-25.

Division.	Name of school.	Name of community to which it belongs.	Department brought on the grant-in-aid list.
Multan	Islamia A. V. Lower Middle School, Dera Ghazi Khan.	Muslim	Lower Middle.
	Ghausia Islamia High School, Chak 383, Lyallpur.	Do	High.
Ambala	Khalsa High School, Kurali	Sikh	Secondary.
	C. A. V. High School, Hissar	Hindu	Ditto.
	Islamia A. V. Middle School, Simla	Muslim	Upper Middle.
	Islamia A. V. Middle School, Ruper	Do.	Middle.
	Sanatan Dharma A. V. Lower Middle School, Simla	Hindu	Lower Middle.
Jullunder	Khalsa High School, Kharar	Sikh	High.
	Mathra Das A. S. High School, Moga.	Hindu	Secondary.
	Bhupindra Khalsa High School, Moga	Sikh	Ditto.
	Islamia High School, Ludhiana	Muslim	High.
	E. B. M. Mission High School, Falsampur.	Christian	Do.
	Z. A. V. High School, Sallah	Hindu	Do.
	Hindi Parcharak High School, Ludhiana.	Do.	Upper Middle.
Rawalpindi	Islamia A. V. Middle School, Jalalpur-Jattan.	Muslim	Upper Middle.
Lahore	Nil	Nil	Nil

ISLAMIA LOWER MIDDLE SCHOOL, DERA GHAZI KHAN.

1499. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : Will Government kindly state if the Islamia Lower Middle School at Dera Ghazi Khan has received any grant-in-aid from the Government for the years 1923-24 and 1924-25 ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The school has been brought on the grant-in-aid list with effect from 1st April, 1924, and allowed a grant of Rs. 464 for the year 1924-25. No grant was allowed during 1923-24, as it was not then on the list of aided institutions.

DISTRICT BOARD ANGLO-VERNACULAR MIDDLE SCHOOL, TAUNSA.

1500. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : Will Government kindly state if the District Board Anglo-Vernacular Middle School at Taunsa in the Dera Ghazi Khan district has been brought on the grant-in-aid list ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The school at Taunsa is not an Anglo-Vernacular Middle School ; hence it has not been brought on the grant-in-aid list.

OPENING OF GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOLS AT TAUNSA AND RAJANPUR.

1501. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : With reference to the answer to my question No. 948* asked in this Council on the 18th November 1924, will Government kindly consider the advisability of opening Government High Schools at Taunsa and Rajanpur, two important tahsil towns in the Dera Ghazi Khan district ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member's suggestion will be considered.

EXPANSION OF EDUCATION AMONG MUSALMANS.

1502. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : With reference to the answer to my question No. 947† asked in this Council on the 18th November 1924, will Government kindly state what steps they have so far taken to increase the number of Victoria scholarships and to enhance the proportion of fee exemptions for the Muslim Scholars in secondary schools at least in the backward districts of the province ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The matter is still under consideration and statistics are being collected.

INCREASE OF PAY TO JAMADARS AND CHAPRASIS.

1503. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : (a) Has Government received a representation from the Jamadars and Chaprasis employed in the Punjab Government offices that the increase given to them about 2 years ago is not adequate and that the salary they now draw is not even a living wage ?

(b) Is it a fact that the complaints of Jamadars and Chaprasis extorting " *bakshish* " from visitors to officers still exist ?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to raise their salaries to the amount proposed in the resolution of this Council passed on the 11th January 1922‡ with a view to put an end to the extortions referred to in (b) ?

Mr. H. D. Craik : (a) Yes. A representation has just been received.

(b) No recent complaints on this score have reached Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will Government be pleased to say what action has been taken on the representation referred to in part (a) of my question.

Mr. H. D. Craik : The representation is being examined.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : In view of the saving shown in the Budget, will Government please consider the desirability of giving effect to the resolution of this Council mentioned in part (c) of my question.

Mr. H. D. Craik : That will be considered.

PROVINCIAL ENGINEERING SERVICE.

1504. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : With reference to the reply given by Government to part (1) (b) of question No. 1244* asked in the last session of the Council, will Government please lay on the table a list of all members of the Punjab Provincial Engineering Service with their academic and technical qualifications, and state—

(a) how many men out of these started their career in the department with qualifications of Lower Subordinates or Sub-Overseers from any Government or Government recognised institutions ;

(b) how many of them have got no technical qualifications at all ; and

(c) the percentages of men under (a) and (b) to the whole strength of the cadre ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The list is attached.

(a) Eleven.

(b) Nine.

(c) The percentage of men under (a) is 7.8 and that under (b) is 6.4.

List of all members of the Punjab Engineers in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, with their academic and technical qualifications.

No.	Name.	Academic and Technical Qualifications.	REMARKS.
1	Sardar Sahib Babu Singh ...	Sub-Engineer and Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
2	Mr. F. C. Glass ...	Upper Subordinate, Roorkee, Higher certificate.	
3	Lala Bishamber Das ...	Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
4	Rai Sahib Pandit Ragho Ram ...	Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
5	Mr. R. F. Rose ...	Assistant Engineer, Roorkee.	
6	Mr. H. F. Sylvester ...	Ditto.	
7	Mr. R. F. Rackstraw ...	Sub-Engineer and Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
8	Lala Shakumbri Das ..	Assistant Engineer, Roorkee.	

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No.	Name.	Academic and Technical Qualifications	REMARKS.
9	Lala Radha Kishen Saksena	Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
10	Lala Rattan Chand ...	Ditto.	
11	Bhai Sikandar Singh ...	Assistant Engineer, Roorkee.	
12	Pandit Joti Prasad ...	Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
13	Lala Bhagirath Lal Gupta ...	B. Sc. and Assistant Engineer, Roorkee.	
14	Babu Faqir Chand (1) ...	Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
15	Babu Raghbir Singh (1) ...	Sub-Engineer and Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
16	Lala Hans Raj Anand ...	Assistant Engineer, Roorkee.	
17	Lala Arjan Das ...	Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
18	Lala Banwari Lal ...	Ditto.	
19	Lala Nauniddh Rai ...	Ditto.	
20	Pandit Babu Ram (2) ...	Ditto.	
21	Lala Sardha Ram ...	Sub-Engineer and Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
22	Mr. W. C. Thompson ...	Ditto ditto.	
23	Lala Nand Kishore ...	Sub-Overseer Class (1st Examination in Civil Engineering, Punjab).	
24	Sheikh Muhammad Khalil ...	Assistant Engineer, Roorkee.	
25	Chandbri Niaz Ali Khan ...	Sub-Engineer and Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
26	Sh. Muhammad Saddiq ...	Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
27	Mr. W. S. Bray Brooke ...	Ditto.	
28	Bhai Fateh Singh ...	Sub-Overseer Class, Roorkee.	
29	Lala Har Bhagwan ...	Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
30	Lala Mehr Chand ...	Sub-Engineer and Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
31	Lala Jai Gopal, Chopra ...	Nil.	
32	Munshi Fateh Muhammad ...	Sub-Overseer Class (Civil Engineering) Punjab.	
33	Mr. E. St. L. Hamilton ...	Assistant Engineer, Roorkee.	
34	Mr. J. W. Smythe ...	Sub-Engineer and Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
35	Mr. P. A. Turner ...	Ditto ditto.	
36	Lala Nok Chand ...	Assistant Engineer, Roorkee	
37	Bhai Karm Singh (1) ...	City and Guilds (Engineering) College, South Kensington, London 1913.	

No.	Name.	Academic and Technical Qualifications.	Remarks.
38	Lala Beshi Ram ...	Sch-Overseer Class, Roorkee.	
39	Pandit Jagan Nath ...	B. Sc. (Bristol) C.E., A.M., I.N.E.	
40	Pandit Amba Datta Joshi ...	Assistant Engineer, Roorkee.	
41	Pandit Khushi Ram ...	Sub-Overseer Class, Roorkee.	
42	Pandit Nil Kanth Shouri ...	Assistant Engineer, Roorkee.	
43	Lala Mohan Lal, Mathur ...	Sub-Engineer and Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
44	Lala Manu Lal ...	Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
45	Lala Amrit Rai ...	Nil.	
46	Mr. J. A. Connolly ...	Nil.	
47	Chaudhri Gurditta Ram ...	Sub-Engineer and Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
48	Lala Rajbansi Lal ...	Assistant Engineer, Roorkee.	
49	Mr. K. B. Kewalramani ...	Graduate in Engineering, Intermediate Examination for B.A. degree and Lighting Conductor Test.	
50	Pandit Mul Chand, Sharma...	Sub-Engineer and Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
51	Lala Jagdamba Sahai, Mathur	Assistant Engineer, Roorkee.	
52	Mr. F. E. J. Connolly ...	Nil.	
53	Qazi Muhammad Shariff ...	Assistant Engineer, Roorkee.	
54	Sardar Sohan Singh ...	Ditto.	
55	Lala Nathu Ram (1) ...	Sub-Engineer and Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
56	Lala Jugul Kishore (1) ...	Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
57	Bhai Jiwan Singh ...	Ditto.	
58	Bhai Karm Singh ...	Nil.	
59	Lala Mangal Sen ...	Sub-Engineer and Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
60	Lala Tirath Ram ...	Sub-Overseer Class, Roorkee.	
61	Lala Jugul Kishore (1) ...	Sub-Engineer and Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
62	Amar Nath (1) ...	Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
63	Lala Labha Ram ...	Sub-Engineer and Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
64	Haji Nur Ahmad Khan ...	Nil.	
65	Bhai Sham Singh ...	Nil.	
66	Khan Sahib Maulvi Ghulam Qadir.	Sub-Overseer Class, Roorkee.	

[Hon'ble S. B. S. Suddar Singh, Majithia.]

No.	Name.	Academic and Technical Qualifications.	REMARKS.
67	Lala Sham Sunder Lal ...	<i>Nil.</i>	
68	Lala Amin Chand ...	Sub-Engineer and Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
69	Munshi Jawala Singh ...	<i>Nil.</i>	
70	Chandhri Chandan Singh ...	Sub-Overseer Class, Roorkee.	
71	Pandit Salig Ram ...	Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
72	Thakur Das ...	<i>Ditto.</i>	
73	Lala Indra Sen ...	Assistant Engineer, Roorkee.	
74	Lala Falwant Rai ...	B.Sc., C.E. (Bristol).	
75	Lala Faqir Chand (2) ...	Assistant Engineer, Roorkee.	
76	Lala Sahib Dayal Kalra ..	<i>Ditto.</i>	
77	Lala Radha Kishan, Khanna	Assistant Engineer, Roorkee, and Senior Local Examination of Cambridge University.	
78	Lala Girdhari Lal ..	Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
79	Rai Sahib Lala Parmanand ..	Sub-Overseer Class (Punjab University).	
80	Munshi Imam Din ...	Sub-Overseer Class (Punjab University).	
81	Khan Majid Ullah Khan ...	Sub-Engineer and Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
82	Bhai Baghbir Singh ...	Sub-Overseer Class, Kasul.	
83	Mr. T. M. Webster ...	Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
84	Lala Ishar Das (1) ...	Sub-Engineer Class, Roorkee.	
85	Hari Kirpal ...	Assistant Engineer, Roorkee.	
86	Abdul Ghaffur ...	<i>Ditto.</i>	
87	Mr. C. King ...	<i>Ditto.</i>	
88	Mr. A. Baptist ...	<i>Ditto.</i>	
89	Lala Jain Bahadur Jain ...	<i>Ditto.</i>	
90	Bhai Gurdial Singh, Teki ...	Bachelor of Engineering and Master of Engineering.	
91	Bakshi Labhu Ram ...	Sub-Engineer and Upper Subordinate, Roorkee.	
92	Masud Ahmad Rashid ...	Assistant Engineer, Roorkee.	

SUIT AGAINST "BANDEMATRAM" BY THE JAILOR, MULTAN CENTRAL JAIL.

1505. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Did the Government call for any explanation or make any enquiry from the jail authorities of the Central Jail, Multan, as to the account appearing in "Bandematram," dated 3rd October 1923, which now forms the basis of a civil suit referred to in questions Nos. 654,* 1029* and 1325†.

(b) Did the then Superintendent of the Central Jail suggest or recommend to the Government to launch a prosecution and institute a civil suit against "Bandematram"? If so, will the Government please lay on the table his letter containing the suggestion or recommendation?

(c) Will the Government please state what action the Government took on the letter referred to in (b) above?

(d) Will the Government please state the expenditure incurred by the Government in the libel case *re Rai Sahib Lala Jamna Dass versus "Bandematram"* in the months of January 1925, as well as February 1925 including travelling allowance drawn by the plaintiff and his counsel in connection with this case?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) Yes.

(b) The Government will not communicate the recommendations of its officers.

(c) Government enquired whether the Jailer was prepared to sue.

(d) Information regarding the expenditure on the suit was given in the answer to question No. 1328.† Information regarding expenditure in particular months is not available.

RAI BAHADUR SETH PRABH DYAL, RAIS AND MILL-OWNER, MULTAN.

1506. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Is it a fact that Rai Bahadur Seth Prabh Dyal, B.A., LL.B., M.B.E., Rais and Mill-owner, Multan, has ceased to be a non-official visitor of the Central Jail, Multan? If so, since when and who has been appointed in his place?

(b) Is it a fact that after 25th April 1923 when Seth Prabh Dyal was refused admission into the Jail by the then Superintendent of the Jail, Major Wadia recommended to the Government the removal of his name from the list of non-official visitors? If so, will the Government please lay his letter on the table?

(c) Is it a fact that Rai Bahadur Seth Prabh Dyal has been removed from the list of non-official visitors in compliance with the wishes of Major Wadia or were there other reasons for his removal? If the latter, will the Government please state the reasons for his removal?

(d) Will the Government please lay on the table the various remarks made by Seth Prabh Dyal in the Central Jail Minute Book in the years 1922 and 1923 as a non-official visitor?

(e) Will the Government please lay on the table the remarks made by Mr. H. Fyson, the Deputy Commissioner, Multan, in the Central Jail Minute Book a few days before 25th April 1923?

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.

* Volume VII, pages 159, 545 respectively.

† Pages 93-99 ante.

SEWA SAMITI AND MUNICIPAL PLAGUE CAMP AT MULTAN.

1507. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) With reference to the reply to question No. 1324,* communicated to me, will the Government please state if the result of diagnosis referred to in part (b) of the question was committed to writing by the President, Sewa Samiti? If not, will the Government please get it in writing from him and place it on the table?

(b) With reference to the reply made to part (c) of the question, will the Government please state if it is necessary that a written representation ought to have been made by the persons concerned?

(c) Will the Government please state if it has not been considering such claims *suo motu* in order to encourage such social workers all over the province?

(d) Is it not a fact that the Government have been recognizing the services of such social workers in the past and considering their claims without any representation having been made by the persons concerned?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) No, and Government have no power to require that it should be.

(b), (c) and (d). It has never been the policy of Government to make itself responsible for maintaining the families of persons who may die as a result or in course of performing social service, but though no change in that policy has taken place, Government are anxious to encourage social service for its own sake.

RECRUITMENT OF ASSISTANTS FOR THE PUNJAB CIVIL SECRETARIAT.

1508. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) With reference to the reply to question No. 320† given on the 7th August 1924, in reply to question No. 660,‡ will the Government please state if any rules regulating the recruitment of Assistants in Section A of the Punjab Civil Secretariat have been framed? If so, will the Government please lay on the table a copy of such rules?

(b) Is it a fact that under the rules relating to recruitment of Assistants in the Punjab Civil Secretariat alternate acting vacancies are ordinarily to go to unpaid apprentices and selected B Section senior clerks, i.e. fifty per cent. of the acting appointments are to be given to the former and fifty per cent. to the latter?

(c) Is it a fact that apprentices are recruited for training purposes on the clear understanding that this will give them no guarantee to paid appointments?

(d) If the reply to (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, will the Government please lay on the table a statement showing how many permanent or acting vacancies have occurred in section A since the introduction of the rules referred to in (a) above and how many such vacancies have gone to (i) Anglo-Indians, (ii) Indian Graduates and (iii) selected senior clerks of Section B giving the qualifications and length of service rendered by each of them?

(e) Is it a fact that an Anglo-Indian, son of a highly placed Government official, has recently been entertained in the Secretariat as an unpaid apprentice and made senior to all those unpaid Indian Graduates who joined

Secretariat long before? If so, will Government please consider the advisability of devising means for preventing the existing unpaid apprentices from being superseded by new recruits?

Mr. H. D. Craik : (a) A copy of the memorandum showing the constitution of the Punjab Civil Secretariat and rules regulating the entertainment, pay, and promotion of clerks is laid on the table.

(b) Promotion to the Assistant's grade is ordinarily made alternately by selection from (a) senior clerks in B Section and (b) eligible unpaid apprentices and candidates on the waiting register. Clerks who have done well in district or other headquarters offices or who have rendered distinguished services in the War are also eligible for consideration.

(c) Yes.

(d) A statement is laid on the table.

(e) The acceptance as a candidate of the person referred to in this part of the question did not imply that he was to be considered as senior to candidates accepted before him and did not involve any violation of the ordinary rule.

Memorandum showing the constitution of the Punjab Civil Secretariat and rules regulating the entertainment, pay and promotions of clerks.

GENERAL.

1. The Civil Secretariat Office is divided into two sections, called Section A (Correspondence Section) and Section B (Routine Section).

There are 38 ordinary posts in Section A as shown below :—

8 Superintendents on Rs. 350—20—150—30—480—20—600.

30 Assistants on Rs. 120—10—200—10—300.

There are 6 duty allowances for Assistants of Rs. 20 per mensem each. (For conditions of the grant of this allowance the file on the subject should be consulted).

In Section B there are 80 posts of Senior Clerks on Rs. 75-5-100-5-150, and 30 of Junior Clerks on Rs. 45-3-90-3-105. There are seven special allowances of Rs. 0-10-50 each for Senior Clerks who held substantive posts in B Section on their attaining the maximum of their grade. These allowances will not be granted as a matter of course. They are only admissible in the case of specially arduous duties or of increased work or responsibility or of discharge of duties not properly belonging to the appointment.

There are two duty allowances of Rs. 20 and Rs. 15 per mensem each for Senior Clerks and one duty allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem for a Junior Clerk in the office of the Private Secretary.

The Resident Clerk is granted an allowance of Rs. 20 per mensem for his additional duties as such and also a house rent allowance of an amount not more than the rent of the type of Government Cottage occupied by him.

There are 4 Personal Assistant and Stenographers to Hon'ble Members and Ministers and 4 Stenographers to Secretaries on Rs. 175-12½-350. Personal Assistants draw a special pay of Rs. 30 per mensem in addition to their ordinary pay.

2. Applications received from graduates for appointments should be

collected and sent at intervals in batches to the Punjab University Appointments Board for report on the qualifications, etc., of the applicants. The names of those strongly recommended by the Board should be entered in the

Applications for section
A.

[Mr. H. D. Craik.]

Register which is maintained of candidates for Section A. These candidates should be informed of the fact of the registration of their names for a year and told that after that period their names will be struck off the register. The other applicants who have not been strongly recommended, should be informed of their non-acceptance. There is, however, no bar to registering the names of some of these applicants for appointments in Section B. When a vacancy is to be filled up the Register should be put up to ensure consideration of the claims of all candidates.

3. A few qualified apprentices are recruited from time to time for training purposes in Sections A and B on the understanding that this will give them no guarantee of any paid employment.

4. The minimum educational qualification for Section A is, in the case of Europeans and Anglo-Indians, the High School or Senior Cambridge Local examinations; and in the case of Indians, a University degree. Graduates who are strongly recommended by the Punjab University Appointments Board only are eligible for Section A. The Matriculation Examination of a University is the minimum educational standard for Section B.

5. (i) Promotion to the grade of Superintendent is by selection from the Assistant's grade or by the importation of an outsider.

(ii) Senior Clerks will have no right to be promoted to the Assistant's grade, but on the occurrence of a vacancy in that grade the claims of Senior Clerks who are doing the work of Assistants and are well reported on should be duly considered, and promotions should ordinarily be made alternately by selection from (a) such Senior Clerk in Section B, and (b) eligible unpaid apprentices and candidates on the waiting register, preference being given to men with good English qualifications. Clerks who have done well in district or other headquarters offices or who have rendered distinguished services in the War may also be considered. Before appointing an outsider from a district office care should be taken that he possesses a good knowledge of English.

(iii) Promotion to Senior Clerkship in Section B will be made by Seniority and selection from Junior Clerks.

(iv) Promotion to Junior Clerkship in Section B will be made by selection from the list of unpaid apprentices and men on the waiting Register.

(v) Acting promotion to the grade of Assistants will be made by the method described in rule 5 (ii) and in the case of Junior Clerks from unpaid apprentices of Section B.

(vi) Acting promotion to Senior Clerkship will be made by selection from the grade of Junior Clerks.

(vii) An apprentice appointed by selection in a *Temporary appointment* will get the pay of that appointment in preference to his seniors.

No purely routine clerk (e. g. Typist) should be advanced beyond the efficiency bar of the Junior grade. A graduate who has already been appointed in Section B will not be allowed to compete for "direct appoint-

ment " vacancies in Section A, but will take his chance of promotion along with other B Section men.

6. The names of clerks going to other offices will not be carried up from grade to grade during their absence, but will be moved up in italics in the grade in which they are and should they revert to the Secretariat they will return to this position, and their juniors, who may have in the meantime been promoted substantively or officiating and who do not revert in the ordinary course will not be required to make way for them.

7. The Chief Secretary reserves to himself the power of appointing men of special ability or aptitude to any post in the office. He also reserves the power to fill the posts of Superintendship in all Branches by any Superintendent at his own discretion.

8. Apprentices holding the post of Restorer will be eligible for Section Promotion of Restorers. B provided they are considered fit for higher work, but men appointed to the post of Restorer from menial posts will not be given such promotion.

STATEMENT ALLUDED TO IN PART (d) OF COUNCIL QUESTION No. 1508.

No. of vacancies since 1st April 1924.	Anglo-Indians.	Indian Graduates.	Selected Senior clerks of Section B.	Others.
19 (Offg.) ...	(a)	(b)	(d)	(e)
25	2 (permanent)...	3 (offg.) ...	2 (offg.) ...	2 (offg.).
6 (permanent)		(c)		(f)
		3 (permanent)		1 (permanent).

Qualifications.

(a) (1) passed the examination for Indian Imperial Police held in London in 1920; rendered active war service for 3½ years in Mesopotamia and Palestine; and served for over 2½ years in the Civil Secretariat.

(2) passed the High School Examination for European schools; rendered active war service in France for 1 year 8 months; served in the Munitions Board for 4 years and in the Civil Secretariat for over 2½ years.

(b) Graduates with service varying from 8-10 months in the Civil Secretariat.

(c) Two of the 3 graduates had near upon 2½ years service in the Civil Secretariat; while the third began his service in another office in May 1919.

(d) These are selected clerks who had rendered over 20 years' service in the office.

(e) (1) a candidate who had rendered special service during the martial law days and the war.

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(2) a candidate who had studied up to the F. A. in St. Stephens College, Delhi, and had worked for about 4 years in the Military Accounts Department and a year in the Civil Secretariat.

(3) This was a clerk who had passed the medical preliminary examination of Aberdeen University, and had rendered active war service for nearly 2 years in France and had been working for about a year and 9 months in the Civil Secretariat.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED OFFICIALS IN THE CIVIL SECRETARIAT.

1509. Lala Bodh Raj: (a) Is it a fact that in the year 1923 or thereabouts the Government dispensed with the services of all the retired officials who had been re-employed as Assistants in the Secretariat on the ground that they barred the promotion of youngsters?

(b) Is it a fact that an Assistant Secretary to Government, Punjab, who retired at the age of 60 has been re-employed as an assistant on Rs. 160 per mensem? If so, will the Government consider the advisability of dispensing with his services also on the same ground that governed the case of those referred to in (a) above?

Mr. H. D. Craik: (a) During the War certain retired officials were re-employed in the Secretariat to fill vacancies caused by younger men joining the Army. The services of several of them were dispensed with on the re-establishment of normal conditions after the War, but a certain number of retired officials are still employed in temporary capacities.

(b) Yes. The arrangement is an economical one from the point of view of Government as it obtains the services of an experienced official at a considerably smaller salary than it would have to pay a junior official. The employment in this case is temporary.

Lala Bodh Raj: Will Government please state the length of time for which these temporary appointments are sanctioned?

Mr. H. D. Craik: I am not quite sure, but I think it is for about a year.

APPLICATION OF LALA BODH RAJ, M.L.C., FOR A LICENCE FOR A REVOLVER.

1510. Lala Bodh Raj: (a) Is it a fact that Lala Bodh Raj, M.A., LL.B., M.L.C., Pleader, Multan, made an application to the Deputy Commissioner, Multan, for the licence of a revolver on 9th February 1925?

(b) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner refused the licence of a revolver and instead issued an order for the grant of a gun licence?

(c) Has the Government issued any instructions for refusing the grant of licences for revolver? If so, will the Government please lay those instructions on the table?

(d) Will the Government please state how many licences for keeping revolver have been issued in Multan district during the current year? How many of them have been issued to the members of the Bar and the Municipal Commissioners and the members of the District Board respectively?

(c) Will the Government please state if it is aware of any case in which a member of the Punjab Legislative Council applied for the licence of a revolver and he was refused? If so, will the Government please lay such cases on the table?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) and (b) Yes.

(c) A copy of paragraph IV of the Punjab Government Press *Communique*, dated 2nd December 1919, is laid on the table. District Magistrates were subsequently authorised (in August 1921) to relax the condition of real necessity in genuine cases when it appears that the refusal of a licence would cause real hardship. The policy of Government in this matter has not been changed in connection with the introduction of the Indian Arms Rules, 1924, as the Arms Rules Committee of 1922 (paragraph 25 of their report) recommended that the existing restrictions on the possession of revolvers should be maintained, and this recommendation was accepted by the Government of India (paragraph 17 of their resolution No. F-829-1-22, dated the 3rd November 1923).

(d) The figures are :—

New licences	...	...	...	2
Old licences renewed	...	...	...	75

Four licences were renewed in favour of members of the Bar; two in favour of members of the Municipal Committee, and one in favour of a member of the District Board.

(e) Government has no information as to applications for revolver licences by members of the Punjab Legislative Council.

IV.—Special rules regarding revolvers, etc.

Licenses for the possession of a revolver or pistol will not be granted except in case of real necessity, the nature of which should be explained in the application. The existing restrictions relating to 303 or 450 bore rifles will be maintained.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin : Will Government please lay on the table the application put in by the applicant?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : It is with the Deputy Commissioner of Multan.

Lala Bodh Raj : In view of the answer to part (b) of the question will Government consider the desirability of issuing a licence of a revolver to the applicant?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : No.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES IN THE PROVINCE.

1511. Lala Bodh Baj : (i) Will the Government please state—

(a) the total number of Honorary Magistrates in the several classes in the province;

(b) how many of them have passed the matriculation test of any University and how many of them are graduates; and

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(c) how many of them have not got a knowledge of English and how many of them have not got a knowledge of the Urdu language, *i. e.*, cannot read and write Urdu ?

(ii) Will the Government please state if the term of Honorary Magistrates is fixed or varies in individual cases ?

(iii) Will the Government please state if a report of their work is submitted from time to time and if so, to whom and at what intervals ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (i) (a) The required information is available in Part XXVIII of the January issue of the Quarterly Civil List, a copy of which will be found in the Council Library.

(b) Government has no information on this point.

(c) Government does not know how many Honorary Magistrates know English. As regards the number who are not literate or fluent in Urdu, the honourable member is referred to the answer given to question No. 1361* put by Sardar Narain Singh in the January Session.

(ii) The term of such appointments has been fixed at 3 years by Punjab Government Notification No. 9257 (Judl.), dated the 17th March 1923.

(iii) These Courts are inspected at least once a year by an experienced Judicial Officer, whose report is submitted by the District and Sessions Judge through the High Court to Government.

HONORARY SUB-JUDGES.

1512. Lala Bodh Baj : Will the Government please lay on the table a statement showing—

(i) the names of Honorary Sub-Judges in the province with their class ;

(ii) the dates when they were originally appointed as Honorary Sub-Judges and the stations where they are posted now ; and

(iii) their educational qualifications ; and

(iv) whether a report of their work is submitted to the Government from time to time and if so, at what intervals ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (i) and (ii) The honourable member is referred to part XXVIII of the January issue of the Quarterly Civil List, a copy of which will be found in the Council Library. The dates when they were originally appointed, where not shown in the Civil List, are not within the knowledge of Government.

(iii) Government has no detailed knowledge of the educational qualifications of Honorary Subordinate Judges beyond such as are requisite for the exercise of their Judicial functions.

(iv) Under the existing rules a report is required to be submitted at least once a year by an experienced judicial officer to Government through the District and Sessions Judge and the High Court.

NAMES OF OFFICIALS AT PAKPATTAN, DISTRICT MONTGOMERY.

1513. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will Government please give the names of officials occupying the following posts at Pakpattan, district Montgomery, at the present time :—

1. Sub-divisional officer,
2. Tahsildar,
3. Naib-Tahsildar,
4. Tahsildar of the Colonization Department,
5. Naib-Tahsildar of the Colonization Department,
6. Head Master of the High School,
7. Head Master of the Primary School, and
8. Secretary, Municipal Committee?

Mr. H. D. Craik : A statement containing the required information is laid on the table.

1. Sub-divisional Officer, Khan Sahib Makhdum Sher Shah.
2. Tahsildar, Shahzada Nazir-ud-Din.
3. Naib-Tahsildar, Khan Abaidullah Akhtar.
4. Colony Tahsildar, Chaudhri Altaf Ali.
5. Colony Naib-Tahsildar, Sheikh Abdul Ghani.
6. Head Master, High School, M. Muhammad Shafi
7. Head Master, Primary School, Maulvi Badar-ud-Din.
8. Secretary, Municipal Committee, M. Mohd Sultan.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will Government be pleased to appoint some Hindu Officers also in that place.

Mr. H. D. Craik : I cannot commit Government off hand.

WAZIRABAD MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

1514. Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of blind men who stood as candidates at the last municipal elections of Wazirabad municipal committee and the number of such candidates elected?

(b) Is it a fact that previously the electoral rules of the Wazirabad municipal committee prescribed that only persons able to read and write were eligible to stand as candidates?

(c) If the answer to (b) above be in the affirmative, will the Government please say when the rules regarding ability to read and write were relaxed and for what reasons?

(d) Does the Government intend to restore the rule making ability to read and write a necessary qualification for members of all municipal committees, if so, when does it propose to do so?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) One who was elected.

(b) Yes.

(c) The literacy clause was by an oversight omitted from the rules when they were revised in 1923.

(d) Steps are already being taken to make literacy an essential qualification for membership of all committees, and the defect in the Wazirabad rules will be remedied forthwith.

Manvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar : Does Government consider the blind man who has been elected capable of performing the duties of the Municipal Committee.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Yes.

EXPORT OF WHEAT AND FLOUR FROM THE PUNJAB.

1515. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram : (a) Is it a fact—

(i) that wheat and flour have been exported in an abnormal quantity from the Punjab this year, and

(ii) that this exportation is chiefly responsible for the high prices of grains in the province?

(b) If so, will the Government consider the desirability of restricting the exportation of the grains till the arrival of the next crop?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : (a) (i) Owing to the discontinuance of the Report on the Internal Trade of the Punjab exact figures of export of wheat and wheat flour from the Punjab are not available, but the Weekly Karachi Price Current and Market Report shows that exports of wheat by sea from Karachi from 1st January onwards have been much heavier than in the corresponding period of last year. On the other hand the export by sea of other food grains has decreased.

(ii) Possibly, but lack of rain is also a factor.

Government will continue to watch the situation carefully.

SATTA GAMBLING.

1516. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram : With reference to the answers to questions Nos. 863* and 778† asked on the 24th March and 8th August 1924, will the Government please state whether Satta gambling has ceased to prevail as a result of the instructions issued by the Government? If not, will the Government please state what other measures they propose to take to stop this evil completely? If the Government does not propose to take any other measures, will the Government please state reasons why?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The honourable member is understood to refer to what is known as Opium Satta, which is a form of gambling practised by persons who have no connection with the opium trade: and not to the mere sale and purchase of 'futures' by persons whose business it is to deal in the article of which they sell or buy the future supplies. It is improbable that Opium Satta has completely ceased to exist: but there is no method of dealing with it otherwise than by prosecution when occasion presents itself.

BOY SCOUT ASSOCIATION.

1517. Lala Bodh Raj: (a) Will the Government please state if the Boy Scouts Associations are recognised by the Government?

(b) Will the Government please state if the Education Department has issued any instructions to the authorities of various schools and colleges in the province to introduce "Boy Scouts movement" as an instructional course?

(c) Is it a fact that the Education Department gives preference, at the time of appointments or promotions, to teachers who have had training in Boy Scouts movement over those who have not had such training?

(d) Will the Government please state if it is compulsory for teachers to train themselves in Boy Scouts movement as prescribed by Baden Powell Boy Scouts Association or are they free to train themselves in the movement as prescribed by any other similar association?

(e) Are there any such associations which the Government proposes to recognise?

(f) What are the chief points which an association has to satisfy before it can be recognised by the Government?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) No. The Boy Scouts Association has never applied for recognition.

(b) No. "The Boy Scouts movement" is not an "instructional course."

(c) Government prefers to engage teachers who are likely to interest themselves in the general welfare of the boys.

(d) It is not compulsory for teachers to train themselves in scouting.

(e) & (f) The honourable member is referred to the answer to (a).

DR. CHHABIL DASS OF SHUJABAD MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

1518. Lala Bodh Raj: (a) Will the Government please state for how many years Dr. Chhabil Dass, who is a zamindar and a medical practitioner, has been an elected member of Shujabad municipal committee?

(b) Is Government aware that he has been an office bearer of the local congress committee?

(c) Is it a fact that the police has placed his name on their register No. 10 because he has been taking part in political movement? If so, since when has his name been on this register?

Will the Government consider the advisability of removing his name from the register?

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.

INDIAN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

1519. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: (a) Will Government kindly state if it is a fact that no Indian has so far been appointed as Assistant Director of Public Instruction?

(b) If so, is it a policy of the Government not to appoint an Indian as Assistant Director of Public Instruction?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the negative, will Government consider the advisability of appointing an Indian Assistant Director at the next opportunity?

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

(b) No.

(c) Yes.

PROFESSORS OF SANSKRIT, ETC., IN THE GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, LAHORE.

1520. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: (a) Will Government kindly state the reason why the three posts of the professors of Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian in the Lahore Government College have not yet been filled up?

(b) Will the Government also please state whether these posts are to be filled by Europeans or Indians and whether by direct appointment or by promotion from the Provincial Educational Service?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: In view of the recent improvements in the Oriental College, it has not been considered necessary to fill these sanctioned posts, (b) therefore does not arise.

PUNJAB EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

1521. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: (a) Will Government kindly state the number of Muslim and Non-Muslim Officers in the selection grade of the Punjab Educational Service?

(b) Is it a fact that the only Muslim officer in the selection grade will shortly retire from the service?

(c) If so, will Government kindly take steps to give the Musalmans their due share in the higher grade of the Provincial Educational Service?

(d) Will Government state if it is not possible to raise the number of appointments in the selection grade from 7 to 8 in view of the present strength of the Provincial Educational Service?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) One Muhammadan and six non-Muhammadans.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government will consider the suggestion.

(d) The matter is already under consideration.

GRANTS-IN-AID TO VARIOUS DENOMINATIONAL ANGLO-VERNACLULAR SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

1522. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: With reference to the answer to question No. 947,* asked on the 18th November 1924, will Government kindly state the figures for the year 1924-25?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The honourable member is referred to the final reply to Council question No. 947.*

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

1523. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: With reference to the answer to question No. 1348,† asked on the 19th January, 1925, will Government kindly state the proportion of Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims in the total population of each of the districts of the Rawalpindi and Multan Divisions?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain:

The required information is laid on the table.

Name of District.	Hindus.	Muhammedans.	Sikhs.
RAWALPINDI DIVISION.			
Gujrat	7.5	86.1	6.
Shahpur	11.4	82.2	4.2
Jhelum	7.3	85.6	3.9
Rawalpindi	10.04	82.5	5.5
Attock	5.1	90.9	3.8
Mianwali	12.8	86.2	8
MULTAN DIVISION.			
Montgomery	13.2	71.8	13.3
Lyallpur	13.5	60.7	16.4
Jhang	14.9	83.3	1.8
Multan	15.05	82.1	2.08
Muzaffargarh	12.2	86.7	8
Dera Ghazi Khan	12.91	87.7	1

ENCOURAGEMENT OF SECONDARY EDUCATION AMONG MUSALMANS.

1524. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: With reference to the answer to question No. 957,‡ asked on the 18th November 1924, will Government kindly state what recommendations were made by the Multan Educational Inspector in his annual reports during the last three years for the encouragement of secondary education among the Musalmans?

(b) What steps have Government so far taken to give effect to these recommendations?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) The annual reports of inspectors are confidential.

(b) Does not arise.

OPENING OF GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE MUZAFFARGARH AND DERA GHAZI KHAN DISTRICTS.

1525. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: With reference to the answer to question No. 948§ asked on the 18th November 1924, will Government kindly state at what places in the Muzaffargarh and Dera Ghazi Khan districts it is proposed to open Government High Schools during the year 1925-26?

*Vol. VII, pages 466-67. †Pages 109-10 ante. ‡Vol. VII, page 470. §Vol. VII, page 468.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: There are no proposals to open Government High Schools next year, but the needs of the two districts named by the honourable member are being borne in mind in connection with the programme for the development of secondary education in less advanced areas.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG THE EDUCATIONAL OFFICERS OF THE LAHORE, JULLUNDUR AND AMBALA DIVISIONS.

1526. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: Will Government kindly lay on the table a statement showing for the Lahore, Jullundur and Ambala divisions separately the number of Hindu, Sikh and Muslim District Inspectors, Assistant District Inspectors, Headmasters of Board High and Anglo-vernacular Middle Schools?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The required information regarding the number of permanent District Inspectors, Assistant District Inspectors and Headmasters of Board High Schools is laid on the table.

2. Information regarding the Headmasters of Board Anglo-vernacular Middle Schools is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

Name of community.	No. of permanent District Inspectors of Schools.	No. of permanent Assistant District Inspectors of Schools.	No. of permanent Headmasters of Board High Schools.
<i>Lahore Division.</i>			
Hindus	2	5	2
Muhammadans	2	7	1
Sikhs	2	5	...
Christians	...	1	...
<i>Jullundur Division.</i>			
Hindus	2	7	4
Muhammadans	...	4	1
Sikhs	3	5	2
<i>Ambala Division.</i>			
Hindus	3	8	2
Muhammadans	2	6	...
Sikhs	1	...	...

PROVINCIALISATION OF MUNICIPAL AND BOARD SCHOOLS.

1527. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : With reference to the answer to question No. 1013* asked on the 18th November 1924, will Government kindly state the number of Muslim and non-Muslim Headmasters of the provincialised schools of the Lahore, Jullundur and Ambala divisions referred to therein ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Five Muhammadan and eleven non-Muhammadan.

POPULATION OF CERTAIN DISTRICTS IN THE PROVINCE.

1528. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : (a) Will Government kindly state the proportion of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs in the population of the districts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Gujranwala, Sheikhupura, Jullundur and Ferozepore ?

(b) Is it a fact that the proportion of Muslims exceeds that of the Hindus and Sikhs combined in Sheikhupura and Gujranwala ?

(c) Is it also a fact that the proportion of Muslims is greater than that of Hindus and Sikhs separately in the other four districts ?

(d) Will Government state if the District Inspectors of Schools posted in these districts are all non-Muslims ?

(e) If so, what steps, if any, do Government proposed to take to appoint Musalman officers to encourage education among the ignorant Musalmans in these districts ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) — (c) The honourable member is referred to pages 30-31 of Volume XV, Part II of the Census Report of India, 1921.

(d) Yes.

(e) The suggestion of the honourable member will be borne in mind.

MUSLIMS ON THE INSPECTION STAFF OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
IN THE JULLUNDUR DIVISION.

1529. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : (a) With reference to the answer to parts (b) and (d) of question No. 1100† asked on the 20th November 1924, will Government kindly state whether the Director of Public Instruction reported that all the Inspecting Officers in the Multan Division were Muslims ?

(b) Is it not a fact that the posts of Deputy Inspector of Schools in the Division and the District Inspector of Multan are held by non-Muslims ?

(c) If so, will Government please say if they are prepared to appoint Muhammadan officers in the posts of Deputy Inspector of Schools and the District Inspector of Schools in the Jullundur Division where at present there is not a single Muslim Inspecting Officer ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) No. The reply previously given merely referred to the majority.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government will consider the suggestion of the honourable member. It is not, however, a fact that there are no Muhammadan Inspecting Officers in the Jullundur Division.

BOOK ENTITLED "TAHQIQUK ISLAM".

1530. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: Has it come to the notice of Government that one Ghulam Masih, a Christian Missionary of Lahore, has written and published a book entitled the "Tabqiquk Islam" in which he has made attacks on the religion and the Holy Prophet of Islam? If so, what action does Government propose to take against the author of this book?

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.

AMALGAMATION OF KHANEWAL TAHSIL WITH MONTGOMERY DISTRICT.

1531. Khan Haibat Khan Dahi: (a) Is it a fact that the Government has decided to attach Khanewal tahsil to Montgomery district?

(b) If so, will the Government please say whether the zamindars of the said tahsil memorialised some time back to the Government against the said proposal?

(c) Will the Government consider the advisability of complying with the wishes of the zamindars of the tahsil and drop the proposal?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: The question is under consideration. A memorial has been received, and will be duly considered when Government comes to a decision in the matter.

PUNITIVE POLICE POSTS IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

1532. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the names of those villages in the Hoshiarpur district where punitive police posts still exist?

(b) Is it not a fact that in the majority of those villages no fresh act of lawlessness has been committed?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state what fresh act of lawlessness has been committed in each village which justifies the continuance of the police 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.

PUNITIVE POLICE POSTS IN THE DOABA.

1533. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Has Government any reasons to believe that perfect peace does not prevail in the Doaba? If not, will Government be pleased to state whether they are considering the advisability of withdrawing the punitive police posts along with the additional police from the Hoshiarpur and Jullundur districts?

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.

EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS IN THE LAHORE DIVISION.

1534. Mian Abdul Aziz: (a) Will the Government be pleased to give a list of all the Extra Assistant Commissioners, Magistrates, Revenue Officers and District and Sessions Judges, both permanent and temporary, in the Lahore division on 1st February 1925?

(b) What different posts, and for what periods, in each case have they been holding at various places in the Lahore division since 1917?

Mr. H. D. Craik: (a) The honourable member is referred to pages 346-350 of the Quarterly Civil List corrected up to 1st January 1925.

(b) The required information is given in the History of Services of Gazetted Government Servants.

POLITICAL PRISONERS.

1535. Mian Abdul Aziz: (a) Will the Government please state whether there is any such class as political prisoners according to jail rules?

(b) If not, have any special instructions been issued by the Government to treat any particular class of convicts as political prisoners?

(c) If there are no such rules nor any such instructions issued by the Government, are some prisoners convicted under section 124-A, Indian Penal Code, or under the Criminal Law Amendment Acts actually treated or called political prisoners?

(d) Is it a fact that no such prisoner (political) has during the last four years been appointed "convict officer" in any of the Punjab jails?

(e) Has the Government issued any orders or instructions prohibiting the appointment of such political prisoners as "convict officers" in jails?

(f) Is it a fact that prisoners who are appointed "convict officers" earn more remissions than they do otherwise?

(g) Why and under what law is this differentiation made between so-called political and non-political prisoners?

(h) Is it a fact that Sardar Sardul Singh, Cavesbar has not been able to earn as much remission as he would have been able to earn if he had been appointed a "convict officer"?

(i) Does the Government propose to take steps to enable political prisoners to earn as much remission as a non-political prisoner can earn under the rules or orders of the Government?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

RELEASE OF SARDAR SARDUL SINGH, CAVESHAR.

1536. Mian Abdul Aziz : (a) Is it a fact that orders for the release of Maulana Laqa Ullah and Sufi Iqbal Ahmad of Panipat were issued some time before the expiry of their full term of imprisonment ?

(b) Is it the intention of the Government to treat other long-term so-called political prisoners also in the same manner, and, if not, why not ?

(c) Is it a fact that now only a few months remain for Sardar Sardul Singh, Caveshar, of Lahore, now at Mianwali Jail, to complete his period of sentence ?

(d) Is it a fact that the Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab, submitted to the Punjab Government papers for the release of Sardar Sardul Singh, Caveshar, along with the papers of Maulana Laqa Ullah and Sufi Iqbal Ahmad ?

(e) Will the Government please state the circumstances and reasons why Sardar Sardul Singh, Caveshar's, release was not sanctioned while that of the other two was allowed ?

(f) Is it a fact that persons convicted of murder, etc., and sentenced to transportation for life are released practically after ten years, viz., half the period of twenty years, on account of remission, etc. ?

(g) Is the same principle not applied in the case of convicts for lesser periods of transportation ?

(h) Does the Government propose to consider the applicability of the principle in the case of Sardar Sardul Singh, Caveshar ? If not, why not ?

Mr. H. D. Craik : (a) Yes.

(b) The ordinary remission rules apply, and the practice of considering the commutation of sentences of prisoners who have not been transported according to the orders of courts will be continued.

(c) Yes.

(d) Government is not prepared to disclose recommendations submitted to it by its officers.

(e) No. Each case is decided on its merits.

(f) The case of every convict sentenced under section 302, Indian Penal Code, to transportation for life who has undergone a period of detention in jail amounting, together with remission earned, to 14 years, is considered by Government. In the case of well-behaved prisoners, the result frequently is release after ten years.

(g) Yes. Ordinarily, the case is considered after ten years.

(h) As Sardul Singh was sentenced to transportation for five years only the principle does not apply. His case is being submitted to Government under the practice referred to in the answer to part (b) of the question.

AGRICULTURISTS AND NON-AGRICULTURISTS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

1537. Mian Abdul Aziz: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total population of Hindus, Sikhs and Musalmans separately in the Punjab?

(b) What is the percentage of agriculturists and non-agriculturists in each of these three classes?

(c) What is the percentage of each of these three agriculturist communities in Government service in all its various departments in the following grades as compared with non-agriculturists:—

1. Those getting above	Rs. 1,000 per mensem.
2. Those getting between	Rs. 501 and 1,000 "
3. " " "	Rs. 201 and 500 "
4. " " "	Rs. 101 and 200 "
5. " " "	Rs. 40 and 100 "

(d) What is the proportion of these three classes of agriculturists and non-agriculturists in the service of the district boards and the municipal committees of the province according to the abovementioned grades?

(e) What is the ratio of the income to the Local Government from all agricultural sources in the province (land and canal revenues and others) to that from other purely non-agricultural sources?

Mr. H. D. Craik: (a) and (b). The honourable member is referred to the Census Report for the year 1921.

(c) and (d). The collection of the information asked for in these parts of the question would involve an expenditure of time and money which Government does not feel justified in incurring.

(e) There is no means of distinguishing between the rural or urban origin of income from Forests, Stamps, Court-fees, Excise and Miscellaneous sources. Land Revenue and Irrigation, which are purely agricultural, yield 68 per cent of the whole income.

GRANTS TO LOCAL BODIES.

1538. Mian Abdul Aziz: How much money is granted annually to district boards and municipal committees of the province separately from Government revenues—

(a) for educational purposes, and

(b) for other purposes, such as public health, public works, etc.?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Grants to local bodies vary from year to year. The amounts given to them for various purposes in 1923-24 are shown in the statement which is laid on the table:—

		Rs.
I.—Education.	(1) Secondary	1,46,356
	(2) Primary	40,48,858
	(3) Special	11,688
II.—Public Health.	(1) Salaries, etc., of Municipal Medical Officers of Health	20,002
	(2) Salaries, etc., of District Medical Officers of Health	35,001
	(3) Sanitary Grants (made by the Sanitary Board)	3,91,000
	(4) Simla Improvement Scheme	1,00,000

[Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain]

	Rs.
(1) For bridges, metalled roads and roads in canal colonies to district boards ...	3,38,524
III.—Public Works. { (2) For maintenance of Public Works transferred to certain municipal committees ...	21,768
IV.—Consolidated and development grants to district boards ...	13,28,669
V.—Grants for equipping existing dispensaries and constructing new dispensaries, about ...	2,20,000
VI.—Grants to small towns for libraries ...	1,700

SALE OF TREES IN SHAMILAT AREAS OF THE KANGRA DISTRICT.

1539. Chaudhri Ram Singh: Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that trees growing in the *shamilat* areas in the Kangra district are being sold to timber dealers? If so, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of issuing instructions to the Forest Department not to sell trees of the *shamilat* forests to timber dealers?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: If the honourable member will specify to which kind of *shamilat* forests he refers—whether to Demarcated Protected, Undemarcated Protected, Delimited, Undelimited or Unclassed Forests—an answer can be furnished.

SHEEP AND GOATS IN THE KANGRA DISTRICT.

1540. Chaudhri Ram Singh: (a) With reference to the answer to question No. 295* asked on the 18th November 1924, will Government please say if it is a fact that the Kangra District is a cold region and the people generally wear warm clothing manufactured from the wool of sheep and goats?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government consider the desirability of giving up its idea of reducing the number of sheep and goats in the Kangra District in view of their economic value as the suppliers of wool for the people?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia:

(a) Yes; this is believed to be true.

(b) Government do not propose to abolish the tax on sheep and goats. It is also important in this cold region that posterity should have wood for its fires.

SYSTEM OF TRIKRI PAHRA IN THE HASANPUR VILLAGE, GURGAON DISTRICT.

1541. Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan: Will the Government please lay on the table the answer to question No. 1306† asked by me on the 19th January 1925?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The answer to Council question No. 1306 is laid on the table.

Answer to question No. 1306.

(a) In consequence of the failure of the inhabitants of Hasanpur to make sufficient provision for watch and ward, and in view of the increase of crime

*Volume VII, page 489.

†Pages 88-89 ante.

in the village, the Deputy Commissioner made an order under Act VIII of 1918 that throughout the calendar year 1924 all able-bodied male adult inhabitants of the village should be liable to patrol duty. No rich persons were exempted from patrol duty. Section 5 of the Act permits them to provide able-bodied substitutes approved by the village panchayat in lieu of performing patrol duty in person. The selection of individuals for patrol duty rests with the village panchayat.

(b) As liability to patrol is not being enforced in the current year, and as the Act provides for an appeal to the Commissioner, no action is contemplated by Government.

CIVIL DISPENSARIES IN THE LYALLPUR AND SARGODHA DISTRICTS.

1542. **Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan :** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

- (a) the number of civil dispensaries in the Lyallpur and Sargodha Districts ;
- (b) the average distance of these dispensaries from one another ;
- (c) the number of canal dispensaries in the two districts ;
- (d) the number of days in a month on which the sub-assistant surgeons in charge of canal dispensaries are usually required to visit canal employees ; and
- (e) the average daily number of canal employees and others who attend the canal dispensaries for treatment ?

The Honourable Mian Sir 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.

SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS OF CANAL DISPENSARIES.

1543. **Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan :** (a) Is it a fact that the Sub-Assistant Surgeons in charge of canal dispensaries in the colony districts have lately been ordered not to attend at their houses patients if they are not canal employees ?

(c) Is the Government aware of the inconvenience that will be caused to the public by such an order in view of the civil dispensaries in these districts being few and far between ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of cancelling the order in question in the interests of public health ?

The Honourable Mian Sir 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.

SUBORDINATE VETERINARY SERVICE.

1544. **Sardar Harchand Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that the following scale of pay has been sanctioned by Government for the subordinate veterinary service in the province :—

	Ra.
1. Veterinary Inspectors	100—5—170
2. Veterinary Assistants (1st grade)	90
3. " " (2nd ")	75
4. " " (3rd ")	60

[Sardar Harchand Singh.]

(b) Is it a fact that the existing incumbents in the appointments of Veterinary Inspectors and Deputy Superintendents in the Punjab were drawn by selection from the rank of Veterinary Assistants, and that these men got promotions without passing any higher examination?

(c) Is it a fact that steps are being taken by Government to draw a line of demarcation between the graduates who underwent three years' course under the old regulations and the new recruits who have undergone four years' course? If so, what scale of pay has been or is being proposed for the latter?

(d) Is it a fact that the existing subordinate veterinary staff of the province has submitted a memorial praying that there should be no differential treatment in matters relating to pay and prospects between them and the new "L. V. P." men? If so, what action does Government propose to take on it?

(e) Is it a fact that in the Punjab Agricultural Department diplomates who have undergone a two years' course in the old Cawnpore school have not been superseded by graduates who have undergone a four years' course in the Punjab Agricultural College, Lyallpur, in spite of the latter's higher qualifications or advanced education?

(f) Is it also a fact that no differential treatment is being accorded between the old Urdu-passed Sub-Assistant Surgeons and the new English-passed Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the Punjab Medical Department?

(g) Is it a fact that no difference was made between the two years' passed Veterinary School, Lahore, men and the subsequent three years' veterinary graduates of the Punjab Veterinary College, Lahore?

(h) Will Government consider the desirability of dropping the proposal referred to in (e) above?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the Honourable member when ready.

1545. SUBORDINATE VETERINARY SERVICE.

1545. Khan Bahadur Sir Sayad Mehdi Shah: (a) Is it a fact that the following scale of pay has been sanctioned by Government for the subordinate veterinary service in the province:—

	Rs.
1. Veterinary Inspectors	120—5—170
2. Assistants (1st grade)	90
3. " (2nd ")	75
4. " (3rd ")	60

(b) Is it a fact that the existing incumbents in the appointments of Veterinary Inspectors and Deputy Superintendents in the Punjab were drawn by selection from the rank of Veterinary Assistants, and that these men got promotions without passing any higher examination?

(c) Is it a fact that steps are being taken by Government to draw a line of demarcation between the graduates who underwent a three years' course under the old regulations and the new recruits who have undergone a four years' course? If so, what scale of pay has been or is being proposed for the latter?

(d) Is it a fact that the existing subordinate veterinary staff of the province has submitted a memorial praying that there should be no differential treatment in matters relating to pay and prospects between them and the new "L. V. P. men"? If so, what action does Government propose to take on it?

(e) Is it a fact that in the Punjab Agricultural Department diplomates who have undergone a two years' course in the old Cawnpore school have not been superseded by graduates who have undergone a four years' course in the Punjab Agricultural College, Lyallpur, in spite of the latter's higher qualifications or advanced education?

(f) Is it also a fact that no differential treatment is being accorded between the old Urdu-passed Sub-Assistant Surgeons and the new English-passed Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the Punjab Medical Department?

(g) Is it a fact that no difference was made between the graduates who passed the two years' Vernacular course of the Punjab Veterinary School and those who passed the subsequent three years' Vernacular course of the Punjab Veterinary College?

(h) Will Government consider the desirability of dropping the proposal referred to in (c) above?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: 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.

Mr. President: Before the general discussion of the budget for 1925-26 begins I just want to point out to the honourable members of this House that I do not propose at this stage to fix a rigid time-limit for each speech. But in view of the fact that a number of honourable members will be desirous of speaking on this occasion, and in view also of the fact that I should try as far as possible to have the views of the various groups in this House expressed, I would ask honourable members, ordinarily, to bear in mind that about 15 minutes would be allowed to each speaker. I would reserve about 20 minutes or so at the end for the reply to be made by the Honourable the Finance Member. Any other members on the official side who may be desirous of taking part in the discussion will rise to claim their right if they think it necessary to do so.

Dr. Gokul Chand Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadian) Urban]: Sir, the time-limit which has now been fixed reminds me of what the poet has said—

"Gham-i-alam shirvan ast-o-man yak Ghuncha del daram.

Chisam dar shesh-i-sayat kunam khat-i-bahar ra."

I must begin by tendering my respectful congratulations to the Honourable the Finance Member for the budget that he has laid before us. It is a great consolation to have a budget at last which balances, and not only balances, but shows some surplus. Our congratulations, however, would have been warmer if this result had been achieved without the additional taxation. Nevertheless we are thankful for what the Finance Department

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has been able to do for the province. As we glance at the budget, as presented at page 5 of the estimates, the distribution of the various items is the first thing that strikes us. I do not propose to attempt to go into each item, but I would confine myself to a passing reference to the proportions or percentages of the various items to the whole expenditure. I find, Sir, that about 20 per cent., if we include also the interest, of the total expenditure is spent in collecting revenue. About 27 per cent. is spent in keeping us in order—I mean on the preservation of peace and order—and deciding our mutual disputes and shutting up those who disturb the peace of the province and such other things. About 6 per cent. is spent on miscellaneous items in connection with the same heading, which brings the total expenditure under this head to something like 33 per cent. Then we come to the contribution, which this province has to make to the Central Government, which before the remission is made, and which we look forward to with glee, stands at 16 per cent. This expenditure also I bring under the heading of protection and defence. I have no time to enlarge on these things, and I am therefore making only passing references. Then 9 per cent., of the total expenditure has been provided for accommodation by way of houses and bungalows for those who are responsible for the maintenance of peace and order in this province. Thus the total expenditure on collection and general administration comes to 78 per cent. What is left is merely 22 per cent. or so, which is really for the beneficent or for the nation-building departments, if I may so call them. Even here we have certain interesting figures. For instance, we find that only 1.3 per cent. of the whole is spent on the maintenance of the health of the province. I shall come to this a little later. I want to point out that it is an extremely low figure for the maintenance of the health of the province. When we come to industries, we find that it is no more than .65 per cent., according to my calculation, of the total expenditure, or rather it comes practically to half a pie in the rupee if one rupee represents the total expenditure of the province.

Then there is left about 20 per cent., which is spent on education. It is at least a great matter for consolation that at least as much as 20 per cent. is left for education out of the total revenues of the province.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : How does the honourable member arrive at that percentage ?

Dr Gokul Chand Narang : I beg the Honourable Member's pardon. It is only 10 per cent. That is all that is left for education, which is really a department that has to build up the nation. I have given these proportions subject to correction because we are not experts in these figures. I may have omitted something or misread something or misinterpreted something or drawn wrong arithmetical inferences here and there. On the whole I hope my reading of this page of the budget is correct.

Coming to the public health, I submit that the total expenditure on the public health of this province is about 2½ pies in the rupee if one rupee represents the income of this province. When we see the terrible havoc that the various epidemic diseases work in this province, it is really a matter for shame (Hear, hear) that this province should be able to spend nothing more than that on the preservation of the health of the people. When I say this, I do not mean the slightest reflection on the department of public health. They are doing their level best within the means that are placed

at their disposal. What I mean is this : that a better provision should be made for the preservation of the health of this province (Hear, hear). In fact, I sent up a resolution, which unfortunately could not be balloted, that an additional sum of 10 lakhs should be set aside for sanitation in the rural areas in the budget for 1925-26. I find that something like 2-30 lakhs has been sanctioned or recommended as additional expenditure under this heading. Out of these 2-30 lakhs or so—I speak subject to correction—I find that about 2 lakhs has been given to the Simla municipality for water-works scheme, so that the only additional sum that is sanctioned for the public health of this province is about Rs. 30,000. That is for miscellaneous things. Last session or the session before the last, I made a suggestion that Government should take in hand the question of the public health of this province in a more serious manner than it has been doing up to this time. In reply to a question that I put to the Honourable the Minister for Education I elicited the information that more than 2 lakhs of people in this province died during the six months of plague that visited this province last year. It is really a matter for great shame, I say again, that a province should allow 2 lakhs of its people to die in one season. I ask, Sir, whether in any free country, where the people have a real control over the administration, this will be permitted, and whether the Government will be tolerated for a second if it allows such great havoc to be wrought in the country by such epidemics, which are to a great extent preventable. I find that proper arrangements are not being made, but it is not the fault of the Honourable Minister for Education, nor is it the fault of the health department; but the fault lies with the system and with the appropriation of funds. What is necessary is this. In every thana there should be a Health Officer; he may be of the rank of a Sub-Assistant Surgeon or an Assistant Surgeon, or he may be merely a Vaid or a Hakim, to look after the sanitation of the people. I have been visiting villages now and then, and what do I find there? I find dunghills lying at the very entrances to these villages. It is impossible to stop there even for a short while on account of the offensive smell. When plague rats die, they are thrown out on these dunghills, which lie close to the residence of the villagers. There is no system or order maintained by the district board or any other controlling agency for the sanitation of these villages. I find that in the Rohtak District, for instance, and I commend this particularly to the Honourable Minister for Agriculture and Industry, who represents Rohtak in a pre-eminently fitting way, about 25,000 people died there during the last plague incursion. It is really a matter for great regret that in one district alone as many as 25,000 people should be allowed to die of plague in one season. It is not plague alone that is prevalent in the province; there is malaria, and there are various other diseases. I would not talk of those diseases which have assumed an endemic character, but only of epidemics. As I have already submitted, Sir, a great proportion of this mortality is really preventable if proper steps are taken. One of the chief things in connection with it is this : that, so far as infant mortality is concerned, probably this country takes the palm. Taking the figures for the whole of India, I believe conditions in the Punjab are not better, and I take them as the index of what is going on in this province; the infant mortality in this province is 260 per mille. That is really something shocking. That a country should allow 25 per cent. of its infants under one year to die every year is a state of affairs which no civilised country would tolerate for a moment. Everything else may have to be abandoned. The first thing is the preservation of

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the nation, the body of the nation, before we come to the other things; 260 per mille of infant mortality under one year cannot be allowed to continue any longer.

Then, Sir, a subject allied with this is the medical department. We have the great good fortune of having an Indian gentleman with the highest qualifications at the head of the medical department in this province. I would appeal to him that, in order to derive additional assistance in the preservation of the health of the province, he should also exploit additional medical agency. There are hundreds of Hakims and Vaidas who are well qualified, and something should be done to take advantage of their learning and of their practical experience. They understand the people much better than others, and I think they need not be brushed aside simply as empirics or quacks. There are many among them who have many valuable tips to give even to allopaths or homœopaths, and I expect that under the regime of our present Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals something will be done for the encouragement of the Unani and Ayurvedic systems of medicine, and I hope that some steps will be taken to exploit them for the benefit of the health of this province.

An allied subject with this is the condition of the cattle in this province; and I find myself, when discussing this point, in the fortunate position that I am addressing a Government which is really a Government of Jats. The present Government of the province can be fitly described as a Government of zamindars, if not entirely of Jats, of agriculturists. It is to the great good fortune of the cattle of this province that the reins of Government are now in the hands of Jats and, if under their regime nothing is done for the amelioration of the condition of the cattle and for the prevention of the immense mortality among the cattle and also for their proper breeding and so on, I think this Government would not have done its duty. And, when this Government passes away and is followed by others, no matter who they are, they will have left a record which, so far as the preservation of cattle is concerned, will not redound to their glory. There are many causes which bring about the deterioration of the cattle of this province. The first is that there are no pasture-grounds for the cattle. I find from certain statistics which I had the good fortune to study that only 1 per cent. of the total area under cultivation is reserved for pasturage. I am taking the figures which were prepared by Sir John Woodroffe. According to no less an authority than the gentleman I have just mentioned, only 1 per cent. of the total area under cultivation is left for pasturage. When we come to fodder crops, we find that they are only 1/4th of the total area under cultivation. This is really not a satisfactory arrangement for the cattle, and I hope that, when the Honourable Minister for Agriculture next goes out on his tour, he would ascertain for himself the real state of affairs in the villages, and I hope he would take the necessary steps by general persuasion or instructions to see that more pasturage is left for the poor cattle, and I trust he would also instruct his fellow-agriculturists—I call the Honourable Minister an agriculturist because he is still an agriculturist under a certain law—to reserve greater areas for fodder than is being done at the present time. The cattle are the real assets of the agriculturist, and, if the cattle die out, the agriculturist is sure to die also. There is one thing more which requires to be done in connection with cattle. Everything is liable to be misunderstood in this

province, and even in this Council, but I cannot help saying that the condition of the cattle and the condition of the agriculturist in this province or anywhere else cannot improve unless the reckless slaughter of cattle is also stopped, or in any case regulated and restricted. I find from the statistics that the income of the municipalities from slaughter-houses has wellnigh doubled during the last six or seven years, which clearly shows—of course assuming that the rates of taxes are the same, or only slightly more—that the slaughter of cattle has increased nearly cent per cent in this country. This is not a matter in which the Hindus alone are interested. For myself, whatever sentiments I may have on the question, I cannot interfere with anybody's liberty of action. I submit, however, that, in the interest of all the people together, the slaughter of cattle will ultimately lead to the ruin of the agriculturists of this province as well as other provinces. The slaughter of cattle will ultimately cause misery not only to the agriculturist, but also to the non-agriculturist. I discuss this question simply on economic grounds, and on no other grounds whatsoever.

There is one thing more which the Honourable Minister for Agriculture and his honourable colleagues may take care to do, and it is this. Even the slaughter of cattle perhaps would not be so disastrous if some satisfactory arrangements were made for their breeding. So far as I am aware, no systematic arrangements are made by Government for the breeding of cattle. Even if there are any arrangements, they are too inadequate and too insignificant to be mentioned. This is an important matter, which I hope the Government will take in hand immediately.

I then proceed, Sir, to the next important question which is also allied to agriculture: that is, industries. What do we find as regards the condition of industries in this province? As I already submitted, the share that falls to the head of industries is one *adhela* of the total expenditure which this Government is incurring every year. If I am not mistaken, it is probably about 8 lakhs altogether. The total comes to one *adhela*. What is being done even with this *adhela*? So far as the practical encouragement of industries is concerned, we find that Government has taken the initiative and has established one tannery at Shahdara, and perhaps a dyeing school at the same place. Well, so far as the tannery is concerned, I do not want to say anything against it as yet. I am told it has begun to work only recently, probably on 21st February last, and we do not know how it is going to turn out. But I cannot help making a remark as to the choice made by Government in the particular department of industry. The particular department which was chosen for encouragement was not a very happy one. There are tanneries in every village in this province. There are a good number of private tanneries of some sort or other in the province, and it was not at all necessary or profitable from an industrial point of view for Government to select this industry for special encouragement. They have to set up a tannery which would certainly compete with private tanneries. If it does not compete, then it will be a dead loss, and if Government sells the articles prepared in their tannery at a loss, it would ruin private tanneries also along with it. What I want to submit is this. Looking at the needs and requirements of this province, what do we find? If I want a pin to stitch two papers together, I cannot get it from my country. If I want a nib for my pen, I cannot get it here, if I want paper, my country cannot supply it. In spite of all this paraphernalia of civilisation, all my requirements have to be

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imported from the West or from the Far East, which is now competing successfully with the West. My submission is that, if Government really wanted to encourage the industry of this province, then it ought to have chosen a line which was not a beaten one, and then it would have done some real good to the province. Government should not set up a new shop or a new institution the like of which already exists in various places in the country, not to talk of those which exist in every village.

Now, Sir, what is the condition of the trade and commerce of this country? I commend the present state of the industry of this province to the earnest attention of the Honourable Minister. Now that a Jat is at the head of this department, it is his duty and it is his business to see that not only agriculture flourishes but also that the agriculturist gets the best results and the best price for the produce of his labour (hear, hear). If he fails in doing that, the Government will have failed in doing its duty by the people. What happens now? The agriculturist produces. Has he any voice in the fixing of the price of the produce of his labour? Certainly not. Who fixes the price? It is some firm from Greece, or some firm from England, or some firm from Japan that fixes the price. The Indians are employed to fill bags and to transport them to the railway station. The railway takes them to the ports and from the ports the ships of foreign nations take these things to all parts of the world. Does the agriculturist get an adequate price which he has a right to get for the produce of his labour? When the agriculturist wants to buy, does he buy at his own price? Does a Punjabi or an Indian buy at the price at which he would like to buy? Certainly not. Who fixes the price? It is not the agriculturist, but it is the foreigner who fixes the price for the goods that he wants to buy. (Laughter). It is not a matter to be laughed at. I know what is going on in the minds of some of the members, but they should look at the thing from the national point of view. It is the foreigner who fixes the price of things produced in India. It is the foreigner who fixes the price of things which he sells to this country. It is not a desirable state of things for any country and it cannot be desirable from the point of view of this Province. Unless—and this is a matter which deserves the special attention of the honourable members of the Government—unless there is a combination of labour and capital in this Province, neither will capital get a good return for itself nor will labour get a satisfactory price for its own produce. It is only when both are combined and are combined under some supervision and control and are combined with patriotic motives, that they can turn out the foreign exploiter who buys at his own price and sells at his own price. He takes away *kapas* at four seers a rupee and sends a manufactured fabric and sells it for a rupee a *phatak*. Where does the whole profit go? It goes to the foreign mills, foreign manufacturers, foreign merchants, foreign workmen, and we Indians are only like the commission agents who buy a thing say at three yards for the rupee and sell it at 2½ yards for the rupee which leaves very little profit. And this is the case of the whole country.....

Mr. President: The honourable member has had 20 minutes.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: I shall be thankful if you give me a few minutes more.

Mr. President: You can have about five minutes more.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: There is one other matter to which I would draw your attention. I will not touch upon Electrification of the

Punjab as Professor Ruchi Ram who has given special attention to it and made a special study of it will speak on it if he gets time to do so. But I wish to say a few words now in connection with Education and I want to address my remarks particularly to the Honourable Minister for Education and I hope that the Honourable Minister will take them in the spirit in which I am making them. Education happily is very fortunate in getting a substantial share in the expenditure of the Province, but there are one or two things which I should like to mention to the Honourable Minister. I sent up a resolution also in connection with this that provision for an additional sum of ten lakhs should be made in the new budget for the education of the backward and depressed classes. It is a matter which has my full sympathy and I would, if I had the power, give more than ten lakhs for the education of the depressed classes. There is another reason why it should be done and why I want the Honourable Minister for Education to particularly note this matter. He has often been driven to the necessity of taking, if I may say so, bread cut of the mouth of one institution in order to put it into the mouth of another or in other words of robbing Peter to pay Paul or starving one institution in order to keep up the other. That is something for which the Honourable Minister should make a fight and get more money out of Government for his department. Then, Sir, I find that most of the education that is being given in this Province is of a literary character and very little attention is paid to industrial education. There is no doubt that the Education Minister in a speech made some time ago said that there is very little desire for industrial education, still that desire is to be created and it is necessary that a beginning should be made in that direction. I do not agree with the Education Minister entirely that there is no demand for industrial education. There was no demand for tea in this country, but people who were interested in tea supplied free tea to people and supplied it in buffets at railway stations and what do we find now? China tea pots and cups and saucers are found in the houses of the poor agriculturist all over the Province. A taste for tea has been created.

Then there is another thing lacking in the system of education that is imparted in these days, viz., provision for moral education. There is no doubt that Government as such has to be un-religious and unmoral, I do not say that it is irreligious or immoral, it has to be so because even morality is bound up in many cases with religion and religion is bound up with various schools of theology. Still I think that a solution should be found. A select committee can be formed representing various communities to sit together and prepare text-books acceptable to all classes of people and those text-books can be introduced in schools. I am sure that there will be no difficulty in doing that so long as no dogmas are introduced into those text-books.

One or two words with respect to Local Self-Government and that is this. I find, Sir, that our people are new to the system of Local Self-Government in the sense that the old system of Local Self-Government was wiped out with the advent of the British and now for seventy years or so they have been deprived in the villages of their old institutions of self-government. That power has again been revived in the form of panchayats and district boards and it would be necessary for many years to keep a watchful eye on them to see that they do not so abuse their power that they might become an instrument of torture and oppression, and I hope that the Commissioner who possess powers of supervision will not be slow to use their power if they find that the powers have been abused and I hope that the Honourable Minister

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for Education will see that where there are minorities they are not trampled down and that some scheme is devised to protect the minorities from the hands of the majority wherever there is a chance of the majority abusing its power.

One word more and I have finished. There are so many things to be said, but I cannot touch every point. Happily we have now a surplus budget, prosperous budget and also the Government of India has given us 61 lakhs in addition to what we shall save from our own expenditure. That money has to be very carefully utilised. If any taxation is to be wiped out, I would respectfully make a suggestion that those taxes should be wiped out which do not bring much to the coffers of the nation but which cause more smarting pain.....

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Like the Motor Car tax (laughter).

Dr. Gokul Chand Narang: Yes, the tax on motor cars, or the Stamp Tax,—taxes that do not bring much but which cause more pain. Therefore if this money is not to be utilised for any purpose and if any taxes are to be taken away, then I suggest that a beginning may be made with small items of taxation. But if none of the taxes which have been recently imposed have to be abolished, then I would submit that the whole of this money should be carefully preserved and all this money should be used in the first instance for public health and sanitation and secondly for the education of this Province. That would be a most appropriate use of the money that would come into our hands instead of diverting it into buildings and brick and mortar. If all that money is going there, that would be a wrong use of the money and I hope that health and education of this Province would not be neglected and at least a major portion of the savings would be employed for these objects.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood [Amritsar (Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, An American Senator once protested against the political convention of complimenting the Treasury Secretary on the Budget irrespective of its merits. He described this convention as a "well-meant nothing"; and he remarked that every speaker who observed it reminded him of a writer of inscriptions on tomb-stones, and when he roamed in a cemetery he often wondered where the sinners were buried. But, Sir, it is in no more conventional spirit that I beg to congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member to-day. He has given us with the able assistance of Mr. Irving—a frank and clear statement of the budget, so frank and so clear that even laymen like myself are tempted to peep into the mysteries of public finance. Moreover, he has shown us how "We have larger revenues, more cheaply collected, a smaller proportion of them expended upon 'Civil Administration,' and a substantially larger proportion upon the work of nation building." For all these achievements except the first—I mean increased revenue through new taxation—he is entitled to our sincere gratitude and when I say so I mean no "well-meant nothing."

We are indebted to Mr. Irving also for the retrospect of our financial position. His memorandum gives on the first page some instructive figures. They show that our public expenditure had invariably been over-budgetted, and with the exception of the abnormal year 1921-22 our income had always been under-budgetted. Large over-budgetting in two years out of three is admitted by the Government. It will have to be admitted about the third

also because the figures for expenditure for that year as quoted in the memorandum need modification. The budgetted expenditure for 1922-23 was 1095 lakhs and not 1065 as printed. This correction will raise the excess from 4.15 lakhs to 34.15. A similar correction of 10 lakhs seems necessary in the budgetted expenditure of 1923-24. The total annual defects, therefore, between the budget and actuals for these

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three years are as follows :—

	Revenue defect.	Expenditure defect.	Total.
1921-22	... —2.02 lakhs	—83.95	—2.86 lakhs.
1922-23	... +49	—34.15	— 83 „
1923-24	... +27	—86.69	—1.14 „

It is open to any honourable member to attribute these defects to a deliberate policy of under or over-budgetting. The Honourable the Finance Member, however, assures us that it is not so. I am prepared to agree with him. But I am afraid that he will have to agree with me that at any rate these figures suggest that he has proved a false financial prophet.

Wrong data, Sir, must inevitably lead to wrong conclusion. This is so with all of us, and the Honourable the Finance Member is no exception to it. His forecasts were inaccurate, so must be his results. And I find, on careful analysis, that the basis of his financial policy in the later years—i.e., his estimate of a *normal recurring* deficit of 1.25 lakhs (exclusive of any provision for the development of beneficent departments or of interest on capital borrowings)—was anything but correct. In fact, it seems to me that our deficit was neither normal, nor recurring, nor of 125 lakhs. A closer study of the past budgets bears it out.

Let us begin with the year 1921-22. That, Sir, was an abnormally bad year. A severe drought, bad harvests, and world-wide depression in trade abnormally reduced our expected revenues. Land revenue fell by 43 lakhs. Irrigation by 33, Stamps by 61, Excise by 32. This resulted in a correspondingly high deficit. But a deficit under such conditions was obviously an abnormal feature of our Provincial finance. It would not be safe to treat it as recurring.

The budgetted deficit for 1922-23 was 171 lakhs but the actual was only 87. This included provision for the abnormal items of 22 lakhs for Martial Law remissions, and 11 lakhs for special police due to extraordinary prevalence of crime and unrest. Besides these there was a huge expenditure on Civil Works which was not recurring and was actually reduced by 20 lakhs in the following year. So that the actual deficit for the year which could be described both as normal and recurring was only 33 lakhs.

In 1923-24, inspite of an enhancement of Stamps and Court-fees calculated to bring an additional 31 lakhs, we budgetted for a deficit of 63 lakhs. The new legislation, however, brought only 12 lakhs increase under Stamps. But a good harvest increased the land revenue by 39 lakhs and Irrigation revenue by 12. Interest expenditure decreased by 31 lakhs. Moreover there was an actual retrenchment of about 10 lakhs and not 50 lakhs as suggested, the apparent big reduction of expenditure being mainly due to the scraping off of certain temporary items, some changes in adjustment

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and the changed forest policy. In short, we were better off on the whole by about 75 lakhs, which left us a surplus of 42 lakhs. This further confirms my estimate of the normal deficit at 33 lakhs.

This deficit of 33 lakhs, Sir, should cease to exist after the enhancement in 1923-24 of 31 lakhs under stamps along with a slight improvement in the revenue or a slight cut in the expenditure. Accordingly, there seems no justification whatsoever for the new taxation of 63 lakhs last year under abiana, motor tax and stamps. And I stand here, after very careful and anxious thought, in the name of the tax-payers of this Province to demand the abolition of the new taxation. Justice and expediency suggest the same course.

This brings me, Sir, to the revised budget for 1924-25, and the figures there given further support my contention that the new taxation of 63 lakhs is not called for. The revised budget for the year gives us a probable surplus of 39 lakhs instead of an anticipated deficit of 36 lakhs. This improvement of 75 lakhs is due, not as it would seem to the increased taxation of 63 lakhs, but mainly to a normal and natural equilibrium of our budget. Not more than 16 lakhs of it may be attributed to income through new taxes. Because the fiscal legislation of November (about Stamps and Motor Tax) has brought us practically nothing in the current year. The actual increase under irrigation due to the enhancement of abiana cannot be more than 16 lakhs. Yet we expect a surplus of 39 lakhs. This shows that even if we had not levied a penny of fresh taxation last year we would have a surplus of about 23 lakhs this year.

This is not all. The probable surplus of 39 lakhs is a double injustice to the tax-payers. It is unfair in so far as it exists in all. And it is unfair in the proposed manner of its application. Any surplus secured in a year of normal income and normal expenditure suggests retrenchment, and may be a matter for congratulation. But a surplus due to unnecessary new taxation simply indicates the amount by which you have over-taxed the people. And considering that there is no margin for taxation in this Province the very existence of this surplus is an inexplicable injustice. But the Honourable the Finance Member is deliberately adding another to it by his proposed application of this surplus. He wants to use it for partly financing of the capital expenditure for the year. The revenue surplus of a poor and over-taxed people to be spent on capital investment. This, Sir, I submit is grave injustice. It defies all canons of sound finance. And when I find this suggestion made in a speech of the Honourable the Finance Member in which he gives us repeated warnings against mixing our capital and revenue items of the budget I am compelled to look around for some senior member of this House who, without being accused of impertinence may whisper to the Honourable the Finance Member that example is always better than precept. I suggest that the necessary funds for capital investment may be borrowed, and our revenue debited with the interest and sinking fund which could conveniently be paid out of our permanent savings of 13 lakhs under interest charges. And I demand that the surplus of 39 lakhs may be used for the remission of taxation. It is both desirable and practicable.

I now come, Sir, to the budget for 1925-26. And here again I find no justification for the new taxation imposed. This extra burden was placed

on the tax-payer not to provide for new expenditure but to meet the chronic deficit of 123 lakhs, and obviously there will be no justification for its continuance in the year where normal income and expenditure of the year balanced. This is so in the next year. And the new expenditure of 52 lakhs with the surplus of 10 just cancels the fresh taxation of 63 lakhs. So that if we confine our budget to our normal expenditure we shall have a balanced budget without new taxation. This in itself is a sufficient argument for the remission of these taxes, available for this year and there seems no justification for their continuance in order to provide for new expenditure. Moreover the surplus of 39 lakhs can be made available for the non-recurring new expenditure of the next year. The non-recurring needs of future years can be met, if necessary, out of our growing income. Let us examine the figures further. We budget for a revenue of 11 crores. Add to it our probable surplus of 39 lakhs (which can be spent for non-recurring new expenditure) deduct from it the new taxation of 63 lakhs and we are left with an actual available revenue of 1,076 lakhs even if we remit the whole of the new taxation for the following year. Against this our budgetted expenditure is 1,092 lakhs which includes the abnormal new expenditure of 52 lakhs (recurring and non-recurring). And a slight reduction in the non-recurring new expenditure or a substantial cut in the expenditure of the Civil works or possibly the recurring defect in our budget forecasts would give us a balanced budget without my new taxation, remitting the whole of the enhancement under abiana, motor tax and court-fees, simultaneously providing for the new expenditure of about 40 lakhs. And even if it were not so possible, I would any day propose an immediate remission of the new taxes and a postponement till better times of portion of the proposed non-recurring new expenditure which is not covered by the surplus of 39 lakhs.

I pass next to the expenditure on beneficent departments, and I welcome the proposed increase under this head. But in spite of this increase these departments collectively get only 22 per cent. of our total income. I would like to see this percentage materially increased. How do I propose to achieve that, it may be asked, when I protest against all new taxation? I have two suggestions in reply to this question. First, by retrenchment of expenditure under other heads. Second, by reserving the natural growth of our revenues primarily for beneficent departments. We expect, according to official forecast a growing annual additional revenue now onward, from our new colonising schemes, which will amount to one crore and ten lakhs in 1929-30. If after deducting collection charges, this growing item were reserved for nation building departments, my object can be secured without fresh taxation. Moreover, our protests have after all moved the Government of India and our contribution is remitted by 61 lakhs. I understand from some Olympian gods of Delhi that this remission is likely to be repeated permanently. For this, belated justice, I hasten to convey our grateful thanks to the Government of India on behalf of the tax-payers of this Province; and on their behalf also I beg to request the Honourable the Finance Member to earmark these remissions for compulsory education, extension of Co-operative Societies and Cottage Industries, and for improved sanitation and technical and female education.

The angels, Sir, are proverbially jealous; but they could not have treated us more shabbily than by their successful conspiracy last year, that our Ministers should not spend on nation-building even the meagre grants, which

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we secured for them. Eleven lakhs of grant under these heads has been surrendered last year. And I beg to ask that unless our nation building departments have reached a state of ideal perfection, how can this non-spending be justified? But when I ask this question I do not forget the reputation and popularity which our Ministers rightly enjoy and the constructive results which they have already achieved.

The Province continues to pay, Sir, about 40 per cent. of its revenues on the direct and indirect expenses for law and order. This object, I admit, is the supreme function of every civilized Government but the reasonable limits of expenditure for this item have already been exceeded in this country. And I suggest substantial reduction of it, by retrenchment and reconsideration of policy. And for this purpose the expediting of a liberal Gurdwara Bill and Provincial Autonomy seem avenues worth exploring.

The average annual income of the agriculturists of this province continues to be below the average annual expense on the clothing and feeding of a Punjab prisoner. This is a terrible state of affairs, and it demands Government's immediate and sympathetic consideration of schemes for State composition of rural debts and the reclamation of the million acres of Government culturable waste land on co-operative lines as suggested by me in my last year's budget speech. These will mean more money for the State as also for the poor agriculturists.

One word more, Sir, and I have done. Our Chamber is not a mere glorified debating society. We meet here to improve the lot of this province, according to our lights and within our limitations, by responsible co-operation. It is in this spirit that I have made these suggestions and it is in this spirit that I want them to be received. We stand at a very acute period of our financial history. The situation rightly tackled offers great possibilities and is full of promise. And I claim that the Honourable the Finance Member owes it to us to convene forthwith a conference of the Standing Finance Committee and some other members of this House to explore the possibilities suggested by me as open to us.

This may be the last budget, Sir, presented by the Honourable the Finance Member. This thought is painful. For whatever differences we may have had with his financial policy, he has deserved and won our admiration for his ability, industry, honesty and integrity. We will be sorry to part with him. And we will miss his able and resourceful leadership of the House. And the Province will remember him gratefully for his valuable work here. May he be remembered most by the use of the opportunity which fortune is now offering him, of remitting the new taxation of 63 lakhs and announcing compulsory education for the Province. I hope and trust that he will be able to avail of it and thus equip Punjab to take an honoured part in the cultural festival of a common humanity.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, while thanking the Finance Department and especially my honourable friend Mr. Miles Irving for the great pains that he has taken in preparing the Budget which is decidedly an improvement upon the previous years' Budgets, I cannot congratulate the Government on the achievement of the surplus. This phenomenon has been arrived at by the imposi-

tion of fresh taxation passed by this House in breathless succession during the last four years and by the enhancement of the *abiana* to the extent of about one crore of rupees.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :
Not *abiana* alone.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : An enhancement of 75 lakhs. Anyhow this is the heaviest and the most unconstitutional tax in the history of the Province. Sir, when the *abiana* was enhanced a great protest was made by the people of this Province. A resolution was tabled, but it was postponed for further discussion. A conference took place at Simla at which eminent members like my honourable friend Sir Sayad Mehdi Shah took part and it was there suggested by the Government that the *abiana* should be enhanced. The non-official members said that it should not be enhanced, but unfortunately they were not able to convince the Government members that this tax was an uncalled for one and that it was a most inequitable and unjust tax. The financial position of the present year has considerably improved and it is much better than last year or the years previous to that and my submission is, there is no necessity to impose this heavy tax on the poor zamindars. When we urged this plea, the Government was not convinced at that time. How good it would have been if the Government were convinced in the face of the hard facts that were put by the non-official members then? Had the Government accepted our suggestion and recommended to His Excellency, perhaps the *abiana* would have been remitted in total and I would have been the first man to congratulate the Government on the achievement of this surplus, which would have been achieved even if the *abiana* had not been enforced. What do we find now? After all, our entreaties had the desired effect on the Government of India and now they have remitted 61 lakhs out of a total contribution of 1.75 crores. Here I want to remind the Honourable the Finance Member of the solemn promise he made when the resolution against the enhancement of *abiana* was passed in this Council. This is what the Honourable Finance Member said on that occasion :—

"We are quite ready again to press the Government of India to reduce the provincial contribution and we are quite ready to reconsider the whole financial position both as regards urban and as regards rural taxation when the Government of India can be brought to reduce the provincial contribution."

Now that the contribution has been reduced, I ask the Honourable the Finance Member in the name of the tax-payer, the poor tax-payer of the Province, urban and rural alike, to fulfil his promise. The Honourable the Finance Member expressly stated there that the whole policy of taxation in the Province will be reconsidered. He never stated that this money will be spent for capital expenditure. He stated that we must be careful. After all we are not prophets like Joseph who can look far ahead and say what things are going to happen in future. We do not know whether there will be good harvests or bad harvests. We have to consider hard facts and I should like to draw the attention of the honourable members that even in our present budget, there is a great under-estimation under one or two heads. My submission is that land revenue has been under estimated by 3 lakhs annually. My submission is that we will have a normal perennial increase of Rs. 5,16,914 over and above the land revenue which we have been deriving last year. So that by the end of the year

[Sayad Muhammad Husain.]

1930 our income from land revenue and irrigation alone will have increased by 1½ crores nearly. I am computing this at the moderate sum of 1½ crores, it is quite possible it may increase much more. As regards the extinguishing of our capital debt, the sale-proceeds of the Sutlej Valley Project lands will be sufficient and even more than sufficient to redeem our capital debts incurred in borrowing capital for that scheme and for the various other schemes still to come. Surely the benefit of all these schemes which we are now undertaking will be enjoyed by our posterity, by the next generation and those who follow them and my submission is that they should also bear the burden equitably with us. The burden must be extinguished not in one year or two, but it must be spread over a number of years, say 30 or 35 years so that ourselves as well as the generations that follow us may share the burden alike.

Then again, Sir, how is this surplus arrived at? This has been achieved by imposing fresh taxes upon the very poor population. The zamindars of the Punjab are proverbially poor. I request the honourable members on the Government benches to go to the villages and see with their own eyes the condition of the rural masses. Nor is the condition of the urban masses any the better? If honourable members take the trouble of going into the slums of Lahore and enquire into the conditions prevailing there, they will find that 10 or 12 persons are huddled together like cattle in a small room with no fresh air to breathe. Their rooms are quite unfit for human habitation. Such is the condition of the urban masses. The conditions of the rural people are equally pitiable. My honourable friends may be thinking that the people in the rural areas are living in open air. The people in the villages are surrounded all round by water ponds and cess pools which are the home and abode of mosquitoes which breed malaria and all other kinds of diseases. There, you will find nothing but a few earthen vessels, one or two *charpais* and one or two mats. This is all that a villager can boast of as his property and yet it is really a great pity that the Government should levy such a heavy taxation from the poor zamindar. In the face of these hard facts, the Government cannot really be proud of having attained a surplus when these poor people are starving and when the whole province is starving. My honourable friend Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang, said that more than 2 lakhs of people are annually wiped out from the villages. Perhaps my honourable friend does not know that the rich are the cause of all the misery and the poverty of these villagers.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : I only said that as much as 2 lakhs were wiped out during the plague season.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : This is even more sad. The root cause of all this is poverty. Have you ever seen, Sir, plague entering into the magnificent buildings of barristers and other rich people? They live in neat and well kept palatial residences far beyond the approach of these dire diseases. They can afford to live in such buildings. What about the poor people who pay taxes? The roads where they live in are not properly cared for. There are no proper sanitary arrangements in the quarters of the poor to ward off diseases. I do not make any distinction between an Englishman and an Indian in the matter of living accommodation but I submit there is a great demarcation between the rich and the poor. The rich always try to exploit the poor. My submission is this. The root cause of all this misery, of the loss of

vitality and of this heavy death-rate is poverty. If the Government are really in earnest to remove the poverty, then they should try to remit these heavy taxes, and they should at least try to lessen the burden under which the poor zamindars are now groaning. Let every effort be made to improve their economic condition. Instead of selling the lands in the open market and thus creating an absentee landlord class who have no scruples to exploit the poor, why not sell the land to the poor landless zamindars and realise the money by spreading the purchase value over 20 or 25 years (hear, hear)? My submission is that a considerable sum of money should be placed at the disposal of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, so that he may utilise the same for advancing to poor zamindars and thus enable them to purchase lands. I insist that the benefit should really go to the landless zamindars of the Province, that is those who know how to plough. If a large sum of money is placed at the disposal of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, he might help the zamindars; he might be able to effect a consolidation of the fragmented farms situated in the different districts. He will be able to give one square or half-a-square as the case may be to the zamindars who have no lands. He will be able to plant an agricultural population in the true sense of the word in the newly colonised parts of the Province. The result will be satisfactory from all points of view. The economic increase in the output will be considerably greater than it is now. An absentee landlord is always the curse of the Province. He may be a *dania*, he may be a big landlord; he is always away from his holdings and he is always bent upon extorting as much as he can from the suffering tenants. The poor tenants put their soul into the work. They know they are liable to eviction at any time if they displease their landlord. If they are discontented they do not work properly and the result is an economic loss to the Province. Of what use is it to the poor people if a crore of rupees is invested in hydro-electric schemes or such other costly schemes? These are all intended to benefit the rich (hear, hear). Not a pie will go to the poor. He will be exploited either by the big landlord or by some big money-lender. All the money will go to the pocket of the rich and the poor zamindar is left where he stands. My submission is that the Government must do something for the welfare of the poor by way of lessening the burden of taxation that is at present imposed upon him. Not until the Government has lessened the burden upon the shoulders that the Government can be proud of their achievement in this country. If their economic condition is improved and if they are also educated, then this Government can be proud of their achievement.

If something is done to give them free medical aid then can this Government be proud of its achievements. It cannot be proud of launching big schemes which do no good to the masses whose condition is very unsatisfactory. The sons of the soil who had the prior right to the land have been deprived of their right. They have been deprived of their right on the Lower Bari Doab Canal. These people were originally the sons of the soil, they are now migrating to other places while the land is being given to others. Those who were landlords are now landless and are lifting cattle for there is no other industry for them (laughter). To reclaim those people is the primary duty of Government. I would ask the Finance Member to remit the *abina* which act of his will be long remembered as one of the many great services which he has rendered to the Province.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh, Urban): Sir, I must join the chorus of praise that is being bestowed on the industry of the Finance Department.

[Sardar Jodh Singh.]

They have certainly rendered us a great service by explaining to us the mystery of figures that they handle daily. Also I must say here in the Council that in the Finance Committee I have found that our Finance Member is a *pukka bania* (laughter). I do not, of course, mean any disrespect to him.

Mr. President : Nor to the *bania*, I suppose (laughter).

Sardar Jodh Singh : He would not let a pice slip out of his hands unless he is absolutely convinced that it is necessary. But, Sir, if in spite of this I find that during the last four years Government, notwithstanding the hard necessity that was facing it, has not been able to curtail its expenditure, the defect lies in the present system. I am going just now to give a feast of figures to this House to prove that in spite of the so-called attempts at economy we have not been able to achieve anything during the last four years. I cull these figures from a note which was circulated to us on the last Budget occasion by the able Finance Secretary. He distinguished between retrenchment and economy and said : "Economy is the process of obtaining an equal result with less expenditure, in other words, of getting the best value for one's money. It is one which requires unremitting attention. On the other hand, retrenchment is the act of omitting objects of expenditure rather than reducing their cost." To begin with, Sir, I would say that the bulk of the savings that were reported to have been effected in 1924 amounting to 50 lakhs of rupees were not economy in the true sense of the term but "retrenchment." And again I would show that from that year onward in spite of the express wish of the Council that the expenditure should be economised the ratio of income to expenditure in all the earning departments has risen and the claim that we are collecting our revenue more cheaply is not borne out by the figures that have been presented to us. To explain my first point, I shall analyse the savings of 50 lakhs that were effected. The saving of 4 lakhs under Land Revenue was due merely to the fact that survey settlements in that year were not undertaken to the extent to which they were undertaken in the previous year, almost the whole saving was solely due to less expenditure under that head. We see that the ratio of income to expenditure under Land Revenue in 1923-24 was 14 per cent. and now it has risen to 16.5 per cent. this year. If I exclude the fluctuating item of survey and settlements from both years, then, Sir, the expenditure has risen from 11.1 to 12.7. Stamps showed a decrease of Rs. 50,000 in that year, but since then the expenditure has risen from 2 to 2.6 and that 6 takes away more than Rs. 50,000 from our hands now. Under Excise there was no retrenchment possible and the ratio of expenditure to income has risen from 3.8 to 5.3. I may assure the Financial Secretary that I have taken account of the capital expenditure on opium and deducted the amount both from the receipts and the expenditure side. As to Irrigation, on which special praise has been bestowed in the Financial Secretary's note where he says that the expenditure has gone down to 26.5 per cent. I say, Sir, that he has not taken account of the fact that the *abiana* rates were raised and the increased income is due to the additional income from those rates and is not due to any economy on the part of that department. If I exclude 38 lakhs which are estimated to come in on account of increase in *abiana* rates from the estimated income of that department, then the ratio of expenditure to income has risen from 27.5 to 28.3 in that department also. The only honest department that has saved money and is

spending less now is the department of Registration. It has shown some decrease and the expenditure has fallen from 15 to 12.

Under Forests there was shown a fall of 26 lakhs, but I cannot say anything on that point because I do not know how much of that fall was due to the separation of Capital and Revenue Accounts; and what capital we have spent upon Forests up till now, how much of the estimated saving of 12 lakhs that we have effected this year in that department is due to the interest on capital and how much per cent. we are making or losing in that department on the money already invested.

Now, Sir, the only other department where we have retrenched in that year was stationery and printing and I am glad to observe that that department continues to work in that spirit. The retrenchment of 12,94 thousands in Civil Works was no real economy. Six lakhs were cut out of Repairs to Roads—1,44 thousands by keeping those posts vacant, for which there was not enough work—which by the way have since been filled up, 1½ lakhs by a reduction in reserve and 4 lakhs by a reduction in our grant to Communications Board. This was starvation and not economy. Besides these cuts, the beneficent departments effected a retrenchment of 1,21 thousands. The Department of Civil Administration saved 1,22 thousands which has been more than wiped off by subsequent increases. Sir, in the revised figures of 1924-25 on the different groups—direct demand on revenue, irrigation, civil administration and miscellaneous expenditure has been more than the original budget. Only the beneficent departments have spent seven lakhs less. Surely I cannot congratulate the Honourable Member for Finance for this. The only savings that we have been able to effect in 1924-25 are due to two things. One was the creation of funding debts. That was due more to the kindness of the Government of India than to any arrangements of economy brought into operation by our own Government. We saved more than 11 lakhs on interest because we did not borrow money for the loan of 1½ crores we had agreed to float and the previous debt of a crore was paid off, though it was paid off by money that was raised by selling our landed property. Therefore we cannot congratulate the Government on effecting any real decrease of expenditure during the last three or four years. Is that possible? Yes, but here in this Council I must bring to the notice of the honourable members that according to the arrangements that now exist economy is only possible if the heads of departments in charge of these departments co-operate with us. Government is irresponsible. The Government members sit on there benches in spite of defeats. We who criticise them have no experience of the actual working of the departments. Our casual suggestions cannot effect economy. If the heads of departments are earnest, economy is possible. And the only department that has shown real economy is the department of education, for which I heartily congratulate our able Minister for Education and his able assistant Sir George Anderson. I have examined the figures of two years—I am sorry I have not got the Education Report for the year 1923-24—and I find that the average expenditure on Government schools has been reduced from Rs. 24,000 odd per school in 1921-22 to Rs. 22,000 odd in 1922-23 and the average expenditure per scholar has decreased from Rs. 86 to Rs. 61. If the head of department is really in search of methods that will economise expenditure I think he can find several. For example, in the Education Department another method has been attempted now of economising expenditure and what is that? We used

[Sardar Jodh Singh.]

to employ always Provincial Service men in colleges, now the Education Department finds that men of the same qualifications can be had on lower pay, so they are employing Subordinate Service men in colleges and thus the Department will be able to give us more colleges than they would have given us had they employed Provincial Service men. In other departments too suggestions were made by the Retrenchment Committee on similar lines, for instance for the amalgamation of the canal and revenue staff, and that the patwari circles should be revised. We were told last year that an experiment was being made, but there is not a line in the Finance Member's speech on the subject this year to show how that experiment is faring.

Then there was another suggestion in the Retrenchment Committee's report which would give us something in the shape of real economy. This was the amalgamation of the District Board Engineering staff and the Public Works Department staff. But, Sir, we have not heard anything about this till now. What I mean to say is, if we are really to effect retrenchment in the expenditure, it is the heads of departments that ought to co-operate with us and then only would real economy be possible. It is no satisfaction to us to learn from the able note of the Financial Secretary that we are spending the same percentage of our total expenditure on the police, etc., as they are spending in Bengal and elsewhere. The Financial Secretary has not taken note of one thing, namely that the average revenue raised per head in Bengal is much less than the average revenue raised per head in the Punjab. I shall illustrate this point by taking the figures for 1923-24. In Bengal, Sir, the average revenue raised per head comes to 2.2, in the United Provinces it is 2.9 and in the Punjab it is 4.8. Therefore if we are spending the same percentages of our total income on the different departments as other provinces, that is no satisfaction to us.

Now, Sir, I turn to the budget of 1925-26. Of course, if economy was not effected in lean budgets it was not to be expected that any economy would be effected when a surplus is being shown. I was astonished to read how the Police Department showed a reduction in expenditure of about 4½ lakhs. With apologies to the Finance Department, I should say that one lakh is explained by an error in calculation. They have subtracted the figures wrongly. The real reduction is only 3½ lakhs. Of this 1.30 lakhs are due to the dishandment of the special police in Hoshiarpur and Jullundur and 1.98 lakhs is due to "probable savings" under the head District Executive force which item was not taken into account last year. These two items alone explain the reduction in the police expenditure which the honourable members would see is due to no economy.

Sir, there is one thing for which the reformed Government can claim credit and that is, they have given more to the beneficent department since the inauguration of the reforms. I do not want that that credit should not go to them, but I want to say that before the reforms were inaugurated the other departments had perfected their machinery to their utmost extent, and the beneficent departments were in a state of which we cannot be proud. There is also one more fact to be taken into account before we can congratulate them on this policy. Just before the reforms there was a general revision of pay all round and the Honourable the Finance Member has very kindly given us the amount which was added to our expenditure on account of that.

general increase, and that is Rs. 1,23,00,000. Now, Sir, if we divide that amount approximately between the beneficent departments and all the departments that are grouped under the civil administration head, we find on the basis of expenditure of 1921-22 that the beneficent departments must have got much less than the other departments. Since then the beneficent departments have got 43 and the other departments have got 19 lakhs. I doubt whether the difference then created has been still made up for the expenditure in that particular year was in the ratio of 22:17. This is not all. There are some people who are jubilant over the fact that the Government of India contribution has been remitted and that we have got a great windfall. I admit that, but even if the whole contribution were remitted we will get only 75 lakhs, against which, if I understand aright the sense of the House, I think there is a big programme before us. I think the House feels that the whole of the tainted excise revenue should go and if it is decided that the Punjab should run dry, 1,25 lakhs of this will be wiped out. Then Sir, there is the free and compulsory primary education. Then come co-operation and help to industries. We have many more items for which we have to spend, and so the prospect of the remission of 1,75 crores does not cheer us much. That is why I appeal to Government and make the request that the heads of departments should follow the example of the head of the Department of Education and by some means or other, which they know better than we do, effect further economies. Thus for instance, in the case of engineers it may be made a rule that only those engineers will get senior posts who can maintain one mile of road on the least expenditure. I do not know the technical details, but I have seen much of what is spent on *berm khattai*, most of the money goes into the pockets of some of the people who never do any work. Of course I do not wish to malign any department. What I mean to say is that if the department exercises due care, economy can be effected. Then Sir

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Goes into the pocket of whom ?

Sardar Jodh Singh : Not into my pockets at least.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Nor of mine (laughter).

Sardar Jodh Singh : I fear, Sir, I have wearied the House with so many figures and I will therefore simply make my proposals as regards the present surplus that we have got

Mr. President : I may just remind the honourable member that he has got only two minutes more.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Very well, Sir. I will then stop with making only one appeal to Government on one point ; and that is on the Sikh situation. The handling of the Sikh situation, apart from the misery that has been caused to a majority of Sikhs has cost the Province a good deal of money. (A voice : undoubtedly). What do we find ? I do not propose to weary the house by citing individual cases of misery. I want them to consider this point. Are they or are they not convinced of the fact that the Sikhs as a community want a reform in the management of their Gurdwaras ? May be there are some enthusiasts who may have given expression to their views in a way that is not acceptable to Government. But the reform must come to stop that even and is overdue.

[Sardar Jodh Singh.]

now. Several lakhs have been paid by the Sikhs in fines, thousands have suffered imprisonment and hundreds have sacrificed their lives for the cause that is so dear to them. In deciding upon reform all considerations of rights and vested interests shall have to be subordinated to that end. Otherwise there is no reform. In this connection I may refer the Englishmen to the reform of their own religious institutions. How did they deal with the property of their monasteries in their own country? (Laughter). Of course we do not want to do the same thing here. I simply suggest that the custody of that property which belong to different Gurdwaras should be vested in the elected representatives of the Sikh community.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari : Excepting the clock tower.

Sardar Jodh Singh : I leave the clock tower to the President of the Municipal Committee (Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari), though I contest that the site on which it was built belongs to the Sikhs. Therefore Sir, I appeal to Government that once the principle is recognised, the whole matter should be expedited. There must be no more delay once the Government has recognised that a reformed system of management must come in the case of the Sikh temples. When I say Sikh temples of course I do not exclude the possibility of the Muhammadans and the Hindus asking the same reform and I would be the first man to support their claim if they do put in such a claim. I do not propose to criticise their policy in the past, but I request the Government once again to expedite the matter. Let them say clearly that they are prepared to give us this and much of the unrest that we see around us will disappear. With these few remarks I resume my seat.

Pandit Nanak Chand [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, the first thought that arose in my mind after a perusal of the speech of the Honourable Sir John Maynard and the memorandum prepared by Mr. Miles Irving was one of gratefulness, gratefulness to these two gentlemen for having made the budget an interesting study. The next thing that suggested itself was that we should congratulate ourselves on our having the present Budget, because it is a prosperity Budget. I do not forget that much of the income that makes this Budget a prosperous one has been derived by raising new taxation in the past. But still we cannot forget that the ship of the Punjab has been successfully piloted during these years of financial difficulties. For this, we have to congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member and his able Secretary.

There is another matter for congratulation and it has also been hinted at by the previous speakers and it is this, that we are going to have a reduction of 61 lakhs from our provincial contribution to the Government of India. After having read the Budget, I found that the new reform which has been introduced in the Budget in keeping accounts has largely influenced the Government of India to relinquish this sum of 61 lakhs. It seems to me that the Government of India had obviously the idea that the finances of this Province are very sound, but certain reforms introduced into the Budget which were a correct index of the present financial situation of this Province must have weighed largely with the Government of India in remitting this sum which they propose to do now. For these reforms introduced into the Budget, we have to thank the Financial Secretary, Mr. Miles Irving, and to congratulate him on this

achievement. Sir, these feelings of congratulations and satisfaction are not without regret. We are now threatened with a great loss,—the loss of the services of the Honourable the Finance Member, Sir John Maynard. He has told us that this is his last Budget, the fifth and the last which he shall ever present to the Council. I am sure the House will agree with me that whatever may be our differences with the Honourable Sir John Maynard, the able, the impartial and the sound manner in which he has given a lead to this House will always be remembered by us gratefully (hear, hear). The other day when he was mentioning the case of Lord Lawrence, I thought to myself that people could distinguish themselves not only in the battlefield but also in the Council Chamber and Sir John Maynard during the last five years has been an embodiment of constitutionalism. He has devoted himself heart and soul to making the reforms a success. He concludes his speech on the presentation of the Budget with a prayer and with that prayer I am sure every one of us will join. He says:—

"May it be theirs to see a Punjab, freed from communal dissensions, enjoying an ordered liberty, and enriched by the rivers yielding cheap power to its looms and water to its fields and by the brain and brawn of its virile and hardy race."

Sir, I have heard a lot of criticism from all sides against the Government. But at this time it is our duty to revise our policy also. The Honourable Sir John Maynard has hinted that this Council Chamber and the province have been a prey to communal dissensions and I have felt during the past year that the groups of members of the Council have been unable to come to real grips with the problems that confront us on account of their communal differences. If we really want this province to be prosperous, it is open to us to give up our communal differences and to find a solution for the great problems that are confronting us to day.

Sir, the last political unrest in the Punjab has two lessons. One for the autocrats who thought that India was unfit for Swaraj and that they could rule it as they liked, the unrest must have come as an eye-opener. It must have disillusioned those who thought that India can be held in the same manner as it was held in the past. The second lesson that this unrest has taught is for the impatient idealist who thought that Swaraj could be obtained within a few months or even within a few years. The Swaraj which we all desire has to be attained by gradual and steady progress in the pursuit of which we are to forget our communal and racial differences (hear, hear). Therefore the illustrious authors of the reforms were perfectly right when they thought that the reforms were a preparatory period and it is to this task that the Council should address itself. During the few minutes that are at my disposal, I would suggest how the Council should try within the four or five years that still remain for the Royal Commission to come, to prepare the Punjab for the first place amongst the provinces in India (hear, hear). My submission is that the 61 lakhs which is to be remitted by the Government of India ought to be spent for the beneficent departments. The speakers who have preceded me have said that this amount should be utilised for education, sanitation and other purposes. To my mind, it seems that the first demand on our purse should be sanitation and public health. Sir, I remember in 1921, when the new Minister assumed charge of this office, there was a great invasion of cholera and thousands of people were carried away by this scourge. Then there was a change in the Ministry in 1923 and there appeared plague which carried off hundreds and thousands of men. Then again there

[Pandit Nanak Chand.]

was a change in the Ministry, and there were floods followed by malaria and dysentery. These were warnings by the hidden powers to the Ministers who are entrusted with the destinies of millions of people that they should get a greater claim of their attention than they are at present given. It is really a matter for regret that men in the Punjab should die by millions and that the Government, and those who are entrusted with the destinies of this great province, should not be able to check the incursion of these epidemics. These epidemics can be effectively checked if a portion of the 61 lakhs is given to the sanitary departments. This should go to the building of new and clean houses and to the laying out of clean roads and to bring health and safety to their homes. Then, Sir, the second thing that is required for the preparation of self-Government or Swaraj is a national system of education. Therefore a part of this money should go towards compulsory primary education for which the province had been crying for the last few years. Here is a great opportunity for the administrators of this province to make over a substantial sum of this money to the Minister in charge of Education. I do not forget the great work that has been done by the Minister in charge of Education and by Sir George Anderson during the past year with the little sum of money that was at their disposal, and I join with other speakers in paying a compliment for their having done this valued work in the past. If only they would fight for this 61 lakhs which was remitted by the Government of India, they will find that the whole support of this Council is at their back.

The third point which I may suggest is compulsory military training of the University students. We have been told that India cannot be made fit for Swaraj unless the people are prepared to take the defence of the country in their own hands. Only the other day a great speaker from another province came and addressed us when our popular Vice-Chancellor, and now in this case, the Leader of the House was in the chair and he told us about the value of this military training. I submit that at this time when a sum of 61 lakhs is going to be made over to this province, part of it should go towards military training of the youths of this province. If the Honourable the Finance Member wants this hardy and virile race to stand upon its own legs, then some effort should be made in the direction of military training of the University students. In this connection I appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member to make his influence felt and see that there is no racial, no tribal and no religious disqualification in the case of those who want to serve in the army. I know that my forefathers served in the army first under the Sikhs and then under the British. I now find my community wholly disqualified to bear arms. When men of my community want to enlist in the army, they are told they belong to a non-military class. Some sort of convention has come to pass in the military department that people who fought in the past and who can fight as well in the present are now deprived of this right to bear arms for their country. I submit to the Council, that if they make an effort to introduce military training among the youths of the Punjab University that would be a great preparation for the coming Swaraj, for Swaraj will come and is bound to come though we have to make great sacrifices before getting it.

Lastly, Sir, I would submit to the House that if the choice were given to us whether we would have these three things, these three great prepara-

tions for Swaraj or whether we would have a remission of taxes, we should cheerfully accept to bear this burden of taxes on our shoulders and we should say in the clearest possible manner that we would never forego these things for which we had been crying in the past and for which we should fight in the present.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz [Lahore, Muhammadan (Rural)]: Sir, in the first place, I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member and his able Secretary, Mr. Miles Irving for the able manner in which they have prepared and presented the budget of the ensuing year to this Council. We thank them heartily and we sincerely appreciate and acknowledge their services with gratitude. I am also grateful to the Government of India for what they have done. After all they have done tardy justice to the Punjab in remitting the provincial contribution to the tune of 61 lakhs. The net result is that we will have a surplus of 71 lakhs in the next year, and we have a surplus of 39 lakhs in hand. There is, however, a lurking uneasiness in our minds that the surplus is not a real one, but that it is due to the additional taxation with which the people of this province were burdened recently. You are aware, Sir, that we have increased the court-fees, the registration fees and the stamp duty and above all the Government has increased the *abiana* despite the unanimous opposition of this Council. I tell you, Sir, that the peasant proprietors are really very poor. If Government were to doubt it, then they had better institute an inquiry into the economic condition of the rural districts. I beg of the Government to appoint a committee and see eye to eye into the condition of the peasant proprietors.

Well, Sir, in this Council there has been some loose talk about retrenchment. At my suggestion a Retrenchment committee was appointed by the Government three years ago. The committee sat for several months. We have had nearly fifteen sittings and I testify to the fact that the heads of the departments helped us considerably in our deliberations. It is absolutely wrong to say that the heads of the departments did not help us. We came to the conclusion that we could retrench only to the extent of 34 lakhs. Now, Sir, there is a talk in this Council that more retrenchment can be done. With this I absolutely disagree. I have done my best. There is some possibility of further retrenchment, but it will not come to much. I do not doubt the honesty of the heads of various departments. I have seen them working well and I have come to the conclusion that they are doing their best. The question now resolves itself into this: whether we should remit the additional taxation, or whether we should proceed with our schemes. I admit that additional taxation, particularly the *abiana* can be partially remitted. But I do not at all agree that it can be wholly remitted, if we want to introduce compulsory and universal primary education which we all of us desire. Sir, I have a passion for it and I have been urging in this Council for the last four years that compulsory and universal primary education must be introduced in the province. But hitherto, we had to meet with a heavy deficit. Now that there is a surplus in hand, it is high time that the Government should give at least 20 lakhs every year to the Honourable the Minister for Education. I frankly confess that we cannot remit the additional taxation wholly, if we want to introduce compulsory primary education. Illiteracy is the root cause of all evils. We have to fight and fight successfully against the forces of darkness and the demon of ignorance. No doubt the province is poor; but ignorance brings about poverty and it is also the cause of all sorts of evils. I have always urged the necessity of introducing com-

[Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.]

pulsory primary education and I beg the Council and the Government to introduce it once or at least make a beginning immediately. I have consulted the Honourable the Education Minister and Sir George Anderson. I thank them heartily for all they have done. They have really done good work and my honourable friend Sir George Anderson has particularly made effective retrenchment and at the same time he has increased the number of schools as well as the number of school-going boys. They tell me that they are prepared to introduce compulsory primary education and make it universal if the Council wishes it and give them the money. They have told me that the Council should be prepared to give them 20 lakhs in the first year and an increment of 10 lakhs every year until we reach the figure of 60 lakhs in five years and within a period of five years they will be able to introduce compulsory universal primary education. That, Sir, is a worthy object worth achieving. I tell you, Sir, that we are nowhere unless we educate our peasantry. It has been my desire and it is the desire of every honest Indian to remove illiteracy from the masses. I am an agriculturist and I am responsible to my constituency and I take this risk and say boldly and affirmatively that if you want to introduce compulsory education and make it universal, please do not talk of entire remission of the additional taxation (hear, hear). We must make it a point to make primary education universal and effectual. If it were in my power, I would risk my own fortune to achieve this object (cheers). It is a great and worthy object and we must do our best to achieve it. I beg the Education Minister with all the zeal at my command to introduce universal compulsory primary education. It will be a brilliant step. I now come to the other beneficent departments, namely industry and sanitation. No doubt both industry and sanitation require a lot of money. In time epidemics such as plague and influenza poor people die in thousands. Government should pay more attention to medicine and sanitation and establish hospitals all over the country as far as possible. I now come to the reserved subjects :—

(a) Land Revenue.

(b) Irrigation, and

(c) Forests.

Land Revenue unfortunately must increase as long as it remains a reserved subject whether we will it or whether we will it not. I ask, Sir, the Honourable Member who is the head of that department, why he has not introduced the promised legislation about land revenue? Two years ago a report was drafted by a committee which was appointed by the Government for this purpose. Sir Patrick Fagan was the President of that Committee and I was a member of it. He retired and left the work unfinished. Then Mr. Casson took his place. He completed the report, but the report is still lying, I do not know where, whether it is here or whether it is with the Government of India. I cannot say. Mr. Casson too has retired. I believe that the Honourable Mr. King is also going on leave. Where is that legislation, I ask? We have made protests again and again and nobody seems to have listened to us. We have rejected settlement grants again and again by way of protest, but Government has paid no attention. Is the recommendation of the Joint Committee that was constituted by the House of Commons to be ignored? Are the wishes of the members of this Council, of the public, of the agriculturist in this Province to be completely ignored? Surely it is high time that something

should be done. I cannot understand why Government is afraid of this Council. Everything goes merrily and smoothly with the Government like the marriage bell. There is very little opposition and the agriculturists of whom Government is afraid are really very amicable people. They have always been voting with Government, even against their own interests sometimes. And yet Government gives them no relief. It is a great pity. I appeal to Government officials for whom I have the greatest regard that if they have any regard for the wishes of the people they should introduce legislation about the land revenue. Do not be afraid, Sir, we are reasonable people. We will treat you well, if you will treat us kindly and generously.

Now I come, Sir, to the Irrigation Department. I sincerely believe that the department is really doing excellent work. It has given us 21 lakhs more than the previous year. It is going to extend irrigation considerably. Nearly two lakhs of acres hitherto uncultivated are to be brought under irrigation in addition to the lands to be irrigated by the Sutlej Valley Project. I thank the Irrigation Department for what they have done.

About the Forest Department, I can only say that they should do a little better. The timber market is dull, also the department is still in its infancy. It is, therefore, not showing so good results as it ought to. I believe it is going to be a transferred subject soon. I, therefore, advise this department to be up and doing and prepared for all eventualities. I have no doubt that forests have great possibilities in this country.

I do not wish, Sir, to take much time of the Council. I have said what I really felt. In conclusion I again thank the Finance Member Sir John Maynard, who will be leaving us in January next. He has done his utmost to give us a prosperity budget. I thank him once more.

Mr. Miles Irving (Financial Secretary): Sir, there are four kinds of prophets. There is the prophet who prophesies evil and it comes off and he is stoned. There is the prophet who prophesies good and it happens, and people all say that they knew it before. There is the prophet who prophesies good and evil happens and he does well to get out of the way before it is known. But finally there is the prophet who prophesies evil and good happens and he is met with a mild irritation of people who ask, what did he mean by frightening them (laughter). The Finance Department has to a certain extent had better fortune in that it belongs to the last-named category. We have had in the last two years surpluses which we hasten to attribute to good fortune. We have had in those years extra good luck in the way of harvests, besides there has been extraordinary control on the part of the spending department, whether voluntary or involuntary, otherwise we might have had greater deficits than we prophesied. Therefore we prefer the fate of the prophet who brings upon himself a mild irritation.

But the real point I wish to get to is—I cannot follow every speaker—the real point that I want to get to is whether there is really up the sleeve of the Finance Department 50 lakhs or so in the next year's budget from which all the budget expenditure could be met with the abolition of the existing taxation.

Now I thank Mr. Maqbool Mahmood to whose speech I owe a great deal and whose suggestions give one profound food for thought. He has not

[Mr. Miles Irving.]

seriously challenged the accuracy of the Budget so far as it goes for which I thank him very much. Budgeting is a progressive science and we have been trying to make it more and more accurate year after year. His suggestion was to apply the Government surplus of the preceding year to the revenue of this year in order to make the budget balance. A revenue surplus is really the result of a *pro form* account and I think the general practice of all Governments by which surpluses at the end of the year are automatically devoted either to the expansion or avoidance of the debt is really a sound one, rather than to use what is a fortuitous surplus to make up the differences between revenue and expenditure.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I suggested that that surplus should be employed on the non-recurring new expenditure which is to be incurred in the next year, and indirectly the saving that you will have thereby should be used in the way of remission of taxation.

Mr. Miles Irving : That is ingenious, but it is not really my point. I think we must stick to the principle that the whole object of having a revenue account is to see that the revenue of that year balances the expenditure of that year without assistance from the good fortune of the past, especially as we have had sometimes—as we had to do in paying back our crore of debt largely from extraordinary source—we have had sometimes to reverse the process.

Therefore I give the Budget to you for what it is worth and the members of the House can exercise their ingenuity upon the details of it. I do not think the budget of the next year has got much left in it to squeeze. On the revenue side I am very much afraid that if this budget had been compiled some 14 days later, the revenue would have been distinctly less, because the agricultural situation has certainly not improved in the last fourteen days. I do not expect any betterment on the revenue side. We shall have to accept the budget as a whole as good a forecast as is possible. The House will have to come to an opinion as to what is to be done with the surplus. This surplus is given to us by the Government of India. I want to explain that this is really 56 lakhs and not 61 lakhs, because although the Government of India have given us 61 lakhs they have taken away 5 lakhs which the House will find under Miscellaneous Adjustments on account of rebate of customs. During the last year the Government of India adopted the practice of charging Government departments with customs on their imported stores and at the same time they gave us back with the other hand in the form of rebate at the end of the year. They will no longer be giving us a rebate. So our total windfall in cash is 56 lakhs. The Council will have to consider what it will do with the surplus. We have heard of the methods by which the beneficent expenditure has grown. I think we would rather congratulate ourselves within our narrow limits that it has been growing. Things have been getting better. This is the chance to make a great start forward in doing things by which not only the welfare, but the well-being of the province will increase. I hope the House will not hastily make any decision which would give a set back to the material and moral progress of the province. (Cheers).

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan [South East Towns (Muhammadan), Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, I have no mind to go into the details of mathematical calcula-

tions made in the budget. The previous speakers have already discussed them at a fair length. The budget has undoubtedly been prepared with great industry and labour by the Finance Department and I congratulate them on the success of their labours. Really a great measure has been achieved in bringing this dry discussion of figures to the level of common understanding. The Memorandum is no less an achievement. Industry and intelligence are written large on its pages and bring no little credit to Mr. Miles Irving. But, Sir, while I congratulate them on the lucidity and clearness exhibited in the preparation of the budget, I find I cannot express a similar feeling in regard to the actual figures mentioned in it. Sir, it is a matter of some gratification after all to know from the Government themselves that where credit side has always been underestimated the debit side has always been given an undue exaggeration. We pointed it out to them last year as well but our counsels were not heeded to. If a correct estimate had been made the imposition of fresh taxation could easily have been avoided. In fact no need could at all have been felt for draining out the pockets of our people. If this admission had been made during the Budget of 1924-25 the enhancement in water rate would have been impossible. But we are pleased to know that this has been admitted as regards the last budget. We know not whether this has been avoided in the present one. Time will prove it. The system of preparing budget heretofore in vogue was to some extent responsible for that. But with the introduction of the new method where true estimates will be made, the possibility of any error in our budgets will also I hope be minimised. In addition the officers who used to spend thousands and thousands of rupees without authority will no longer be allowed to do so. No unauthorised expenditure will be allowed in the future.

Sir, I shall not go into figures. I shall only make a few remarks and resume my seat. The expenditure on Police this year is almost steady. The decrease of two lakhs is only nominal. The expenditure of a Government rests on its policy. Let us change the policy and the Police expenditure will go down. Our Police expenses form 12 per cent. of the total expenditure excluding contribution to Government of India. Really a Government cannot be congratulated which spends even in times of internal tranquillity such large sums on its Police administration. It is time that we revise our policy. The present provision in the budget for Police is still 8 or 3½ lakhs more than that of the year 1923-24, exclusive of the expenditure on punitive police which does not appear in the Budget.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : May I make a correction of facts Sir? The honourable member is mistaken in his statement. The Punitive Police does appear in the budget.

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan (continued in Urdu) : Anyhow I know it well that it was not included in the last year's budget. I may be wrong....

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : If the honourable member will see the Financial Secretary at any time I am sure he will be glad to show the particular place where the item Punitive Police is shown.

Mr. Miles Irving : The item appears at page 184 of the Budget under the head "Other Police".

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan : Does the expression "Other Police" mean Punitive Police?

Mr. Miles Irving : Yes, Sir.

Bana Firoz-ud-Din Khan (continued in Urdu) : The Punitive Police item can also be reduced. There is no necessity for such posts now. They are more of a burden and a nuisance to the public. This is a further reason for their abolition. The punitive police posts have been posted in many of the villages of Jullundur and Hoshiarpur Districts. They oppress the people and afford no protection to them. These should be abolished.

Then I take the Medical grant. The money spent in the last year as well as that budgetted for this year is inadequate. That is absolutely insufficient to allow wholesale preventive measures to be adopted against epidemics. Look at the hospitals. They are situated miles apart from each other. There is one hardly to be found in an area of 25 miles. Formerly people could make use of the canal dispensaries, but this little concession has also been taken away from them, by the prevention of the Canal Sub-Assistant Surgeons from attending to patients other than canal employees. I hope the Medical Department will withdraw these orders. But, Sir, this is not all that can be done to improve public health in the Province. We should exploit our resources of supply of *Unani* and *Ayurvedic* medical aid. These systems of medicine are far cheaper and more efficacious than the allopathic and Homeopathic systems. Though the sum allotted this year to the Medical Department is greater by 3 lakhs than that of the last year, I submit it is still very low.

Sir, the next thing that I want to draw the attention of the House to through you is this, that there should be free and compulsory Primary Education in the Province. We have been demanding it for years and it is time that something is done to achieve this end. Our villages do have a few schools but the course of study in these has been reduced from five to four years. This is highly insufficient. A boy does not at all learn to read and write well, before he finishes away his course. It is really a matter of pity that cities should possess all facilities for higher University education while the villagers do not have even a five years' schooling. I wish there is a Middle School within every five miles stretch of our country—not the Vernacular Middle Schools but the Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools.

I shall now say a few words about the Excise administration in the Province. Undoubtedly this gives us ten per cent. of our annual income. But the amount of loss which this income of one crore of rupees means to the people has never been taken into consideration. Taking it at the lowest calculation people must be spending about 10 crores of rupees on intoxicants. I do not take into consideration the loss of morals of the people. If that were to be calculated in terms of money, this estimate will go up to any amount. What if the Government makes a profit of one crore out of the crores of rupees that people lose. It does not at all extenuate the evil if the income is spent on education or like subjects. If we forego this crore of rupees we can save hundreds of crores of people's money. We can tax them if we want more money for these beneficent departments. No body will grudge it. Bombay has set a good example before us. They have appointed a committee to chalk out a programme culminating in total prohibition. It is high time to stop this evil. It is really a matter for shame that where only one hospital exists in twenty-five miles of the country and one school only in so many villages, a liquor shop can be seen almost in every village in the Province. It is the

duty of the Government to stop drink evil. They profess it to be their desire, but unluckily the means they adopt to achieve that end result in the aggravation of this evil rather than its reduction. American history clearly demonstrates that this evil was not stopped by the raising of duty on its sale, but it was only rooted out when it was made a crime to drink. We shall have to adopt the same policy.

Excise reports of the last three or four years show that consumption of liquor fell down to a very considerable extent and the Government even had admitted that it was due to the wholesome propaganda of the Congress, Akali and other similar movements. Sir, this evil can only be stopped through non-official efforts. Government should supplement their efforts and afford them every convenience instead of arresting and putting their workers in jail.

Mr. President : I hope the honourable member will bring his remarks to a close and give opportunities to one or two other members.

Rana Firoz-ud-din Khan (Urdu) : Then Sir, the Government of India have remitted 61 lakhs of our Provincial contribution. How are we to spend that amount ? We should abolish the new taxation imposed or if we do not want that, this sum should be spent on education, public health and other similar subjects. The sanitation in our villages is extremely bad. If once it rains, the streets get muddy and one cannot walk dry shod through them even for weeks after. There are no hospitals in the villages.

Then, Sir, the question of questions is that of unemployment and I make a suggestion to the Honourable Minister concerned. There are thousands of people without work and industry is the only way that can provide work for our men. During the great war and sometimes afterwards we could not get many a medicine. Now we should make this country self-contained in medicine at least upon which depends the health of the people. There are many workshops which manufacture surgical instruments and compete well with those of foreign make. Why not encourage such manufacturers by starting an Industrial Bureau ? Start it on a small scale in the beginning, but a start you must make.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, I shall take only a few minutes as I naturally want the non-official members to make their valuable and instructive suggestions for the benefit of the Government. In the first place I am thankful to the honourable members who have been so very generous in their remarks as to what Sir George Anderson and I have been able to do. As a matter of fact the entire credit is due to Sir George Anderson and his assistants and local bodies, and it is the joint efforts of all that have brought about the results which the Council very rightly considers remarkable. It is well-known now that during the last three years, the number of pupils in primary schools has increased from 342,000 to 487,000. That we have added another 45,000 adult pupils is a new feature in the educational report of the province. In the secondary department from 2 lakhs, the number has gone up to 298,000. In the matter of collegiate education from 16,000, the number has gone up to 27,000 and a few hundreds. In the training of teachers, the number has considerably increased. The number has gone up from 1,291 to 1,814. We have also been lucky to get an additional number of trained lady teachers, whose number has gone up from 141 to 177. Similarly in the matter of lower middle schools, which some non-official members suggested

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were an absolute necessity, the number has increased during the last four years from 400 to 858. A four-classes school can only be a branch of a school, the main school being a lower middle school of six classes. The number of upper middle schools has not increased to the extent that I would like, the number standing only at 300 while they were before, 280. We have been lucky enough in attending to the crying needs of the schools. In 1921, there were as many as 2,754 primary schools with more than 40 boys in each school being looked after by one teacher. We all know that that is an impossibility, and critics may well say that the time of these 40 pupils is being wasted, and the time of the single teacher who is trying to deal with four classes at different stages of education is also being wasted. The number of such schools now stands at 635, that is to say, it has been reduced by more than 2,000. But that is not enough.

S. P. M.

As a matter of fact I sometimes wonder how during the last three or four years, so much has been done with so little. It has been our misfortune that since taking over these departments we have all along been poverty-stricken. We have never known yet a day of what you call affluence or prosperity. The point has been raised and very rightly as to what the Ministers have been doing as they have not spent even the money allotted to them. The honourable members have taken that point from the most interesting and valuable reports that have been placed in their hands by the Finance Department. It is a bit unkind of the Finance Department to raise that point considering that during the last three or four years as a matter of fact they have been saying "no doubt provision is made in the budget but knowing that the budget is a deficit budget every possible retrenchment should be made." Being more or less novices to the job we always took these things very seriously and therefore we tried to put off what we could put off. But more than that. I have been rather unlucky in the matter of one institution for which more than once provision was made that is the Maternity Hospital. That always miscarried (laughter). Sometimes the head of department and sometimes the Finance Member had an inspiration that it could be built in a better place where it would be more useful, with the result that for the last three years this institution has had money in the budget and when it came to spending it, the commencement was for some reason or other postponed. That was due to force of circumstances.

Now I will deal with the future programme of education. The primary school-going population is now seven lakhs. Well the total number that ought to be in primary schools is 16 lakhs. Making an allowance for our failure even when compulsion is introduced, to put in all the sixteen lakhs of pupils in school, I think there ought to be at least 14 lakhs of pupils in primary schools. I cannot at once introduce compulsion because, Sir, compulsion is compulsion and if once the education movement in the Punjab becomes unpopular amongst the rural people on account of compulsion I will never be able to bring seven lakhs of pupils into schools. By persuasion I trust that within the next five years it should not be impossible for us to bring in these seven lakhs of pupils. But seven lakhs of pupils will cost something, not a large amount, Sir, but I will claim including buildings Rs. 10 per head per annum for each pupil who comes to those schools to acquire knowledge and thus to improve the standard of intelligence of the Province. The Council cannot grudge that little amount, but

the total amounts up to 70 lakhs. As the honourable member representing the rural Lahore said, if you make a beginning with 30 lakhs a year now and go on adding 10 lakhs a year to it, then before the new chapter in the political advance of the Punjab begins in 1930, I trust the Punjab will lead the whole of India in the matter of primary education. (Hear, hear). And when I say primary, I do not simply mean four-year schools, no, a large number of them will be schools with six classes or more. It has been rightly pointed out that the people demand not only vernacular education, they also demand English education. We have had no money to meet the demand. The demand is persistent and people are making large sacrifices to get what we call optional English class, that is, they pay the price of English instruction from their own pockets but that again renders the policy liable to severe criticism that only those who can afford to get educated get educated and the poor and the backward not being able to spare money for this object are left behind. If the honourable members think that it is worthwhile helping the needy and the poor, I have no doubt the Education Department will be ready to afford facilities for them as well.

As to Public Health and Medicine, I appreciate all that has been said on that point. I plead guilty that the Punjab at present does very little in the way of preventive medicine and also in the way of curative medicine. There are excellent institutions, institutions which compare well with those in the rest of India and as a matter of fact with some of the best places in the world, but for large rural tracts there is no medical relief. Medical relief, however, needs money. If money is forthcoming, a large number of institutions can be started. It has been suggested that a large number of *hakims* and *vaid*s are available. I am not one of those who mince matters. It is not right that a very large number of competent *vaid*s and *hakims* are available. Just as there is a dearth of competent men practising western medicine, there is even a greater dearth of competent *hakims* and *vaid*s. What do we get? A man with a book worth twelve annas or one rupee, and that is his stock in trade to cure all the physical ailments. That sort of a *hakim* or *vaid* is no good and no Council and no member of this Council, I am sure, will be in favour of encouraging that sort of thing. What we know is that *vaid*s and *hakims* of experience and *matib*s are becoming scarce. If we want good *vaid*s and good *hakims*, I am afraid that after being duly trained, they will be as expensive as the medical men of the West are—I mean those trained in medical science. I would be willing to consider even a proposal to start a school for teaching medicine of the *Vadic* and *Unani* systems but that again would require good initial qualifications, say up to Matriculation and three or four years' course and after the men have finished their course, they will demand fees not less than what are claimed by the Sub-Assistant Surgeons

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : But other cost would be less.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : As to other costs, if the matter is really calmly considered, it will not be found to be less. It will be discovered that if they are to dabble in surgery, the cost will be just the same. They will require just the same instruments, marble tables and antiseptic floors and some sort of wards. As for medicine, there again it will be noticed that these men, if they are to have the usual assistance of chemical analysis and other analyses, will require instruments. It is really a sort

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of confusion of ideas which leads one at first thought to believe that one has only to get hold of *tailis* and *hakims* and everything is cheap. However that is a possibility which Col. Bakhle, the Inspector-General, and I are ever ready to exploit, because what we want to do is to afford medical relief to the people at large.

One word more, Sir, about Public Health. It is said Government is doing nothing and that people are dying. That is hardly fair because you see medical relief is primarily the business of local bodies, municipalities and district boards and Government is ever anxious to help them by grants-in-aid and by expert advice as to how to grapple with the epidemics and discharge their duties well. As a matter of fact last time when plague was raging in the Punjab, special grants were made to my knowledge within a record time of 24 hours—the Finance Department never moves quickly but on this occasion it moved within 24 hours—and grants were made available for vaccine and other necessary things. Every effort was made to cope with the epidemic for not only Government officials were ready to do inoculation but even private practitioners came forward to help the authorities and started upon a large campaign of inoculation absolutely honorarily. That is an achievement of which not only my department is proud, Sir, but the whole medical profession is proud. In the debate mention was made of Rohtak. In Rohtak we were able to concentrate as many as 20 or more assistant surgeons to do the work. But plague is plague and epidemic is epidemic. If it can be controlled easily then it would not be an epidemic. Now, why is public health in such a bad way in India? Is it due to the fact that Government does not spend enough? Is it that Government is not willing to spend? No. It is true that Government is willing to spend, but it is equally true that it has not got enough to spend. But there is a third point which is more important than the willingness of the Government to spend and the availability of resources and that is that unless the people are ready to co-operate with the sanitary department, success cannot be achieved. Roads cannot be kept clean if people will insist upon making them unclean as soon as they are cleaned. These streets and bazaars cannot be kept in a sanitary condition unless people co-operate with the sanitary department. It is therefore of the utmost importance that a campaign of social service be started with the object of increasing the knowledge of the average man in the matter of hygiene, etc. Work in that connection was begun a few years ago by the Society for the Propagation of Scientific Knowledge of which, if I am not mistaken, Professor Ruchi Ram was one of the most zealous members. The society did excellent work. But its branches opened in the mofussil did not do much work. Now, Sir, if we divert our superfluous energy in the direction of increasing the stock of knowledge of the average Punjabi in the way of hygienic information, the way of his desire to live a healthier life and develop sanitary habits, no difficulty will be felt by the health department to come up to the expectation of the honourable members of this House. In order to achieve this object, only recently, as a matter of fact on the day when the Honourable the Finance Member made his budget speech, the baby week was started; and those who have visited it know perfectly well what an excellent demonstration it was.

One word, Sir, as regards excise. It has been said by a friend of mine that the Bombay instance should be followed. Well, Sir, that was a

very unfortunate suggestion. Only two or three days ago I was reading a very good article from one of the papers from the Bombay Presidency wherein it is said that Bombay makes 4 crores of rupees out of excise, and what is worse, says that the way to reduce drink is by rationing the drink to the various parts of the Province. The critic said that they always rationed to the extent of a few hundred gallons more than were consumed in the preceding year with the result that the policy of stamping out drink really did no good.

As a matter of fact the policy adopted in the Punjab has done good. But again Government is absolutely helpless in the way of reducing drink, unless co-operation of workers, non-official workers, is forthcoming. It is easy to throw away a crore of rupees as was said by one honourable member; tainted money is no good. If I can feel convinced that by remitting this excise revenue or rather just obliterating it we were really obliterating the drink evil, I would close my schools in preference to using that money for the purpose of propagating education, because I feel that in that case the drink evil having been stamped out, our Province would be a better place wherein to develop education. As a matter of fact obliterating excise revenue simply means that not only Government does not get a crore of rupees, but other men are allowed to make money and drink is free, and in that case it does not serve the cause of temperance. My honourable colleague who is in charge of the department is as anxious as I am or as any other member of this Council is to bring about the era of total prohibition in the sense that there is no drink to be had, licensed or illicit.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Sir, I suggest that only ten minutes be given to future speakers.

Mr. President : Yes, I shall hardly have much more than 10 minutes to give.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari (Non-official nominated) : Sir, even if I had been allowed to speak before you decided to allow ten minutes to the future speakers, I would not have taken longer time than ten minutes. In the first place I should congratulate both the Honourable the Finance Member and the Financial Secretary, because there is an unusual combination of intellect, energy, precision and labour in the new product. What struck me most is the last line of the budget speech of the Honourable the Finance Member wherein he said that this was his last budget. I hope honourable members will agree with me that it will be an irreparable loss to lose a genius and priceless gem in the person of our Finance Member who has done so much conducive to the interests of the province. Mr. Miles Irving, the second in command deserves no less recognition at our hands. The systematic and methodic way of the exposition of the figures which are generally dry can inspire really admiration even from those who differ from him.

Probably I may be incurring the wrath of some honourable members if I say bluntly that in to-day's discussion we have not proceeded in the way in which practical men should. It has been said over and over again by each and every member who stood up before the House as to what their requirements are. I can compare this to the head of a family round whom come his children putting before him all their demands. What he says is, look here, my children, here is what I have got.

[R. B. Sir Gopal Das Bhandari.]

spend it in a way that is most conducive to your best interests." I entirely agree that we must limit our wants to what are absolutely necessary. As people whose eyes are fixed to sky for rain, who offer prayers to avoid lightning and hailstorm, have to fight fierce fight against insects to save crops can't fix expenditure with stability.

I have not heard a word except that the receipt side is under-estimated. There should have been more practical suggestions under this head as to how the income could be enhanced.

There is one thing more for which I should congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member. That is that he has adopted the policy of not showing the income from the sale of land as revenue. This was the initial mistake committed before. I have got experience of that and for that reason I say that the sale of land is only a change in the form of the property and therefore the money should not be used except to discharge the debts incurred for projects of equal value. The mistake has been committed in the past and frankly admitted in the notes. I am glad that the Government has assured us that the mistake will not be committed in the future.

Coming to the figures, I beg to say that education has been well-provided. But I am really quite in despair to see that not one member has said a word in regard to female education. Unless and until you put your house in order, can you consider yourselves to be included amongst the civilised people of the country, with your women so illiterate and so ignorant for the ordinary rudiments of life and home? What I mean to say is that more provisions should be made for female education. You want compulsory education for boys, but what have you done for female education?

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : We do not make any distinction.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das Bhandari : But there is distinction in the budget if you will only look into it. I would really be glad to hear the remark made by the honourable friend, but after seeing the budget I am quite justified in saying that more provision should have been made for female education. (Hear, hear). Unless and until that is done, I think you cannot say that you have improved in any way. I entirely agree with Dr. Gokul Chand Narang with regard to public health. It is within the knowledge of those on the official benches that public health of the province is not what it ought to be. But how to improve it? There must be sufficient funds provided for the purpose.

I have to say one word with regard to municipal affairs. Twelve lakhs only have been provided under the head 'loans to municipalities.' How many municipalities have you got in the province? I need not give the figures. I am not however going to speak about the inadequacy of the amount. What I wish to complain is that the loan is never given. That is the ignominy which I am going to put before the House. When a project is complete, application for a loan is made. What is the answer from the Government? The answer is, first get administrative sanction. When we come up for administrative sanction, the question raised is, where is the money? There is the case of the Victoria Hospital for which Lady Chelmsford laid the foundation stone. The project is complete. We sent the

papers over and over again with a complete history of the whole scheme. Still up to this time nothing more has been done except the laying of the foundation stone.

I respectfully contend that more money should be provided if it is intended to improve the towns. The towns are at present in a very bad state of sanitation. At the same time I must admit that to improve the sanitation of these towns requires much money. Every question in this world ultimately resolves itself into a question of money. Municipal Committees have got the capacity to repay the loan and they have got the industry to do the work, but the only drawback is they have got no money. As I already submitted, Sir, the Government certainly cannot do anything unless it is provided with money. It may be asked, wherefrom is the money to come? Does the Honourable the Finance Member possess any secret treasury? If there is any secret treasury, then we are certainly justified in pointing out to the Honourable Member for Finance that he is concealing some money which he can usefully spend for the benefit of the people. If there is no money what is the use of asking the Government to spend more money? Therefore we should first of all pay our attention to the modes of getting money. In this connection I wish to ask the Government one question. There was the report of the Retrenchment Committee. Has full effect been given to that report? (A voice: No). Well, if it has not been fully given effect to, how is it that no honourable member has suggested that the recommendations of that Committee should be carried out in their entirety?

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: That was left for the honourable member to suggest.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das Bhandari: I ask again, has full effect been given to the report of the Retrenchment Committee? It was said that the report of the majority had been carried out. What about the minority report? Has it been carried out? Is the minority report an unreasonable one? Were the minority entirely on the wrong side? If they were entirely wrong, then throw away their recommendations. If they are not wrong, then their recommendations also must be carried out. My submission is that further retrenchment should be made.

I do not in the least suggest that all taxes should be removed, for then we will have another deficit budget. What I beg to submit is this, that certain minor things can be done. For instance—possibly you may call me selfish—the Amritsar Municipality has in one year lost Rs. 50,000. Formerly the Government authorised the Municipality to levy taxes on the sale of immovable property and we were realising Rs. 50,000 a year. An order was passed that from 1st March, the Municipality should no longer realise this income. My submission is that Amritsar has greatly suffered by this order. With a sum of Rs. 50,000 what a good deal of improvement can be made? How is it possible for the Amritsar Municipality to effect all the necessary improvements within the budget at present? I respectfully contend that this House should take the difficulties of Amritsar into consideration and give some concession to it. Similar concessions may also be given to other towns. After all who is responsible for the rise in the value of immovable properties in the Municipalities? So far as Amritsar is concerned, we have improved the town in every way with the result that the immovable properties have risen in value. It is only on account of the improvement in sanitation and other things that the value has risen. My submission is that

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if the Municipality gets some revenue on account of the sale of property within its limits, then it should not be deprived of its legitimate income. When the time came to reap the benefit derived from the increase of revenues all at once the morsel is taken away from our hands and we are left to our fate. I hope that the Honourable the Finance Member and his second lieutenant will take the pitiable condition of Amritsar into consideration and give some relief to it. As the Government of India has been kind enough to remit a portion of the provincial contribution from this province, the Government of the Punjab, in its turn, must be merciful to those who really stand in need of help and they should not be made to suffer. Otherwise, the result will be that like rural areas, towns also will be in a bad condition and the whole province will suffer.

(At this stage Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din rose to speak.)

Mr. President: There are only five minutes left before the Honourable the Finance Member begins his reply. I hope the honourable member (Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din) will finish his remarks within that time.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din [Sialkot (Muhammadian) Rural]: Sir, I will try to be as brief as possible. I have read the very interesting speech of the Honourable the Finance Member on the budget and also the instructive memorandum of the Financial Secretary. Both these documents are in my opinion full of admissions, confessions and ex-

Says the Honourable the Finance Member:—

“Overbudgetting or underspending was in fact so generally present throughout all the departments in 1923-24, as to suggest the presence of some general cause affecting all of them alike.”

He further on says:—

“It is a natural criticism upon these figures that the capital expenditure during the current year was very gravely overestimated, and the Council will desire to know what steps we are taking to avoid a repetition of the error.”

I may add that the Financial Secretary is equally frank. The explanations of these two officers, though not very convincing, at least on some points, are very ingenious. It is pleaded, and I think rightly, that the Finance Department is not endowed with the power of prophecy. Had this been the only difference, I would have been inclined to accept it as a complete answer to the charge of under-estimating the revenue and over-estimating the expenditure. The future is so mysteriously shrouded in obscure darkness that even the Pandits and the astrologers cannot read it. The famous couplet of the poet Nazir Akbarabadi is full of meaning. The poet says:—

(Pare bhāṭakte haiṁ lākhon Pandit, hazāron Dāna, karon Siāne;

Jo khūb dekhā to yār ākhir Khuda ki bāten Khuda hī jāne.)

پارے بھٹکتے ہیں لاکھوں پنڈت ہزاروں دانا، کاروں سیانے

جو خوب دیکھا تو یار آخر خدا کی باتیں خدا ہی جانے

I do not expect the budget-makers to be prophets and surely they are not supposed to make prophecies, but as experts, they are expected not

only to see but to foresee things. To a certain extent I agree with the Honourable the Finance Member and concede unhesitatingly that all forecasts are liable to be falsified in some degree by unforeseen circumstances. But, Sir, I am unable to concede that the budget should be a wallet or a bag of tricks. Speaking generally all of us are laymen and very many of us are unable to make mathematical calculations. Therefore it is the duty of the Honourable the Finance Member and his colleagues—a galaxy of experienced and able financiers—to prepare the budget so accurately and carefully that no necessity should arise for subsequent explanations and the members of the Council should be given no room to entertain any suspicion or scepticism about the budget. Sir, His Excellency Sir Malcolm Hailey, when he was the Finance Member to the Government of India, in presenting a supplementary grant to the Assembly made a speech which I beg leave to quote in this connection. It is not a long one: Sir Malcolm Hailey said—

“ Let me tell the House that I have in my department men, who, if I would allow them to do so, would be capable of putting up a budget which would easily defeat the scrutiny and defy the criticisms of the House. They could conceal among the innumerable items which go to make up one budget, a liberal provision of reserves that the House would never detect, and which would relieve one of the embarrassing necessity of having subsequently to produce demands for supplementary grants. But, Sir, this is not the spirit in which we frame our budgets. *We frame our budget with the deliberate intention of asking the country for only so much money as we really need to spend.*”

I would like to lay special emphasis on the last sentence of the Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey's speech and request the Finance Department to ask only for so much money as is really and actually needed. The Financial Secretary has asked the Council to accept the budget now presented as a true and faithful account of the financial position of the provinces. The Honourable the Finance Member has done his best to allay the suspicion of the members of the House with regard to over-budgetting and under-estimating in the past. I for one would have gladly accept their assurance, but I cannot forget the warning of the Punjabi poet, who says:—

سپ دا دنیا احمد یارا رسی کولوں کردا۔

[At this stage the bell was sounded to indicate that the honourable member's time was over.]

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-din: May I not have a few minutes more?

Mr. President: I am afraid not. I wish to express my regret at the fact that a number of honourable members of this House who are still desirous of speaking have to be disappointed. I want to assure them that the disappointment is not only theirs but mine and of this House. I am sure we would have derived great advantage from their remarks, if we had enough time to hear the remaining speeches. But unfortunately the time at our disposal is very short and it does not allow of our going on with the debate. Perhaps it might be possible next year in the next budget debate to have more time allotted to the general discussion of the budget. But considering the time we had at our disposal we have tried to make the best use of it. I now call upon the Honourable the Finance Member to conclude the debate.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : In the first place, I thank the honourable members for the very kind things they have said about me and about the Finance Department in connection with the preparation of the budget. It is true that they at once followed the kind remarks by making rather severe criticisms of various little things in the budget, but at the same time I recognise the very friendly personal feeling which prompted those remarks for which I desire to express my hearty gratitude. After we return thanks for the compliments bestowed upon oneself and one's colleagues and helpers, the next course is to compliment the House. This is my fifth budget and it has been a matter of much interest to me to watch the progress of the House in dealing with the budget. I think this is the first time when we have seen a succession of members endeavouring to tackle not merely the generalities but also the figures. The fact that several honourable members have tackled the figures and endeavoured to extract nutriment from them shows that the tendency now is to bestow a greater amount of industry upon the subject, and of course this is very naturally gratifying to those who compile these figures, though it may possibly arouse a certain amount of apprehension as to the duration of the debates when people begin to study the figures and thoroughly understand them.

In the first place, Sir, I want to clear the path as it were before making some remarks upon the budget. There has been a little confusion in the discussion this afternoon. The speakers have been thinking of two different things. They were thinking of the budget as it actually stood and they were also thinking of the 61 lakhs which we all of us very sincerely hope that the Government of India shortly intends to remit. Now, Sir, I may throw a little cold water upon everybody's expectation if I say that it is not really 61 lakhs but it is only 56 lakhs for the reason explained to the House by the Financial Secretary, Mr. Miles Irving and that too, is only a proposal at present on the part of the Government of India. Last year also we were led to suppose that we might get 38 lakhs from the Government of India and we all built a certain amount of hope upon that statement. I am more hopeful, I admit, this year of getting 56 lakhs than I was last year of getting 38 lakhs. But the matter has still to be dealt with by the Assembly and we cannot be perfectly certain that the Assembly may not prefer some other method of disposal of this surplus. We must not build our hopes too strongly upon these expectations until we actually receive the 56 lakhs. It is premature for me to say anything about what we are going to do with it when it comes. But this much, I can say, that it will be a matter of very grave deliberation and it will be a matter on which we shall have to spend a considerable amount of time and consideration. It is probable that we shall give this Council some opportunity of expressing by resolution or otherwise some of its hopes and expectations on the subject before coming to a final conclusion.

I noticed this afternoon—I am still dealing temporarily with the hypothetical 56 lakhs because it is a matter in which the Council is extremely interested—that there were a great many people who wanted to dispose of this money but not merely by a remission of taxes but also by expenditure upon the beneficent departments. I also noticed that there was at least one member who suggested that this sum of 56 lakhs and a good deal more should be used up in foregoing the excise revenue. I cannot deal

with this subject in the short time at my disposal, because it is one requiring very grave and careful deliberations.

Now I have cleared the way to the discussion of the budget itself. I put out of my mind henceforward the question of the remission of 53 lakhs and deal simply and solely with the budget and the receipts which we have apart from this hypothetical item. I am going to take, as the time is short, in succession the principal heads of the criticisms or charges which have been made in connection with the present budget. Very often we find, as I have always found in dealing with budget criticism, that they cancel out, that is to say what one member asks you to do is rendered impossible by what another member asks you to do and taking them together they very often completely answer one another. At the same time many of the suggestions call for discussion and explanation. The first criticism which I am going to notice is that we have neglected economy. One member spoke of the Retrenchment Committee and asked how much we had done in connection with it. It is impossible for me to follow the honourable member into details on this subject. I can only say this that if honourable members examine closely the figures which Mr. Miles Irving has given in his printed retrospect—figures which can be verified by reference to the actual accounts—they will see that there has been a diminished expenditure incurred on the collection of the revenue, combined with an increase in the revenue and that there has been a diminished proportion of the revenue spent on civil administration by comparison with the expenditure upon what are called the nation building objects. That is the best evidence that one can give of economy, a diminished cost of collection of revenues and a diminished expenditure upon civil administration properly so-called in comparison with the nation building departments. As to particular retrenchments we have not possibly been able to satisfy the expectations of every one. There have been certain very important retrenchments, one in particular is the diminution of travelling allowance on a scale that we calculate ultimately to work out at 10 per cent. Another is the combination of revenue and canal agencies of which we have already established one example on one particular canal in the Province. There are others with which I cannot within the short time at my disposal deal in detail here.

Next, Sir, after the charge of neglect of economy I come to the charge of neglecting expenditure. As to the neglect of expenditure, the criticism is directed against our treatment of the Transferred Departments. If honourable members will look at the beginning of this very interesting Budget volume which has been prepared for them they will find some most valuable graphs which have been prepared by Mr. Miles Irving to show at a glance what the expenditure on the beneficent departments has been. At the bottom of those columns which deal with expenditure they will find one particular section of the column devoted to these departments. If they will follow up the line of columns from left to right, they will see that the proportion of the column which is devoted to this beneficent expenditure steadily rises. It begins with an expenditure of less than one crore and it ends up with expenditure very substantially in excess of two crores. (Of course we should have done more if we had not been faced with financial difficulties, but I think what we have done is sufficient to show how good our will was even though we were not able to do everything which we should have liked to do.

The next criticism is this, that when we were discussing the question of new taxation, I overstated the normal recurring deficit at 1½ crores.

[Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.]

Of course these things are very difficult of precise calculation, but later on we succeeded in obtaining figures which did show that my statement of the normal recurring deficit of 1½ crores was not by any means wide of the mark. We now know quite definitely that the cost of the increase of salaries of establishments to the Province has been 1,23 lakhs per annum. That is very closely approaching 1½ crores. This is not by any means the whole of the additional expenditure or loss of revenue which was involved by the changes which took place subsequent to the war. Not only did we incur this large item of additional expenditure on establishment, because of the diminution in the value of the money which reduced the real wages of the servants of Government, but we also incurred much loss by the rise in the cost of labour and in the cost of materials which must be put at something approaching 50 lakhs, mainly in the Irrigation Department. We also suffered a loss in the excise revenue which I have always put at 25 lakhs but which actually amounts to something more than that, if you take the highest figure which the excise revenue had reached in days before the Reforms.

I may take it then, Sir, that the extent to which our financial position was worsened by the War and the post-war changes was a matter of 2 crores. This sum has now been made up by additional taxation to the extent of 90 lakhs and the remainder of 1,10 lakhs has been made up by means of the natural growth of revenues combined with retrenchment. That is how taxation to the extent of 90 lakhs has enabled us to restore a loss which amounted to 2 crores per annum.

Now, Sir, I come to the next criticism which is that we have habitually underestimated our income.

My honourable friend Mr. Irving has pointed out that we have had, since the first year of the reformed administration which was a very bad one indeed extraordinary good luck. Extraordinary good luck has the under budgetting of receipts as its inevitable corollary. When we are preparing the budget, we do not start by saying that we are going to have a year of a particular kind and therefore we estimate our receipts at so much. We never know beforehand what the monsoon is going to be and on the monsoon the revenues of the year depend. All that we can do on each occasion is to make the assumption that the year will be a normal one. If we are exceptionally lucky, it naturally follows that we have underestimated our revenues. If we are very unlucky and if we have a failure of the monsoon, then by an operation of the same law we inevitably find that we have overestimated our revenue. If honourable members of this Council have the patience to look through the figures since the time when the Reforms were introduced, they will discover a perfect illustration of the working of this system. In one year 1921-22 which was a very bad one, we had of course overestimated our revenue and that was a natural consequence of the manner in which we work. In the next three years which were particularly good years by an equally natural process we had underestimated our revenue. That, Sir, is an inevitable result of working not on mere guesses but on the assumption made each year in turn that the year will be a normal one.

The next charge is that we habitually overestimate our expenditure. This sort of suspicion is perhaps inevitable. There is this much to be said for it.

that heads of departments when they know that there will be difficulty in obtaining supplementary grants are likely to try to cover themselves by erring on the safe side. The Finance Department has to guard against this tendency and if honourable members will examine this particular budget they will find under many heads a line of "Deduction for probable savings." That is to say that the Finance Department assumes that even after all the care that has been taken in preparing the budget there will always remain some residuum of over-estimating or of underspending. For this reason the Finance Department has made under many heads a general deduction based upon probable underspending or probable savings. The art of budgetting as my honourable friend Mr. Miles Irving has frequently told us is still not in its full adult growth. We admit that we have much to learn about it, we are doing our best to put accurate figures before this Council. That is why I ask the Council to believe that even though we do not always succeed in forecasting as closely as we should like, we always attempt to do it.

I see that my time is extremely short and therefore I must be very brief. If I understood my honourable friend Mir Maqbool Mahmood correctly, he suggested not that we should utilise the sale-proceeds of our land for the purpose of revenue expenditure, but that when we found that we had a revenue surplus in the past year we should have devoted that revenue surplus to meeting the non-recurring new expenditure of the coming year and have utilised the opportunity of remitting the additional taxation.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : Or for remission of taxation.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : That will have the same effect. The result will be that you will devote your surplus of last year to your non-recurring new expenditure and you will take that opportunity of committing taxation.

This seems to depend upon the assumption that there will be no necessity for anything similar in the year to come. What will happen in the year after next if you do not receive a similar surplus during the current year? How should we recover the ground lost in each successive future year by the remission of that taxation? The honourable member either assumes that new expenditure is something which may be cut off altogether or he assumes that it would be possible in future years to re-impose the taxation which has been taken off. That is, however, an extremely difficult thing.

6 P. M.

Mir. Maqbool Mahmood : May I ask, Sir, what is the use of having a recurring and non-recurring expenditure if non-recurring expenditure is to recur again?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : If the honourable member would examine the new expenditure of successive years he will discover the reason. Non-recurring expenditure is non-recurring in so far as the particular work which is embodied in that expenditure will only be constructed once, but the necessity for more non-recurring expenditure in succeeding years will not be affected thereby. The honourable member fancies, and it is very natural I imagine, that it is possible to stop new expenditure altogether. If he would examine the items he will see that in that respect he is entirely mistaken. There will be so much non-recurring expenditure which we must incur this year and again there will be other items of non-recurring new expen-

[Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.]

diture which we shall be compelled to under-take next year. It is non-recurring only in the sense that the works we once make are not made a second time. But they will be replaced by other works which are equally inevitable.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : Do I understand the honourable member that he justifies the continuance of the taxation not merely to meet the deficit but also to meet new recurring and non-recurring expenditure which he contemplates ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, I have already tried to explain that point. My meaning is this, that virtually almost all of this non-recurring expenditure is inevitable and necessary. You cannot postpone it. You can cut it to a certain extent, but you will be compelled year after year to incur new expenditure of a non-recurring nature on a similar or closely similar scale. You cannot escape it and it is useless to suppose that it is possible to avoid it. If honourable members will examine the items of new expenditure they will see that what I am saying is true. These items are scrutinised year after year by the Standing Finance Committee and are subjected to the fire of their criticism, but they do not find it possible to cut down the total of the amount except to a very limited extent. Therefore the method which the honourable member has suggested is not practicable and is not one which can be taken into consideration by the Finance Department.

If I am allowed one more minute I shall deal with one main criticism and that is the charge of fixing *abiana* at excessive rates. As to that I have to point to the fact that there is not a single item in our new schedule of *abiana* which has not a corresponding rate in the *abiana* formerly charged in some other place. There is not one single *abiana* rate which we have raised above the rate which was being paid on some other canal previously and without any difficulty. For instance, sugarcane on kharif channels has been paying 12 rupees per acre on the Sirhind Canal while the new rate is 10 rupees on all perennial canals. Rice has been paying Rs. 7-8-0 on certain canals and it now pays Rs. 7-3-0 on all perennial canals. I can go on giving more instances, but I think it unnecessary to go any farther. The plain fact is this : There is no reason whatever why the lucky few who have hitherto been paying for these crops at lower rates should claim to escape from paying for those products at the same rates at which others pay. (Hear and hear and cheers).

The Council then adjourned till 2 P.M. on Thursday, the 12th March 1925.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

6TH SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 12th March 1925.

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 :—

Lieutenant-Colonel B. C. Battye (Nominated-Official).

Mr. A. R. Astbury (Nominated-Official).

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CHAIR.

ADDITIONAL SITTINGS.

Mr. President.—I should like to inform the House that one and probably two more days will be allotted for the transaction of Government Legislative business during the current session of the Council. If the consideration of the Budget is finished a day or two earlier than the 23rd March, the remaining days will be allotted for Government business, otherwise 24th and 25th March will be allotted for the purpose. The subjects that will come up for consideration during these days are the Punjab Borstal Bill and the Punjab District Boards (Amendment) Bill. The consideration of the report of the Select Committee on the draft amendments to Standing Orders will also be taken up during these days. The elections to the Public Accounts Committee and the various Standing Committees referred to in the Schedule to Punjab Constitutional Manual, Volume II, will also be held on one of these days.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SUB-REGISTRAR, BANGA.

1546. **Sardar Partap Singh :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact—

- (a) that the period of employment of the present Sub-Registrar of Banga, district Jullundur, will expire in August 1925 ;
- (b) that a military pensioner applied for this post in June 1924 and that he was informed by the Deputy Commissioner of Jullundur that he (the military pensioner) should apply for the post a month or two before the expiry of the term of the present incumbent ;
- (c) that in October 1924 it was recommended to the Government that the present incumbent be granted extension for one year as there was no other candidate for the post and that the Government accepted the proposal and granted the extension ;

[Sardar Partap Singh.]

- (d) that the post of sub-registrar is generally reserved for agriculturists only ;
- (e) that the present incumbent of the post is a non-agriculturist, and that the military pensioner who applied for the post is an agriculturist ?
- (ii) If the answers to the above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of re-opening the question of extension of the period of employment of the present incumbent of the post of Sub-Registrar, Banga ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (i) (a) The extension of service last granted to the Sub-Registrar of Banga will expire in August 1926.

- (b) Government have no information.
- (c) The extension applied for in October 1924, was sanctioned in the ordinary way, the present Sub-Registrar not having attained the age of 60 years. Government were not given to understand that there were no other candidates for the post.
- (d) There is no hard and fast reservation.
- (e) Government have no information.
- (ii) Government are not prepared to re-open the question.

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN THE EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

1547. Sardar Partap Singh : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that some new appointments have recently been created in the Excise Department ?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state how many of these appointments have been given to —

(i) military pensioners or discharged military men, and

(ii) civil candidates ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

SCHOOL FEES IN DISTRICT BOARD PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

1548. Sardar Partap Singh : Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact—

- (a) that the non-agriculturist students in the District Board primary schools are obliged to pay their school fees because their parents or guardians do not pay local rate to the District Boards, whereas the agriculturist students are exempted from the payment of their school fees because their parents or guardians do pay the local rate to the District Board ; and

- (5) that a *Hasiyat* tax has been levied on non-agriculturists in District Boards? If so, will Government be pleased to state their reasons for not exempting the non-agriculturist students also from the payment of the school fees?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain :

- (a) No.
(b) Does not arise.

SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEON, SAMPLA.

1549. **Chandhri Duli Chand :** (a) Is it a fact that the District Board of Rohtak passed a resolution asking Government for the immediate transfer of the Sub-Assistant Surgeon at present posted at Sampla?

(b) What was the allegation against the Sub-Assistant Surgeon on which the District Board of Rohtak based their resolution urging his transfer from Sampla?

(c) Is it also a fact that the people of Sampla and its suburbs sent a petition to Government for his transfer?

(d) Is it a fact that in spite of the District Board's resolution and the petition of the people, the Sub Assistant Surgeon is still kept there?

(e) If so, what are the reasons for disregarding the resolution and the petition?

(f) Is it a fact that Government caused an enquiry to be made about his conduct?

(g) If so, is it a fact that the complainants were not called in to substantiate their complaints against the officer?

(h) If so, will Government take necessary action to remove the discontent among District Board members and the aggrieved people?

The Honourable Mian Sir 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.

ANSWERS TO CERTAIN UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

1550. **Chandhri Duli Chand :** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the answers to questions Nos. 1071,* 1130† and 1207‡?

Mr. H. D. Craik : In regard to question 1071* the attention of the honourable member is drawn to the reply already laid on the table as requested in Council question No. 1449§ put on the 3rd instant. The answers to the two remaining questions are laid on the table.

* Volume VII, page 551

† Volume VII, pages 617-18.

‡ Volume VII, page 692.

§ Page 233 ante.

*Answer to question No. 1130 ****FLOOD WATER CHANNEL IN THE KARNAL AND ROHTAK DISTRICTS.****The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia :**

(a) 19 villages, area affected 2,896 acres.

				Rs.
(b)	Year 1919-20	...	...	24,058
	1920-21	...	...	31,792
	1921-22	...	...	12,234
	1922-23	...	...	36,013
	1923-24	...	...	27,696

(c) To the first three parts of the question the answer is, Yes—to the fourth part the answer is, No.

(d) (i) Canal officers are responsible for seeing that silt clearance of drains is done in accordance with the approved programme and that the drains are kept clear of obstructions.

(ii) No.

(iii) The question does not arise.

(e) First part, Yes.

Second part, No.

Third part, does not arise.

(f) The answer to both parts is No.

(g) No.

(h) No.

*Answer to question No. 1207.†***DISTRICT BOARDS AND GRANT FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF REST-HOUSES, ETC.****The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :**

(a) It is a fact that a number of rest-houses and other Government buildings and roads have been handed over to District Boards for upkeep and maintenance; but it is impossible to arrive at any general comparison between the grants given by Government for these purposes and the cost of maintenance because in a majority of cases the specific grants have been merged into one consolidated grant. This is, however, not the case as regards bungalows made over for maintenance where (excepting two cases) grants are still earmarked and varied from time to time so as to meet the cost of maintenance.

(b) In dealing with bungalows made over for maintenance the District Board acts purely as the agent of Government for maintenance; and these bungalows are, with the exception of dāk bungalows, required primarily for the use of officers on tour. When not so required the members of District Boards, like other members of the public, can obtain permission for their use from the Deputy Commissioner.

* Volume VII, pages 617-18.

† Volume VII, page 692.

FIRST GRADE SCHOOL FEES.

1551. Chaudhri Duli Chand : With reference to the answer to question No. 967,* will Government kindly state the result of their consideration ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The rule as to the income on which First Grade Fee is payable has not been altered, and therefore the answer to the honourable member's question is in the negative.

PROBATIONARY SUB-INSPECTORS OF POLICE.

1552. Chaudhri Duli Chand : (a) How many probationary Sub-Inspectors of police have been taken from the Eastern Range, Ambala, this year ?

(b) How many of them are Jats ?

(c) Will Government kindly give their names ?

(d) Is it a fact that the number of Jat Sub-Inspectors is negligibly small as compared with their population in the Ambala division ?

(e) If so, what are the reasons for not employing more Jat Sub-Inspectors ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISEMENTS IN PAPERS CIRCULATING AMONG AGRICULTURISTS.

1553. Chaudhri Duli Chand : With reference to the answer to question No. 1016† asked on 18th November 1924, will Government kindly send all advertisements in any way intended for agriculturists to the papers which circulate among them, such as the *Jat Gazette*, the *Rajput Gazette* and the like ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Of the two newspapers mentioned in the question one is already on the list of papers eligible to receive Government advertisements. The circulation of the other is so small that it is not a useful medium for advertising.

Chaudhri Duli Chand : Which of these papers is eligible for receiving advertisements ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : It is not desirable to name particular newspapers in answering questions in this Council.

BAIRAGIS OF THE KARNAL DISTRICT.

1554. Chaudhri Duli Chand : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the *Bairagis* of the Karnal district sent a petition last year to the Deputy Commissioner praying that their tribe should be declared notified by Government ?

*Volume VII, page 476.

†Volume VII, page 502.

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(b) If so, what action has been taken on the petition ?

(c) Is it a fact that the *Bairagis* of the Karnal and Rohtak District have proprietary rights and are Lambardars in many villages ?

(d) Is it also a fact that they till land with their own hand and own small holdings ?

(e) Is it also a fact that the only means of their livelihood is generally tilling land ?

(f) Is it a fact that their land is passing away year by year to money lending Sahukars ?

(g) Is Government aware that the *got* of a section of *Bairagis* is *Nais* which is also the *got* of the Jats of the same village Dig in Kaithal ?

(h) If the answer to the above questions be in the affirmative, will Government consider the advisability of declaring the *Bairagis* a notified community ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) Yes.

(b) The matter is still under investigation.

(c) Yes.

(d) Generally speaking this is correct.

(e) Generally speaking this is correct.

(f) Yes.

(g) Yes.

(h) The matter is under investigation.

CONSTRUCTION OF DISTRIBUTARIES FOR THE SARASWATI RIVER.

1555. Chaudhri Duli Chand : (a) Is it a fact that on account of the water of the Saraswati, the climate of a portion of Kaithal and Thanesar tahsils in the Karnal district is malarious ?

(b) Is it also a fact that there is a Government scheme to drain this water ?

(c) Is it also a fact that this water is used at present by zamindars for the purpose of irrigating their lands ?

(d) If so, will Government kindly drain this water by constructing distributaries for the irrigation of the land of the neighbouring villages ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :
(a), (b) & (c). Yes.

(d) The proposal of the Drainage Board tends towards the end the honourable member has in view.

FEMALE EDUCATION.

1556. Chaudhri Duli Chand : (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of females employed in the Indian Educational Service classifying them as Christians, Hindus, Sikhs and Muhammadans ?

(b) What facilities, if any, have Government given to the women of backward classes and especially to the *pardah* ladies to come forward and take up education in right earnest?

(c) What is the number and amount of each kind of scholarships for females under training in J. V., S. V., J. A.-V., S. A.-V., and B. T. classes?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain :—

(a) Two; both Christians.

(v) Suitable arrangements for *pardah* are made as far as possible in all schools for girls.

(c) A statement containing the required information is laid on the table :—

Kind of stipends.	No.	Value.
J. V.	290	Rs. 10 per mensem each.
S. V.	80	" 12 " "
J. A.-V.	No number is fixed (usually under ten).	" 15 " "
S. A.-V.	Ditto	" 20. In special cases the amount is raised to Rs. 30 per mensem.
B. T.	Ditto	" 30 per mensem.

MR. K. A. DESAI OF THE BHIWANI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

1557. Chaudhri Duli Chand : (a) Has it been brought to the notice of Government that Mr. K. A. Desai, a member of the Bhiwani municipal committee, recently remained absent for four months consecutively from the meetings of the Bhiwani municipal committee?

(b) Has Government called on him to show reasonable cause for his absence?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) No, but enquiries are being made.

(b) Does not arise.

EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS.

1558. Chaudhri Duli Chand : (a) Will Government be pleased to give a brief comparative statement of qualifications and war services of the candidates accepted by Financial Commissioners and included in the Government Register A as Extra Assistant Commissioners during the last ten years?

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(b) Will Government also kindly give a statement of qualifications and war services of the existing Hindu Jat Tahsildars in the province?

(c) Is it a fact that no Hindu Jat has been accepted on the Financial Commissioners' list of candidates for the Extra Assistant Commissionership over since the advent of the British rule in the Punjab?

(d) If the answer be in the negative, how many have been accepted?

(e) Will Financial Commissioners take into consideration the claims of Hindu Jats while submitting the rolls of 8 candidates for acceptance on Register A this year?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia:

(a) and (b) Government is not prepared to use this Council as a platform for discussing the comparative qualifications of its servants.

(c) and (d) Government considers that the labour of research is not commensurate with the value of the information requested.

(e) Due weight is given to communal considerations and special favour is shown to agricultural tribes but tribal distinctions cannot be entertained.

GOVERNMENT CIRCULARS REGARDING SHARE OF ZAMINDARS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

1559. Chaudhri Duli Chand: (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the circular of October 1919 and other similar circulars if any, re the share of zamindars in Government services?

(b) Is it a fact that these circulars have not been strictly followed?

(c) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to enforce the observance of the circulars?

(d) If the answer to (b) be in the negative, will Government kindly state the proportion of zamindars in each department now?

Mr. H. D. Craik: (a) A copy of Punjab Government Resolution No. 4572-S., dated 3rd October 1919, is laid on the table.

(b) The terms of this resolution are followed so far as is possible by Heads of Departments who submit annual statements to Government showing the position.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A copy of the statement for the year 1924 which is now being compiled will be communicated to the honourable member in due course.

Proceedings of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab in the Home Department, No. 4572-S., dated Simla, the 3rd October 1919.

READ—

The proceedings of a Committee appointed to consider the subject of the increased employment of zamindars in the Civil Departments under the Punjab Government.

REMARKS.—At the meeting of the Punjab Legislative Council, held on 9th February 1918, the Hon'ble Mr. J. P. Thompson, Chief Secretary, in reply to a question by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand indicated the intention of the Local Government to appoint a committee of officials and

non-officials to consider the question of the representation of "zamindar" in the public services of the Province. In pursuance of that intention a committee under the presidency of the Hon'ble Mr. H. J. Maynard, Financial Commissioner, was appointed by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in the following March. The Committee held several meetings, its enquiries and deliberations extending up to November 1918. Its proceedings with its recommendations were finally submitted to the Local Government under cover of a letter No. 2—768-18 of the 3rd December 1918, from the Assistant Secretary to the Financial Commissioners. They have been submitted to very careful and lengthy scrutiny and consideration by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor who now finds himself in a position to formulate his views on the highly important subject under reference, and the general issues which it involves, for the information and guidance of the Heads of Departments and of all other officials concerned.

The recommendations of the Committee embraced the non-gazetted as well as the gazetted services of the Province, excluding, however, the employees of local bodies and such officials as patwaris, constables, other than head constables, jail warders, forests guards and menials. The scope of the present resolution will cover generally the same ground and be of similar extension.

2. Before, however, the various services are dealt with in such detail as may be necessary a very important question presents itself for consideration, in connection with which His Honour does not find himself in agreement with the views of the majority of the Committee. For the purposes of its enquiries and suggestions the Committee laid down at an early stage of its proceedings that the word "zamindar" should mean a member of the agricultural tribes notified under the Alienation of Land Act. In the letter forwarding the results of the Committee's deliberations it was stated that the Honourable Mr. Maynard disagreed with this decision and desired to dissociate himself therefrom. After careful consideration of the question, His Honour is of opinion that the definition accepted by the Committee is unduly restrictive and is to some extent based on a misconception of the objects underlying the Alienation of Land Act. The intention of that measure is not to define exhaustively who are and who are not the persons whose real interests lie in the land and agricultural callings, but to protect certain classes of landed proprietors and occupancy tenants by the imposition of disabilities from the consequences of their own economic weakness and of educational and other deficiencies. Much less it is the intention of the Act to place particular rural tribes in a position which can in any proper sense be treated as one of village. His Honour, accordingly, is pleased to hold that for the purposes in view the term "zamindar" should include all hereditary proprietors or tenure holders of agricultural land mainly dependent thereon and residing in rural areas, as well as actual cultivators of such land.

3. On the question of the propriety and desirability of paying due regard to the interests of land-owners and the rural population in respect of employment in the public services of the Province, His Honour does not think it necessary to say much in view of the broad and patent facts of the situation. Of the total population of the Punjab according to the figures of the last census 90 per cent. live in areas which are classed as rural while 54 per cent. are zamindars as defined in the last paragraph or the dependents of

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such. Zamindars, in addition to paying other demands, contribute some 380 lakhs of land revenue and 270 lakhs in canal occupiers' rates to the fiscal receipts of the Province, or roughly 66 per cent. or two-thirds of the total Provincial and Imperial income derived from it by the State. Considerations based on such broad figures as the above are reinforced by the not less important fact that education and enlightenment are spreading with considerable rapidity among the rural and agricultural classes, not only directly through the agency of educational institutions, but indirectly by such means as the opening of railways, the improvement of communications, the development of canal colonies, the notable spread of the co-operative movement, the activities of the Publicity organisation, and last but not least by the experience of foreign countries which has been gained by many of the very large number of soldiers which the zamindars of the Province contribute to the ranks of the Indian Army. Facts such as the above indicate in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion that the time has come for definitely securing to the landed classes an adequate representation in the public services of the Province. But any standard proportions which may be laid down for this purpose must of course be taken subject to the proviso that a sufficient number of candidates of adequate educational qualifications will be forthcoming as they may be required from time to time.

4. Turning now to a consideration of particular services, and dealing first with the Provincial Civil Service of Extra Assistant Commissioners, in both its executive and judicial branches, it appears from the statistics collected by the Committee that somewhat more than 40 per cent. of the officers at present included in it are of the zamindar class, while if European and Anglo Indian officials be excluded the proportion rises to 46 per cent. In this connection a majority of the Committee, while it recognised that efficiency must be the main test in so far as appointments to these posts are made by promotions, and was at the same time satisfied that the policy on which Government acts in making appointments is calculated to give a reasonable proportion of them to zamindars, recommended that the power of direct nomination should be exercised by Government, so as to maintain the proportion of zamindar Extra Assistant Commissioners at not less than half of the total number exclusive of Europeans and Anglo-Indians. His Honour after full consideration accepts the general conclusion that after excluding European and Anglo-Indian officers one-half of the remaining strength of the Provincial Service, both in its executive and judicial branches, should consist of officers who are members of the zamindar classes. The means by which such a result is to be secured and maintained must, His Honour considers, be such as will be operative at the stage of recruitment. They cannot therefore be laid down with precision until orders have been passed on the recommendations made by the Public Services Commission in Annexure X of its report regarding methods of recruitment to be employed in future for the Provincial Civil Service.

5. As regards the existing cadre of Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars the Committee found that of the total posts included in the former 42 per cent. are occupied by zamindars, the corresponding proportion in the latter being 45 per cent. If the term "zamindars" be understood in the somewhat wider sense adopted in this resolution these proportions would probably be slightly greater. The Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that a somewhat higher proportion is both desirable and practicable in the case of

these classes of officials than in that of Extra Assistant Commissioners; but in the process of securing this result in the case of the cadre of Tahsildars a considerable period must necessarily elapse since, with the exception of a very few direct appointments, the cadre is filled entirely by promotions from that of Naib-Tahsildars. It is only in connection with the recruitment of the latter that the necessary changes can be effected. The Committee was of opinion that of the total number of candidates selected for the posts of the Naib-Tahsildars 66 per cent. should be zamindars.

This proportion is in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion appropriate and he is pleased to accept the Committee's recommendation for its adoption. The Financial Commissioners will be requested to propose such modifications in the existing rules for recruitment of Naib-Tahsildars as may be necessary in this connection. The ultimate result will be that in due time two-thirds of the officers included in the combined cadre of Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars will belong to zamindar classes.

6. In the case of the subordinate judicial service of munsifs, the proportion of officers who are zamindars according to the Committee's definition of the term is only 29 per cent., but here again the true proportion is probably somewhat higher though in itself comparatively low. The Committee's recommendation in this case was that out of the total appointments to munsifships made either by direct nomination or by selection from clerical and other services 66 per cent. should be given to zamindars, no similar restriction, however, being imposed as regards appointments filled by competition. In connection with the general subject of the present resolution the case of munsifs is clearly one of very considerable importance, not only because the majority of this class of officials is in the execution of its duties brought into close daily contact with the agricultural classes but also because many of the posts in the judicial branch of the Provincial Civil Service are filled by officers selected from it. On both these grounds, as well as on the general grounds already noticed, the Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that the presence of a substantial zamindar element in the munsif service is very desirable provided always that duly qualified candidates are forthcoming in sufficient numbers. He therefore agrees with the Committee so far as to hold that a proportion of 66 per cent. of non-competitive appointments to be allotted to zamindars should be adopted as an ultimate standard to be reached as soon as may be possible consistently with the above proviso and with the maintenance of the efficiency of the subordinate judiciary. The future of the munsif service, however, as regards status and recruitment is dependent in some degree on the decisions which may be reached on the recommendations made in paragraph 51 of Annexure X of the report of the Public Services Commission, and it is therefore not possible to lay down at present the precise means by which effect can be given to the standard of 66 per cent. which His Honour considers to be desirable. The entire question will form the subject of further consultation with the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court.

7. In the Excise Department, the proportion of zamindars among Inspectors is 35 per cent. The Committee recommended that one-half of all new appointments should be allotted to zamindars. This proportion His Honour considers reasonable and he is pleased to prescribe it for the future. The Financial Commissioners will be requested to make such modifications as may be necessary in the rules for recruitment to the Excise Department.

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8. Turning next to the Agricultural Department, which is capable at present of indefinite expansion and the future importance of which it is difficult to over-estimate, it appears from the statistics collected by the Committee that, excluding clerical posts and posts below that of upper subordinate, out of those filled by Indians 55 per cent. are held by zamindars. The Committee's opinion was that inasmuch as special technical qualifications are required in this Department all that is possible is to give preference to zamindars as between candidates who are equal in the above respect. His Honour has no hesitation in accepting this view pending the time when arrangements now under consideration for stimulating the entrance of zamindars to the Lyallpur College shall have been effective and have rendered it possible to prescribe a definite and suitable proportion of posts in the Department to be allotted to zamindars.

9. In the Veterinary Department, including subordinate but excluding clerical posts, 86 per cent. of the Provincial Service Indian officers are zamindars. This proportion is satisfactory and should be maintained in future appointments to the Department.

10. In the Department of Co-operative Societies, 90 per cent. of the posts are held by zamindars, and in view of the fact that by far the greater part of the work of the Department is concerned with rural areas, such a proportion is by no means unreasonable. It should not, His Honour considers, be allowed to fall below 80 per cent., and at least this proportion of fresh appointments should be allotted to zamindar candidates.

11. Of the total Provincial and Subordinate (exclusive of Clerical) posts in the Forest Department down to and inclusive of the rank of Forester 48 per cent. are according to the statistics filled by zamindars. The Committee's recommendations in this case were similar to those made by it in that of the Agriculture Department, and it appears that the present practice complies with them; that is to say, that among candidates who are equal in respect of the technical qualifications which are necessary preference is given to zamindars. In view, however, of the nature of the work of the Department and of its very intimate connection with the daily life and occupation of the rural population of the tracts affected, His Honour regards it as desirable to lay down a definite proportion as the standard to be attained as soon as possible, subject of course to the candidates who are appointed possessing the needful technical qualifications. The proportion which His Honour is pleased to prescribe in this connection is 66 per cent., that is to say, two-thirds of the candidates appointed, inclusive of those sent to the Forest Schools for training, should be zamindars. He recognises that this standard cannot be immediately attained, but continuous efforts should be made to reach it within a reasonable period.

12. In the Jail Department less than 33 per cent. of the present staff of jailors are zamindars. Considerable difficulty is experienced in securing candidates, and in view of this fact His Honour does not think it necessary to prescribe any definite standard, though the desirability of recruiting a fair proportion of properly qualified zamindars should be kept in view.

13. Out of the total number of posts of Inspector, Sub-Inspector and Head Constable existing at present in the Police Department and held by Indians somewhat more than 56 per cent. are filled by zamindars. The Com-

mittee, in agreement with the views of the Inspector-General of Police, that zamindars qualified for direct appointment as Inspectors or Sub-Inspectors are difficult to secure, abstained from making any definite recommendations. It is stated, however, that it is the traditional practice of the Department to recruit qualified zamindars so far as they are available. As regards this, the Lieutenant-Governor would observe that the figures seem to indicate with some degree of clearness that standard of at least 50 per cent. is immediately practicable, while if sufficiently qualified zamindars are forthcoming in considerable numbers for such posts as those of Extra Assistant Commissioner and Tahsildar, there seems to be no very good reason why they should not be equally obtainable for the posts of Deputy Superintendent, Inspector and Sub-Inspector of Police. He is disposed to believe that a steady and systematic infusion of a large zamindar element into those grades would be decidedly beneficial from several points of view. In the light of the above considerations, His Honour desires that in future at least one-half of the direct appointments by nomination to these grades should be given to zamindars subject to the general condition already laid down that candidates of adequate educational qualifications are available.

14. In the Education Department, the proportion of Indian officers holding Provincial, Subordinate and special posts other than clerical who are zamindars is about 25 per cent.; a decidedly low standard. In the case of Provincial Service Officers' posts and in that of special appointments it falls to 13 and 5 per cent., respectively, while in the case of Subordinate posts it is 27 per cent. The reduction of so large a preponderance of the non-zamindar element in the educational staff of the Province is, in the Lieutenant-Governor's view, a measure calculated to help largely in the removal on the one hand of existing deficiencies in our educational system and in increasing its popularity on the other. In order to secure an adequate expansion of primary education in rural areas it is very desirable that teachers of rural extraction and accessible to rural ideas and influences should be obtained. Again, inasmuch as the Provincial Service is recruited by means of promotions from the Subordinate Service an increase in the proportion of officers of the zamindar classes in the former obviously demands similar increase in the latter. On both the above grounds, therefore, a larger admixture of the zamindar element in the Subordinate Service is desirable. His Honour recognises that before the object in view can be attained certain preliminary difficulties may have to be faced to which allusion was made in the proceedings of the Committee. The Lieutenant-Governor proposes, therefore, before arriving at a final conclusion on the subject under treatment in relation to the Education Department to await an expression of the fully considered views of the Director of Public Instruction which has been invited.

15. Turning to the Medical and Sanitary Departments, it appears that of the total Civil Indian staff of the former, consisting of Assistant Surgeons, Sub-Assistant Surgeons and Subordinates exclusive of Clerical officers, slightly more than 15 per cent. is contributed by the zamindar population of the Province, the separate corresponding proportions for the three grades being 8, 11 and 20, respectively. These figures are lower than that of any other of the Services or Departments dealt with in this resolution. It is in His Honour's view very desirable that the proportion of persons having rural and agricultural connections who are employed in the Medical Department should be substantially increased within a reasonable period. The Department is, however, clearly one in which proper technical qualifica-

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tions are of the first importance ; and it is, His Honour recognises, the paucity of young zamindars who enter on a course of medical education, be the cause what it may, which is the main factor in the present situation. Until they can be successfully encouraged to enter in large numbers than at present, it is of little use to prescribe any definite proportion of posts in the Department for allotment to zamindars. The main immediate desideratum is to undertake such a revision of the rules regulating entrance to the institutions for medical education and training as will be effective in removing any preventable causes of discouragement to rural candidates which may exist, and to this end action is being taken. In the meantime, His Honour is pleased to direct that in accordance with the recommendations of a majority of the Committee as between candidates with equal qualifications preference should, for the present, be given to zamindars.

In the Sanitary Department more than 60 per cent. of the vaccinators at present employed are zamindars, and His Honour desires that the proportion should not be allowed to fall below a minimum of 60 per cent.

16. Of the Indian staff of the Buildings and Roads Branch of the Public Works Department, consisting of temporary Engineers and of Upper and Lower Subordinates, 24 per cent. are at present zamindars. Here again technical and educational qualifications are of prime importance, and until zamindars offer themselves in larger numbers than at present for the necessary training and instruction in recognised Indian Engineering Schools and Colleges it will not be possible to secure the inclusion of any substantially larger number of them in the Department. Formerly Koorkee College was practically the sole source of supply ; but within the last decade it has been supplemented, so far as the training of Lower Subordinates is concerned, by the Provincial School at Rasul, and His Honour trusts that an increased number of zamindar candidates will resort to that institution for instruction. So far as may be necessary the rules for entrance should be revised with a view to doing all that is possible to remove any reasonable grounds of discouragement which may exist for such candidates from doing so.

17. In the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department out of the total Indian staff employed in the grades ranging from Temporary Engineer to petty establishment in superior service (both inclusive) 26 per cent. of the existing posts are filled by zamindars. In the two revenue grades, that is to say, those of Deputy Collector and Zilladar, included in the above, the proportion is 44 per cent., or somewhat higher if zamindar is understood in the more extensive sense of that term. In the three Engineering grades, *viz.*, those of Temporary Engineer, Upper Subordinate and Lower Subordinate, the proportion is 19 per cent. The general recommendation of the Committee were that in the case of the Zilladar grade the Department should aim at securing zamindars for 66 per cent. of the posts, while for posts in the Engineering grades or for posts of Draftsmen, zamindars should be preferred where qualifications are equal as between them and non-zamindars. As regards the latter grades the remarks made in the last paragraph in relation to the Buildings and Roads Branch are applicable, and subject to them His Honour accepts the recommendations of the Committee. The officers of the two Revenue grades have, in the execution of their duties, to be in close and constant touch with the agriculture population and it is in His Honour's opinion highly expedient that they should include a substantial proportion of members of the zamindar classes. He considers that 66 per

cent., the proportion prescribed for Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars, is in no sense excessive in the case of Zilladars, and he desires that in future that proportion of fresh appointments should be allowed to Zamindars subject to the general condition already laid down. Such alterations in the rules for the recruitment of Zilladars as may be necessary in this connection should be carried out.

18. In the above paragraphs clerical establishment in all Departments have been excluded from consideration. The Committee collected a considerable number of statistics showing the extent to which clerical posts or filled by Zamindars in the offices of Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners and in a considerable number of the departmental headquarter offices in Lahore. From these it appears that in Commissioners' offices the proportion so held is 43 per cent., while in Deputy Commissioners' offices the corresponding figure is 36 per cent.; for the headquarter offices in Lahore the similar figures are generally substantially lower. The Committee expressed an opinion that qualified agriculturists for clerical posts frequently find difficulty under prevailing conditions in bringing their qualifications to the notice of the authorities concerned and it recommended that in order to assist in remedying this state of things the Director of Public Instruction should maintain a register both of Zamindar and non-Zamindar candidates which the heads of offices should be required to consult whenever available vacancies occurred. On the general question of the employment of members of the Zamindar classes in clerical appointments, His Honour's view is that it is not to be expected that the scope for it will be so large as in the case of some of the other classes of employment which have already been dealt with, so far at least as head-quarter offices are concerned. It is on the whole easier for a candidate or a junior employee of the non-zamindar class to live with friends and to keep himself in a large urban centre than it is for one who is a zamindar. His Honour does not think that the remedy suggested by the Committee is likely to be very effective or calculated to secure any large results. He desires however, to take this opportunity of emphasizing the necessity for giving due consideration to the claims of Zamindar candidates for clerical posts, and in order to secure this he desires that in the registers of candidates which are, or should be, maintained under Standing Orders in all offices Zamindar and non-zamindar candidates should be distinguished by suitable entries. He also considers that it is desirable that when the proportion of zamindars holding appointments in any office, appears to be unduly low preference should be given to Zamindar candidates who have the necessary educational qualifications, and that in this connection the establishment lists of offices should be overhauled periodically.

REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PUNJAB UNIVERSITY.

1560. **Chandhri Duli Chand:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the constitution of the Punjab University is going to be revised?

(b) If so, will Government kindly see that District Boards are adequately represented in the new constitution of the University?

(c) Is Government going to fix a certain number of senate members to be elected by registered graduates?

(d) If so, will Government be pleased to have separate constituencies for the graduates of the agricultural tribes and the graduates of the non-agricultural tribes?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) It is understood that the University has been discussing such matters and may address Government on the subject. It is not possible to answer the question until the proposals of the University have been received.

(b) to (d) If and when the constitution of the University is revised these points will be borne in mind.

HINDU JAT SUB-JUDGES IN THE PROVINCE.

1561. Chandhri Duli Chand: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that there is not a single Hindu Jat Sub-Judge in the Punjab?

(b) If the answer is in the negative, how many are there?

(c) How many persons have been accepted as candidates for the post of Sub-Judge this year?

(d) Is it a fact that none of them is a Hindu Jat?

(e) Will Government be pleased to give a comparative statement of the qualifications of the accepted candidates?

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.

GRANT OF LANDS IN THE SARGODHA COLONY.

1562. Sardar Narain Singh: (i) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(a) that the grants of lands in the Sargodha colony were made as a reward for the grantees' distinguished services to the Crown;

(b) that the Government has assessed the proprietary rights in the Sargodha colony at Rs. 2,500 per square;

(c) that the proprietary rights were given in the Lyallpur colony at Rs. 800 per square;

(d) that the grantees of the Sargodha colony had to pay *nazrana* at the time of grant, while those of Lyallpur had to pay none;

(e) that the land in the Lyallpur colony is more fertile than that in the Sargodha colony?

(ii) Has Government received any representations from the Sargodha colonists on the subject?

(iii) Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of awarding proprietary rights on nominal charges to the Sargodha colonists?

(iv) If the answer to (iii) above be in the negative, will Government consider the desirability of reducing the assessment of proprietary rights in the Sargodha colony to the Lyallpur level and to deduct therefrom the money paid by the Sargodha colonists as *nazrana*?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) (a) Certain leases of land in the Sargodha colony were granted for distinguished services to the Crown.

(b) The price fixed by Government is Rs. 125 per acre with considerable reductions in favour of those tenants who signify their early intention of purchasing their holdings.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yeomen and capitalist grantees in the Lower Chenab Canal Colony paid *nasrana*.

(e) Yes.

(ii) Yes.

(iii) & (iv) The honourable member is referred to the answer given to question No. 1488.*

Malik Firoz Khan Noon : Is it a fact that the Government has received representations practically from every village in the colony in which the Government wants to sell lands to the effect that they do not want to buy the lands ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The Government has received certain communications, but these persons need not buy if they do not wish to do so.

DELEGATION OF POWERS UNDER FUNDAMENTAL RULE 6 TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS.

1563. Sardar Narain Singh : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it has delegated its powers to the High Court of Judicature under Fundamental Rule No. 6 of withholding the increment of Sub-Judges under Fundamental Rule No. 24 ? If so, when and to what extent ?

(b) Has the Government similarly delegated its powers to heads of other departments ? If so, to which department ?

(c) If the answer to (b) be in the negative, will Government please state the reasons why the delegation has been made to the High Court ?

Mr. H. D. Craik : (a) Yes. The delegation was made in March 1922.

(b) No similar delegation has been made in respect of the other provincial services.

(c) There is some reason for doubting whether the delegation referred to in part (a) was *intra vires*. The question is being examined.

MEASUREMENT OF *thatas* IN GUJRANWALA MUNICIPALITY.

1564. Sardar Narain Singh : (a) Is Government aware of the fact that measurement is being taken of *thatas* that are within the municipal limits of Gujranwala with a view to assess them for revenue ?

[Sardar Narain Singh.]

(b) If so, what justification, if any, is there for such an assessment ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) Yes. A map of the extensions to the Gujranwala town is under preparation and necessary measurements are being taken.

(b) A part of these extensions is already paying urban assessment, which will now be revised, and a new urban assessment will be imposed on those lands that came under buildings after the last settlement, in place of the assessment that they now pay in common with other agricultural lands.

LEVY FOR DIGGING OF WATER-COURSES.

1565. Sardar Narain Singh : (a) Will Government please state (1) the total amount and (2) the amount per acre that has been realised from zamindars for the digging of water-course (*khatkhudas*) in Upper Chenab Canal, third division ?

(b) How much of this has been spent and what are the particulars of expenditure ?

(c) Has the consent of zamindars been taken in levying this charge ?

(d) If the answer to (c) be in the negative, on what principle is this charge levied ?

(e) How long is this charge to continue ?

(f) Has Government received representations protesting against this charge ?

(g) If so, will Government consider the desirability of discontinuing it ?

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.

CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS IN SOME VILLAGES OF THE JULLUNDUR AND HOSHIARPUR DISTRICTS.

1566. Chaudhri Saadullah Khan : (a) Is it a fact that the progress of consolidation of holdings in some villages in the Jullundur and Hoshiarpur districts is being retarded by the fear of the occupancy tenants that the changes made in the situation of their holdings will deprive their male collaterals of their rights of succession ?

(b) Is it a fact that at Chotala in the Hoshiarpur district where repartition has been approved by all concerned and mutation sanctioned, the occupancy tenants refuse to exchange possession in consequence of a suspicion which has arisen in their minds regarding the loss of reversionary rights under section 59 of the Punjab Tenancy Act and the consolidation scheme has therefore failed ?

(c) If the answers to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what steps it intends to take to give assurance to the occupancy tenants that section 7 read with section 59 of

the Tenancy Act sufficiently safeguards not only the tenant collateral relatives, and that where exchange has been effected collaterals of the occupancy tenants can claim succession to the land received in exchange in exactly the same way as they would succeed to the land given in exchange?

(d) What facilities has the Government provided especially to the consolidating societies by way of *tagavi* to the members of the societies and by loans to the societies themselves? If no such facilities have hitherto been offered, will the Government please take steps to advance *tagavi* loans direct to the societies, and leave no control for the tahsil officials in the matter of the distribution of the same to the members thereof?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :
(a) and (b) Yes.

(c) Government understands that the interpretation of the law given by the honourable member is correct: and that there is no cause for the apprehension felt by the tenants, and that this has been explained to the villagers concerned by the Registrar. No further assurance appears to be practicable, unless opportunity is given for a judicial pronouncement by a case being brought to the Court of the Financial Commissioner.

(d) Government has placed at the disposal of the Registrar three lakhs of rupees for loans to Co-operative Societies, but it is understood that financial institutions in Jullundur have agreed to advance loans for wells at concession rates of interests, so societies have not applied for Government loans.

DISTRIBUTION OF LANDS IN THE NILI BAR.

1567. Chaudhri Saadullah Khan: (i) Will the Government please state if it will take steps at the time of distribution of lands in the Nili Bar to allot lands to those peasants of the districts of Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana, Jullundur and Ferozepore who have been rendered homeless by the floods in the Sutlej river in October 1924?

(ii) What is the population of the Muslim Rajputs in the following districts, respectively:—

(a) Jullundur, (b) Hoshiarpur, (c) Ludhiana and (d) Ambala.

Has any peasantry grants been made to them in the Chenab Canal Colony, Jhelum Canal Colony and in the Bari Doab? If so, what is the area distributed to them? If not, will the Government take early steps to redress the grievances at the time of the distribution of the land in the Nili Bar?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia:
(i) The possibility of resettling elsewhere peasants whose means of livelihood were destroyed by the exceptional floods of last year is a matter that has been engaging the attention of Government.

(ii) (a) 89,000.

(b) 41,000.

(c) 23,000.

(d) 42,000.

[Hon'ble S. B. S. Sundar Singh, Majithia.]

Over one million acres has been allotted to Muhammadans as peasant grants in Canal Colonies. No figures are available which would show how much of this area was allotted to Muhammadan Rajputs of the districts mentioned.

Mr. E. Maya Das : Will the case of the inhabitants of the flooded area in the Ferozepore District near Jogewala also be considered?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : They will be considered.

USURIOUS LOANS ACT OF 1912.

1568. Chaudhri Saadullah Khan : Is it a fact that the Usurious Loans Act of 1912 is applicable to the Punjab? If so, will the Government please state whether they are in a position to give the number of cases in which it has been applied throughout the Punjab?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : If the honourable member refers to sub-clause (2) of section 1 of the Act he alludes to, he will see that it does apply, not only to the Punjab, but to the whole of British India, including British Baluchistan. As to the 2nd part of his question, Government regrets that it is not in a position to furnish the statistics called for, but will be prepared to obtain details for a reasonably prescribed period if the honourable member wishes.

Malik Firoz Khan Noon : Will the Government kindly say if they know of any case in which any judicial officer has made use of the Usurious Loans Act in the Punjab?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I am afraid I must have notice of the question.

MUSALMAN TAHSILDAR IN THE JULLUNDUR DISTRICT.

1569. Chaudhri Saadullah Khan : Is there any Musalman Tahsildar in the Jullundur district appointed to any of the four tahsils? If there is none, will the Government consider the desirability of appointing at least one such Tahsildar in any of the tahsils?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

First Part.—At the present time No.

Second Part.—The matter is within the discretion of the Commissioner, a discretion in the exercise of which Government does not propose to interfere.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF FRUIT GARDENING IN THE PUNJAB.

1570. Chaudhri Saadullah Khan : What steps has the Government taken to encourage fruit gardening in the Punjab by way —

(a) of granting lands to fruit growers on easy terms, and

- (b) of making sufficient supply of water to the canal-irrigated gardens?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: (a) Two grants have been made on the Lower Bari Doab Canal and one on the Upper Jhelum Canal for fruit farming.

- (b) Government is not aware of any complaints about shortage of water supply to canal-irrigated gardens.

MOTOR TRANSPORT ON THE PATHANKOT-DALHOUSIE ROAD.

1571. Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: (a) Is it a fact—

- (a) that the sole monopoly of running cars for public traffic of Pathankot-Dalhousie Road is given to Clive Motor Co., which charges such exorbitant fares that it actually costs much less to a passenger to go to Murree or even Kashmir from Lahore than to go to the nearest hill station, i.e., Dalhousie;

- (b) that a requisition signed by nearly all non-official members of the municipal committee, including Europeans, was sent in last September, requesting that the question of this monopoly may be discussed at the meeting of the municipal committee, but that the Deputy Commissioner of the district, who is also the president of the committee, disallowed any discussion on the subject;

- (c) that such monopoly is given to no other firm on any other road in the Province?

(ii) Is it a fact that the public have sent a memorial to the Government on the subject? If so, will the Government please state what action they have taken or propose to take in the matter?

(iii) Will the Government consider the desirability of throwing open the road to all motor companies who may apply for licence for plying motor cars with such restrictions as the Government may deem necessary to impose?

(iv) Will the Government be also pleased to so amend the rules for grant of licenses to motor companies who wish to ply their cars for hire on all hill station roads as to make it impossible for any company to have a monopoly?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: Parts (i) and (ii). The honourable member is referred to the reply given to Council question No. 1881* on the 28th of February 1925. (iii) Government will give the suggestion their best consideration. Just at present they await the result of the conference convened by the Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur, for any useful suggestions.

(iv) The amendment suggested by the honourable member is impracticable, as reasonable discretion must be allowed to the controlling authority.

NON-GAZETTED OFFICERS IN SUPERIOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

1572. Sardar Jodh Singh: (a) Will the Government please lay on the table the number of non-gazetted officers (superior service only) especially clerks in each department who have attained the age of 55 years or who will attain that age on or before 31st March 1925?

[Sardar Jodh Singh.]

(b) Will the Government please state how many of the above-mentioned Government servants are retiring from Government service this year and how many are being kept on for continuing to be efficient or on public grounds under very special circumstances with the sanction of the Local Government?

(c) Will the Government please state whether sanction of the Local Government is being obtained annually in each case for retaining such men or sanction is given in each case to retain him for a certain number of years?

(d) Is it not a fact that many junior Government servants, especially clerks in each department, are barred from getting promotion to higher posts and higher pay by such men not retiring after attaining the age of 55 years?

(e) (i) Will the Government please say whether it is in a position itself to amend or to recommend the amendment of Fundamental Rules to the effect that the non-gazetted officers (superior service only), especially clerks in each department who have attained the age of 55 years must compulsorily retire from the Government service?

(ii) Will the Government consider the desirability of restricting sanction for retaining such men up to 60 or 65 years under very special circumstances?

(iii) Will the Government also consider the desirability of reviewing the cases of those for whose retention a general permission has been granted and who are now above 60 years of age?

Mr. H. D. Craik: (a) The information asked for cannot be supplied without an amount of labour incommensurate with the result to be obtained.

(b) In view of the reply given to part (a) the first question asked in this part cannot be answered. It has been ascertained that one overseer and three draftsmen of the Irrigation Department are being retained in service after the age of 55 with the sanction of the Local Government.

(c) Powers to grant extensions of service under Fundamental Rule 56 have been delegated to heads of departments in the case of Government servants whom they have power to appoint and references are therefore not ordinarily made to the Local Government with regard to non-gazetted officers.

(d) Government are not aware that the existing rules as to the age of retirement have resulted in hardship to junior officers.

(e) (i) Government are not competent to amend the fundamental rules and are not prepared to recommend their amendment in this particular.

(ii) No.

(iii) No.

HEAD VERNACULAR CLERKS, TASHILDARS AND NAIB-TASHILDARS.

1573. Sardar Jodh Singh: (i) Will Government please state the number of head vernacular clerks to Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners in the province? How many out of them are Sikhs? If there are no Sikhs or the number of Sikhs is very small, what steps does the Government intend to take to make up the deficiency?

(ii) Is it a fact that the number of Sikh Tashildars and Naib-Tashildars in the province is very small as compared with their population and importance? What steps does the Government propose to take to make up the deficiency?

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.

PROPRIETARY RIGHTS IN THE LOWER CHENAB COLONY.

1574. Sardar Jodh Singh : (a) Is it a fact that proprietary rights in the Lower Chenab Colony were given to the grantees on payment of Rs. 12-8-0 per acre ?

(b) Is it a fact that grantees in the Lower Chenab Colony paid no *sasrana* to the Government, whilst those in the Lower Jhelum Colony paid large sums in *sasrana* to begin with ?

(c) Will the Government kindly state the reasons why it is charging more for the proprietary rights in the Lower Jhelum Colony than it charged in the Lower Chenab Colony ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) Tenants in the Chenab Colony, who were holding lands under statements of conditions not entitling them to acquire proprietary rights, were in 1911 allowed to acquire them on certain conditions, of which one was that the price to be paid should be Rs. 12-8-0 per acre.

(b) No. Yeoman and capitalist grantees on the Lower Chenab Canal Colony paid *sasrana*.

(c) The honourable member is referred to the answer given to question No. 1488.*

CONSTRUCTION OF A BUND NEAR ROHTAS.

1575. Sardar Jodh Singh : (a) Will the Government please state whether it has any project under contemplation to construct a bund at or near Rohtas to accumulate rain water for purposes of irrigation ?

(b) Has the Government received any representation from the President-Local Gurdwara Committee, Chola Sahib, Rohtas, that the bund contemplated would wipe out of existence the said gurdwara by submerging it under water ?

(c) If so, what steps does the Government propose to take to ensure the safety of the Gurdwara in the event of the erection of the bund ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) Yes, there was a scheme under consideration, but as the matter requires further investigation, the question of the construction of a bund has not materialized.

(b) Yes.

(c) Enquiries are being made and Government would see that, should such a bund be constructed, the safety of the sacred gurdwara is not impaired in any way.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar [East and West Central Towns (Muhammadan), Urban] : Sir, I beg leave to move for the adjournment of the Council for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, to wit, the report of the Reforms Enquiry Committee published on March 9th, 1925.

Mr. President : The honourable member moves for an adjournment of the business of the Council for the purpose of discussing the report of the Reforms Enquiry Committee published on March 9th, 1925. Has the honourable member the leave of the House to do so?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I should like to ask whether this can be called a matter of urgent public importance. It is a matter of public importance, but is it a matter of urgent public importance?

Some members have received this report yesterday and some have received it to-day and I imagine that nobody has had the time to read it through. So it would be virtually impossible to discuss it without further time to read it through. I understand, Sir, that the object of the discussion is to express the views of this House on the subject of the report before it is taken into consideration by the Government of India and the Secretary of State. I suggest that that object will not be attained by discussing it at once before the honourable members have had the opportunity of reading it, but if it is to be discussed at a later date Government would be quite pleased to provide time on which it can be discussed after the honourable members have had an opportunity of reading the report.

Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni : During this session?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Yes, during this session. Will the honourable member please state if he is prepared to adopt this course?

Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar : I have no particular objection to that course on the assurance that some other time is given for the discussion during this session.

Mr. President : I understand that Government is prepared to give time for the discussion of the report during this session.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Could a date be fixed now so that we may know beforehand and come prepared for the discussion?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I would suggest that the 24th of March in the morning would be a very suitable time.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar : I do not think that that time would suit me. It is very late.

Mian Abdul Aziz : Not only is it very late, but as a matter of fact this report will be published at a very early date and I think we should discuss it in about a week's time, if any suitable date is available.

Mr. President : Can the Honourable the Finance Member suggest any other date?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : One possible date would be Wednesday, the 18th of March, if we take this up in the afternoon. There is nothing on the afternoon of the 18th of March.

Mr. President : That was an off day before and I think that would do very well.

(Several members assented.)

Mr. President : I take it then that the 18th March, at 2 p. m., will be a very convenient time for raising this discussion.

We will now proceed with the business of the day.

GOVERNMENT'S DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—CONTD.

REFUNDS (TRANSFERRED) GRANT.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,05,800 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministries of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1923 in respect of Refunds (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

REFUNDS (RESERVED) GRANT.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,78,883 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 1923 in respect of Refunds (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

LOANS BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT (RESERVED) GRANT.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,22,000 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 1923 in respect of Loans by Provincial Government (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

LOANS BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT (TRANSFERRED) GRANT.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,50,000 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministries of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1923 in respect of Loans by Provincial Government (Transferred)."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,50,000 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministries of ^{Agriculture} ~~Education~~) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1926 in respect of Loans by Provincial Government (Transferred)."

Sardar Jodh Singh [(Sikh) Urban] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 100 with respect to the item of Rs. 12,00,000—Loans to Municipalities."

My object in moving this amendment, Sir, is to draw attention to an application of the Amritsar Municipality for a further loan for the extension of their electricity scheme. The thing is so badly managed.....

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Which thing? the electricity scheme or the committee?

Sardar Jodh Singh : I will just explain myself. The Electricity Department is so badly managed that there has been a great uproar against it in the city. During the last session I put a question and I was assured that the thing would be looked into and since then, Sir, a judicial decision has added force to my complaint. A decree was granted against the Municipality which will show that not only is insufficient light being given to the inhabitants but jobbery is being practised in that department. This decree given by the Sub-Judge, Maharaj Kishore, on the 8th of May will show to the House how far the complaint of the inhabitants of Amritsar is right. I need not waste the time of the House in reading the whole thing, I will simply read the order of the court to show.....

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : On a point of order, Sir. Probably that order is still under appeal and so the case is still *sub-judice*.

Mr. President : Will the honourable member Sardar Jodh Singh enlighten us on that point if he has any information?

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari : Sir, I wish to hear all the accusations that the honourable member has to bring against the Municipal Committee of Amritsar, so that I may be in a position in this House to refute them all one by one.....

Mr. President : Does the honourable member who was moving the reduction know whether the case is *sub-judice* or not?

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, I know nothing further than what I have stated.

Pandit Nanak Chand : It is under appeal, Sir.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari : So far as my information goes, the case is under appeal.

Mr. President : If it is under appeal, the honourable member should leave that matter alone.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Certainly, Sir, there should be no 'ifs.' Somebody should say that it is under appeal and then, of course, I won't speak on it. Otherwise that 'if' cannot prevent me from speaking.

Mr. President : I am afraid the honourable member has put it in the wrong way. If he has any doubt, it is better for him to leave the matter alone. From what Sir Gopal Das said one is led to infer that this matter is under appeal. It is better to leave the matter alone and proceed with the rest of the points.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Well, then, Sir, I should think that Sir Gopal Das can assure the House that this matter is under appeal and so I won't say anything on that point. But at any rate the fact that the lower court has granted a decree will show that the evil does exist. The fact that a citizen of Amritsar took the matter to a court and got a decree certainly shows that the allegations are not false. As regards the fact that sufficient light is not provided, I do not think I can prove it in any way except by stating that I myself as an inhabitant of Amritsar have suffered from this several times, and I do not think any other proof is required. There is one point which I may mention here. I happened to live in the city opposite to the house of a municipal commissioner. What we used to find was that our lights went out while his lights were burning. I tried to enquire into the matter and I ascertained that special arrangements had been made for him. Perhaps I may be contradicted here by a member of the municipal committee, but I submit that it is probable that that member also has got special arrangements for his house. I am sorry that the Honourable the Revenue Member is not here just now, otherwise he as a citizen of Amritsar will bear me out. I do not say that a loan should not be given to the Amritsar Municipal Committee, but what I want to urge is that before any loan is granted Government should institute an enquiry and see that these complaints which are so common are removed. Let the Government institute an enquiry by a committee of experts and if it is satisfied that the department is working satisfactorily then let it give the loan.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, reduction moved—

" That the grant be reduced by Rs. 100 with respect to the item of Rs. 12,00,000—
Loans to Municipalities."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari (Non-official nominated) : Sir, I beg to say that it is really with patience that I have controlled myself (Hear, hear and laughter) to hear this accusation which has come against us, if I may say so, on account of the dismissal of a Sikh gentleman whom.....

Sardar Jodh Singh : No, Sir, I may assure the House that the dismissal of a Sikh or a number of Sikhs has nothing to do with this motion. (Hear, hear.)

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari : I am glad to hear that, though I am not yet satisfied (Laughter).

Sardar Jodh Singh : I may perhaps remind, Sir, that the rule of this House is for every member to accept the statement made by another. I will request you, Sir, to make Sir Gopal Das to withdraw that accusation against me.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari : I have not made any accusation against the honourable member. I may say that I am not in

[R. B. Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari].

the habit of making accusations against honourable members. What I beg to say is that the honourable member has been led or rather misled.....

Mr. President: Order, order. The honourable member in speaking on this amendment should confine himself to the merits of the case, namely, whether the lighting arrangements are defective or not and so on. He should not refer to the reasons which, according to his idea, might have led the honourable member to put forward his motion.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari: Sir, I submit to your order. I shall go a little into the history of the electrical department to convince the House as far as in me lies that there is no mismanagement. The fact is that in the year 1914-15 the member who sits opposite was the officer who took great pains to get a licence from the Government for the installation of a plant for the generation of electricity for Amritsar. With three lakhs we had to purchase two diesel oil engines. When the application for the licence was made, the area to be supplied was stipulated to be the whole of Amritsar city. The honourable member who is a resident of Amritsar can have an idea as to how big that city is and whether two diesel engines are quite sufficient to supply the required energy. Afterwards we applied to the Government pointing out that 3 lakhs were in no way sufficient to meet our requirements and demands for energy were increasing, not only for house connections but also for motor working. The House should bear in mind that under section 11 of the Electricity Act when once a licence has been granted, it is not in the power of the licensee to refuse energy to any one if he is within the area specified in the licence. Owing to the inability of the municipality to supply the required energy it gave money from its own funds from time to time and thus the electrical department now owes the municipality to the extent of Rs. 1,50,000. Then it was suggested to us that we should hand over this department to a company and accordingly we advertised but no company came forward to take up the management of the electrical department. Then we requested Mr. Preston, the Electrical Engineer, to draw up a scheme for us for a satisfactory working and he supplied us with a scheme which would cost at least 12 lakhs. We came to Government from time to time for help and they always wanted this paper and that and we could not get the required help. The municipality again managed to lend money and with that loan two steam engines and two boilers were bought.

There is another difficulty in this matter. The motorwallas consume seven lakhs of units whereas we can generate only 86,000. A suggestion was put before the municipal committee that the rate of current supplied to motors should be raised.

Lately, in order to improve our electric supply we appointed two new engineers. The result was not satisfactory. They could not properly work and the result was the dismissal of one of them. Now I have taken charge of the department into my own hands from October last....

Sardar Jodh Singh: Are you a qualified engineer?

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari: I do not know whether I am a qualified engineer or not, but I have been able to work like an engineer. If the honourable member is not satisfied on that point it is hopeless for me to argue any farther.

With regard to the charge that there was light in the house of a member of the committee and there was none in the house of a non-member, I beg to say that the reason is not possibly known to the honourable member. That house of the municipal commissioner might have been on a line of which the fuse had not blown.

Sardar Jodh Singh : But the whole street had no light.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari : Then I fail to understand how the house of that municipal commissioner had lights.

Sardar Jodh Singh : I can prove it.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari : Possibly that member had a private installation of his own (hear, hear). If the whole or the main fuse had blown and if the whole street was in darkness, how can energy be had by that particular member ? It is beyond my comprehension.

Sardar Jodh Singh : I will explain in a minute.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari : I want to hear it. I do not want to avoid any enquiry being made, but what I should also urge is that our handicaps should also be taken into consideration.

Let our grievances be taken into consideration. If we satisfy the Honourable the Minister, he will set an enquiry. We do not shirk that enquiry. Let the enquiry be made. If, as a matter of fact, we show that we really do require this sum and that we cannot supply electricity to the town without this sum, then I fail to see why the loan should not be granted. If the Government does not advance the loan, the result will be that the licence will have to be cancelled, and another man will have to come into the place of the present licensee. I never expected from the honourable members of this House to hear that the whole thing has been mismanaged.

Lala Diwan Chand [Amritsar city (Non-Muhammadan)], (Urdu) : Sir, there is no doubt that the arrangements for the electric supply in Amritsar are open to serious objection. At bed time the citizens are often harassed by darkness which prevails owing to the mismanagement of the municipality. The reason why the municipal commissioners are in better circumstances is simply this, that their houses are connected with the main from which cinemas are supplied. The other parts of the city are in a hopeless condition. After every five minutes the light fails and people are put to a considerable inconvenience. There seems to be no justification for selling electric energy to motors when the city itself stands in bad need thereof. Either we should generate more power or we should flatly refuse the sale meant for motors. Even if Government asks for this supply we should deny. In short every resident of Amritsar is of opinion that the municipality does not take care in these matters.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari : I want special permission for a short time to reply to the remarks of my honourable friend Lala Diwan Chand.

Mr. President : No.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, I have listened to the debate with great interest and some concern because I myself in Lahore have been more than once the victim of the

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

tricks of electricity. These things occur especially when one has got friends in one's house in connection with any function. So, I can assure the honourable member who has moved the resolution that I most heartily sympathize with his grievance. An important point has been raised by my honourable friend Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari, who is also the President of the Amritsar Municipality that he cannot make both ends meet as far as the electricity department is concerned. He finds that he ought not to sell electricity in as cheap a manner as he is doing now but the members do not agree with him. I suppose the members in their turn take their clue from those people whom they represent amongst them being my honourable friend Sardar Jodh Singh who has moved this amendment. If the honourable member wants electricity cheap, well cheap things are not always good and therefore to a certain extent, I fancy he has to thank himself for not getting as good electricity as he desires, because he does not pay for it. Still the only way to make that electric supply more suitable is to generate more electricity so that members and non-members may be equally benefited from the supply. That can only take place if Government lends money to the municipality so that they may generate more electricity. Whether the affairs of this particular department are well looked after or not, it is always the duty of the Government to see that everything is in order. Still in view of the fact that the point has been raised, I have no doubt that the local officers when they read this debate will pay special attention to the grievances which have been ventilated in the Council Chamber. I will also see that necessary enquiries are made. I trust that my honourable friend Sardar Jodh Singh will find this assurance ample to withdraw his opposition to the grant.

Sardar Jodh Singh : On that assurance, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. President : The question is :—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,50,000 be granted to the Punjab Government Agriculture (Ministries of ———) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1926 in respect of Loans by Provincial Government (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

CIVIL CONTINGENCIES FUND GRANT.

Mr. Miles Irving (Finance Secretary) : Sir, I beg to move :—

"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 1926 in respect of Civil Contingencies Fund."

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS GRANT.

Mr. Miles Irving (Finance Secretary) : Sir, I beg to move :—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 60,000 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 Adjustments."

Mr. President : The question is :—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 60,000 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 Adjustments."

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh, Urban): Sir I beg to move :—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 29,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 29,000—
Unforeseen charges."

The reason for my moving this amendment is this. During the last three or four years for which the figures are given in this book, no such provision was made. The other day, the honourable member Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din read an extract from the speech of Sir Malcolm Hailey while he was the Finance Member in the Government of India wherein it was said that budgets should not be framed in such a way as to contain items which would serve as secret pockets of the Government to be used on different occasions as they liked. My submission is that when during the last three or four years, no necessity arose for provision of this particular item and no reason has also been given in the note for its provision I fail to see the necessity for it during this budget. Besides, there is a big reserve just down below of Rs. 1,50,000 and I do not know what new necessity has arisen for providing this new pocket to Government. I hope that the House will agree with me in saying that no case has been made out for this new item and I do not know on what objects this sum is going to be spent. The only reason that has been given in the note is that Government does not want to come before the Council for supplementary demands amounting to small sums. I am sure that the Honourable Finance Member will himself admit that that is no reason why provision should be made under this head. The Government comes before this Council for supplementary grants under other heads and they can as well come for this purpose also. Under these circumstances, I appeal to the House to vote for my motion.

Mr. President: Grant under discussion, reduction moved :—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 29,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 29,000—
Unforeseen charges."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. Miles Irving (Finance Secretary): Sir, I do not think I need detain the House very long, for, this very small sum was inserted for the convenience of the House. This is a pocket which cannot be used for any other purpose because it is contained in this one grant and cannot be used for re-appropriation. If the honourable member will teach me how to budget under this head, I shall be very grateful. In 1921-22, we budgetted nothing but had to spend 18 lakhs. In 1922-23, we budgetted nothing, but had to spend 51,000 and in 1923-24, we budgetted 30,000 and revised it to 55,000 but for some mysterious reasons the Government of India charged us only Rs. 5,000. We never quite know when the Government of India are going to send in their bills for the various charges. Sometimes they send their bills annually; sometimes they do not send their bills for two or three years continuously and then send them. If the House prefers that this item should not continue in the budget, we shall if we want money have to come to the House with supplementary demands. It is not a pocket which can be used in any other way and it will be a certain saving of the time of the House if this sum is granted now. If a bill comes all at once and if we have this sum, the bill can be paid immediately. As I already observed, this cannot be used for any other purpose than adjustments with the Government of India. With these words, I leave the matter to the sense of the House.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved :—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 29,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 29,000—
Unforeseen charges.”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : The question is :—

“ That a sum not exceeding Rs. 60,000 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 Adjustments.”

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS (TRANSFERRED) GRANT.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, I beg to move :—

“ That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,52,000 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 1926 in respect of Miscellaneous (Transferred) grant.”

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS (RESERVED) GRANT.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move :—

“ That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,28,000 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 (Reserved).”

The motion was carried.

STATIONERY AND PRINTING (RESERVED) GRANT.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia (Revenue Member) : Sir, I beg to move :—

S.P.M.

“ That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,33,000 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 Stationery and Printing (Reserved).”

The motion was carried.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh, Urban) : Sir, I had an amendment to move, but I was not called upon.

Mr. President : I waited and looked at you but you did not move it.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, the practice up to this time has been that the President calls upon the members to move their amendments.

Mr. President : I do not think so.

Sardar Jodh Singh : May I rise to a point of order?

Mr. President : This matter is now finished. The question has been put and the motion carried.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, I only want to say this much, that we have given two days' notice and the amendments are before the chair. The members should be called upon by the President and it is for the members to move their amendments or not.

Pandit Nanak Chand : The custom has been that the President calls upon the members.

Mr. H. D. Craik (Chief Secretary) : Sir, I should like to say that I am sorry that the honourable member did not move his amendment, because I wished to make an announcement that might have been of some interest to the House. If you could see your way and let the honourable member move it...

Mr. President : The stage for doing so is now over. It was only the other day that, on a similar question arising in this House, I gave a ruling that a member who wants to move an amendment when a motion is before the House and is open for discussion, is to get up and move it, and most of the honourable members here to-day were probably present here at that time. Even so far as the custom is concerned, I am not sure if what is stated as the custom is correct. But any how I made it clear the other day that it was for the member to stand up if he wanted to move an amendment. I waited to see if anybody wanted to speak. So far as Sardar Jodh Singh is concerned, I particularly looked at him and waited to see if he was rising and as he did not, I took it to mean that he was not moving his amendment.

Mian Abdul Aziz : On a point of order, Sir, I may be permitted to say one thing...

Mr. President : I do not know where the point of order comes in. This matter has been decided. I am not going to discuss it any further.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Sir, may we have another ruling? Supposing three or four members want to move the same amendment, are all of them to start shouting, or will the President ask one of them to speak?

Mr. President : I do not know where the question of shouting comes in. A member has to get up and I will know. If more than one member gets up, that is nothing new or unknown to this House. Only the other day there were five or six members wanting to speak at the same time...

Sardar Jodh Singh : Supposing there are three amendments and...

(Cries of order, order.)

Mr. President : So far as this particular matter is concerned, I have already given my ruling that it cannot be discussed any further.

Sardar Jodh Singh : I do not want to discuss the ruling, Sir, but what I want to say is that supposing there are three members who have to move amendments on the same subject and supposing my name is third in the list of amendments, how am I to know whether the first two members

[Sardar Jodh Singh.]
are not moving? When the demand is put, am I to get up at once? Therefore, I think, that the old practice of calling upon members to move their amendments, is not bad. For, then everybody will know if a member was moving or not.

Pandit Nanak Chand : Sir, you have referred to . . .

Mr. President : The question put by Sardar Jodh Singh has already been answered in the answer to Malik Firoz Khan's question, and as I have already said if the honourable member means to discuss the ruling given I am not prepared to allow that.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : On a point of information. May I know what is the practice in other Councils?

Mr. President : It comes to the same thing that the honourable member desires to discuss the ruling.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I beg to differ.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, is the honourable member in order in making the statement he has made?

Mr. President : He is not.

STATIONERY AND PRINTING (TRANSFERRED) GRANT.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,000 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministries of Agriculture Education) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1926 in respect of Stationery and Printing (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS GRANT.

Mr. Miles Irving (Finance Secretary) : Sir, I beg to move :—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,48,400 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 Superannuation Allowances and Pensions."

The motion was carried.

FAMINE RELIEF AND INSURANCES GRANT.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) : Sir, I beg to move :—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,81,000 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 Famine Relief and Insurances."

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS (TRANSFERRED—BOTH REVENUE AND CAPITAL) GRANT.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,64,89,000 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 1926 in respect of Civil Works (Transferred—both Revenue and Capital)."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,64,83,000 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 1923 in respect of Civil Works (Transferred—both Revenue and Capital)."

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Sir, I beg to move.

Mr. President : There are certain amendments put down here in the list and if any of those gentlemen in whose names they are, are going to move them their's is the chance before anybody who is not speaking on the amendment begins. Professor Ruchi Ram's amendment comes at No. 12. Those who have got amendments earlier, if they are moving those amendments, have to do so before Professor Ruchi Ram begins.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Sir, am I to understand that Sardar Tara Singh is not moving his amendment?

Mr. President : I understand that Sardar Tara Singh who is put down earlier is not moving his amendment.

Sardar Tara Singh : I am going to move my amendment Sir.

Mr. President : Why did you not get up then?

Sardar Tara Singh : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 17,320 with respect to the item of Rs. 37,820—New Works—Buildings—Forests."

If the honourable members of this House see in the memorandum of extra expenditure prepared by Mr. Miles Irving, they will see that the office work was carried on in two hired buildings in Rawalpindi. It is now proposed that a new building be built to locate the office. My submission is that more money will be required for the beneficent departments to meet the real requirements of the people. I find, Sir, that a good deal of money is proposed to be spent in erecting buildings and things of that sort. My humble submission is that the work of the office has been carried on in hired buildings and that it should continue to remain in those buildings for the present, until we have sufficient surplus to meet the requirements of the Forest Department. The Forest Department has been running at a loss and we can ill-afford at present to spend money on buildings for that department. So I propose that the present system of hiring buildings should continue and a new building should not be erected so that the amount thus saved is spent in meeting the real interests of the people.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, reduction moved :—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 17,320 with respect to the item of Rs. 37,820—New Works—Buildings—Forests."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) : Sir, my friend raised two points, that hitherto the offices had been located in two hired buildings in Rawalpindi and that they should be continued to be located in the same buildings. In reply to that I may ask whether he realises the difficulties of locating the offices in rented buildings. Supposing the owner of the house should ask us to quit the buildings, what are we to do? This is the thing, Sir, that actually happened in 1919.

[Hon'ble S. B. S. Sundar Singh, Majithia.]

When in 1919 the owner of this very house gave us notice to quit we had to raise the rent. That was the only way in which we could continue to remain in the same buildings. Supposing a similar incident should arise again, what are we to do? Are we to take away the records and everything else and keep them on the road? Are we then to be hunting after buildings? The question has been looked into by the department. It has been found difficult to obtain houses in Rawalpindi at any rate at a moment's notice. Therefore the best course to adopt is to get houses built by Government. In the supplementary demands the amount was included on two previous occasions, both in 1923-24 and 1924-25, but it was cut out by my honourable colleague on my right (the Honourable Sir John Maynard). But now things are easier and therefore he has been kind enough to allow this amount to remain in the budget.

As regards the other point, namely, whether we are going to spend our surplus in this manner. I may remind the House of the undertaking, which already exists, namely, that we will spend $\frac{7}{10}$ ths, that is, out of an income of 10, we will spend 7 parts. If this grant is sanctioned I can assure the House that we are not going to exceed the limit.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved :—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 17,820 with respect to the item of Rs. 37,820—
New Works—Buildings—Forests."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh), Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 25,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 75,000—
Allotment for Minor Works—General Administration controlled by Financial Commissioners."

Sir, I have not been able to find an explanation in the memorandum for this extra expenditure. At page 311 of the detailed budget I find, Sir, that the budget estimate for 1924-25 was only Rs. 25,000. This year it has been increased to Rs. 75,000, but no explanation is given for this increase. Whenever Government is unable to increase their allotments otherwise they increase the provision under contingencies, minor works, supplies and services. I do not see any necessity for increasing the last year's figure of Rs. 25,000.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved :—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 25,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 75,000.
Allotment for Minor Works—General Administration controlled by Financial Commissioners."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. C. A. Barron (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, the honourable member has complained that no explanation has been given for the necessity for raising this allotment from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 75,000. I am not sure if the honourable member is aware of what this allotment is spent on. Innumerable little buildings attached to district courts and offices, suitors' sheds, water arrangements and the many minor works that have to be carried out in all the district and tahsil offices in the province come under this head

In the last few years the allotment has been grievously cut down and last year when we applied for Rs. 75,000 we were only given Rs. 25,000. The result of that is that we are terribly in arrears now. When I examined the case I found that the total requirements amount to several lakhs. I then felt that it would be no use coming to the Council with a demand for several lakhs, and not even one lakh. So we reduced the demand to the paltry sum of Rs. 75,000. I hope the Council will allow this sum in order that we may begin to overtake the terrible arrears in these minor buildings of which we are greatly in need.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved:—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 25,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 75,000—
Allotment for Minor Works—General Administration controlled by Financial Commissioners”.

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. J. M. Dunnnett (Home Secretary) : Sir, I beg to move:—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 22,980 with respect to the item of Rs. 60,930—
—New Works—Buildings—Administration of Justice”.

Sir, when this proposal came before the Finance Sub-Committee the necessity for this long standing want was recognised, but the Finance Sub-Committee were of the opinion that the provision was perhaps somewhat too generous and therefore advised that the works should be carried out within a cost of Rs. 40,000. Accordingly the plans and estimates were re-examined and it was found that certain alterations could be made, for instance, as the new Sessions Court will be in the District Kachheri compound where there is already a bar room it will be possible to avoid a bicameral Parliament of barristers and the proposed bar room can be cut out. It was also discovered that no separate suitors' shed was necessary and that the one in the district offices compound will suffice. By these arrangements we were able to cut down the estimate to within Rs. 40,000. For these reasons, I move the amendment.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved:—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 20,930 with respect to the item of Rs. 60,930—
New Works—Buildings—Administration of Justice”.

The question is that that reduction be made.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Punjab University) : Sir, I just want to say one word with regard to this item. When this question came up before the Finance Committee it was thought that simpler and cheaper buildings would do but it was never imagined for one single moment . . .

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, I rise to a point of order. Is the honourable member in order in telling us what was in the mind of the Finance Committee? All we are concerned with is what was published in the proceedings.

Mr. President : I think the honourable member may give his opinion on the question, whether the grant should be reduced or not. He should not refer to what happened in the Finance Committee except what has been published.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : In that case, I believe, we are in order in opposing this amendment even if we voted for the reduction in the Finance Committee.

Mr. President : Quite so.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz [Lahore (Muhammadan), Rural] : Sir, I am opposed to this reduction. I am surprised to note that separate room is not to be given to members of the bar. (Hear, hear.) I know that the members of the bar are not in some cases treated well by the Government. A Sessions Court which does not possess a room for the members of the bar should not exist at all. (Hear, hear.) Members of the bar are the officials of the Court and it is the duty of the Government to provide a special room and a large room too to accommodate all the members of the bar in the Sessions Court. I therefore oppose the amendment.

Maulvi Mashar Ali, Azhar [East and West Central Towns Muhammadan), Urdu] : Sir, the argument which has been advanced in favour of this reduction does not allow me to support it. The real question is that in the beginning an estimate of cost was made at Rs. 40,000 and this included construction of bar room; but a subsequent estimate of Rs. 70,000 was made for the same building which was reduced later on to Rs. 60,000. The question was, why the estimate of Rs. 40,000 in 1919 or 1920 was being raised to Rs. 60,000 or so? Instead of giving reasons for the enhancement of expenditure, a portion of construction has been left over and that relates to the bar room. Sir, bar rooms are very badly needed in all the districts and especially in that of Gurdaspur. The reduction of my friend for the reasons stated is not acceptable and I would like to strongly oppose it.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari (Non-official, nominated) : Sir, as a lawyer I certainly should support Mian Shah Nawaz in his opposition to the reduction. Probably what was passing in the mind of the honourable member when he moved the reduction was that the members of the bar had become habituated to sit in the shade of trees (laughter) and enjoy fresh air for the exercise of their lungs and so did not require a room, which would be injurious to their health. I think the members of the bar should not be treated so lightly. When this Council is budgetting for minor items, I do not see any reason why Mr. Dunnett should come forward with this reduction. His reasons for the reduction are not good and substantial for the House to accept.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, may I ask one question? Supposing this motion for reduction is withdrawn, what will happen to the other motions to the same effect of which notice has been given by other members? There is one by Sardar Jodh Singh. There are others in the name of Sardar Tara Singh.

Sardar Tara Singh : I do not propose to move my motion* for a reduction.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett (Urdu) : Sir, if the honourable members of the House desire it I have no objection to withdraw my amendment. I accordingly beg leave to withdraw.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

* " That the grant be reduced by Rs. 10,960 with respect to the item of Rs. 60,960—New Works—Buildings—Administration of Justice."

Sardar Tara Singh (Ferozepore (Sikh), Rural) : Sir, I beg to move :—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 33,200 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,33,200—Works in Progress—Buildings—Police."

Sir, I have merely to repeat the grounds which I urged for a previous amendment. Last year the amount allocated for this purpose was Rs. 22,000 and this year it has been increased six times. No special reasons are assigned for such an abnormal increase. I therefore ask the Honourable the Minister for Agriculture to make a small reduction of Rs. 33,200 which will still leave him one lakh of rupees. I hope the Honourable Minister will accept my motion.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved :—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 33,200 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,33,200—Works in Progress—Buildings—Police."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, the usual practice when one has begun a thing is to finish it. These are works actually in progress. The suggestion now appears to be that we should drop these works in progress and not complete them. I have had occasion to thank an honourable member for a certain metaphor with which he presented the House on a memorable occasion. He said that when the head of a sugarcane has entered into a mill, the rest of it should follow. On this particular occasion, I trust that he will allow the remainder of the sugarcane to pass through the mill. If honourable members require further reasons to convince them on the subject, I should like to mention one or two particular cases which are concerned in this vote. One is the construction of the Kot Sultan police station in the Muzaffargarh district which was recently washed away by the floods in the Indus. Everybody will readily admit that it must be completed. Another is certain repairs to the roof of the Phillaur Station where the police school is situated; the roof is in a dangerous condition and it may fall down at any moment and may do damage to those who are stationed there. Yet another is the construction of a police station at Kot Naina where the building is now in a dangerous condition.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, reduction moved :—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 33,200 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,33,200—Works in Progress—Buildings—Police."

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. 7,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,07,000—Allotment for Minor Works—Buildings—Medical."

The Punjabi proverb : "The moustaches are bigger than the beard" is quite applicable in this case. The total amount for new works is 1.46 lakhs and for minor works is Rs. 1,07,000. I wish to submit that the Government has got the same amount for original works, for works in progress and for new works. The House will be justified in making this reduction and I appeal to the House to accept my amendment.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved :—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 7,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,07,000—
Allotment for Minor Works—Buildings—Medical.”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. J. G. Beazley (Secretary, Transferred Departments) : Sir, here again the honourable member might very well have called attention to the fact that last year a sum of Rs. 10,000 only was provided under this head, whereas this year we are asking for Rs. 1,07,000, and the reason why we are asking so much for this year is just because we got so little last year and the year before and these works as in the case of revenue buildings are very much in arrears. Actually, the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals asked for considerably more than what the Council is now being asked to grant. The list of minor works for which he asks for funds was most carefully scrutinised and I have here in my hand the list of minor works which has been finally approved and it covers a large number of pages of foolscap. It contains a very large number of small items and there is no particular reason why any of them should be omitted. The economy of Rs. 7,000 proposed by the honourable member is hardly worth making and it would cause inconvenience to the patients or doctors in many places. If the House would care to listen to the list of works, I shall be glad to read it but as it is a very long list, probably honourable members would prefer to take it as read. I will again draw the attention of the House to the fact that the list contains a large number of small items and there is no reason for omitting a small item so as to cover the amount of reduction proposed and for leaving all the rest as they are. In these circumstances, I hope that the honourable mover will not press his reduction.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved :—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 7,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,07,000—
Allotment for Minor Works—Buildings—Medical.”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Punjab University) : Sir, I beg to move :—

“ That the total grant be reduced by Rs. 1—Hydro-Electric Scheme—Capital Expenditure.”

Sir, in raising a discussion on this subject, I find myself in the unenviable position of one who stands between two hostile camps of disputants, one which has the dispensing of power and patronage in its hands, and the other, which, though weak in certain respects, has, I make bold to say after the examination of the whole budget, right, justice and the interests of the people on its side. Such are the two parties between which I stand at the present moment. I want to assure the House that I am not wedded to any particular scheme out of the two rival schemes which I want to discuss this afternoon. I have tried to approach the consideration of the merits and the demerits of these two rival schemes with impartiality and with a determination to judge fairly between them. With the little scientific training that I possess, I have tried to spare neither time nor labour in considering all the *pros* and *cons* of these two schemes, and I have arrived at the conclusion, the very definite conclusion, that the Madhopur scheme

is probably the better of the two. I say, probably, because I am not an expert. All that I ask for is that Government may not push forward either scheme at the present moment till both the schemes are considered, one against the other, in a dispassionate and impartial spirit by a committee of independent experts on which certainly both the Government and some selected members of other schemes should be represented as witnesses or as advisers or in any other capacity. My submission is that, the Government scheme is far too hazardous a venture in the present condition.

Sir, it would perhaps be convenient to give a brief history of the hydro-electric development schemes in the Punjab. During the war, the Industrial Commission recommended, among other things, that attempts be made to develop hydro-electric power through the canals in the various provinces. Here is the recommendation. They say :—

"It is also desirable at an early date to enquire into the potentialities of power supply from the great irrigation canals of Northern India and the Periyar project in Madras (page 255)."

Again on page 275 of the same Report, they say :—

"Proposals for generating water power from canal falls and other irrigation works should be considered by a Joint Committee composed of officers of Public Works Department and the Irrigation Department."

It was out of these recommendations that the present proposals arose. The first in order of time was, perhaps, the scheme with respect to the Rasul Canal. Then the Government took up a scheme with respect to the Sutlej river power development, and a little later on they went into the question of another scheme known as Nangal scheme. They spent something like 2½ lakhs, I think, on the Sutlej river development scheme and then abandoned it. They spent about a lakh of rupees on the Nangal scheme and then abandoned it. They have spent something like 2 or 3 lakhs, and perhaps even a little more, on the Mandi scheme and I feel certain from what I know at present of it unless I am very much mistaken, they will be bound to abandon it at an early date.

Well, Sir, as members of this Council already know, I have published a small pamphlet in which I have discussed, in some detail, the *pros* and *cons* of the two particular schemes with which we are now concerned. There are ten reasons which I have advanced against the official scheme. I see the Honourable the Finance Member shakes his head. He has also said in his speech he had given a cautious blessing to that project. But in spite of the shaking of the head, and, in spite of his blessing, I am sure, it will be a case of 'marry in haste and repent at leisure.'

Well, Sir, I have ten reasons here, which I have developed in the small pamphlet which I have circulated to the members of this House. I call them the hydro-electric 'decatalogue,' I make present of it to the gentlemen who are wedded to the Mandi scheme. My first reason is that the tunnel, the railway line, the main transmission line and the power house of the Mandi scheme will be located within the 'earthquake zone.' We are told that the area has been examined geologically. I challenge any one to come forward and say that our present knowledge of the seismic conditions of the interior of the earth is anything more than meagre in the extreme, fragmentary and

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entirely empirical and unreliable. I venture to say that any one putting too much reliance on the 'experts' who may come forward and say that such and such an area is a 'safe' area will not be following the path of prudence.

Secondly, Sir, the power house will be situated in the interior of the hills and therefore it will be necessary to build a railway line to carry the plant and materials to the site of the power house. The line will not pay its way, even if one-third of its cost is charged to the Mandi scheme. The present estimates are bound to be exceeded as was the case with the Kalka-Simla line.

In the third place, a tunnel $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles long will have to be built, a pipe line laid and transmission cables erected, greatly increasing the cost of the scheme.

Fourthly, the transmission line being built at a high elevation, corona losses could only be avoided or diminished by using thicker cables at increased cost and keeping them further apart.

My fifth reason is this,—the railway line and the transmission cable will be liable to damage and interruption by landslips during the monsoons.

In the sixth place, the power house will be situated in a Native State which has been in a troubled condition during the last forty years.

Seventhly, there is the question of royalty. According to the agreement made with the State about Rs. 40,000 worth of current will have to be given free of 'charge' to Mandi as a 'royalty' during the first year; but eventually the royalty will amount to $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs a year in cash and kind.

In the eighth place, the daily discharges of the Uhl river have been observed for three years only—a dangerously short period. Even during this period, the flow of water has fallen on many days below the minimum of 112 cusecs, on which the whole scheme is based. During the past 15 months the minimum was not reached on as many as 141 days.

As against the Mandi scheme, the Madhopur scheme is cheaper than the Mandi scheme. It will cost $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores in three stages, while the Mandi scheme will cost more than 5 crores in the first stage, and 12 crores when it is completed in three stages. The soundness of the Madhopur scheme is obvious from the fact that the organisers offer current for sale at 33 per cent. less than the cost price of Mandi scheme current.

My tenth and last reason is, the Madhopur scheme will be carried out in three sections, each costing about 80 lakhs. The second section need not be built till the first is ready and all the current generated thereby taken up by consumers. This is obviously a great advantage.

These are the ten reasons which may be given in favour of the Madhopur scheme and against the Mandi scheme.

Two objections have been put forward against the Madhopur scheme. One is that there will be a clash of interests between the consumers and the producers of the electric energy, and the Irrigation Department or the Agricultural Department and the consumers of water. Now, Sir, that is one objection; the second is, that the channel will be silted up. Well, I need not say much about these points myself. I will read out to the Council the opinions of some of the experts. I am going to read three letters, or rather extracts from three letters. One is from Mr. A. R. Murray, Officiating Chief Engineer, Irrigation Works. He says: "I have the honour to say

that from an irrigation point of view I have no objection to raise against the proposed hydro-electric scheme" provided certain changes are carried out, and then he goes on to explain as to how these changes can be carried out. The very fact that in their Report, the Industrial Commission have asked the various Governments to consider the question of developing electric power on irrigation canals shows that it is not an incidental and inherent defect to have an electric power station in connection with such a canal. There are several canals here in India, in the Punjab as well as in the United Provinces, where electric power is being developed by means of canal water.

Mr. W. P. Sangster : May I ask the date of the letter?

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : The letter is dated January 1922 the exact date is not given.

Then there is a letter from Mr. T. A. Miller-Brownlie, Agricultural Engineer to Government, Punjab, Lyallpur, to H. W. King, Esquire, Superintending Engineer, Lower Chenab Canal, Lyallpur. I will read only small portions from it. Mr. Miller-Brownlie had been asked to give his opinion on Mr. Sharma's Madhopur scheme. He sent in his report and during the course of it he says : " Mr. Sharma has gone into the question of cost in very great detail, much more so than is usual for a preliminary report and the conclusions he has arrived at are briefly " Then he gives his opinion : " The figures given indicate that the power at a remarkably cheap rate could be produced in the Punjab and in order to form a better idea of the proposal I visited the site at Madhopur and examined local conditions as a result of which I am convinced of the possibilities of a sound and extremely economical project being carried out. " Further on, he says : " After examining the site and considering the engineering difficulties to be encountered, I have prepared a rough preliminary estimate for the scheme, considering the most severe and trying circumstances. "

Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan : May I ask whether Mr. Miller Brownlie's opinion is about Mr. Sharma's first scheme or his second scheme?

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : It is on the present scheme. He goes on to say : " I consider, however, that the canal supply at Madhopur offers excellent opportunity for the development of cheap electric power and I strongly recommend that the question be thoroughly investigated as the potential benefits to the Irrigation Department, the agriculturist desiring lift irrigation, and to the general public for commercial and domestic purposes, are very great indeed. "

I will trouble the House with one more letter, from Mr. C. W. Meares, Electrical Adviser to Government of India. He was called upon to give an opinion not between the Mandi scheme and the Madhopur scheme, but between the Madhopur and the Sutlej projects and speaking of these two, he says : " There is no doubt at all that the Upper Bari Doab project is the best of the two. " No, I am sorry, this relates to another scheme, that is the Rasul scheme.

With regard to the Sutlej scheme he says later towards the end of his letter : " There is practically no doubt also that, at the same transmission distance, the Bari Doab could supply current as cheaply or more cheaply than the Sutlej main scheme. " What this means is shown by the schedule of rates which

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Mr. Meares had before him. This schedule shows that the power produced by the Sutlej scheme was very much cheaper than that produced by the present Mandi scheme. If therefore the Madhopur scheme was considered to be capable of producing energy as cheaply as, or more cheaply than, the Sutlej project, it is easy to understand that the Madhopur scheme is not only feasible, but it is also capable of producing current at a cheaper rate than the Mandi scheme. Now, Sir, I will

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: May I ask, Sir, when this opinion was expressed?

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni: I am afraid I have not got the date in this copy of the note. But I believe it must be some time between March 1921 and the summer of 1922.

Now, Sir, I will have to say a few words with regard to one particular point. First about the discharge, the daily discharge of water, and the second about the silting process. If the members of this House are not satisfied with the opinions of these experts, I can go into a little greater detail with regard to those two points. First about the daily discharge of water: Now, Sir, it does not require an electrical engineer to say that there are two elements which are essential for producing power, namely, the daily discharge and the drop or the fall of water. In the case of the Uhl river, the daily discharge of water has been observed for a period of three years only, and I put it to anyone to say if the daily observations extending over a period of three short years are enough to base a scheme upon of such magnitude as the Mandi scheme, in the first stage of which we will have to spend something like five crores of rupees, and when the third stage is completed the expenditure will amount to twelve crores. I am absolutely certain that this point was not put before the advisers in England who gave their opinion with regard to the Mandi scheme. I feel quite certain about it because, from what one can see, it is inconceivable that anyone would take it upon himself to commit Government to a scheme which after all is based upon such flimsy, meagre and scanty data. Even during these three years, there was one day, I believe it was in January 1923, when the discharge of water fell to 29 cusecs, though the minimum upon which the scheme is based is 112 cusecs. It was a very cold day and so the water was frozen and the discharge fell to 29 cusecs. I have counted at least 141 days during the last 15 months when the discharge fell below the minimum given by the experts who framed this scheme.

Again, about the silt, Sir, I have gone into the matter a little in detail. I have studied the details of the experiments and observations, and the conclusions based on those experiments and observations, as also the formulae deduced from them for silting. As the result of this study I find that, if the critical velocity ratio exceeds a certain point, then the scouring process goes on. If it falls below unit, then the silting process is started. In this particular case of the Madhopur scheme, if you examine the data for the flow of water of the Madhopur scheme, you will find that the silting cannot take place here according to Mr. R. K. Kennedy's formula. Mr. Kennedy, as you all may know, was a very able and illustrious Chief Engineer in the Irrigation Department under this very Government. He carried out a series of experiments and observations, and came to the conclusion that the silting would not take place in a case of this kind. On the other hand, silting will take place, if you go into

the calculations, in the dam which is proposed to be constructed under the Mandi scheme. In the dam the silting will take place, if my calculations are correct, and I am speaking subject to correction by experts, in about thirty years more or less.

Well, Sir these are some of the reasons which have impelled me after a great deal of anxious and careful enquiry and study—such study as a layman like myself can make upon a subject of this kind. These are some of the outstanding reasons which have constrained me to put this proposition before the House. The proposition is a very modest one. I do not suggest the taking up of the Madhopur scheme in preference to the Mandi scheme. I do not praise the one and condemn the other. What I do say, and what I believe everyone who bestows some thought on the subject will say, is that, on the basis of the opinions expressed by three experts, the Madhopur scheme is obviously not one to be condemned outright. On the other hand, the Mandi scheme is one which, *prima facie*, so far as one can see, is open to serious hazards, and therefore I would say, let the two schemes be examined by a committee of experts in which both the advocates of the Mandi scheme and those of the Madhopur scheme are fully represented. That, Sir, is the proposition—a very modest proposition—which I am putting before the House. The Madhopur scheme offers cheap current to the agriculturists. The development of the whole province depends upon the way in which we set about this business. The agriculturists will require electric power for water-lifts and for supplying water to their canals. I will even go so far as to say that the rural people will make use of the electric power more than the urban people. At present Lahore is using only 1,500 kilowatts. The agriculturists who will use most of the power should get the benefit of mass supply as a body. Let not the Madhopur scheme be condemned simply because it has been put forward by a private company. On the contrary, this should be a reason in its favour. I need hardly point to the many resolutions of Government recommending that, so far as possible, private enterprise should be encouraged. There are the recommendations of the Industrial Commission. I am not going to read them now, but I should like to read here the opinion expressed by Lord Inchcape. Lord Inchcape is an authority in business matters, and, in speaking about a concern with which he himself is connected, namely, the shipping concern, he generalizes, and says "If they (that is Government) continue to attempt to run ships or to run any other business enterprise, they will kill all initiative and they will fail commercially, and, having thus tried all sources of revenue, will look for relief to additional taxation". I would ask the Government to remember this warning of Lord Inchcape. The Inchcape bell is sounding. Avoid that danger, avoid that rock of certain failure. Avoid that danger, avoid that risk of certain failure and that certain smashing up of the ship of State which the Honourable Finance Member has been trying to steer so cleverly and so well. Avoid that rock of financial bankruptcy. If the scheme is started and if it fails, if any mishap takes place, if there is an earthquake, if there is a landslide, the whole industrial and rural life of the people will come to a standstill. We have just now been hearing something about the electric supply of the town of Amritsar, and how the current comes and goes and what it means to the comfort and life of the people living there. In the case of this scheme, it will mean much more; it will mean certain disaster. I beg of the House to consider this question. I hope the Honourable Finance Member and other members of Govern-

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ment will accept my very modest proposition, namely, that this question be further examined, [and that till then this project be not proceeded with.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved—

“That the total grant be reduced by Rs. 1—Hydro-Electric Scheme—Capital expenditure.”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz [Lahore, (Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, I have given very anxious consideration to the amendment which has been so ably moved by my honourable friend Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni. I appreciate the spirit in which this reduction has been moved by my honourable friend, the Member for the Punjab University. My honourable friend demands an enquiry into the two schemes, namely, the Mandi scheme and Madhopur scheme. I submit that the Mandi scheme was recently examined by experts, both in India and in England. In India it was subjected to a very elaborate scrutiny by Sir Frederick Gebbie and our able and learned friend Mr. Sangster, the Secretary to the Irrigation Branch of the Punjab Government. Both these gentlemen examined the scheme in detail and I have got their report before me. I have carefully examined it. The conclusion which they draw is that the Mandi scheme will be very much better than the Madhopur scheme from an engineering point of view. I have had a talk with my friend the Mr. Sangster and he told me that the operation of the Upper Bari Canal will suffer if the Madhopur scheme is carried into effect. That statement made me very anxious. Sir, I represent the district of Lahore in this Council and the district of Lahore is irrigated as the House is aware by the Upper Bari Doab Canal. This district is situated at the end of the Upper Bari Doab Canal. Any interference with the free flow of water in the Upper Bari Doab Canal will prejudice the rights and interests of the agriculturists (hear, hear). I am here to defend my own constituency. I tell you, Sir, that my primary duty is to my constituents. I say with all the zeal at my command that, if the operation of the Madhopur scheme will in any way interfere with the Upper Bari Doab Canal, it should be rejected forthwith. My honourable friend has cited the opinion of Mr. Murray and I have heard it, but the opinion is not clean cut and decisive. His opinion is not expressed on the present Madhopur scheme, which is larger in magnitude than the previous one. Granting that the two opinions are conflicting, the matter still remains doubtful, and I am not going to give the benefit of the doubt to the Madhopur scheme which may interfere with the flow of the Upper Bari Doab Canal which irrigates the district I represent.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Very selfish.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz : If my honourable friend knows the duty he owes to his constituency, he will not characterize me as selfish. It is my duty to protect my constituency. The Mandi scheme has also been examined by Mr. Gray and Mr. Forbes from the financial point of view. Both these gentlemen are of opinion that financially the scheme is sound. Then, Sir, the Mandi scheme was sent to England, and there it has again been examined by Messrs. Miraj and Co. and Messrs. Sir Alexander Gube and Co. They are famous firms consisting of very able engineers.

Pandit Nanak Chand : Was the other scheme sent to England ?

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz : Well, Sir, as far as I know, both the schemes were sent to England, and the relative merits of both of them were considered. The Mandi scheme was found very sound both from an engineering and financial point of view. Now my honourable friend wants an enquiry into the Mandi scheme.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Does the honourable member stick to his statement that both the schemes were sent to England for examination ? I beg to inform him that it is not so.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz : I do not know whether the other scheme was sent or not ; but I know that the Mandi scheme was certainly sent of which my honourable friend is not aware.

Pandit Nanak Chand : So the honourable member withdraws the statement that the relative merits of both the schemes were examined ?

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz : I do not withdraw. My honourable friend now says that the Madhopur scheme was not sent to England ; that may or may not be a fact. The Mandi scheme which has been put forward by Government was sent to England, and has been found to be a sound one from every point of view. Now my honourable friend Professor Ruchi Ram at this late stage wants an enquiry into the matter. Of course, he is a new member. We, the old, know all about the two schemes. We had it discussed it in the committees, and we found that, as compared with even the Nangal scheme, the Madhopur scheme was defective and inferior. Later on, the Nangal scheme was given up in favour of Mandi, which is considered by the Government to be the best. My submission is that we have gone too far into the Mandi scheme. It is true that I will prefer, and the Government also will prefer if they can find a site in the British territory. Nobody likes to go to an Indian State and pay royalty. Anyhow the fact remains that the experts of our Government and the Government of India are unanimously of opinion that the Mandi scheme is the better of the two. Then why not go ahead with it ? A further enquiry will serve no useful purpose. Sir, I am also of opinion that a hydro-electric scheme should not be entrusted to private enterprise. It is true that at present we do not enjoy provincial autonomy ; we have not self-government. We entirely depend on the experts from England and our own Government officials. But the time will come when we will have an autonomous province, and I say emphatically that I want all such profitable schemes to be in the hands of the Government of the future, and not in the hands of private individuals. Of course, there may be some cases in which a private company consisting of Indian as well as English shareholders may be advisable. My submission in the present case is that, as against the Mandi scheme, private enterprise should not be encouraged. If my honourable friend is so anxious to utilize the resources of the Punjab for a hydro-electric scheme—and our resources are undoubtedly unlimited—he should go to the Indus. He can create a fall near Kalabagh. If my honourable friend wants to have private enterprise to be successful, he may go to that place, and it will supply electricity to the western central districts of the Punjab ; there will also be sufficient power to work the coal mines near Kalabagh. The coal mines are only 18 miles from Kalabagh, and, so far as I know, they produce the best coal. I have considered the *pros* and *cons* of both schemes. I simply say that, when the Mandi scheme has been found feasible and profitable, both from

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the engineering and financial points of view by Government, there is no reason why it should be abandoned or that an enquiry should be made into it at this stage. We want hydro-electric power for our industries, for tube-wells, etc., and for other purposes very badly. Further delay is not desirable. My honourable friend the Professor Sahib says that the Madhopur scheme is cheaper than the Mandi scheme. The estimate given by the private company is certainly less. As pointed out by Sir Frederick Gebbie and his two colleagues Mr. Whittaker and Mr. Webb (see page 21, appendix Hydro-electric Report) Mr. Sharma, the author of the Madhopur scheme, had either missed or excluded erroneously 250 lakhs from the expenditure of the Madhopur scheme; and that if this expenditure is to be included, the cost per unit of the Madhopur scheme will come to 9½ pice, and not 1½ pice as given by Mr. Sharma.

On the other hand, the cost of the Mandi scheme per unit will come to 7½ pice. The net result is that the total expenditure of each will be about the same but the profits to be desired from the Mandi scheme will be larger. The Mandi scheme is perfectly straightforward, feasible and profitable. In my opinion there is no necessity for further enquiry, and the honourable mover of the reduction has not made out a convincing case in favour of the Madhopur scheme and against the Mandi scheme. I therefore oppose the motion.

Mr. W. P. Sangster (Chief Engineer, Irrigation) : Sir, I should like to explain to the House that the opinions of Mr. Murray and of myself are not conflicting. Mr. Murray's opinion was given on the Madhopur scheme of 1922, and it was quite a different scheme from the present Madhopur scheme. If I remember rightly, in fact I am almost sure, it was a scheme for taking water out of the Ravi river at a place called Shabpur, about 7 miles above Madhopur, and it was not a scheme for utilizing the present headworks of the Upper Bari Doab Canal. The present Madhopur scheme is not the one on which Mr. Murray gave his opinion, and so it cannot be said that our opinions are conflicting. The present Madhopur scheme is one entirely different from the one on which Mr. Murray gave his opinion.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : The same scheme, somewhat improved.

Mr. W. P. Sangster : Well, it is a matter of opinion whether it is an improvement. I would like to show that it is not an improvement on the Mandi scheme anyhow. It may be an improvement on the first Madhopur scheme, from an electrical point of view, because the present experts in favour of the Madhopur scheme have abandoned that first Madhopur scheme in preference to the present one. I wish to point out to the House that the present Madhopur scheme is entirely out of the question from a canal point of view. The canal department would never agree to it. There is far too much at stake on the Upper Bari Doab Canal. There are 1½ millions of acres of irrigation dependent on that canal, and therefore how could we ever dream of running even the slightest risk of interfering with the irrigation of any part of that enormous area? The reason why the present Madhopur scheme is objectionable from a canal point of view is that it requires what is called "diurnal storage". I do not know whether the House understands what is meant by "diurnal storage".

It is rather a tricky operation. I will just explain. It really means the closing down of the canal at night-time and running with a fluctuating discharge of double the mean during the day—a method of operation which

for irrigation purposes is quite impossible. Well, that shutting down of the supply during the night time and storing it up means that water comes to a standstill and, of course, all the silt in the water drops to the bottom and fills up the canal or reservoir. The matter of critical velocities to which Professor Ruchi Ram referred does not come into the question at all where stagnant water is concerned. Then, apart from that, I believe that Mr. Sharma, who is the advocate of the Madhopur scheme, argues that this diurnal storage will only be required in the cold-weather months when the water is clear and quite free from silt. But on all rivers, and especially on the Ravi, there are numerous floods in the hot-weather season, when the canal has to be closed to keep out silt, trees, logs and sleepers. Diurnal storage would therefore also be required in the summer season to tide over those temporary closures, and that diurnal storage would silt up the canal. Anyhow the Irrigation Branch would not allow any risks of that kind being taken, especially when such a large area is dependent for irrigation upon that canal. Then again the argument about the clear water in the winter also falls to the ground for the following reason. The water is only clear for three or four months in the year. But there are only about four months in the year when there is enough water in the Ravi river to run the Madhopur scheme without diurnal storage. That leaves four months when the water is not clear and when diurnal storage will be required which, as I have already shown, will silt up the canal. Again, I understand that Mr. Sharma argues that a dredger can be used to clear out the silt. The cost of working a dredger is very great. They are not very reliable, and they have frequent breakdowns, and again the kind of silt there is rather difficult to excavate. A compact bed of sand, shingle and boulders is very difficult for a dredger to work in.

Then the advocates of the Madhopur scheme have stated that the Madhopur scheme has never been included in the reports of the Hydro-Electric Circle during the last three or four years. I myself was on the Electricity Board in 1922 when the Madhopur scheme came up for discussion and the potentialities of the site were then fully considered. A sub-committee of the Electricity Board was formed and they considered Mr. Ralla Ram's scheme, with Mr. Ralla Ram himself present.

Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni : On a point of information, Sir, is it a fact that the Indian members of the Electricity Board voted against the Mandi scheme? Is it also a fact that three members of the department, who are responsible for the scheme were members of this committee?

Mr. W. P. Sangster : It was only the Madhopur scheme which was before the Electricity Board in those days.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I mean that those who are interested in the rival scheme were members of the committee, and the only two Indian members who were independent in this respect were against the opinion which was given by the Electricity Board.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I rise to a point of order. Is the honourable member entitled to make another speech?

Mr. President : No.

Mr. W. P. Sangster : We formed a sub-committee of the members of the Electricity Board to go into the question and they called forward Mr. Ralla Ram. He was one of the members of the syndicate and wanted a concession. Mr. Murray himself was on that sub-committee and they advised against it, which shows that the opinion of Mr. Murray that was read out was not on the scheme which came before the Electricity Board. He was a member of the sub-committee which threw it out.

There is another matter which has not been taken into consideration by the advocates of the Madhopur scheme. They have not brought into their calculation one important item, and it would be a fairly big item.

In fact, the scheme has been grossly underestimated by Mr. Sharma. It was brought to my notice by the remark of Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni, on page 8 of his pamphlet, where he claims as a distinct advantage for the Madhopur scheme over the Mandi scheme that no royalty would have to be paid to a Native State. It is certainly true for the Madhopur scheme that no royalty would have to be paid to an Indian State, but a royalty will have to be paid to the canal department. I looked carefully into Mr. Sharma's estimate and, so far as I could see, it is not included.

It is estimated that the Madhopur scheme would cost something like 4.87 lakhs, or nearly 5.00 lakhs, and its share of the capital cost of the weir, undersluices, regulators, etc., would be in the proportion of 5 to 2. As the capital cost of the Upper Bari Doab Canal was approximately 2.00 lakhs, they have made no provision for that, so there is thus an under-estimate in this respect.

I need not refer again to the various committees of experts who have been examining the Mandi scheme. The last speaker has referred to them and it is fully explained in this pamphlet, which has been circulated to all the members of this House.

On page 4 of Professor Ruchi Ram's pamphlet the Professor says that the estimates were prepared by experienced experts. Well, one of the experts in this particular case is Mr. Sharma, who was originally a subordinate in the Irrigation Branch and is now a Sub-Divisional Officer in the Irrigation Branch, but his education was that of a Sub-Overseer. The other experts referred to are Mr. Ralla Ram, who is described to be a Chief Engineer, and Rai Bahadur Makhan Lal, who is styled a Chief Engineer. Well, they may be Chief Engineers in their respective charges, but they are really only charges corresponding to those of Executive Engineers. Then I would like to say something about the points referred to by Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni, about discharges. On page 6 of the printed pamphlet that question has been gone into. As regards the water-supply, I would like to point out that Sir Alexander Gibb who is one of the greatest experts in London, has declared, as his considered opinion, "that there is ample water available to give a large continuous discharge, and that this could be increased by storage". What more do we want? We cannot go to a higher authority than that.

Besides, the Professor made much of the fact that discharges have been observed only for three years, but it will be seen on page 6 of the pamphlet, "that discharges during the months of January and February were only slightly affected by rainfall, but fluctuated mainly with the temperature.

Fortunately, the mean minimum temperatures at the nearest Himalayan meteorological station during that winter were the lowest recorded during the last 20 years".

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I have given figures. They should be either contradicted or admitted. There was a discharge of only 29 cusecs on one day.

Mr. President : The honourable member is dealing with the figures.

Mr. W. P. Sangster : Twenty-nine cusecs is not an accurate statement. We have our records for 20 years to show that we need not fear any shortage of water. For this reason I am of opinion that there is not likely to be any shortage of water.

There are many other technical points which I leave for Colonel Battye to deal with. About the earthquake argument, there is a reference made on page 7 of the pamphlet where geological experts who were asked to give their opinion have given us as their considered opinion that no fear of damage from this cause need be entertained. Does the House require anything more than that ?

I would like to draw the attention of the members to the pamphlet that was distributed to them to-day. I would like them to look at the last page, appendix A. In the second column you get the real cost of the Madhopur scheme, and in the third column you get the cost of the Mandi scheme. Comparing the two schemes, the Mandi scheme is cheaper, and the cost per unit is shown there as 7½ pies. I have reason to believe that the experts have agreed that the basis on which these calculations have been arrived at are sound and accurate.

Khan Bahadur Sir Sayad Mehdi Shah [Non-official, Nominated (Urdu)] : Sir, from the perusal of the report supplied to us it is evident that the Mandi project is more useful than the Madhopur scheme. The Mandi scheme will generate sufficient power to supply nearly half of the Punjab, while its rival scheme will be able to benefit only a few districts. Besides that, the Madhopur scheme will interfere with the flow of water in the Bari Doab Canal, which was started primarily for irrigation purposes. By this interference the latter scheme will cause thousands of zamindars to suffer, while only a few urban people will gain—those to whom the power will be supplied to enable them to run their factories.

The difficulty of silt described in the report is another reason why we should reject the Madhopur scheme. Supposing for an hour or so the current is stopped, as is sure to happen because of the defect above stated, the whole business of the people who depend on the supply of power will come to a standstill, and you can imagine the loss they will be put to. No doubt the Mandi scheme will cost more than the Madhopur scheme, but in the long run the Mandi scheme will prove far more useful than the Madhopur scheme. The Mandi scheme will not benefit the urban people only, but it will supply power to the zamindars also to enable them to take out water from their wells. The Madhopur scheme, on the other hand, does not contemplate supplying power to the zamindars.

There is another important reason why we should not support the Madhopur scheme being undertaken. If the Mandi scheme is started, as is proposed by Government, all persons, whether rich or poor, will benefit

[K. B. Sir Sayad Mehdi Shah.]

thereby. On the other hand, if such schemes are undertaken by private syndicates, the sharers in that particular scheme will look more to their own advantage than that of the public.

Moreover, the experts too have, after careful examination, expressed their opinion that the Mandi scheme is more feasible than its rival scheme. In the Mandi scheme it is not proposed to supply power to the factories at Jaranwala and Nankana Sahib, which are nearer Lahore than Lyallpur.

In the end I say with all the power at my command that such schemes should be undertaken by Government, and that private individuals should not be entrusted with this task on account of political reasons also.

Mr. V. F. Gray (Punjab Chamber of Commerce and Trades Association) : Sir, I came to the House with an open mind on this question. I feel that a majority of the people are very anxious to have an expert comparison between the two schemes. I see from the pamphlet that has been supplied to us that there has been a committee of experts of three on the scheme. I do not know the date of this report.

Lieutenant-Colonel B. C. Battye : February 1925.

Mr. V. F. Gray : It seems from the report that Government have done what is really being asked of them now. (Hear, hear.) They have had experts who are really first class men who have actually compared the two schemes. From the commercial point of view in this part of the country we are always grumbling at the high cost of power for industries. We have been hammering Government for months and months about the cost of coal in the Punjab. We have done our best to get the Government of India and again the Railway Board to do something in this matter—to reduce the freight on coal. Now that the Punjab Government is trying to give us electricity in place of coal, we really want to support Government as much as possible to put the matter through as quickly as possible. I am not going into the technical details, which I propose is to leave for technical men to reply. One point mentioned, is that the sale of current of the Madhopur scheme will be 33 per cent. less than the Government scheme can produce it at. That, I should think, must be taken with some reservation. If the Madhopur scheme is entrusted to a private firm, what will that do? It will mean a monopoly, and if, as the experts say, they cannot produce at this figure, they must be allowed to make reasonable profits and will be forced to raise the price. I do think the proposer of the scheme is, to say the least, rather optimistic in believing that each village will consume energy for working its wells, for I think the trouble and cost of tapping H. T. wires for small consumers has been underestimated.

There was one further point raised as to supplying current 5 per cent. cheaper to agriculturists than to rural centres. I don't know his reasons for this, but I think in practice it will be found necessary to get immediate revenue to first supply large consuming areas—areas where they consume current in big quantities. I have yet to hear Government's reply to the motion, but for the present my intention is to oppose the reduction.

Mr. Labh Singh [Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Division North (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, after hearing my honourable friend Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni, I should be failing in my duty if I did not enter a very strong caveat against the Mandi scheme being undertaken all at once without further examination. Here is a case, Sir, where doctors

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disagree and we, laymen, are left in the lurch. On the one side, there is the opinion of a number of experts, Indian experts who are known to be gentlemen of considerable experience and great intelligence, as well as proved integrity, and, on the other hand, we have got the opinions of Government experts who favour the Mandi scheme. So, we, as laymen, really find ourselves in great difficulty to make up our mind. In matters which are of a highly technical description it would serve no useful purpose if members of this House, as laymen, attempted to give their personal opinions like those we have been hearing for some time past. I would therefore very respectfully submit that a strong case has been made out for the resubmission of this difficult question for the examination of a body of experts who might be really dispassionate and disinterested in the affair.

Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan : Who are these dispassionate experts ?

Mr. Labh Singh : It is for Government to settle in consultation with this House. One word I would add and it is this. In the pamphlet which has been circulated by my honourable friend Professor Ruchi Ram I find one sentence which sounds to me to be very uncanny and may have certain implications which would not be fair for anyone in this House to develop. The sentence is that the Madhopur scheme was practically agreed to by the Honourable Minister for Agriculture, and that even an agreement was ordered to be drafted ; but it is said that, on the return from England of the Superintending Engineer and before the draft of the agreement was completed, it was discovered that the Mandi scheme had been unearthed and was available for adoption.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : That is absolutely correct.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Who was the Minister at that time ?

Mr. Labh Singh : I think it was Lala Harkishen Lal.

Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan : On a point of personal explanation. I had a talk with Lala Harkishen Lal. I may point out that both the Madhopur scheme and the Nangal scheme were considered, and finally both were turned down in favour of the Mandi scheme.

Mr. Labh Singh : I would certainly, Sir, set a good deal of store by the opinion which may be ascribed to the Honourable Minister who is not at present in this House. His opinion in a matter like this must go a great way with us both for the fact that he is a technical man with technical knowledge of these things and has also considerable experience as a business man. It appears to me, Sir, that there is a confusion of thought so far as the discussion of these two schemes is concerned. It may be said at once that there is not a single person in this House who does not believe that the development of these hydro-electric schemes is really for the good of the province and that these things should be taken in hand without avoidable delay. We are not for delaying, but we only advocate caution because a scheme such as this involves very heavy commitment to the tune of 5 crores to begin with at the first stage and then of something like 12 crores at the end. This is practically a major portion of the entire annual revenues of the province. We are not opposed to electric schemes as such. The future industrial expansion of this province is vitally bound up, we realize, with the development of hydro-electric power. My submission is only this : that a strong case has been made out for the re-examination of

[Mr. Labh Singh.]

these two rival schemes by a body of experts on which the advocates of the two rival schemes should be represented, and that the Mandi Hydro-Electric project should not be proceeded with in hot haste. There is already a good deal of wastage and extravagance in expenditure in several of the commercial undertakings of Government. It has been said over and over again that even the commercial and business enterprises of Government here are not managed on business lines. It is therefore highly necessary that when we embark on a stupendous project of this description we should see to it that our scheme is really as economic as it can possibly be made under the circumstances.

Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan [Attok (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I would speak in Urdu so that the members on this side of the House may be able to understand fully the matter under discussion. It has been urged by the supporters of the Madhopur scheme that private enterprise should be encouraged rather than that Government should undertake such works. It is good, and for my part I should welcome such views, for I am myself interested in such projects; but the difficulty is that for individual interests we cannot easily lose sight of the interests of the public as a whole. In all the advanced countries of the world hydro-electric schemes have been undertaken by investing the public revenues, and I do not see any reason why we should depart from the course adopted in other civilized countries. Why, I ask, should the profits accruing from schemes of this magnitude be allowed to a few private individuals? Why should not such profits be included in the provincial revenues? This is my first point, and it is a general principle, from which, as I said before, we should not depart.

The second point to which I should like to draw the attention of the House is that the Madhopur scheme, being an inferior scheme, does not deserve our support. It has been subjected to elaborate scrutiny not once, not twice, but as many as four times, by the experts, and on all the four occasions it was rejected as infeasible and impracticable. I wonder why so much importance is being attached to the scheme put forward by Mr. Sharma, who has only a theoretical knowledge of such projects, and when his collaborators are said to have had very limited experience in the construction of hydro-electric installations.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Makhan Lal has been working, and he constructed the Randhir Canal Hydro-Electric Scheme. He has been working it satisfactorily for the last several years.

Mr. W. P. Sangster : That is a very small scheme and it does not require much wide experience.

Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan : I would not worry the House with all the technicalities of the question which in fact I, being a layman, can not claim to know in detail. I would not repeat the several questions that were put to Mr. Sharma while examining his scheme by the committee of experts which, besides the two eminent engineers, consisted of a manager of a firm who is acquainted with all the most important hydro-electric schemes in many parts of the world. To show that Mr. Sharma could not satisfy the committee as to the feasibility of his scheme I would refer to one of those questions only. When asked by the committee how he proposed to remove the silt which might settle in the head and tail diurnal reservoirs, the latter being in a very deep cutting, he said they would not silt. This is

like an answer given by a person who was asked to give an English word *phora* (a boil), and in reply said that the English people never suffer from *phoras*, and therefore there is no such word in their nomenclature. I might point out in this connection that there can be cited not a single example of a hydro-electric work of this type in which the silting difficulty might not have presented itself. It is a difficulty which cannot be safely ignored. If small particles are allowed to pass, they will cut to pieces the delicate turbine machines in no time. The result will be that if no provision is made against this danger the public will have to suffer serious loss. The stopping of the machinery of such magnitude even for one hour will bring darkness all round and loss of thousands of rupees to the factory owners.

While opposing the Mandi scheme, it has been said that it is being rushed through, and that its merits or otherwise have not been fully examined. I beg to submit that this contention betrays ignorance of facts. It is clear from the report that the present Superintendent was opposed to the Mandi scheme when it was first proposed to be undertaken and preferred the Nangal scheme to it. The Mandi scheme was decided to be undertaken after it had been approved not only by the experts in the Punjab, but by the experts in England. Three different committees were appointed to go into details and report about the hydraulic, electrical, railway and other general aspects of the project. These committees reported favourably on the project after careful examination. These reports were then submitted to the two leading firms of consulting engineers in London, who recommended to Government to proceed with it immediately. The project has since been examined by the Finance Department, who have recently recommended it to Government as being a sound financial undertaking. I am therefore, of opinion that a sufficient examination has already been made, and, as such, there is no reason why it should be postponed any further.

Then Professor Ruchli Ram has said that during three years' observations there was a day when the discharge of water fell to 29 cusecs. Mr. Sangster has already replied to that remark, but I will repeat it again and say that that was the coldest year during the last twenty years.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni: That is not so. The years in which the water froze up were when the waters discharged and went down to 29 cusecs. The records for 25 years were examined with regard to the Madhopur scheme.

Mr. President: The honourable member should not make another speech.

Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan: My information is that the nearest meteorological station to the Mandi scheme registered the lowest temperature which had been experienced for the last twenty years.

It has been further contended that the Madhopur scheme will cost much less, but I might inform the House that, in the estimate prepared by Mr. Sharma for the development of the Madhopur scheme, a cost of 252 odd lakhs of rupees has not been included at all.

There is another important point to which I would like to refer before I resume my seat. According to Mr. Sharma, the channel of the first stage of the project is in a cutting 90 feet deep, and the whole of the water of the

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river Ravi is proposed to be dropped from a height of 90 feet. He does not propose to line the tailrace with concrete, and he provides for slopes of $\frac{1}{2}$ or 1. As the experts have opined, this will present a great difficulty. The earth at Madhopur is loose shingle, and it will be filled up with sand very soon. To guard against this danger there is only one way open and that is to have the whole tailrace and the point where water falls cemented, which, I think, will cost an enormous amount.

As to the fact that the Madhopur scheme will interfere with the continuous and steady supply of water for irrigation purposes, I do not think it necessary to say anything for this point has been fully discussed before.

In view of what I have stated, I hope that Professor Ruchi Ram will see his way to withdraw his motion for, if we go on considering like that rival schemes and postponing the Mandi scheme, I cannot say where the matter will end; new schemes by novices may be put forward every six months and thus the electrification of the province will remain a mere dream.

Sardar Randhir Singh, Kalaswala [Sialkot-cum-Gurdaspur (Sikh) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I rise to oppose the amendment moved by my honourable friend Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni. The siting difficulty involved in the Madhopur scheme is one which cannot be safely lost sight of. Besides, the Madhopur scheme will only generate power sufficient to supply electric power for lights and fans. On the other hand, it will also interfere with the free flow of water in the Bari Doab Canal for irrigation purposes for which the canal was primarily intended. In case the Madhopur scheme is allowed to be proceeded with, the loss that will accrue to the zamindars will be much more than the benefit that it will bestow. I do not see any reason why we should run this risk of certain loss for the sake of luxury.

The second point that is to be considered in this connection is that the Madhopur scheme will generate power only sufficient for two or three districts, while the Mandi scheme is contemplated to supply power to a major part of the province. Sir Frederick, who is known to be a great expert, held the same opinion, and said that the Madhopur scheme can generate 32,000 cusecs, while the Mandi scheme will be able to generate 36,000 cusecs at the first stage and will be able to supply power to 62 cities in the Punjab at the second stage. This is another reason why we should prefer the Mandi scheme to the other scheme. Moreover the Madhopur scheme will cost much more than the Mandi scheme in the initial stages.

There is yet another reason why we should adopt the Mandi scheme. The Madhopur scheme has been declared by experts after careful examination to be far less useful than the Mandi scheme. It has already been subjected to scrutiny as many as four times and therefore there is no reason why it should be re-examined. It will be a sheer waste of time to send it up for re-examination by experts. I am therefore unable to support the amendment.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq [Amritsar City (Muhammadan) Urban] : Sir, we have been appealed to in many different ways, but one sort of appeal I do not like. This kind of urban and agricultural question is again taking possession of certain members. Again and again they want to bring the agricultural and urban population into conflict. I do not know, Sir, how far this conflict of interests is true.

Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan : It is not true.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq (continued): Then that shows that there is no real conflict of interests. Although they profess to represent the rural interests, yet, if you look at them, you will find they are more urban than myself. They speak simply in this strain in order to get a few votes. They repeat again and again that this thing is more beneficial to the agricultural areas and that is more beneficial to the urban. The question just now is not whether it is for the benefit of the urban or for the benefit of the agricultural population. We have just at present only to examine these two schemes and see which is more useful and practicable. I say openly that, if I were given the choice just now to vote either on the scheme as presented by the Government or the one suggested by Professor Sahni, I certainly would side with Government (hear, hear from the official benches). No, hear, hear, Sir (laughter). But here lies the difference. At present we are not going to take up either this scheme or that at once; we want to discuss the merits of both schemes. I think Professor Sahni is on very solid ground when he asks this House not to start the Mandi scheme at once, but postpone it for examination. It will cost us something like five crores, and, like the Sutlej canal, it may cost us ten crores of rupees.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Is not that paying ?

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Whether it is paying or not is yet to be seen, but the question is, are we going to spend ten crores of rupees on a scheme which later on we may find is not so paying at all ? It is one thing to supply water to thirsty and parched lands, and then there are thousands of people ready to flock to buy land, but, knowing as I do the industrial condition of the country and especially of this province, I think there are not sufficient factories which will utilize the whole of the energy which will be generated by the big scheme and which will cost us such an enormous amount. It is all very well for honourable members to say that poor villagers will use this electric power for taking out water from wells I know the cost of wells and I know the cost of electric pumps and I know that the poor will never be able to utilize this power because the cost will be even more than the value of the land. I ask Government seriously not to take up the Mandi scheme at once, but to wait for three or four months. After all there is no harm in doing that. The money which we have already spent on the Mandi scheme is not going to be wasted; the survey work will remain with us. What I suggest is that we simply send both the schemes to an independent body, say the Government of India, and ask them to examine them independently and take evidence on both sides and then decide whether this scheme is beneficial or that.

One thing I am sure of, Sir, and it is this : no one in this hall would like to have the industries of the Punjab strangled by handing over such a stupendous scheme to private enterprise. It will not be done through Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni, or through anybody else,.....

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Certainly not through me; you may rest assured of that.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : I would be the first person to vote for an enterprise of such a big magnitude if I were sure of its returns, but, Sir, there seems to be some idea in this House that some interested persons want to push this scheme through for their own interests. This scheme was pre-

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pared long before the present Minister for Agriculture came to power. A subject, whether it is reserved or transferred, must be properly considered before it is proceeded with, and, this being a transferred subject, the whole scheme will have to come up for reconsideration every year. Government should not with the help of members on the other side try to rush through a scheme which the majority of non-official members do not like because after two years you may have to come to this Council again for a grant and the same trouble will happen.

Sir, why allow this useless waste of time of the Council? Why not postpone this proposal for a few months? The waters of Mandi are not going to run away, nor the Mandi going to blow up. There have been occasions when Government have expressed regret for wrong calculations, just as in the case of the motor tax, stamp duty and *abians*.

Sir, accusations are levelled against the members on this side that they oppose the scheme put forward by Government purely for opposition sake. I can assure Government that in this case, as in many other cases, I am not opposing simply because the proposal comes from Government. Here is Professor Ruchi Ram, Sabni, telling us that (that) some day whole of Mandi will be blown up through an earthquake. On other hand there is Mr. Sangster giving us another set of views by saying that the Bari Doab will absolutely choke down owing to silting; so I warn the Government not to rush through. By granting these 34 or 35 lakhs we start on a measure of which at least most of the members know nothing about. The learned debates about the technicalities instead of enlightening us have confused us. Government wants a big sum for their scheme, but it does not take the House into its confidence in the matter of details of the two schemes. It hopes to have the grant with the assistance of the officials. Of course, if this was a reserved subject, it would be a different thing. It is a transferred subject, and in acting thus you are really spoiling the effects of the reforms. You will be killing the reforms if with the aid of the official majority this scheme is passed by the Council, — a scheme which has not been considered by the new Minister, which has been virtually thrust upon him.

If there is no alternative scheme then I will certainly request this House to vote for Government, but now Sir, the question is very simple; namely, postponement for a few months. When the Mandi scheme was first brought up by Government, the Madhopur scheme was not in existence. Government may say that its scheme has been examined by three experts. I submit, Sir, that even the biggest experts make mistakes. Members are perhaps aware what difference of opinion exists in the matter of the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral. Similar difference of opinion may exist in the present schemes also. What I say is: let the matter be examined by an independent body of experts and, if that body says that the Government scheme is the better, I shall certainly vote with Government.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari (Non-official, nominated): Sir, I shall be very brief because no doubt this is a technical question, and ultimately the opinions of experts will prevail. As an ordinary layman, after bearing all these arguments, I am forced to say that the Mandi scheme is the better and the cheaper one. We have commonplace phrases as arguments which, to me carry no weight. I have just read "The Punjab Hydro-Electric Scheme: What it is and What it means"; I have studied carefully

all the facts which appear in that pamphlet, and I find that all the arguments which have been advanced to-day are to a great extent useless. I shall now answer the chief arguments of Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni.

The first question is about the earthquake. He dilated upon the subject to a very great extent. But I would draw the attention of the House to the fact that the question has been considered, and considered by experts. It would have been a surprise if it was not considered before launching the scheme. You will find, Sir, on page 6 of the pamphlet "The Punjab Hydro-Electric Scheme" the criticisms of the Mandi scheme. If the learned Professor had read it carefully, he would have found this passage occurring in it: "The supposed danger from earthquake owing to the site being located within 30 miles of Dharmasala was carefully examined by two committees of experts: one composed of Dr. Sir Gilbert Walker. . . ., Mr. A. R. Astbury—who has made a special study both of the geology of the Himalayas and of earthquake construction in Italy—and the Superintending Engineer, Hydro-Electric Circle; and a second consisting of two geologists of the Geological Survey Department. It is not generally known that steel frame buildings can now be designed to withstand earthquake shocks of the greatest intensity likely to be experienced without fear of damage". It is clear what the opinion of the best experts on the subject is.

Now coming to the scheme itself I should say, it is not right to postpone this scheme because a rival scheme has come into existence. If to-day one Mr. Sharma has brought forward this scheme, three months hence another Varma may come forward with his scheme. Then perhaps the House will suggest the postponement of the scheme for a further period of three months in order that this scheme may be considered. Then again another scheme may come forward, and thus there will be no end to fresh schemes coming up. Are we on this account to stop this scheme, which has been considered to be the best one?

It has been suggested that Mr. Sharma's scheme has not been properly considered, but the last few pages of the pamphlet I have referred to already will show that the scheme has been fairly examined and criticized by experts not with any malice or bad design, but with fairness. It is pointed out that his scheme is wrong in every point. If you will allow me, Sir, I will go a little into details because I know a bit about electricity. It has been urged, and, also referred to by other members that the first cut of the Madhopur scheme will be 90 feet, and the second cut 80 feet, to redirect water into the river. Nobody denies that. But what about the embankments and the masonry structure? Is it not within the experience of Professor Ruchi Ram that even in ordinary canals the banks and the earth are liable to slip, and that we have to employ a good number of persons and at such a cost? What care have we to take in order to see that the banks do not fall? This is not an easy affair because once it falls the whole scheme will be affected and will result in complete darkness in the whole province.

Now, Sir, I come to another point. Professor Ruchi Ram has been kind enough to place a good deal of literature on the subject before the general public of the province, but he has not said a word about the capacity and the area of supply of the Madhopur scheme. After reading the literature he was pleased to supply me I asked him about this point because I was anxious to know about it, but he has not vouchsafed a reply.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Sir, I rise to a word of explanation. Two or three days ago Sir Gopal Das asked me for that information and I told him that the quantity of energy was greater in the case of the Madhopur scheme than in the Mandi scheme, and that I could not give him the exact figures then. The exact figures have since been circulated to all the members and the honourable member has got a copy of the note containing the figures. A comparison is given there of the figures for both the schemes, and it will be observed from that comparison that the quantity of energy which can be generated by the Madhopur scheme is greater, very much greater, than the energy which can be generated by the Mandi scheme.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari (continued) : I beg to say that I was very anxious to get this information, but my honourable friend did not in the least enlighten me on this point. When I came into the room, a rejoinder has been put into my hands. I would have gladly read it if it had been put into my hands two or three days before. I am never convinced with general remarks. I again ask my honourable friend whether the Madhopur scheme will be able to give energy to all those towns which are enumerated in first and the second schedules.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Most decidedly. I have gone into this question.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari : I am not convinced by mere assertions like that. Will my honourable friend give me proof as to which scheme is the better by reference to the number of kilowatts of energy which are to be produced in these two schemes?

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : The subject is descending to one of personal explanations.

Mr. President : The honourable member had better proceed with the subject under discussion.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari : The other point that was raised was cheapness of the cost. But we cannot determine the cheapness or otherwise of the rival schemes unless and until it is proved that the utility of both are one and the same. The question of cost ultimately resolves itself into the question of utility. First we have to convince ourselves on the question of utility. The Mandi scheme was criticized on the ground that it will cost 5 crores initially. Let it cost 10 crores. If we have to attain a particular object, that is, of giving light and water to a particular area, then we should not consider the question of cost. No doubt we should see that it is not an economic failure. But in the way that it has been put by my honourable friend the Professor it does not appear to be an economic waste. If the House is convinced that on the matter of utility both schemes are one and the same, it is only then we should go into the question of cost, and not till then.

The other thing that I want to ask is, how long are you going to allow this scheme to be delayed? It has already been put up before a committee. Are we not to believe the word of one who is at the head of the Irrigation Department? I do not want to introduce, as my honourable friend did, the question of urban versus agricultural. We have only to see whether we are rightly spending the money. I fail to comprehend the arguments advanced against the scheme. If the head of the department says that the agriculturists will suffer, then we have to believe his word unless opinion of

similar weight or greater weight to the contrary is put before us. Let us take the case of a patient lying ill in a house. Several surgeons are called in to attend to the patient. Eight or nine doctors come in. But the members of the family, that is, those who are near and dear to the patient, will place greater reliance in the words of that doctor in whom they have greater confidence. We have only to look to the cumulative effect of the opinion. If we take into consideration the cumulative effect of the opinion, there can be no two opinions on the question that the Mandi scheme is really the best of all the schemes.

Another question has been raised, namely why we should not take into consideration the fact that the agriculturists will suffer. This project is already in our hand, and why should we sacrifice this and go in for another scheme the utility of which has not been proved beyond doubt? If the other scheme is taken in hand, and if it fails, the Irrigation Department will suffer thereby. That is the primary point to be taken into consideration. If there is the slightest doubt that the Madhopur scheme will affect the agriculturists, and that they will suffer even to a small extent, then all of us should unite in advocating that scheme by which the agriculturists will not suffer. That is the object which we should have in view. I do not suppose for a moment, that those who are in favour of the Madhopur scheme will at all allow the agriculturists suffer even slightly. Irrigation is a very large part and share of revenue which no man of sound discretion will ever see affected.

Another matter which I wish to submit is this ; that such large schemes should be in the hands of Government, and not in the hands of private individuals. Private individuals do not much care for the interests of the agriculturists. What guarantee is there that they will not raise the rates ? If there is the assurance that they have got the monopoly, then they can strangle the poor agriculturists in any way. What will be the result ? Shall we contemplate the result with equanimity ? We are launching this project for the good of the people, for the good of the whole country. As far as I am concerned, it cannot be in safer hands than those of Government. If the Government experts condemn this scheme, then we shall have to abandon it, but not until then. We should certainly repose confidence in the Government experts and act up to their advice.

I do not wish to repeat the arguments for repetition is a bad thing. I have carefully considered the pamphlet. There is also the rejoinder prepared by Mr. Sharma, and all points have been carefully considered there without any prejudice of agriculture or urban, and my submission is that at this stage we should accept the scheme which has already been launched, and that we should support the scheme because it has been pronounced to be good by the Government experts.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar : I move :—

That the question be now put.

Mr. President : I think there are still a number of honourable members desirous to speak. Moreover, this is an important subject, and so I do not propose to put the motion for closure to the House.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh, Urban) : Sir, I am no engineer, and therefore I shall not discuss the technical side of the question. So many things are being mixed up in this discussion that it is necessary at this stage

[Sardar Jodh Singh.]

to winnow the wheat from the chaff as they would call it. The first point that has been raised is whether the Madhopur scheme has been examined by the experts or not. We have got a report from the Government side which says it has been examined. Now, if a second examination is claimed, may I know what sort of examination will satisfy those who lay claim to such a procedure? If, for a second time, the experts who are at the disposal of the Punjab Government go through the same papers and come to the same conclusion, then will they accept their decision? That is one question.

The second question which some people have mixed up with the original question is whether this scheme should be run by the State or by a private company. Certainly, if we are sure that the investment is going to bring us a sufficient return, the State should run it. There is no question about that. As to whether that point has been examined or not, I find in the notes circulated to us that the Finance Department has given very careful consideration to that side; and I should like to know the reasons of those who want that to be examined again.

Of course; if there is any risk in the scheme, we should hand over that risk to private individuals. But, in this case, when we are sure that a sufficient return is going to be derived, we will certainly not be wise in handing over the venture to any private company. From the information circulated to us by both sides I would say that the scheme has been thoroughly examined and, as late as February 1925, the expert who claims the Madhopur scheme to be more beneficial has appeared before a committee of three gentlemen from whose qualifications, as given in that report, nobody can doubt that they are all experts. The report says that those who advocated the Madhopur scheme were not able to satisfy the experts on certain points, and I have no reason to disbelieve it. If that is so, may I ask what is the use of sending the scheme again before the same committee of experts? If it is suggested that the experts who are to examine the scheme again are to be different from those who already examined it then who is to name those experts before whom it should go afresh? Are they to be appointed by the gentlemen who are in favour of the Madhopur scheme, or are they to be appointed by the Punjab Government? If the Punjab Government is going to nominate them, I am sure their choice will fall on the same gentlemen who have already examined the scheme because Government have not got handfuls of experts to appoint a fresh committee.

Then, Sir, as far as the zamindar question is concerned, I may tell the zamindars that, if this Mandi scheme fails, the loss will fall on the shoulders of the zamindars alone because any loss that falls on the taxpayer falls mostly on the zamindars. If we cast our eyes on the heads through which we raise our revenue, we naturally come to the head of land revenue and to irrigation taxes, which are paid mostly by the zamindars (A voice: Excuse). Excise is no doubt an indirect tax, but unfortunately there again the evil is prevalent mostly among the zamindar class (Laughter). Then, Sir, as to stamps, when we analyse the whole thing, ultimately it falls on the debtors, and the debtors are mostly agriculturists in this province. If this Mandi scheme miscarries in any way, the burden will fall on the heads of the zamindars alone. We cannot decide in favour of the Mandi scheme against the Madhopur scheme by simply saying that the zamindars are going to incur a certain loss by means of the Madhopur

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scheme. The only argument that can be advanced in favour of the Mandi scheme is that it has been thoroughly examined. That it has been thoroughly examined appears from the information at our disposal. At the same time, nobody can deny that the Madhopur scheme also has been examined. The question is whether we are at liberty to doubt the dictum of the experts who have examined the Madhopur scheme and accept the dictum of the experts who examined the Mandi scheme. I think that we have to accept the dictum of the experts who examined the Mandi scheme because the best experts in England also have pronounced in favour of that scheme. I have read all the pamphlets circulated to us, excepting the one that was put into our hands when we just entered this Chamber. All I can say is that the Mandi scheme has been sufficiently examined, and we should grant money for the same. But we can make this request to the Standing Committee that, before launching on the scheme, because I know that before at least six months the work will not be in full swing, they should consult again with those who are in favour of the rival scheme, namely, the Madhopur scheme. I think in this way the whole question can be solved. My submission is that, if by hard facts and figures we prove to the Honourable Finance Member to-morrow that the whole scheme is going to be a big failure, he will be the last man to spend the money, even if we grant it. We may grant the money now and, if the gentlemen who are in favour of the Madhopur scheme can still further discuss it and throw some expert light by means of facts and figures and take the case to the Finance Member and prove by means of figures that this scheme is more beneficial, then that should be taken up. Of course, all the same, I reserve this much, that, if the Madhopur scheme is going to give us more revenue and it is decided to take it up, then I am in favour of the State managing it rather than a syndicate. I would ask the Council to grant the money with this proviso: that, if within one or two months some further information can be given to the Honourable Finance Member in favour of the Madhopur scheme, then the Finance Member would not spend further money on the Mandi scheme.

The Council then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Friday, the 13th March 1925.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

6TH SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, the 13th March 1925.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

BUDHA KHERA BRANCH OF THE WESTERN JUMNA CANAL.

1576. Chaudhri Duli Chand : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that on the Budha Khera branch of the Western Jumna canal in the Karnal district the outlets of the villages Uchana, Salaru, Tikri, Baldhi, Kailass, Makarampur and Mangalpur have been narrowed?

(b) Is it also a fact that water has been stopped altogether for rabi crops in these villages?

(c) Is it a fact that the people of these villages applied very often for the supply of water for their crops?

(d) Is it also a fact that their crops have been ruined altogether and especially wheat?

(e) Does Government propose to allow compensation to the sufferers under these circumstances?

(f) If not, will Government kindly give reasons?

(g) Is it a fact that the whole water is going to the tail and falling into the old canal? If so? what is this due to?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet complete. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

DISMISSAL OF ZAILDARS, ETC., ON ACCOUNT OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT VIEWS.

1577. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Will the Government be pleased to state (a) the names of those zaildars, sufedposhes and lambardars who were dismissed from service during the years 1921-24 on account of holding anti-Government views or on the suspicion that they sided with political agitators; and (b) the names of those Government pensioners whose pensions were stopped during the same period for the same reasons?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : It is not desirable to publish the names of the persons to whom reference is made in this question.

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

1578. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the names of those persons who stood for municipal elections in the Province but whose nominations were invalidated because they had served more than three months' imprisonment and the names of those persons who, inspite of having served more than three months' imprisonment were permitted by the local Government to stand for elections in the year 1924?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: A statement is laid on the table :—

Names of persons who stood as candidates for municipal elections in 1924 but whose nominations were invalidated :—

<i>Name.</i>		<i>Municipal Committee.</i>
1. S. Sadhu Singh	...	Lahore.
2. Khwaja Muhammad Ayub	...	Panipat.
3. M. Abdul Aziz	...	Rawalpindi.
4. Malik Lal Khan	...	Gujranwala.
5. L. Mohan Lal Sachdev	}	Gujranwala.
6. L. Haveli Ram		
7. L. Hukam Chand	...	Karnal.
8. Mehta Radha Kishan	}	Gojra.
9. L. Atma Ram		

Names of persons who were exempted from the disqualification in 1924 :—

<i>Name.</i>		<i>Municipal Committee.</i>
1. Mr. Duni Chand	...	Lahore.
2. L. Amin Chand	...	Gohana.
3. Chaudhri Buta Khan	...	Jullundur.
4. L. Des Raj	}	Dinanagar.
5. L. Jiwan Shah		
6. Gosain Shaktar Sahai	...	Sargodha.

BLIND MEN AS CANDIDATES FOR ELECTIONS TO THE WAZIRABAD MUNICIPALITY.

1579. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: (a) Is it a fact that four blind men stood as candidates in the Wazirabad Municipality at the elections held in January last?

(b) Is it a fact that one of them secured a majority of votes and has been elected?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The honourable member is referred to the reply given to question No. 1514.*

SIND SAGAR COLONIZATION ACT, I OF 1902.

1580. Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath: (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of the villages, the number of holdings and the areas comprised therein which are subject to the operation of Sind Sagar Colonization Act, I of 1902?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the conditions of the agreement executed by the proprietors of the Shamlat lands of the Thal tract referred to in Act I of 1902?

(c) Is it a fact that the revenue courts have disallowed partition of the Shamlat lands in the Thal tract? Is there a judgment of the Financial Commissioner on this subject? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay a copy of it on the table?

(d) Has the Government of India sanctioned the experimental scheme of the Thal Project? If the local Government has received no reply from the Government of India up till now, will it be pleased to send a reminder and urge the necessity for sanctioning the scheme soon?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: (a), (b) and (c) Information is not readily available. Enquiries are being made and a complete answer will be submitted when ready.

(d) The Government of India have so far agreed only to survey operations being undertaken. The Punjab Government will take the necessary steps to press for a decision.

SUMMER SUPPLIES OF RIVERS.

1581. Mr. Owen Roberts: (a) Will Government state the proportion of Rabi and Kharif cropping in the Lower Chenab Canal and the Lower Bari Doab and what is proposed in the New Sutlej Valley Canal?

(b) Is there any general principle underlying the fixing of these proportions other than expediency?

(c) Is Government prepared to consider a policy of fixing the water rate in all new projects or those under construction at a relatively high figure of say Rs. 10 per acre which will induce a more liberal use of river summer supplies?

(d) Has Government any definite policy in the matter of inducing zamindars to make more use of river summer supplies?

(e) If so, will Government kindly outline that policy?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia:

(a) The average cropping proportions for the last three years are 1 Kharif to 2 Rabi on the Lower Chenab Canal and 1 Kharif to 1.2 Rabi on the Lower Bari Doab Canal. Proposed proportions on the Sutlej Valley Project are 2 Kharif to 3 Rabi.

(b) No. Expediency is the only possible guide in this matter.

(c) This part of the question is not clear. It is not understood how raising the water rates will induce a more liberal use of river summer supplies.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG ZAILDARS, ETC., IN THE AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

1582. Mir Maqbool Mahmood: Will the Government be pleased to give information about Amritsar District (excluding the Amritsar city) in respect of the following items under separate heads for each community:—

(a) Number of Hindu, Muslim and Sikh residents,

(b) Number of Hindu, Muslim and Sikh Zaildars,

(c) Number of Hindu, Muslim and Sikh Honorary Magistrates,

(d) Number of Hindu, Muslim and Sikh Honorary Sub-Judges,

(e) Number of Hindu, Muslim and Sikh Sub-Registrars,

(f) Number of Hindu, Muslim and Sikh recruits enlisted from the district during the Great War,

(g) Number of squares or rectangles of land granted to Hindus, Musalmans and Sikhs as a reward for war 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.

GRANT OF LAND TO PERSONS IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

1583. Mir Maqbool Mahmood : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of those persons of the Amritsar District (including the Amritsar city) who received grants of land from the Government from 1914 up to date giving in each case the name of the recipient, the area of the grant and a short statement of services for which it was granted?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Government regrets its inability to direct the preparation of a statement dating back for 10 years in all the detail suggested by the honourable member.

WHEAT-THRASHER.

1584. Mir Maqbool Mahmood : (a) Has the attention of the Government been invited to the 'wheat-thrasher' invented by Mirza Aslam Beg, Revenue Assistant, Amritsar?

(b) Is the Government aware of the fact that the District Board, Amritsar, has unanimously passed a resolution appreciating the invention referred to in part (a) of this question and requesting the Government to encourage it?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are going to encourage the above-mentioned invention? If so, how?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :

Regarding (a) and (b) : Yes.

Regarding (c) : The machine was seen by the Director of Agriculture, and myself last month. We consider that further improvements are necessary but if the makers care to send an improved machine to the Agricultural Department, it will be given a thorough trial and will be reported on.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN THE PROVINCE.

1585. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Karam Ilahi : Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of Co-operative Societies in the Province ; and
- (b) the number among them which consists only or mostly of Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Christian members, respectively ;
- (c) the number of Inspectors and Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies in the Province according to the four communities referred to above?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :

(a) 11,321 on 31st January 1925.

(b) No figures are available.

(c) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table :—

	Inspectors.	Assistant Registrars.
Hindus ...	14	1
Muhammadans ...	38	3 and 1 Honorary.
Sikhs ...	8	5
Christians ...	Nil	Nil

MUSLIM CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

1586. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Karam Ilahi : Will Government be pleased to state—

- the number of Muslim Co-operative Societies in the Gujranwala, Sheikhupura and Sialkot Districts ;
- the number of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs in the staff of the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies in the above mentioned districts ;
- the number of clerks and candidates for sub-inspectorship in the three districts mentioned in (a) ?
- Whether it is a fact that the major portion of the staff of the Co-operative Department in the districts of Gujranwala, Sheikhupura and Sialkot are the relations of the Assistant Registrar ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : (a) No separate record is kept of Societies by religious communities.

(b) The numbers are as follows :—

Inspectors—

2 Hindus.

3 Mussalmans.

2 Sikhs.

Sub-Inspectors—

2 Hindus.

19 Mussalmans.

15 Sikhs.

(c) Eight clerks and 48 candidates.

(d) From the information given it is obvious that there is no truth in the allegation.

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES, GUJRANWALA, ETC.,
DISTRICTS.

1587. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Karam Ilahi : (a) Will Government be pleased to state how long the present Assistant Registrar has been holding charge of the Co-operative Department of the Gujranwala, Sheikhupura and Sialkot Districts ?

(b) Is it the practice of the Government to transfer the Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies at intervals ? If so, what is the usual period of such intervals ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : (a) The Assistant Registrar in question has held charge of Gujranwala and Sialkot districts since March 1921, and of Sheikhupura District since April 1923.

(b) No. In co-operation work, local knowledge and local experience are of unusual value.

HEADMASTER, GOVERNMENT RAILWAY TECHNICAL SCHOOL, LAHORE.

1588. Mian Abdul Aziz : (i) Is it a fact that in addition to his own duties the Headmaster of the Government Railway Technical School, Lahore, is entrusted by the Local Government with the duties of inspection of all the Technical schools of the division including his own school ?

(ii) Has the said Headmaster to perform the inspection duties—

(a) during his school hours from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. without any hindrance to his own duties ; or

(b) has he to order the boys of other schools to remain present in their schools after their school hours for his inspection ?

(iii) Is no other qualified person available to perform such duties ?

(iv) Has the said Headmaster to look after the classes of—

(a) Blind boys, (b) Disabled soldiers, (c) Railway workshops apprentices and (d) of any other institutes ?

(v) How many hours daily does he allot to his own duties as Headmaster of his own school ?

(vi) Do not the above multifarious duties prevent the said Headmaster in any way from devoting his whole time in the interest of his own school ?

(vii) Is it not advisable that the post of the Headmaster should entirely be separate from that of the Inspector ?

(viii) (a) What are the qualifications of the said Headmaster regarding his practical knowledge of mechanism, carpentry or any other technical arts ?

(b) If the Government has no information, will it be pleased to call for the same and lay it on the table ?

(ix) What is the pay of the said Headmaster and what allowances did he draw during 1924 and how much ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : The arrangement at present in force under which the Headmaster, Railway Technical

School, is doing the work of Inspector of Industrial Schools is temporary. At the last meeting of the Punjab Legislative Council Industries Committee, certain proposals were accepted, which when brought into force will do away with the necessity of the Headmaster acting in a dual capacity. In the circumstances Government does not consider there is any necessity to make the detailed enquiries suggested in the question.

REPRESENTATION OF UDASIS IN CONNECTION WITH GURDWARA REFORM MOVEMENT.

1589. **Sardar Jodh Singh :** (a) Will the Government please state if any representation was submitted to it in March or April 1921 or thereabouts by certain Udas in the Punjab in connection with Gurdwara Reform movement?

(b) If so, will the Government kindly lay on the table a copy of that representation?

Mr. H. D. Craik : (a) If the honourable member will specify more precisely to which representation his question refers, I will endeavour to trace it. As the honourable member is doubtless aware, Government has received a large number of representations on this subject.

(b) Government is not prepared to give an undertaking that the representation will be laid on the table except with the consent of those who submitted it.

POSTING OF OFFICERS IN MULTAN DIVISION.

1590. **Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** Is it a fact that there is a great preponderance of Musalman officers in civil offices under the Punjab Government in almost every district in the Multan Division? If so, will Government consider the advisability of making appointments or postings in future in such a way that all communities may be proportionately represented in those offices?

Mr. H. D. Craik : The answer to the first part of the question is "No". If Government were to act on the suggestion contained in the second part of the question, it would have to increase largely the number of Muslim officers in the Multan Division.

ARMS LICENCES.

1591. **Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** Will Government be pleased to state according to community the total number of licences for keeping arms granted or renewed in 1924 in (i) Multan district and (ii) Muzaffargarh District?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN MULTAN DISTRICT BOARD.

1592. **Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Hindu and Musalman members respectively of the Multan District Board?

[R. B. Lala Sewak Ram.]

(b) Is it a fact that the number of Hindu members in the present District Board of Multan is less than that in the previous District Board? If so, what is the cause of this reduction?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain :—

(a) Muhammadans	...	...	...	29
Hindus	...	...	...	3

(b) Yes. In the last district board there were five Hindu members. Probably election.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will Government please make up the number by nomination?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Which number?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : In the last district board the number of Hindus was five and now it is three. Will the Government make up the old number five by nominating two more Hindus?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Why?

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Will the honourable member be satisfied if two of the 29 Muhammadans become Hindus?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Certainly.

LOCAL RATES IN LYALLPUR DISTRICT.

1593. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will Government be pleased to state how much local rate the District Board of Lyallpur realises—

- (a) from the agriculturist community, and
- (b) from the non-agriculturist community?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The extraction of the figures required in order to reply to this question would involve an unjustifiable expenditure of time and labour.

THE HAVELI IRRIGATION PROJECT.

1594. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Can the Government give an idea as to when the Irrigation Project known as Haveli Project will be taken up?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Government is not in a position to make any definite statement on the point.

CANAL DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEES, MULTAN DISTRICT.

1595. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Is it a fact that the meetings of the Canal District Advisory Committees in the Multan District are not regularly held? If so, will Government be pleased to direct that such meetings be held more frequently?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Meetings of Canal District Advisory Committees in the two divisions of the Derajat Circle which operate in the Multan District have not been regularly held.

The reasons for not holding regular meetings are lack of interest and indifference on the part of the members, so that it would be a waste of time and money to hold more frequent meetings.

Only one member attended the last meeting which was held on the 15th February 1925.

In these circumstances Government does not consider that anything would be gained by directing that such meetings be held more frequently.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: If the particular set of members do not take interest, will the Government be pleased to nominate another set of members?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: Perhaps with the same result.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: That is not the answer to my question.

TELEPHONE MESSAGE RECEIVED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
PUNJAB, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, IRRIGATION BRANCH.

Canal Advisory Committee meetings have not been regular but since starting in 1922 five meetings have been held in Lower Sutlej Division and two in Multan Canals Division.

As regards reasons for not holding more frequently both divisions report lack of interest and indifference on part of members and consequent waste of time and useless expenditure in holding them.

In the last meeting held on the 15th February 1925, only one member being present.

IMPOSITION OF RESTRICTIONS ON GRANTEES IN THE NEW SUTLEJ VALLEY
CANAL.

1596. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: Will Government be pleased to state if any condition is proposed to be imposed on the grantees in the New Sutlej Valley Canal that they must not engage tenants of the zamindars of Multan District? If not, will Government consider the desirability of doing so?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: In the Lower Bari Doab Colony restrictions have been placed on the employment of local tenants by grantees, and Government will consider the advisability of imposing similar restrictions in the Nili Bar Colony.

HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCES TO DRAFTSMEN AND TRACERS IN THE PUBLIC
WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1597. Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan: (a) Will the Government please give the number of Draftsmen and Tracers (Permanent and Temporary) attached to the Buildings and Roads and Irrigation Branches of the Public Works Department employed at Lyallpur, Sargodha, Amritsar and Lahore who are drawing less than Rs. 100 per mensem and are not allowed the house-rent allowance sanctioned for Clerks, Munshis, etc.?

(b) Will the Government please state why such allowance has not been given to them? Will the Government now consider the desirability of granting such allowance to them?

[Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan.]

(e) Will the Government consider the desirability of granting similar allowance to the Government servants in the Montgomery District?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (a) The number employed in the Buildings and Roads Branch is 12 and in the Irrigation Branch 58.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to Council question No. 1492* of 1925.

(c) The reply is covered by that to part (b) of reply to question No. 1492,* in addition to which it is pointed out that not even the clerical establishments at Montgomery get this allowance.

GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AND WAR SERVICES.

1598. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : (a) Will the Government please state whether in 1919 any promises were made to Government servants that preferential treatment will be given to those who render War Services, Overseas or in India?

(b) Will the Government please say whether the promises made have been or are being fulfilled?

(c) If not, will the Government please say whether it is aware that there is great discontent amongst the Government servants who have rendered War Services under the influence of the Government of India, Home Department, Resolution No. 1099, dated 8th August 1919?

If so, will the Government please say what steps it proposes to take to remove such discontent in the Punjab?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard :

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India resolution mentioned in the question referred only to the grant of civil appointment to persons not already in Government service. Government is not aware of any discontent among its servants on account of failure to obtain accelerated promotion.

JUDICIAL OFFICERS AND INSPECTION OF PLACE OF ACTION.

1599. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please state whether any instructions have recently been issued by Government to the Judicial Officers in the Province to the effect that they should visit spots in pending cases very sparingly? If so, will the Government please lay a copy of these instructions on the table and state further the number of cases in each district since the time Government issued these instructions in which sanction to visit spots was applied for and the number of cases in which it was refused.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Government has not issued such instructions, although particular District Magistrates may have done so in order to reduce expenditure on travelling allowance.

SUPPLY OF STATIONERY AND FURNITURE TO PATWARIS.

1600. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please state whether it itself supplies stationery and furniture to Patwaris in the Province or whether any amount is sanctioned to them for the purpose? If the latter, will the Government please state what amount it sanctions for each Patwari?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The information required by the honourable member will be found in Financial Commissioners' Standing Order No. 15, paragraphs 72 (a), 79, 80, and 81 (1) and (4), a copy of which will be found in the Library.

HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE TO PATWARIS.

1601. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Will the Government please state whether it pays any house-rent allowance to Patwaris to whom house accommodation has not been provided? If so, how much, and if not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The answer to the first part of the question is no: to the second that as the provision of patwarkhanas by Government was not invariably popular with Patwaris, Government has decided definitely to abandon the policy of provision of patwarkhanas, and to maintain only such as are now in good repair.

ELECTRICITY BOARD.

1602. Professor Bhoji Ram, Sahni : (a) Will the Government please state if it is a fact that the Electricity Board contains an overwhelming proportion of officials (8 Europeans) as compared with non-officials (2 Indians)?

(b) Is it a fact that some of the members of the Electricity Board are employed in the Hydro-Electric Survey Department?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to take the necessary steps towards reconstituting the Electricity Board on the basis of an equal number of official and non-official members, the majority of the members being those who possess engineering, financial or other necessary qualifications?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : (a) The present constitution of the Electricity Board is 9 officials and 2 non-officials; of the officers holding the official posts at present 7 are Europeans and 2 are Indians, the 2 non-officials are also Indians. A vacancy exists for one more non-official member.

(b) Yes.

(c) The main purpose of the Central Advisory and Co-ordinating Electricity Board is to study and advise from time to time on the best means to be adopted to ensure the most economic development of the natural power resources of the Province. To enable the Board to fulfil this purpose it must include those persons who are best qualified by reason of their training and experience to advise on such matters, while at the same time the numbers on the Board must not be so great as to make technical discussion unwieldy. Government does not consider that a re-constitution on the arbitrary proportional basis suggested by the honourable member is likely to add to the efficiency of the Board but will consider whether it can increase the non-official element with advantage.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni: Will Government be pleased to say if the new Electricity Board was not re-constituted only during the last month after I sent notice of the question? If so, will the Government please give the names of the members of that committee?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: I must have notice of the question.

SUBERA (MADHOPUR), HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME.

1603. Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni: (a) With reference to the reply given to question No. 1183,* will the Government be pleased to state whether the ex-Minister for Agriculture after having been satisfied with the terms, etc., of the lease proposed by the Subera Hydro-Electric Syndicate passed orders that, in the absence of the Superintending Engineer of the Hydro-Electric Survey, on leave, the Executive Engineer should draft the lease for the final approval of the Government?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Superintending Engineer, Hydro-Electric Circle, in condemning the Subera Hydro-Electric Association's Scheme assigned any reasons for doing so? If so, what were the reasons?

(c) Is it a fact that Mr. C. W. Meares, Late Electrical Adviser to the Government of India, on being consulted by the Punjab Government, gave it as his opinion that the Madhopur Scheme was the best of the several schemes then under the consideration of the Punjab Government?

(d) Is the Government aware that the Subera Hydro-Electric Association is composed of Punjabis (Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs) two of them being Indian Chief Engineers of distinction?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:—

(a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) Yes. The reasons among others were briefly as follows:—

(i) The proposals for the canal and fore-bay were unsuitable and dangerous.

(ii) The estimates omitted provisions for overcoming certain difficulties of operation peculiar to the site.

(iii) Insufficient provision in the estimation for several portions of the plant.

(iv) The project as submitted was based for its revenue upon the general adoption of tube well irrigation, which has not yet proved a practically economic proposition on a large scale.

(v) The proposal which involved the general supply of Hydro-electric power by a private syndicate, increased unnecessarily the cost of power to the general public by nearly 50 per cent. over what it would have been if supplied by Government with interest charges limited to 6 per cent.

(c) Government has been unable to trace the opinion attributed by the honourable member to Mr. Meares.

(d) Government is aware of the names of eleven persons, members of the Subera Hydro-Electric and Agricultural Development Association.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : With reference to the answer to part (b) (v) of the question will the Government be pleased to consider the application of this syndicate if they give an undertaking that they will supply current at 83 per cent. less than the cost price of the Government taking 6 per cent. interest into account?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : It is a matter for to-day's debate.

ADULT EDUCATION.

1604. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram : (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the progress of adult education made in each district of the Province up to now?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of introducing suitable books published in Punjabi, Hindi and Urdu for the use of adults in the Night schools attached to all the recognised institutions?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain :—

(a) The statement is laid on the table.

(b) Government has already considered this aspect of the problem. Two such books have already been prepared and have been recommended by the Punjab Text-Book Committee.

Number of adult scholars.

	1922-23.	1923-24.
Ambala Division	2,069	8,822
Jullundur Division	499	11,040
Multan Division	3,880	8,793
Lahore Division	2,781	4,211
Rawalpindi Division	8,547	8,017
Total	17,776	40,883

DISTRICT BOARD SCHOOLS.

1605. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram : (a) Is it a fact that the number of schools for boys under the District Boards and Municipalities is more than twice that for girls?

(b) If so, will the Government please remove this inequality in the matter of facility for education for males and females?

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

(b) Government is most anxious to help extending the facilities for the education for girls by local bodies as soon as there is an increased demand.

GOVERNMENT'S DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (CONTD.).

CIVIL WORKS (TRANSFERRED BOTH REVENUE AND CAPITAL) GRANT.—*concluded.*

Mr. President : The Council will now proceed with the discussion on Professor Ruchi Ram's motion.*

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] : Sir, the subject of the amendment under discussion is highly technical and I feel as I did once when I was called upon to preside at the annual prize distribution meeting of a college of music. Happily I had not to sing there and I believe on this occasion also it will not be necessary for me to go into the various technical points raised unwisely and unnecessarily by some gentlemen here. The main point we have to consider now is not whether the Mandi scheme is to be preferred to the Madhopur scheme or the latter scheme is to be preferred to the Mandi scheme, but whether the question is not such as to require some further consideration. Many speakers who have preceded me have really gone to the length of saying that the Mandi scheme is superior to the Madhopur scheme and that the matter should be taken as finally settled and that there was no necessity for any further consideration. I shall try to make out a case not in favour of the Mandi scheme nor in favour of the Madhopur scheme but in favour of a further consideration of the subject. In order to show that the question requires further consideration, I think it would be necessary for me to show that there is a good deal to be said in favour of the Madhopur scheme. If there is so much to be said in favour of the Madhopur scheme and if the protagonists of that scheme have so much to say against the Mandi scheme, then certainly it would be a matter for serious reconsideration.

Now a number of documents have been circulated by the framers of the Madhopur scheme and I may say also by the framers of the Mandi scheme so that to a certain extent there has been propaganda on both sides. Propaganda work has been carried on not only by the private syndicate that is furthering the Madhopur scheme but also by the Government. Now so far as the Madhopur scheme is concerned, we must consider for a moment who the men are who are behind the scheme, so that we may see whether they are rash, foolish and inexperienced people with no knowledge or experience of the subject that they have taken in hand or whether they are men whose opinion would carry weight. Some of the men who are in the scheme are Rai Bahadur Ralla Ram, who was the Chief Engineer of East Bengal State Railway for 12 years. Another gentleman is Rai Bahadur Makhan Lal who was for a number of years the Executive Engineer under the Punjab Government and who has for many years been the Chief Engineer in the Jammu and Kashmir State. There are some other experts including some Englishmen in the list. Other men behind this scheme are men of capital, of position and intelligence. I would only mention three of them. One is Sardar Jogindar Singh, a member of the Council of State, another is Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan, another is Khan Bahadur Diwan Hamid Ullah Khan.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Did Sir Zulfiqar Ali become a member before he went to Bombay or after he became sick ?

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : The honourable member could refer this matter to Sir Zulfiqar Ali himself. I do not think a man can be made a member against his will while he is lying sick in his bed. That question is

* That the total grant be reduced by Re. 1—Hydro-Electric Scheme—Capital Expenditure."

not only irrelevant but impertinent and is not very respectful to the gentleman whose name I had mentioned. Now the question is whether these gentlemen, who have practically staked their whole fortune on this scheme which according to their own estimate is to cost about 5 crores are to be spurned and rejected as reckless fools, who do not understand their own good or whether any weight is to be attached to their opinion in regard to the undertaking which they have launched. It was remarked by the honorable Mr. Sangster yesterday when these names were mentioned by him that they were men in the same position as our Executive Engineers. My submission is that this is not correct because Mr. Rallia Ram has been under the British Government not as Executive Engineer but for twelve years he was the Chief Engineer of Eastern Bengal State Railway having many European Executive Engineers and also Superintending Engineers under him. Even if they were Executive Engineers, it would not mean that they did not possess sufficient intelligence. Unfortunately in this country men of the greatest intelligence are kept in comparatively low positions not because they are not capable but on other grounds. So that the mere fact that a person has not risen above the status of an Executive Engineer in this country does not place any limitation on his intelligence. I need not discuss this matter further because it is one which is more or less personal. In addition to these gentlemen I may mention that there is another expert who has for several years been the electrical engineer of the province of Delhi, I mean Mr. Soi. Then there is another European gentleman, Mr. Sykes, a member of the Legislative Assembly, who was lately a Superintending Engineer in the Bombay Presidency. These are names which cannot be despised as having no influence or status or intelligence.

Then, Sir, we have to look at the intrinsic value of the Madhopur scheme itself without going into technical details. Here are a number of men, who are repeatedly placing before their countrymen a scheme which gives definite advantages to the country and unless each and every item of superiority that they have suggested can be contradicted and shown to be wrong, they at least deserve consideration at the hands of those who are in power. Referring to the memorandum which was circulated to the members of this Council yesterday as a rejoinder to that issued by the Superintending Engineer, Hydro-Electric Circle, we find at page 3 the various points of superiority of the Madhopur scheme over the Mandi scheme. The first thing is that so far as the discharge of water is concerned, the Madhopur scheme takes the palm. The minimum water discharge for the Madhopur scheme would be at 1,314 cusecs while the minimum discharge has been found after an examination of the figures for three years for the Mandi scheme to be 29 cusecs. No doubt the Mandi scheme has not been examined for more than three years while the Madhopur scheme has been examined for about 25 years. This is the result of such an examination. Then again on information which I believe to be correct and reliable, although the minimum discharge as placed before the experts in England was stated to be 112 cusecs as a matter of fact the discharge for 140 days during that period was below 112 cusecs. This is a remarkable superiority that the Madhopur scheme has over the Mandi scheme, because the creation of energy after all depends upon the discharge of water. Then, Sir, we find so far as the output of energy is concerned, the energy which the framers of the Madhopur scheme promise us is about three times as great as the total energy from the Mandi scheme, the exact figures being 107,000 kilowatts while the Mandi scheme promises us only 33,000 kilowatts. Then, Sir, we find that the total cost of the Madhopur scheme according to

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the figures in the first stage would be Rs. 1,80,00,000 as compared with the official figures for the Mandi scheme which are Rs. 5,26,20,000, not including the Rs. 71,00,000 which would be spent on the railway and which the department considers to be paying. The framers of the Madhopur scheme state, and I think they are right in their conclusions that such a railway would not be self-supporting and if Rs. 71,00,000 is also included these figures would stand at Rs. 1,80,00,000 for the Madhopur scheme as compared with Rs. 5,97,00,000 for the Mandi scheme. This is also a great disparity. Again, we find from the memorandum, there would be a difference in the number of stages. The Madhopur scheme is capable of development by five stages and if anything happens after the first stage has been completed or after one power station has been installed, to show that it would not be profitable to spend any more money on it certainly the country would be saved so much extra cost. Therefore in that respect also the Madhopur scheme is superior to the Mandi scheme. Then we find that so far as accessibility is concerned, there is no comparison at all between the two schemes. Madhopur is in the plains practically in the heart of a very well populated country, being very near to the factories which might exploit the energy when it is available, while Mandi is situated far away from civilisation if I may so put it without any disrespect to that State. Mandi is situated in an out of the way and isolated part of the country and the energy produced there would not be readily accessible to people who want to consume it, the distance from the market being, in the case of Madhopur practically nil, while in the case of Mandi at least 100 miles, if we take the distance between Dhariwal and Mandi State. There is another additional advantage which all patriotic people who have special regard for British India as British Indians should have in view of the fact that the Madhopur scheme would have everything in the British territory while the Mandi scheme would certainly depend to a certain extent on the sweet will and patronage of a foreign State, although that State is not a very big one, yet for political purposes it is a foreign state.

Then, the net result of all this, what I may describe as the crowning superiority of the Madhopur scheme is that the cost of generation of power would be, as they have said, about two pies for rabi and half pie for kharif, for kharif crops would be sown during summer months when the flow of water would be much larger and the cost of production would be much smaller. These are the various advantages which are described by the framers of the Madhopur scheme. Take the Mandi scheme from another point of view : it lies in very high regions, and once or twice at least in the year the small nalla which is going to be the water-supply in the scheme is practically frozen. In order to obviate that difficulty it is contemplated that a big dam some 250 feet high should be constructed at an elevation of six thousand feet from the sea level. This seems to be obviously a risk on which even a laymen could venture to give an opinion. To construct a dam some 250 feet high at a height of six thousand feet above sea level which would practically keep in check water to the extent of 930 millions cubic feet seems to be extremely risky even from a layman's point of view. I do not know if my honourable friend Professor Ruchi Ram put this matter before you, namely, that the water which will be collected behind that dam will be practically stagnant, because it has been calculated by the framers of the Madhopur scheme that the velocity of water there would be one foot in 200 seconds. If that is so, we can say that the water would be practically stagnant. If it is stagnant the natural result would be that suspended impurities would

settle down there and there would be much more silt than can possibly be expected in the Madhopur scheme. According to that as the Professor calculated the reservoir would be filled up in thirty years. On further consideration it is found that in one season of five months, 64 million cubic feet of water would pass leaving silt there which in 15 years would fill the whole tank. Whether it is 15 years or 30 years naturally when the water is stagnant the reservoir would be filled up and even a dredger would not be able to work there on account of the nature of the bed of the reservoir and the other difficulties which the high elevation and other circumstances would throw in the way (*commenced speaking in urdu*). Then, Sir, I have considered the objections which were raised by the various speakers who have preceded me against the Madhopur scheme. One objection which looked very astounding to me was that the working of the canal would be interfered with. If it can be proved that the working of the canal would be interfered with, I would be the first person to turn down Madhopur scheme.

Mr. President : What is the object of speaking in Urdu ?

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Because it concerns those people particularly who are frightened out of their wits by references to dangers to irrigation.

Mr. President : The honourable member can ask for a translation of that passage.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Very well, Sir. Just as I said in Urdu if it can be proved, if I am convinced, that the Madhopur scheme would in any way interfere with the working of the canal and would in any way adversely affect irrigation, I would be the first person to oppose the Madhopur scheme. The first gentleman who raised these points was my friend Mian Shah Nawaz and then and there, not for the sake of interrupting him but because I sincerely felt that if that was really a well founded objection then the Madhopur scheme should be abandoned) I asked him how the working of the canal would be affected. He never answered that question. He did not say a word how the working of the canal would be affected. I was waiting to hear what he would have to say on this point, but he did not say a word. I can say the same thing of most of the speakers who followed him. There was one gentleman

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz : If my learned friend were to go to Mr. Sangster or rather to the Irrigation Department, he would see that the Madhopur scheme would seriously interfere with the operation of other canals. I did not go into the details of it but I consulted the head of that department and he told me emphatically that it would.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : He did not develop that point at least and now he says that he has had the word of Mr. Sangster that the Madhopur scheme would affect the working of the Bari Doab Canal, like some other speakers who said that because Mr. Sangster says so, therefore the Madhopur scheme would interfere with the working of the canal. Personally, Sir, I bow to the opinion of experts on a technical matter, but unfortunately there is a difference of opinion. And then the gentlemen who happen to differ from the opinion of our friend Mr. Sangster, are men whose opinions must carry equal weight, so that in this matter we cannot take Mr. Sangster's word alone as the final word. If there was

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no difference of opinion between equally competent men on this point, I would take it for granted that the Madhopur scheme would interfere with the working of the canals, but Professor Ruchi Ram quoted the opinions of three experts on this point and therefore now we are left where we were, unless Mr. Sangster himself could show how the working of the canal would be interfered with.

Mr. W. P. Sangster : I explained that point to the House yesterday. Perhaps the honourable member was not present.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I was present yesterday. The explanation that he gave us was really no explanation.

Mr. C. M. King : What was the explanation ?

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I am coming to that. He attempted to show that the working of the Madhopur scheme would interfere with the canal, but I do not think it was a successful attempt. I shall come definitely to what he said. I have looked at the plan of the Madhopur scheme so far as the actual situation of the canal and the proposed power stations are concerned and I submit with full conviction that the scheme as drafted by the framers of the Madhopur scheme would not interfere with the working of the canal. They are going to construct a channel of their own and that channel would be made into what may be called the head channel or, to use the ordinary word, reservoir, where water would be preserved and from which water would be made to fall so as to move the turbines which would work the electricity producing machinery. Now the only objection that can be advanced against it—it has not been advanced by any speaker—but the only objection that can be is that this new channel may either take away the whole water or it may take away so much water that the balance may not be sufficient to run the canal at its full strength required by the department in the interests of the agriculturists, or that the accumulation of silt may in some way interfere with the working of the canal. The framers of the Madhopur scheme propose that a few miles of the present channel of the canal would be kept intact. It would not be interfered with in the least, it would be kept in a fit condition to be used whenever necessity arises and if anything happens to the channel that they construct the old channel would be used. Ordinarily you would see that in moving the turbines of an electricity producing machinery not a drop of water is lost. Anyone who has looked at the Mahura Electrical Works or the Jammu Electrical Works would at once see that not a drop of water is wasted, when water is being used to move an electricity producing machinery. Only the course is diverted, then a channel is made either of pipes or otherwise and the water is made to drop and the machinery moves. The water passes out and again joins the canal. So far therefore as the question of waste of water is concerned, no objection can be raised against the Madhopur scheme. The only objection that can be raised is about silt, that that might in some way interfere with the working of the canal. So far as that is concerned there are two replies. The old bed would continue and that would not be interfered with. The second is the possibility of silt accumulating. The reservoir would not be a very huge thing. It would be only about two miles in length and not very wide and 10 feet deep. They would require this diurnal storage in the scheme, but that would be only required in winter and in winter water of the streams in the Punjab especially as they emerge from the hills is absolutely transparent. There

are not many suspended impurities, though there might be some chemical impurities dissolved in it. Even if the water which is taken in during the summer months gives rise to some silt, the simplest possible process that any engineer might adopt would be effective to remove that silt. Mr. Sangster said that when he questioned Mr. Sharma who is one of the framers of the Madhopur scheme, he said that dredgers might be used. But Mr. Sangster said in the House that dredgers would be very costly. I would submit that even dredgers would not be necessary. I am not speaking on my own authority but on the authority of those who understand the subject. There is such a thing as the churning of water with iron brushes or something of that kind. I have noticed that similar methods are adopted in clearing the Dal Lake of the weeds that grow at its bottom, which fact must be familiar to all those who have been to Kashmir. Even ordinary boatmen just use their oars and take out the weeds by simply turning their oars in the lake. In the same way the current of electricity would almost be endless and at the disposal of the framers of that scheme and they have only to use perhaps one motor boat of an ordinary size to churn the whole water of the place so that any silt that has settled down at the bed would be disturbed and would become suspended in the water. There is another thing which Mr. Sangster may appreciate and that is this that ordinarily if the velocity of the water is below a certain point then silt would accumulate but if it is above a certain point that it would not allow any silt to accumulate.

But even assuming that some silt might accumulate there are methods by which they can be removed one or two of which have been already suggested. However even if the silt is not removed my submission is that the working of the canals will not be interfered with thereby. I may tell the House and I should like to be corrected if I am wrong that the big canals are never cleaned. Silt is never removed from them and that the gradients of the canals are so arranged that by the process or free flow of water the silt is removed. It has been so arranged and the velocity of water is so regulated that it will not allow the suspended impurities to settle down. Thus, so far as the interference with the working of the canals is concerned I think that the apprehensions of the members are merely imaginary. We have the opinions of other experts on the point. From the pure irrigation point of view I have in my hand the opinion of Mr. A. R. Murray, the officiating Chief Engineer, Irrigation Works, Punjab, which was sent to Rai Bahadur Lala Rallia Ram.

Mr. President : Is it the same opinion which Professor Ruchi Ram referred to yesterday ?

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I don't know, Sir, " I beg to say that from the irrigation point of view there is no objection to raise against the proposed Hydro-Electric Scheme ". I ask Mr. Sangster whether the present Madhopur scheme is better or worse than the scheme on which this opinion was given. His silence shows that the present Madhopur scheme is certainly better than the scheme on which Mr. Murray gave his opinion.

Mr. W. P. Sangster : From the canal point of view, the present scheme is much worse.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : That is a mere *ipse dixit*. The proper time for Mr. Sangster to say this was when he was making his speech.

Mr. W. P. Sangster : I did say that in my speech.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Even at that time this point was raised by Professor Ruchi Ram and the proper time for Mr. Sangster to say whether the scheme was worse or not than the previous scheme from an irrigation point of view was when he was replying to Professor Ruchi Ram's speech.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : May I say, Sir, that this is precisely what Mr. Sangster said yesterday. Perhaps Dr. Gokul Chand was not present at that time. (Hear, hear).

Mr. President : I do not think Mr. Sangster referred to this. What I remember about yesterday's speech is that Mr. Sangster made some remarks about the old scheme, but he was not talking from the canal point of view. I am, however, open to correction.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Thank you, Sir, for supporting me.

Mr. W. P. Sangster : I spoke from an electrical point of view but not from the canal point of view. But now I say that the scheme is much worse from the canal point of view.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Quite so, he did not express an opinion then from the canal point of view. I am thankful to Mr. Sangster who was candid enough to say that the present scheme was an improvement from the electrical point of view but did not say that it was worse from any other point of view. He may choose to say whatever he wants to say now by way of further explanation, but I was right when I said that he did not deal with this point which he is raising to-day.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No, Sir.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : We are not going to take evidence.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Is there no time-limit, Sir?

Mr. President : No.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Thank you, Sir. One honourable member was pleased to say, I believe it was the gallant member on the other side.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Which gallant member?

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : There are so many of them on that side I am referring to the one who spoke, probably Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan. If I am not mistaken, he said that this was a rocky area and that when the flow of water comes it will bring all sorts of rubbish in the form of boulders, shingle and stones and thus the canals would be spoiled in no time. If that is so, if the area is rocky, one ought to understand that the water, before it enters into the head of the channel, will have deposited the whole of the shingle and boulders and stones that it brings from the hills, so that no boulders or shingles or stones will actually be carried into the head of the channel and nothing will be injured.

There was another point also raised and that was this, that the water being muddy in summer it will spoil the turbines and the whole machinery within six months. That was really asserting too much for a lay man. The simple reply to this is that there are other parts of the

world in which turbines are being moved with dirty water containing plenty of mud and other impurities in it, but the brain of man has triumphed over this difficulty as well. They have constructed such machinery as can stand a sufficient amount of suspended impurities in the water. In fact, the engineers who are experts on this point would probably agree with me that a little amount of suspended impurities in the water adds to the moving force of water by adding further momentum to it because, if the water is absolutely pure, it would not perhaps have so much momentum as when it has suspended impurities in it. Thus, that objection also does not apply to the present case. Besides, can he guarantee that in the Mandi scheme the water will always be as pure as the water of the Ganges during the months of December and January? Certainly not. Then, there is no other answer also to this difficulty, namely, about shingles and other things being brought into the channel. As I understand, there are always more channels than one, and, when one is filled by boulders and stones, it is closed, and the other one is used, so that the flow of water is continuous while one or another of the channels is being cleaned. In the present case also it is proposed to have two or three channels at the head.

Then, Sir, another very important point was raised by some speakers. It was suggested that such schemes should always be initiated and controlled by Government and not left to private enterprise because under private enterprise it might be too dangerous for a province to depend for power and energy upon the sweet will of private individuals; they might strangle the industries of the province at any moment. I cannot say anything better in reply to this than that it is based upon utter ignorance. The honourable speakers who raised this objection against the Madhopur scheme overlooked one important factor, and that is the existence of such a law as the Electricity Act, and particularly one whole part of that Act, namely, part IV, coming after sections 31 or 33 relating to protective clauses. The whole thing is not left to the sweet will of the directors or the shareholders of such a scheme. If that were so, then, if we happen to displease Lala Harkishan Lal or any other director of the Lahore Electric Supply Company, he might engulf the whole city of Lahore in darkness, but he dare not do that because the law has provided sufficient safeguards against such things. Besides, this objection, if real, can equally apply to water supply also which is managed by municipalities. Municipalities also, as compared with Government, are semi-private bodies. But they dare not close the water-supply or any other convenience which is provided by them for their citizens.

Then again, I would say one word more in connection with this. People really rely on certain theories as to Government administration of commercial enterprises. But those theories would not apply to India. It may be all right to urge the nationalization of railways and such other things in England or France or any other free country where there is no distinction between the people and the Government. I think people are really too optimistic to say that in the Punjab every commercial enterprise should be in the hands of the Government and not left to private individuals or bodies. In this they overlook two points. One is that in this country, especially in this province, it is absolutely necessary that people should be encouraged to enter upon commercial enterprises, and also that in this province the Government and the people, I speak with due deference to the reform, scheme, are two different things, and are not identical. If times change, and the people and the Go-

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vernment become identical, then those theories may apply equally well to this province. But probably it will take a very long time before that consummation so devoutly wished for can be achieved.

There is, however, one thing which might be done to obviate any possibility of the disaster which my honourable friend from Amritsar pictured before the House. In order to keep an eye on the scheme and to prevent any abuse of power or the doing of any mischief, Government may, when a company is floated by this syndicate, buy a sufficient number of shares and have one or two directors in the management so that everything will be done with the knowledge of the Government and the Government will have an active hand in the management of the company. I may say that this is not an idea which is worthy merely of an Alnaschar. In the report of the Industrial Commission which sat in 1917-18 it was definitely recommended, and it was one of their special recommendations, that the Government should help the industrial enterprise of this country in various ways. One of the ways suggested was that the Government might guarantee a certain amount or percentage of dividend. Another was the giving of loans with sufficient safeguards.

Another was that it might buy shares in the companies that might be floated. The Honourable the Finance Member must be familiar with these recommendations so that the suggestion that I make really emanates, or at least finds support, in the report of the Indian Industrial Commission of 1917-18 and there is no reason why instead of risking 12 crores of public money the Government should not adopt the much safer course of lending, say one or two crores, to this syndicate or the company that might succeed this syndicate and take shares therein and have a director of its own on the board (Laughter). I do not really see any cause for laughter. That laughter is excited either by an absence of sympathy or perhaps by too much devotion to anything that emanates from any department of the Government; probably it is the latter. I cannot conceive that my honourable friend Mr King could be lacking in sympathy for any industrial enterprise in this country.

Mr. C. M. King : If the honourable member attempts to get money for the Government, then I have every sympathy.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : If any safeguards are required then the Government can adopt them. One other objection which was raised by Mr. Sangster against the Madhopur scheme was that the estimates were really lower and that it was an underestimate of the case that Mr. Sharma or whoever he was had made. On this point I would ask him whether it was not a fact that Mr. King, one of the Superintending Engineers of this province, I believe working in the Lower Chenab Canal. West, said that the estimate which the framers of the Madhopur scheme had made was a liberal one, far from being an underestimate.

Mr. W. P. Sangster : Mr. King did not go into the question of estimate at all.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I take this explanation, but I may just say that probably Mr. Sangster is mistaken. Mr. Bromley also expressed the same opinion. He stated that the estimate has been more thoroughly made than was really necessary for a preliminary report so that it cannot be said that the estimate is an underestimate. Again, if it is really an underestimate why not give a chance to those

people to come and discuss things with the Government. They would either convince the Government or be convinced by them. That is what I would say to the framers of the Mandi scheme. All that we are asking is not that you should adopt the Madhopur scheme and give up the Mandi scheme forthwith. All that we want is that you should give a chance to the men of brains, men of influence and men who have staked their fortune on that scheme. My submission is: give them a chance to explain things to you; if you are not satisfied, then you can come again to the Council and say: "We have beaten them; we have convinced them of their folly; now we want 12 crores for the maturing of this scheme". Until that is done, we as members of this Council have a right to ask that the scheme be postponed until better and more reliable information has been collected. I am told that one Mr. Sharma was called by the department, I do not know by whom, to give his opinion. I understand that certain questions were put to him and that he was not able to give satisfactory answers. Now, Sir, if Mr. Sharma is the same gentleman who is serving as sub-divisional officer in the Punjab, then he is only a very subordinate officer and, sitting before his Superintending Engineers and Chief Engineer who are the authors of this scheme, he cannot be expected to convince them in the position that he holds. If they wanted a real opinion and if they wanted a genuine discussion on the subject, then they should have called Mr. Rallia Ram or Mr. Makan Lal. Or why not call Mr. Sohi or Mr. Sykes, men who could meet them on equal ground and who could discuss things not as a subordinate with a superior, but as men of equal status, who can give and take and who would see that things are looked at in their true perspective and that they are decided on their merits and not carried away by an avalanche of influence or position.

Then, Sir, it seems—though I have not officially learnt it—that a committee of certain members of this House was formed. I do not mean any disrespect, and I am speaking subject to correction, probably some of the learned speakers who preceded me were members of that committee. For instance, Sir Gopal Das Bhandari, Sir Sayad Mehdi Shah, and Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan and Sardar Randhir Singh were among the members of that committee, which we learn was formed then. I do not know who chose these gentlemen, and whether they were chosen because they possessed expert knowledge, understood electricity, or had served in the electric department or had served as Engineers in the Irrigation Department, or whether they were chosen because they would support the department in all its proposals. Well, so far as these four gentlemen are concerned, I am not aware that they possessed any special qualifications to give an opinion on a scheme like this. If the Honourable Minister for Agriculture chose them, I would say, with due deference to him, that the choice was not a happy one and did not serve any useful purpose. If a committee was to be formed that committee ought to have included men like the gentlemen whose names I have mentioned. Let Mr. Rallia Ram be put there, let Mr. Sykes or Mr. Sohi be there. Let all these four engineers be put on that committee in addition to a number of members of this House if necessary. But I would not insist on the inclusion of any members of this House so long as four or five experts like these are on the committee. So that, from what I have submitted, I hope it has become clear that there is a good deal to be said in favour of the Madhopur scheme and a good deal to be said against the Mandi scheme. If that is so, then certainly the matter

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deserves reconsideration. There is no question of giving the benefit of the doubt as my learned friend there put it. I am not suggesting that the benefit of the doubt should be given either to his scheme or to the Madhopur scheme. In fact my suggestion is that all doubt should be removed or at least reduced to a minimum. The only way of reducing the doubts to a minimum is to have a committee composed of officials and non-officials, both experts, and to thresh out the whole question once more before the province is committed to an expenditure of 12 crores. Our successors in this place might consider us most unpatriotic if, without any protest and without fighting for another opportunity for the reconsideration of this scheme, we agree to give away 12 crores of the money of this province. Certainly it is our duty and it is the duty of every member of this House to see that the matter is thoroughly threshed out before any rash step is taken which would commit us to the enormous expenditure of 12 crores.

Mr. President : As the honourable member wanted to explain in Urdu, when he was just referring to something which particularly interested non-English-knowing persons, if the honourable member wants that passage to be translated, that may be done.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : On a point of order, Sir. What is the rule for allowing the translation of a speech? Is it to be done at the particular request of the member who wants that translation or is it to be done even if no non-English-knowing persons want it?

Mr. President : If any member wants it, then the translation is ordinarily allowed. Here it is merely the question of translating one brief passage.

(The passage in question was then translated in Urdu.)

Chaudhri Ram Singh [Kangra (Non-Muhammadian), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I rise to support the Mandi scheme and I may say that I do not support it because it is superior to its rival scheme or that the Madhopur scheme is not feasible or is impracticable nor am I against any private enterprise. I support the Mandi scheme on a quite different ground and that is because I see the prospect of a tramway being constructed in the near future which will connect the Kangra district with the rest of the province. As is well known to the members of this House the Kangra district stands at present cut off from the rest of the province and it is unfortunate in many other respects too as compared with other districts of the Punjab. The lot of the people of this district is pitiable and they are suffering under various hardships. Last time a request was made to the Government to give back the shamilat forests to the original owners, but it was not acceded to. On the grant being rejected the civil forest department has been abolished, which has caused many hardships to the inhabitants of that district. On another occasion a resolution was moved requesting that a college be established at once in the Kangra district, but that also met the same fate

Mr. President : Will the honourable member come to the point?

Chaudhri Ram Singh : Sir, what I mean to say is that if the Mandi scheme is undertaken, it is sure to improve the miserable lot of the people of the Kangra district. The people will benefit not only by the electric power that will be generated by the scheme, but the tramway that will be con-

structed along with it will connect, as I have said before, this part of the province with other parts of it. Some members of the House have, in order to gain their end, suggested that earthquakes will overtake the Mandi scheme and therefore the money spent on this scheme will be lost. I wonder why the members should hesitate to allow this sum on this account. When so much money is being granted and spent for the improvement of other districts, I think we should not hesitate to spend the amount proposed even if some of it is going to be wasted because we know that it is going to relieve the people of the Kangra district of many hardships. In view of what I have stated I hope honourable members will heartily support the demand.

Lt.-Col. B. C. Battye (Official Nominated): I will first of all answer some of the questions asked by the honourable Professor. I will then deal with some of the proposals made by the Subera Syndicate. Thirdly, I will answer the criticisms against the Mandi scheme, and, lastly, if time permits, I will give further few facts regarding the Mandi scheme.

First.—The Sutlej project estimate was prepared when the rates were two shillings to the rupee and did not include 130 lakhs' accumulated interest during construction, which would have had to be met out of the revenue. If the Sutlej project were constructed now it would cost very much more than the Mandi scheme so that the argument raised that Madhopur is better than Mandi, because Mr. Meares said it was better than Sutlej, falls to the ground.

Second.—All the information and data were given to the Consulting Engineers in London. Three packing cases of data, calculation files, drawings and charts were taken home to London and were examined by the Consulting Engineers for three months.

Third.—The Sub-Committee of the Electricity Board which decided to adopt the Mandi scheme did so "unanimously", and that is the expression used in the printed report of the Electricity Board's proceedings.

Fourth.—As regards our situation in any Indian State we have just concluded an agreement for 100 years with the Raja of Mandi, renewable by agreement. We have our own Magistrate in the State and can bring in troops at any time to keep order. In all our negotiations with the Raja of Mandi we have sought to make him our co-partner with us so that his and our own interests coincide from first to last.

Fifth.—From what the honourable member said just now it sounds as if the dam were being constructed on the peak 6,000 feet high. This is not the case. The dam will be constructed in a rock gorge 300 feet wide with nearly vertical walls on either side.

Sixth.—Some explanation is needed with regard to the two Madhopur projects, reported on by Mr. Murray and Mr. Sangster, respectively. The first proposal referred to by Mr. Murray contained four stages of which the first involved an unlined headreach and a forebay on a bank 40 feet high, composed of shingle and boulders. This scheme did not conflict much with the canal operation and was not based upon diurnal storage. The project was objectionable on account of the high bank which was referred to the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India, who said that the Government of India would not allow this structure on account of its being dangerous to the locality. The project criticized by Mr. Sangster did not contain this first stage, but depends upon diurnal storage and is closely connected with the operation of the canal.

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Seventh.—The honourable member said that if anything happens to the hydro-electric scheme the water can be diverted into the existing channel. But this is exactly what will happen, and the hydro-electric scheme will come to a standstill. There is no interference with the irrigation at present, nor need there be if the hydro-electric scheme were put out of its operation. What we contend is that both cannot be operated simultaneously with diurnal storage. Now diurnal storage is necessary whenever the water falls below 5,000 cusecs, and for several weeks the water is dirty and yet below 5,000 cusecs; diurnal storage has therefore to be resorted to with dirty water. It is true that alternative channels could be provided, but we cannot provide alternative storages amounting to over 160 million cubic feet, and it is the diurnal storage reservoirs which will silt up and stop the operation of the hydro-electric scheme.

There are two diurnal storages needed—one above the power station and one below. The diurnal storage above the station is required for operating the hydro-electric scheme and if this silts up the hydro-electric scheme shuts down. The one below the power station is required in order to maintain a non-fluctuating flow in the canal. If this silts up the canal storage will either fluctuate or water will have to be cut off and run to waste, in either of which alternatives canal operation will suffer.

Sir, it is no small responsibility to recommend a province to adopt a project costing 5 crores of rupees and when we saw that it would be necessary to have our project examined by independent parties we welcomed the decision. We felt that we should be able to sleep more happily in our beds after such examination. At the same time it made us mighty careful about what we were doing. Any engineer who has any reputation to lose or to make is not going to take any risk of having his project pulled to pieces. We were therefore extremely careful so as to pitch our rates so as to be above criticism and not to omit any item of importance. It is probably not known that this project was completed 1½ years ago so there has not been much hot haste about its adoption. When we understood that the project was going to be examined we specially recommended that, at any rate on the financial side, it should be examined preferably by non-officials with business experience in the sale of power to markets in India similar to those with which we are likely to deal. The project has been examined by no less than 17 different engineers—4 Punjab officials, 5 Indian Government officials and 8 non-officials. Of the two firms of Consulting Engineers one was suggested by the Government of India—Messrs. Merz and McLellan—and the other was suggested by them after my arrival in London. Amongst the engineers who examined the project was the Consulting Engineer of the Government of India, the Chief Engineer of the Punjab Irrigation Department, the Deputy Chief Engineer of the North-Western Railway, the Chief Engineer and Manager of the Mysore Hydro-Electric Scheme and a Director of Messrs. Begg, Sutherland and Company, who are the managing agents for the Cawnpore Electric Supply Company. This examination has cost Government 1½ lacs. But this is not all.

We have recently obtained information to the effect that over 4,000 horse-power of oil engines has been sold in Lahore for use in this part of the Punjab during the last eight months. The value of these is about six lacs. If sanction to this project is delayed another 6 months the completion will also be delayed six months—during that time it is possible that another 3,000 horse-power may have to be installed at a cost of four lacs to this

community so that the actual cost to the community of six months' delay will not only be $1\frac{1}{2}$ lacs of the public money, but $4\frac{1}{2}$ lacs in all. We cannot differentiate between the money spent by private individuals and money spent by Government. It is all Punjab money. For example, if $1\frac{1}{2}$ years ago it had been decided to sanction this project, instead of spending 18 months in having it examined, it would probably not have been necessary for the Lahore Electric Supply Company to spend 10 lacs on extensions and some 6 lacs of expenditure in Amritsar might have been avoided. The total cost of this examination has therefore not been $1\frac{1}{2}$ lacs, but something more like $17\frac{1}{2}$ lacs, certainly over 10. But this is not all. It may be said that this is money spent by a private company, but it all comes back to the public and the consumer—how?—I will try and explain. If Lahore and Amritsar had not had to spend 16 lacs in installing steam plant—upon which they have to pay both interest and depreciation separately—we could have charged a much higher rate for the power which we could sell them. But the price which we can now induce them to pay is less by the amount of these standing charges on this unnecessary capital. I repeat therefore that six months' further delay is going to cost the community not $1\frac{1}{2}$ lacs, but something over 3 or 4 lacs.

We are concerned, however, not merely to prove that the Mandi scheme is a sound one but also to show that it is the best obtainable. With this object in view we have carried out one of the most complete hydro-electric surveys yet made outside Europe and America. During the last three years at a cost of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lacs we examined and reported on over 200 sites, involving over $2\frac{1}{2}$ million horse-power. Not one of these sites can be compared in general excellence with that in the Mandi State and we are therefore satisfied that this is the best possible site to adopt.

We engineers with experience of operating hydro-electric stations find it difficult to take this Madhopur proposition seriously. First of all, it is not a water-power site at all. It would be as easy to build a hydro-electric scheme here near Lahore, digging a hole in the ground 30 or 40 feet deep, put a power station at the bottom and taking the water out in a deep cutting 5 or 6 miles in length. The whole proposal is entirely artificial. Moreover, the scheme is beset with operating difficulties. It is probably not appreciated that the operation of a hydro-electric scheme on a dirty river on a large scale has not yet been satisfactorily solved. Nobody who has not had to operate a power station supplying a large number of towns under difficulties of this nature when one's whole staff has had to work night and day to keep a supply running on which even the lives of men depend, with everyone's nerves strained and things running from bad to worse, know what it means to operate under such difficulties. No engineer with experience would contemplate for one moment a project of this nature. I have a drawing here which would show you the difference in the magnitude of the works of the Madhopur scheme and the Mandi scheme. The length of the Madhopur canal is actually 10 times as great as Mandi—30 miles as against 3. The cross-sections of the channels are 10 times as great and in cuttings 10 times as deep. The Madhopur scheme is constructed throughout on katcha, soft alluvial deposit consisting of shingle and sand, while the Mandi scheme is constructed in solid granite, requiring no maintenance whatever. The Madhopur scheme involves the maintenance of four power stations, one of them a steam-power station, which was not included in the third scheme, but has been now included in the fourth scheme into which the scheme has now

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been recast, as against one only in Mandi. The Madhopur scheme was thoroughly examined three years ago and has been recast three times and during the last few weeks has been again recast for the fourth time. What would happen to the Mandi scheme if after each examination we had to recast it?

The Madhopur scheme has been represented as costing 177 lacs, but no provision was made for transmitting or distributing the power so generated, and no proposals have been made as to where the capital is to come from to meet these items, which will cost another 250 lacs. What would happen to the Mandi project if we had made omissions of this nature from our estimates? Again the Madhopur scheme claims a capacity of well over 100 thousand kw s., but I find on looking at it that this is based on five stages of which the fourth consists of an entirely different undertaking on the Ravi above Madhopur with a separate headworks and channel and the fifth a separate development altogether at Rasul requiring over 115 miles of transmission line to connect it up. If the Madhopur scheme is going to be allowed to take credit for such things, the Mandi scheme can claim the same, but without a single mile of additional transmission line and on exactly the same site. In our report on the hydro-electric survey we have pointed out that by connecting up the Kula valley with the headworks of the Mandi project by means of a tunnel which would not cost over 1 crore of rupees we can bring the whole Beas into our headworks and drop it through 3,750 feet, giving us an output of over 500,000 kw's. If, however, we are also allowed to make use of transmission lines we can justifiably claim $2\frac{1}{2}$ million horse-power. Such claims for the Madhopur scheme are therefore worthless.

References have been made to the difference between rural and urban interests and the possibility of communal differences on this account. This is just what the Madhopur scheme would do! Ten years hence hydro-electric power will have become so important to the community that it will be as impossible to get any motion adopted which threatens to interfere with its continuity as it is at present impossible to suggest any such motion interfering with irrigation. In the Madhopur scheme the two interests of irrigation and water-power will be always conflicting, and as these—at any rate during the early stages—will affect the rural and urban communities respectively, the matter is certain to become a political question, and the technical administration of these two important departments will be utterly ruined. I think the House will agree with me that past history certainly indicates that political interference with a technical administration has always resulted in inefficiency, if not actual ruin.

The Mandi project is entirely free from any fear of this characteristic.

Remarks have been made tending to indicate that the Mandi project is only going to benefit the industrial community, whereas the Madhopur scheme will benefit the agriculturists. This is not the case. The Mandi project is based for its inception on the industrial market because that is the only one at present that we can assure. We have been very careful to avoid taking credit in our revenue for any markets which cannot be absolutely assured, for example, tube-wells which have not been tried on a large scale. But in order to have this matter investigated we have had several meetings of the Director of Agriculture, the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, the

Principal of the Agricultural College, the Agricultural Engineer and Mr. Stewart, a Professor of the same, and the conclusions of these meetings are given in the pamphlet circulated to members. I had a talk with the Director of Agriculture last night and he told me that he had been into his figures all over again because he wanted to make sure that we were on the safe side and he had come to the conclusion that the figures which we have published are absolutely safe and he agrees with me that in the course of time—not now but 30 or 40 years hence—electric power will be more important to the agricultural community than to the towns, which is just the situation that now exists in California and other countries that could be named.

Suggestions have been made that we should hand over our water-powers to private enterprise for development. At the recent World Power Conference held at Wembley, to which I was a delegate from this province and which was the first occasion in history where the leading power engineers of the world had met together in conference and at which over 40 different nationalities were represented, including the best brains of Europe and America, there were several discussions on this very question. One of the most outstanding facts that came out of all these discussions was that for the economic development of water-power on a large scale large blocks of capital are necessary at a cheap rate of interest—not exceeding 6 per cent—and that to obtain these large blocks of capital the very best credit was necessary. It also came out that, with the exception perhaps of the United States of America, such credit could not be found in private enterprise and every country was being compelled to resort to Government credit for raising these large sums at the low rates essential. If this province were to hand over its water-powers to private enterprise at this stage we should be flying in the face of the whole world's experience. Does private enterprise in the province at the present moment possess sufficient credit to be able to raise four millions sterling at a rate anywhere approaching 6 per cent interest? And does our previous experience in the management even of small electric supply undertakings justify any optimism in regard to facilities in raising large sums of capital of this nature?

I will now answer some of the criticisms made against the Mandi scheme, which fall under three heads: earthquakes, water discharges and the tramway.

As regards the earthquake question, I sent Dr. Pascoe, the Director of the Geological Survey of India, an extract from the *Tribune* in which this criticism appeared, and this is his reply:—

"The Madhopur site is just as much within the earthquake zone as the Mandi one. There is nothing whatever to choose between the relative vulnerability of the two sites. You are just as likely to get a shock at Madhopur as at Harabagh. The fact that Madhopur is 10 miles further from Dharmasala means nothing. The fact that the last earthquake was felt more severely at Dharmasala than at most other places does not by any means mean that the next earthquake will effect Dharmasala more than the other locality. In fact, the instability at Dharmasala having recently been relieved, one would be more inclined to expect any future readjustment of strain to take place with maximum stress at some other spot; there is no advantage worth consideration in the rival site."

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If we are not to construct a dam for hydro-electric purposes, it stands to reason, in view of what Dr. Pascoe tells us, that we must also give up any idea of dams for irrigation storage purposes. This means that both the Bhakra Dam and Wooller Lake storage schemes on which Mr. Sangster has been working for some time past must be discarded at once. It seems to me that the honourable Professor is treading on very dangerous ground when making such a suggestion. Dr. Pascoe tells us that the Punjab has got to choose between a shaking now and again (because that is what he means) or remaining an undeveloped province. Does the honourable Professor seriously suggest that we should give up all further development because of a possibility of an earthquake shock taking place within the next 100 years? If so, we must give up the idea of motoring and flying, and the Punjab 100 years hence will be peopled not by a race of men, of which we are justly proud, but by a race of crustaceans.

I travelled back to India last August with an American gentleman who was in the Tokio disaster and was on his way back to Tokio after a visit to America. He had considerable experience connected with the construction of steel-frame buildings and he told me that the steel-frame buildings recently constructed by an American firm in Tokio had not suffered from the earthquake. It stands to reason, I think, that, when we can construct 52-storeyed steel-frame buildings nearly 1,000 feet in height to withstand gales at 90 miles an hour, we have to deal with stresses which are no less than those to which a 50-foot building is subjected by an earthquake with a horizontal acceleration equal to about $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of that of gravity. We have therefore said in the pamphlet circulated to the members that we should as a matter of principle construct all our buildings of earthquake-proof design, no matter where they were located in the Punjab.

With regard to the water discharges, we have four gaugings on the Uhl, one on each tributary, another just below where they meet and a fourth further downstream. The water-levels at these four gaugings are read by an ex-soldier and sent to Simla every week where they are plotted, and if all four gauge readings do not tally we know that there is some mistake made either in the calculations or in the readings so it is impossible to arrive at false results or for the gauge reader to give us false figures without being found out. These gauging places are reconstructed after each year's flood season and are calibrated by means of a Cook's current meter three times every winter by an officer of this department from which the gauge discharge curves are prepared.

I find in the printed statement circulated to the members yesterday that it is stated that "it transpires that on No. 1 gauge the water-level fell to 1 foot". This is incorrect. We have been into this matter this very morning and we find that there has been a misunderstanding between the gentleman who visited the gauge reader last February and the gauge reader himself. No. 1 gauge fell from 2'42 to 2'0 feet on the 12th and 13th of January 1923, while it was No. 2 gauge which fell to about 1 foot (1'5 to about 1'12 to be exact); the discharge corresponding to 1'12 on No. 2 gauge is 100 cusecs, and not 29, as stated. Our gauge readings show that with two exceptions the river has never fallen below 1'40 cusecs during the last three winters. The two occasions were—

In January 1923 the gauge reading on the 11th was 177 and on the 14th, 194.

On the 12th and 13th the discharge on all four gauges fell to 100 cusecs which was the occasion of the great storm of that date. The second occasion was that on the 13th of February last month when the discharge fell for one day to 120 cusecs. As regards the temperature readings, most of our catchment lies on about 10,000 feet and is surrounded by peaks rising from 15,000 to 17,000 feet in height. The nearest meteorological station under these conditions is at Leh and the mean minimum temperatures in January for the last 20 years at that place have varied from 10 to 7 and 8, three times fell to 3.0 and only once to 1.1, which occurred in the year 1922-23, when our gaugings were taken. The honourable member has stated that our reservoir site will silt up. We have anticipated this difficulty and have estimated for a tunnel capable of carrying the whole summer discharges, the tunnel being closed when the water clears and the reservoir filled up. Sir Alexander Gibb in his report says that he thinks that it will not be necessary to resort to this expedient as the amount of the silt brought down by the river is not likely to be sufficient to warrant the extra expenditure. We have, however, included it in this project at this stage, but have proposed postponing the construction of the dam for some years until we have had further information regarding the river. Last August we started taking samples of the water every week and these samples show that the water is clear throughout the whole of September and that Sir Alexander Gibb's recommendations will probably prove to be justified.

I want, however, to make it clear that our project does not depend upon the minimum daily discharge, but upon the total mass discharge throughout these three cold months. The actual estimated capacity of the site, namely 118,000 KW., is actually 11 per cent less than what would have been obtainable in 1922-23 with a dam 250 feet high. We can, however, if necessary, raise the dam to 270 feet and increase the storage, which would increase our capacity by another 22 per cent, based on that one discharge, bringing it up to 140,000 KW. We therefore have ample margin on our estimated capacity.

The tramway proposal has been criticized on the score that there will not be sufficient traffic to justify its existence. The traffic estimates are, however, based upon a traffic survey made by Mr. Pickett of the North-Western Railway in 1914, and the Deputy Chief Engineer who examined our proposals has made a special study of traffic estimates with a view to improving the methods hitherto adopted by the North-Western Railway for estimating their projects from this point of view. This is one of the reasons that we called him in to advise on this point.

I will now, if I may, draw attention to a few facts of the Mandi scheme on the financial side.

In the pamphlet circulated to members the cost of the hydro-electric scheme proper is shown as 461 lacs. The actual expenditure necessary to get the scheme started is only 441—20 lacs being required to extend sub-stations and transformers after the scheme has started.

The 25 lakhs for the mill conversion fund and local distribution consists of 8½ lakhs for the mill conversion fund and of the remaining 17 for local distribution—only 6 lakhs is required at the commencement, the remaining 11 being required for extending the local distribution after the scheme has been started.

The local distribution covered by this figure consists of low-tension domestic distribution and street lighting only, and is a self-supporting pro-

[LT.-COL. B. C. BATTYE.]

position capable of paying a 6 per cent return. The capital figure of 441 lacs, however, includes a local distribution to all mills over 10 h. p. in capacity, in all the towns, except those in which licensees at present exist; the working expenses also provide for distribution up to the actual mill itself.

4 P. M.

The cost of power quoted in the pamphlet is therefore the average cost of delivering power actually up to the mill.

The real difficulty in launching a project of this type is to get it started without the need of a heavy subsidy. It is usual to have to subsidize projects of this nature during the first few years of operation. We therefore circularized all the mill-owners covered by the first stage of the scheme so as to find out to what extent they would be prepared to support us and use our power as soon as it became available. We did not expect very much from this, but we received an unexpected response and something like half the mill-owners in the province responded to our appeal, with the result that we shall not now have to ask you for a subsidy after the completion of a first broken year's operation.

The actual working expenses during the first year or two of operation will be only 32½ lacs per annum; this will rise owing to the necessity of spending more money on maintenance to 36 lakhs in the third, fourth and fifth years. After the fifth year the expenditure will rise to 47½ lakhs owing to the addition of depreciation charges and royalty.

It should be explained that depreciation has been estimated so as to repay the whole of our capital in about 30 years by slightly increasing the rate of depreciation so as to repay the whole amount in 25 years; by this means, we have been able to postpone depreciation charges for 5 years until the scheme is on its feet.

There is at present or about to be installed in that portion of the province covered by stage 1 of the scheme some 30,500 KW.'s, of motive power. Of this 16,000 KW.'s have been promised and is sure, which promises will probably increase by 50 per cent during the 4 years between now and the completion of the scheme. Local distribution ensures another 1,100 KW.'s; while understandings have been arrived at with other Government departments which will bring in another 5,600 KW.'s. In addition to this 3,000 KW.'s are still under negotiation, making a total of 45,700 KW.'s which will bring in a revenue of 39½ lakhs per annum at an average rate of about 9½ pies per unit.

In 1920 we made a census of the motive power installed in the province during the previous 20 years, and we found that this had been approximately doubling itself every 10 years. In 1923 we made another census and found that in those 3 years the motive power installed had increased by about 40 per cent and that now there are some 30,500 KW.'s. installed or being installed in the area covered by stage 1.

Ten years hence, by the time the project has been in operation for 4 or 5 years, this will have risen, at the present rate of development and without taking into consideration any increased rate due to the existence of cheap water-power, to over 47,000 KW.'s. This exceeds the capacity of stage 1 by several thousand kilowatts. The surplus over working expenses on stage 1, when fully loaded, will be 14 lakhs per annum, while the surplus when the whole scheme has been developed will be about 1 crore per year.

It has been suggested that the project estimates may be exceeded. With regard to this point I would like to point out that the estimates for plant and machinery are based upon prices being approximately 50 per cent above pre-war figures. Prices are still dropping and by the time we have to place orders will probably have dropped to very nearly pre-war figures. For the construction of the scheme we propose to use hydro-electric power obtained from a temporary plant throughout. We shall therefore be free from fluctuations in the cost of unskilled labour.

Finally, the engineers who scrutinized the revenue estimates say in their report that they think that our load and diversity factors are conservative and that the revenue per kw. will exceed that estimated. These factors, if taken into account together with the surplus on stage 1, will permit of an excess on the estimate of somewhere over two and three hundred lacs without making the project unproductive.

Sir, I am a believer in the Punjab. This province is destined to lead, if not to rule, the rest of India. We have been the world's pioneers in big irrigation. We are accustomed to big enterprises and we in this Council now for the first time in history are asked to vote in favour of another big enterprise, but of a slightly different type. Just because it is of a different type and just because we are new to these responsibilities—are we going to be cowardly and end by compelling this province in its turn to experience all the disappointment and disillusionment that we of the West have suffered from, especially with reference to the cheap electric power in England, or are we to emulate countries like New Zealand and Japan, and profit by the experience of others? Start where others have left off? And end by leading all India to a better and healthier way of industry?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Minister for Agriculture) (Urdu): Sir, The subject under consideration has been discussed at great length and I think there is no need of going into details on my part. I shall confine my remarks to a few important points only. Some of the honourable members who have spoken about the hydro-electric scheme are under the impression that as the Mandi scheme has already been approved by Government and the Madhopur scheme is a private one Government engineers oppose the latter lest their own scheme should be supplanted by a private scheme. This impression is wrong. Probably these gentlemen do not know that no private syndicate can enter upon such schemes until Government accords its sanction. Had the Madhopur scheme been more productive of good and wealth Government would certainly have selected it and would have unhesitatingly adopted it. But I regret that this scheme is technically unsound. Some people say that Colonel Battye is Superintending Engineer under Government and that the Mandi scheme is being worked under his direction, therefore Colonel Battye, being the originator of the scheme, does not want to give due consideration to other schemes. Sir, I would like to dispel this suspicion from the minds of those members who entertain it. The fact of the matter is that Colonel Battye at first gave preference to the Nangal scheme over the Mandi scheme and when the matter came before the Electricity Board he was opposed to the Mandi scheme. Subsequently he was asked to inspect the site. Accordingly he went to the spot and surveyed the situation with regard to the site and its suburbs. After his inspection he changed his mind and became convinced that the Mandi scheme

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was the best of all. It was after this that he did not favour any other scheme, and it is utterly wrong to think that the Mandi scheme was Colonel Batty's pet from the start.

Another point which I would like to mention is this : that at the time when the question of the hydro-electric enterprise arose the Madhopur scheme was not thought fit to be embarked upon. This scheme was carefully considered by my honourable friend Lala Harkishen Lal who has very great experience in matters relating to electricity. He gave his utmost consideration to the Madhopur scheme, but chose the Nangal scheme as a better and sounder enterprise. The fact that the Madhopur scheme is considered to be inferior to the Nangal scheme, which has been found to be inferior to Mandi, clearly shows that it has no comparison with the Mandi scheme. Mention has also been made of the fact that the Madhopur scheme can be completed at the cost of only 1½ crores of rupees and that it can be worked at comparatively lower expense. In this connection I would draw the attention of honourable members to the pamphlet which was distributed on the 9th instant. Perhaps the opposers of the Mandi scheme have not cared to study it. A careful perusal of its contents will certainly show the relative expenses which are likely to be incurred on both these schemes. So far as the Mandi scheme is concerned, every detail of expenditure is given, while Mr. Sharma has omitted from his estimate of the Madhopur scheme four very necessary items.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : May I ask just one question of the Honourable Minister ? Can he give us reasons why he is not prepared to call for a meeting of non-official experts. We don't want these details. They are only of a secondary character. It will take perhaps only a week to do that.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Urdu) : Sir, the committee of experts have calculated the expenditure under these heads at page 19 of the pamphlet as follows :—

	Laos.
(1) Sub-stations and local high tension distribution ...	33.8
(2) Transmission lines, including depots, quarters and telephone system ...	84.02
(3) High tension switchgear transformers, etc. ...	15.00
(4) Charges on account of interest during construction, engineering establishment, etc. ...	85.00

This comes to a total of 2,50.82 lakhs. These four heads were important and ought not to have been overlooked. In the Mandi scheme the expenditure under these heads has been shown and is included in the total of four and a half crores of rupees. But, as Mr. Sharma has not shown any sum under these heads, we cannot accept the total expenditure of the Madhopur scheme to be only 1½ crores and compare it with the total expenditure of the Mandi scheme.

Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni : Has the Honourable Minister read the rejoinder to this pamphlet which has been published ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Urdu) : Now, Sir, of the expenditure under these heads he counted as 2,50 lakhs, then what will be the cost per unit ?

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz (Urdu) : Sir, is it not a fact that the cost per unit will be 9½ pies?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Urdu) : Then, Sir, if the Madhopur scheme is taken in hand I am afraid it would not be cheaper than the Mandi scheme and the generation of energy will cost more than in the case of the Mandi scheme. Mr. Sharma was given ample opportunity to draw up a detailed statement, but he was unable to make any definite calculations. I should bring it to the notice of the House that the Madhopur scheme will supply 32,000 kilowatts, while the Mandi scheme will produce 36,000 kilowatts, and the capital outlay in the Madhopur scheme would be 4.87 lakhs and for that of the Mandi scheme it will come to 4.60-73 lacs. The annual expenditure of the Madhopur scheme will be 55.00 lacs, while 51.07 lacs annual expenditure only will be incurred on the Mandi scheme. The cost per unit in the Madhopur scheme will be 9½ pies and in the Mandi scheme the cost will be 7½ pies only.

Now, Sir, I shall come to the suggestion of Dr. Gokul Chand regarding the appointment of another committee of experts. There is a proverb in the south-eastern districts of the Panjab and it might be current in other districts also. When an acrobat performs a feat on the ropes the drummer generally shouts that he is not satisfied. The object of his shouting dissatisfaction is to secure a repetition of the performance to please the spectators not that he is really dissatisfied.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : And the second performance is generally better than the first.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Urdu) : Now, Sir, if the drummer will not express satisfaction even with the finest display of feats, what is to be done? Obviously the drummer only seeks to amuse the people. We could repeat the performance if it did not involve any further expenditure. But unfortunately it does. Sir, if it is desired that a further period of six months be spent over this matter again, it will serve no purpose. The Mandi scheme has only the other day been examined thoroughly by Colonel Battye and three other experts of high standing and, if, another committee is appointed, I fear my honourable friends will, when this committee has finished its labours, ask for the appointment of yet another committee.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : May I ask the Honourable Minister whether any committee has sat with both the schemes before it and has considered the relative merits of both?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Urdu) : I may point out that after the Simla season an acquaintance of mine who was connected with the Madhopur scheme met me and said that as a sum of 5 crores of public money was to be spent on the hydro-electric project more care and caution is required. Similarly some other friends of mine made remarks to the effect that in such-like schemes one should be more careful. I was naturally impressed with these suggestions. Consequently I saw His Excellency the Governor in connection with the Mandi scheme and conferred with Colonel Battye with reference to some more important points. No doubt I know precious little about electricity myself and have naturally to depend upon the opinions expressed by the Government experts, yet I decided to discuss the scheme thoroughly once again and appointed a representative committee of this House, including members of the House who had practical experience of

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matters of this kind. Accordingly the committee was appointed and Sir Sayad Mehdi Shah, Lieutenant Sikandar Hayat Khan, Raja Narendra Nath, Chaudhri Duli Chand, Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din, Sardar Randhir Singh, Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh, Sir Gopal Das, Pir Muhammad Hussain and Colonel Battye were nominated to serve on the committee.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : And these men were all experts?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Urdu) : I regret that I could not find better experts in the Council otherwise I would have nominated them. When the abovementioned committee met it wanted Mr. Sharma to present his scheme and enumerate the defects of the Mandi scheme, but it is a matter of regret that Mr. Sharma could not take part in the deliberations of the committee. I may mention that we have already invited Sir Frederic Gebbie in order that we may discuss the matter with him and obtain his views. Later on it was thought fit that two more experts of renown may be co-opted. One of them was Captain Whittaker, Principal of the Mughalpura Engineering College, who has got a considerable experience of hydro-electric schemes. The other expert was Mr. Webb. Mr. Sharma had often referred to Sweden as possessing several hydro-electric projects, and Mr. Webb, manager of an Anglo-Swedish Firm, was personally acquainted with all the most important schemes in Sweden and Norway and other countries. His knowledge and experience were unquestionable. He gave his opinion quite dispassionately. The expert committee of these three gentlemen drafted a report which came up before the committee of Council members who subsequently observed that in face of that report the Mandi scheme might well be recommended to Government.

My friend Dr. Gokul Chand has remarked that he was unable to understand how the Madhopur scheme was likely to interfere with the irrigation of the province. I think Mr. Sangster has explained it very lucidly. Probably Dr. Gokul Chand did not care to hear what Mr. Sangster stated.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I may draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to the fact that the framers of the Madhopur scheme had provided an escape when the water is not wanted in the canals which will go directly into the river which is only three miles.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : And thus deprive the irrigation?

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I said that when the water was not wanted.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Urdu) : It is quite clear that the Madhopur scheme will adversely affect the irrigation of the province. Those who know about mud and silt which is collected in the canals can easily imagine that there is every probability of the canal being silted. Everybody is well aware of the fact that during the rainy season canals are closed to avoid silt. Mr. Sharma's scheme entirely depends upon the diurnal storage of water and, if this is done, the canals will certainly be filled up with silt, etc.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : A separate channel can be built.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Urdu) : My friend says that a separate channel might well be constructed. Now, Sir, if a separate channel is constructed, the silt will come to both places and the

same state of affairs will ensue. Every layman can understand that an hydro-electric scheme, which is dependent upon diurnal storage of water, cannot be worked without injury to irrigation. My friend Dr. Gokul Chand has made mention of Rai Bahadur Makhan Lal and Rai Bahadur Rallia Ram. I have great respect for these gentlemen and they are worthy friends of some of my acquaintances. But I am sorry I cannot attach more weight to their views because of the fact that they are connected with the private scheme and are naturally in a position to derive benefit in case a scheme other than Mandi is approved. I am unable to give preference to their views over those of Government officers. Government officers have no personal interest. They are employes of Government and as such they have to work as they are directed. Had the gentlemen named above been disinterested I would have given more weight to their opinion. Moreover some of them have no experience of hydro-electric works.

Professor Ruchi Ram: Is it not a fact that Rai Bahadur Makhan Lal's experience is long and is more extensive than that of the Government expert and also that Makhan Lal has constructed a hydro-electric scheme while the Government expert who is responsible for the Mandi scheme has not constructed any hydro-electric scheme and that he is only a supervisor.

Mr. President: I am afraid we are going a little too far into personal considerations.

Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: I said nothing of this kind. Dr. Gokul Chand said some thing about the sincerity of Rai Bahadur Makhan Lal, etc., being questioned. My honourable friend has been saying that more weight should be attached to their opinion than what is being attached hitherto. I have a right to say that that weight cannot be attached to their opinion when they are themselves interested pecuniarily in this matter.

Mr. President: You have already met that point, please go to another point.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Am I not entitled to explain the circumstances which prevent full weight being attached to their opinions?

Mr. President: I think that that point has already been met. Perhaps it would be desirable if you go to another point.

(After this the Honourable Minister for Agriculture resumed his seat.)

Mr. President: Grant under discussion, reduction moved:—

"That the total grant be reduced by Rs. 1—Hydro-electric scheme—Capital expenditure".

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh, Urban): Sir, before moving my amendment*, I should like to have some information from the Honourable the Finance Member. The Finance Committee recommended that this sum of 5 lakhs be spent on the residences of non-gazetted as well as gazetted officers. Has that recommendation been accepted by the Government?

* That the grant be reduced by Rs. 5,00,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,00,000—Construction of residences for Government servants.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Yes, Sir.

Sardar Jodh Singh : Then I do not want to move the amendment*.

Mr. President : The question is—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,64,83,000 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 1926 in respect of Civil Works (Transferred—both Revenue and Capital).”

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. 1,50,000 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 1926 in respect of Civil Works (Reserved).”

The motion was carried.

INDUSTRIES (BOTH REVENUE AND CAPITAL) GRANT.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I beg to move—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,13,000 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 1926 in respect of Industries (both Revenue and Capital).”

Mr. President : The question is—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,13,000 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 1926 in respect of Industries (both Revenue and Capital).”

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban] : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 58,300 with respect to the item of Rs. 58,300—Fisheries.”

While moving this amendment I do not want to make any lengthy speech. This Rs. 58,300 is on account of fisheries under this demand. Now, I find that this industry of fisheries brings in Rs. 3,500 or so to the national treasury of the Punjab.....

Mr. Miles Irving (Financial Secretary) : There is also another item of Rs. 40,000 under Land Revenue.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Will you kindly refer to the page?

Mr. Miles Irving : Page 17 of the Budget. It is very unfortunate that this revenue is shown in two places. There is the item of Rs. 40,000 under rents, etc., of Fisheries under Land Revenue and there is also a small item of Rs. 3,500 under Industries. The total income is Rs. 43,500.

* That the grant be reduced by Rs. 5,00,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 5,00,000—Construction of residences for Government servants.

GOVERNMENT'S DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—INDUSTRIES (BOTH REVENUE AND 503
CAPITAL) GRANT.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: How is the income shown under two different heads?

Mr. Miles Irving: The Accountant-General insisted on the income being shown under the head of the department which collected it. The rents of fisheries are collected by the Deputy Commissioner, so they are shown under Land Revenue. The other sum is collected by the Warden of Fisheries.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: If this income of Rs. 40,000 is really an income derived from Fisheries and there is the other item of Rs. 3,500 derived from Fisheries, I do not consider it worthwhile pressing my amendment, because that is some income and it may rise, so in that case I ask for leave to withdraw my amendment.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Owen Roberts (Nominated Non-official):

Sir, I move the amendment standing in my name:—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 100 with respect to the item of Rs. 7,91,000—
Total net expenditure, 35—Industries."

I have brought this matter up with a view to draw the attention of Government to the necessity for the commercial and industrial development of the province.

When I first commenced to go into the subject I was under the impression that there was no organisation for presenting commercial and industrial data or for co-ordinating the various activities of Government which may be classified as being of importance to commercial and industrial interests. On looking through the reports of the Department of Industries, however, I find that in the first report issued by that department in 1921, the Director writes:—

"According to the Industrial Committee's report to which the Local Government have generally agreed the Industries Department will be responsible for"

Immediately below this a list of no less than twenty items is given for which responsibility is accepted. I will not take up your time by reading these at length but will take two items out of the list to illustrate my meaning:—

Item (5) reads:—"The collection and distribution of commercial and industrial intelligence."

In paragraph 23 of the report the Director comments on this and I will read the passages:—

"This will be a very important branch of the work. To collect this information, I proposed appointing six industrial surveyors The necessity for these will be more apparent when it is considered that besides doing this work, they will have to make industrial surveys, organise markets for local products and collect statistics of production and employment."

The only comment I have to make on this passage is that these men would not only require to be geniuses but they would also be the hardest worked men in the world, but perhaps it becomes explicable when one looks closer into the reports. The only direct reference I have been able to discover in connection with the commercial activities of the department occurs in the report for the year 1923 from which I will read—

"The progress of the Punjab Arts and Crafts Depot has been satisfactory, and its working for the last six months of the year under review showed a profit."

[Mr. OWEN Roberts.]

There is more to the paragraph but it is not relevant, Sir, the total trade of the Panjab, from the last figures obtainable by me is built up of imports to the value of 63½ crores and exports to the value of 27 crores, in all some 90 crores of rupees and the only reference to the commercial side of the department's activities relates to the Arts and Crafts Department of the School of Art, a small part of the activities of that school!

I think the Council will agree with me that there is a lack of appreciation of the importance of the subject.

A short time ago I was serving on a small committee dealing with the question of the production of agricultural statistics and data relating to prices and drew attention to what appeared to me to be the greatest weakness in the chain of production of these and other statistical data and that is the absence of any official agency for the presentation of these figures from the commercial point of view. The subject was outside the terms of reference of the committee but I think it was generally in agreement with me and as it was recognised that an agency could not be brought into existence, especially for this purpose only, I put up a list of subject which I suggested should be handled through the same agency, at the same time, not claiming that the list was in any sense complete. The subjects detailed were :—

1. Collection and Distribution of data regarding Imports and Exports of everything to and from the provinces.
2. Powers to deal with Chambers of Commerce and coordinate their working.
3. Commercial relations with Posts, Telegraphs and Railways.
4. Opening up and maintenance of communications.
5. All matters relating to existing commercial law and the commercial interests.
The maintenance of a bureau of information giving access to data regarding sources of manufacture, prices, etc., and so on the other hand information regarding possible markets for produce, agricultural or industrial, prices, etc.
7. Co-ordination with commercial departments of Government, *e.g.*, Forests, etc.
8. Matters relating to Banking, Bank Rates, Loans, etc.
9. Trade reviews.
10. Taxation affecting Commerce or Industry, Municipal, Provincial and Imperial.

I will now refer to another of the self-imposed functions of the Department of Industries.

Item No. 3 on the list already referred to reads :—

"To compile and comment on Railway statistics."

Again in paragraph 34 of the report one reads :—

"The system now adopted by the Railway of recording statistics has recently been greatly improved. Monthly statistics can, I understand, now be published shortly after the completion of each month—these will be obtained from the Railway Authorities. The commenting on the statistics will be done by the Director of Industries."

This would have been a most useful activity of the department but its inability to cope with this function is to be realised from the fact that within a few months of the writing of these lines, the statistics referred to were discontinued and it has not been possible so far to secure their resumption.

In fact, Sir, this one subject of Railways alone serves to illustrate the confusion and lack of method that permeates the promotion of commercial interests.

I have asked two questions relating to Railways; the first was answered by the Chief Secretary, and the next, although it related to the figures referred to above, the subject being admittedly under the Ministry of Agriculture, was replied to by the Minister for Education! This is typical of the confusion that seems to exist when commercial matters are dealt with and it is doing great injury to the province and means that the producer, whether agricultural or industrial, is not doing as well as he ought to be.

The sources of business are hidden and information difficult to obtain while the tendency should be to make business less cryptic and more open so as to induce more people to come into the field. By so doing, you will widen the basis of trade, increase competition and get better prices for your producers.

The lack of such a policy unfortunately has other results.

In opening the general debate on the Budget, the honourable member Doctor Gokal Chand, Narang, drew, what I believe he intended to be a pitiful picture of the condition of India. He pleaded, Sir, that if he wished to buy, even a pen, to address you a letter with, he had to pay money to the West for it and that foreigners dictated to the Indians the conditions and prices at which Indian produce is sold. Arguing on similar lines, Sir, I might claim his sympathy for the unfortunate sweated British mechanic—sweated to produce a pen for India at prices vastly lower than Indians can produce it for themselves and then compelled to return to India the meagre profits on the transaction in exchange for wheat which he cannot grow and for which the uttermost farthing is exacted.

Sir, both these statements are false and if it had been the policy of Government to disseminate information and encourage commerce in an efficient manner it would not have been possible for such a statement to have been made and I trust Government will do all in its power to improve the present state of affairs.

Mr. President: Grant under discussion, reduction moved:—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 100 with respect to the item of Rs. 7,91,000—
Total net expenditure, 35—Industries."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. C. A. Barron (Financial Commissioner): Sir, my honourable friend's complaint seems to be due mainly to the absence of commercial intelligence and information as to the movements of produce, both commercial and agricultural. We used to publish voluminous quarterly statistics of the rail-borne and river borne trade of the province, internal and external. These statistics came from every province and went up to the Government of India, and were published in enormous volumes by the Department of Commerce. Now these subjects are transferred subjects, and the Department of Commerce saw no reason why it should continue to publish these statistics, and decided

[Mr. C. A. Barron.]

to leave it to local Governments to publish such statistics as they like. By the time the matter came up for the consideration of the local Government, the Punjab was suffering from the attentions of a Retrenchment Committee, and these statistics were wiped out as being an unnecessary extravagance. This decision at once raised a protest from the commercial interests of the province, whose views have been so ably represented by the honourable member, and we have been considering the question of reintroducing the publication of a certain amount of statistical information, at any rate, as regards rail-borne trade into and out of the province. The Railway Department is prepared to assist, and at present we are working out what it will cost us to produce this information. Most of the departments concerned with the subject—Industries, Co-operation, Agriculture—have also protested against the abolition of the statistics, and we will endeavour to restore their publication, if possible and if this Council will sanction a grant for the purpose. The matter is, as has been stated in reply to a question in the Council, under the consideration of Government.

5 P. M.

Mr. Owen Roberts: Sir, in view of the reply given on behalf of Government, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadian), Urban]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Re. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 7,91,000—35. Industries".

Sir, my object in moving this amendment is not to express any sort of censure against any one at all. My only object is to draw the attention of Government, or rather that part of it which is in charge of Industries to the wretched state of industries in this province and to ask it to do as much as it can for the improvement of industries in the Punjab. Now the question may arise whether it is within the legitimate jurisdiction or duties of the Government to do anything for the encouragement of industries in this province and whether this matter should not be left entirely to private enterprise. My submission is that whereas the Government should not set itself up as a competitor against private enterprise it is the duty of every Government to do all it can for the encouragement of industries and commerce. The principle was for the first time recognised in 1915 in a despatch of Lord Hardinge's Government. The words used were as follows:—

"It is becoming increasingly clear that a definite and self-conscious policy of improving the industrial capabilities of India will have to be pursued after the war unless she is to become more and more a dumping ground for the manufactures of foreign nations who will be competing the more keenly for markets, the more it becomes apparent that the political future of the larger nations depends on their economic position. The attitude of the Indian public towards this important question is unanimous, and cannot be left out of account. Manufacturers, politicians and the literate public have for long been pressing their demands for a definite and accepted policy of state aid to Indian industries; and the demand is one which evokes the sympathy of all classes of Indians whose position or intelligence leads them to take any degree of interest in such matters. It emphasized the need for an industrial policy which will enable technical education in India to produce its best results, and which will lighten the pressure on purely literary courses and reduce the excessive demand for employment in the services and callings to which these courses lead up."

Finally, the same Government said :—

"After the war India will consider herself entitled to demand the utmost help which her Government can afford to enable her to take her place, so far as circumstances permit, as a manufacturing country".

Then, Sir, when the well-known declaration of August 1917 was made, which resulted in the Report on Constitutional Reforms it was stated in the Report :—

"On all grounds a forward policy in industrial development is urgently called for, not merely to give India economic stability ; but in order to satisfy the aspirations of her people who desire to see her stand before the world as a well-poised, up-to-date country ; in order to provide an outlet for the energies of her young men who are otherwise drawn exclusively to Government service or a few overstocked professions ; in order that money now lying unproductive may be applied to the benefit of the whole community ; and in order that the too speculative and literary tendencies of Indian thought may be bent to more practical ends, and the people may be better qualified to shoulder the new responsibilities which the new constitution will lay upon them. These considerations led Lord Hardinge's Government to recommend the appointment of the Industrial Commission which is at present sitting.

"These are political considerations peculiar to India itself. But both on economic and military grounds Imperial interests also demand that the natural resources of India should henceforth be better utilized. We cannot measure the access of strength which an industrialized India will bring to the power of the Empire ; but we are sure that it will be welcome after the war."

Now, Sir, if this principle was laid down by the Secretary of State as well as the Government of India it was really necessary that something practical, something effective should have been done by the various governments of this country. As I submitted the other day when making general remarks on the budget, the only amount that is set aside for the development of industries in this province is half a pice in a rupee of the total income. The exact figure as given in the budget being Rs. 8,47,000 out of a sum of 11 crores or over. This item is really like a drop in the ocean so far as any practical and effective result is concerned. Even out of this amount of Rs. 8,47,000 we find that about a lakh of rupees goes for direction and superintendence. No doubt direction and superintendence are absolutely necessary for the development of any industries, but I must say that the amount spent on direction of industries is out of proportion to the total amount which has been allotted for their development.

Then again with respect to the utilisation of this all too small amount which is reserved for industries some Rs. 86,000 is allotted for weaving. So far as my knowledge goes this encouragement of weaving is leading to no practical results. I am told, but I am subject to correction, that scholarships are given to the extent of Rs. 18 per boy to learn weaving and in one place when the scholarship was reduced from Rs. 18 to Rs. 9 per head the whole school was practically empty. That is the interest shown by the boys to learn weaving. Besides in a country which even in this backward condition is full of weavers of some sort, to spend Rs. 86,000 on teaching them how to weave, if it is not entirely a waste, is not the best use of the money.

Then again I just hinted the other day that this money which is being spent on tanneries is more or less useless. But I would reserve my remarks about this to some other occasion after allowing it to work for a year and seeing whether it is a profitable concern. But anyhow, I submit that when money is to be spent on the encouragement of industries a better choice

[Dr. Gokul Chand Narang.]

should have been made. Look at the chart of imports into this country. We find that in the whole of India the total value of skins and hides imported into this country is £266,000 and you will be surprised to know, Sir, that this figure is the smallest of the figures representing the value of any other kind of import into this country except articles of wood, such as furniture, etc. I really fail to understand why, when public money was being set apart for the encouragement of an industry, a line was chosen in which this country pays the least amount of money to foreign countries and why another line was not chosen in which comparatively more money goes out of this country. For instance we find such articles of necessity as paper, yarn, metallic articles which take away larger sums of money from this country than skins and hides. Even cutlery and hardware implements, excepting machinery, tools, etc., take away £4,291,000 from this country. Even in so far as paper is concerned we find from the figures given in the report of the Industrial Commission of 1917-19 that they come to £15,24,982 or more than 2 crores. Then again dyes imported amount to over £1,500,000. What has been done in this province in this direction? A dying school has been opened which at the best would produce only a little better class of Nilaris? Why could we not spend the money to encourage manufacture of dyes. At present we have to depend for dyes and colours mostly on a country which is not friendly to ours, I mean Germany.

Then again, Sir, if I am not mistaken, there is afloat a big scheme for the manufacture of paper and I learn that nothing beyond the promise of certain concessions to this company has been done. Nothing more substantial has been done towards the furtherance of the scheme although from facts and statistics I have heard the scheme appears to be a very promising one. While discussing these things in my budget speech.....

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: May I know what scheme the honourable member is referring to.

Dr. Gokul Chand. Narang: Paper manufacture. Now, Sir, my only object in referring to these things is to show that the money that we are spending on the encouragement of industries is extremely too small and even that little amount that is being spent is not utilised to the best purpose. There are various ways in which even the Government of this province can help the encouragement of industry in this province. One way was mentioned by my honourable friend Mr. Owen Roberts. He said that one way in which industries could be helped was by giving proper information to persons interested in industries. That point has been met by the honourable the Financial Commissioner who said that such a practice was in existence before and that he would revive it now if the Council makes a grant for that purpose. I, for one, would certainly welcome a revival of that institution. But that is not the only thing which would lead to the encouragement of industries. In order to encourage industries and place them on a satisfactory basis we require three things, *viz.*, expert knowledge, capital and trained labour.

These three things must combine before any country can make any progress in industry. So far as expert knowledge is concerned, I must confess that not enough is available in this province, but that again is the fault of the Government of this province. We know from the history of industrial development in Japan (and other countries) that the Government took a deep interest in the matter and sent out scores and scores of its young

men to foreign countries to receive technical education. When they returned to their country, then the country had as much expert knowledge as was necessary for the development of the industries. The same procedure should be adopted in this province also. I am not aware if any students from this province are sent out with Government stipends to foreign countries to receive technical education. There may be one or two, but I am not sure even of that. Even if there are one or two students sent out with stipends, surely that is not sufficient to meet the requirements of this province. One should go out to foreign countries for each industry at the expense of the Government before this province can be in a position to start any new industry with indigenous resources.

Then the next important point is trained labour. That can be secured by giving industrial education in the schools. I touched this point in my remarks on the budget at the time of general discussion and I do not want to take the time of the Council by dilating at any length on this point. As is recognised even in the despatches that I read out to the House there is too much of literary education and it is high time that a serious, practical and effective beginning be made in this direction. Sir, the most important thing in connection with the encouragement of industries is the supply of capital. The Punjab is mainly an agricultural province and it is comparatively a poor province. If it has to depend entirely upon private enterprise, it would have to wait for a long time before the industries can be developed to any considerable extent. Therefore, it is necessary that state aid should be freely given to the people who are capable of starting commercial and industrial enterprises and the Government should place at their disposal sufficient sums of money in order to enable them to carry out their schemes successfully. Well, that monetary assistance can be in various ways and some of these ways have already been suggested by me just a short while ago while I was speaking on another amendment. They were suggested by the Indian Industrial Conference, 1917-18. I shall once again briefly state the various ways in which monetary assistance can be effectively given to the industrialists. The first is that industrial banks should be started in the province. I find that a good deal of attention and capital has been devoted to the establishment of co-operative credit societies, but they are really, if I am not mistaken, confined to the rural areas, and their efforts are confined to lending money to rural agricultural people, a most laudable object in itself, but very limited in its effectiveness. Parallel with these banks, Government should also start some banks which may be purely industrial banks, lending money on long terms, of course not without proper safeguards. The present banks are not strong enough to meet the requirements of the industrialists. The Imperial Bank of India is by its very constitution forbidden to advance money against immoveable property. Other banks do not possess such resources and they cannot advance money for long terms on comparatively lower rates of interest lest they should get into trouble. They can only lend money on liquid security and that on short terms and therefore it is absolutely necessary that the hands of the present banks should be strengthened by the establishment of industrial banks or in any case the Government should give sufficient help in the establishment of industrial banks. One or two banks including the word 'industrial' in their names have been established in the province but I must say that those banks have not met the requirements of the province. I need not say anything more about this.

[Dr. Gokul Chand Narang.]

Then, Sir, the next important way in which the Government can help industrial enterprise is this. If a new company is started the Government should examine its articles of association and also its prospectus and it should also make enquiries as to the status, position and competency of its directorate and if the Government is once satisfied that its articles of association are not so framed as to put undue profits into the pockets of the framers of the scheme and that the company can do useful work for the country, then it (the Government) should guarantee to its shareholders a minimum dividend which should in no case be less than the interest which the Government pays on its loan. This is one of the methods which may be adopted only in the case of those industries which are exceptionally important and useful and which are in the hands of exceptionally capable and honest people of proved integrity. That is not a thing which is to be thrown open or applied to a tuppenny half-penny concern which any Tom, Dick or Harry may take it into his head to start.

Supposing some sort of industrial concern, such as a mill or a factory is started, Government can help it by giving an assurance to the persons who run the mill or the factory that it will buy its whole output or that it will supply its needs by purchasing from the proprietors of the factory or mill. That would really mean an encouragement to the persons who run that concern. They will have the assurance that their out-turn will command a ready and sure sale. I do not mean to suggest that they should be given an assurance that their output will be purchased at a higher price than the one prevailing in the market, but they should be given to understand that prices being equal, they should have Government patronage. For instance there is a paper concern at Kat. Here I may tell you, Sir, that I have absolutely no interest in this concern. The gentlemen who are interested in it are not even all known to me and I have not had even one word with them with respect to this amendment. But I feel that this most important and useful industry ought to be encouraged and helped. For instance this industry can be encouraged by the Government by giving an assurance that all the paper that the Government requires would be purchased from that company, if the Government is not prepared to go the length of guaranteeing dividends or helping it in any other way.

Another way which I mentioned and which excited laughter from the ministerial benches when I was speaking in connection with the Mandi scheme is that the Government should help some deserving industries by taking shares in the companies which are responsible for those industries. This is not an impossible or impracticable thing. The governments in other countries do interest themselves by subscribing to the capital under proper safeguards.

We know that after the war broke out Great Britain felt that it was in great difficulty so far as aniline dyes were concerned, for they were the monopoly of Germany and no other country could turn them out so cheap and in such large quantities as Germany. The pinch was felt at that time and Government patronage was extended to people who wanted to set up aniline factories. If this is done, the Government will of course have a right to have a director or two of its own on the board of management of those concerns who will watch not only the interests of the Government, but the interests of the shareholders as a whole. When the Government is represented on the directorate of that company, there will be no chance of any *gad badh* or jobbery or mismanagement.

The next and the easiest thing to do is to give loans on easy terms, of course here again with proper safeguards. The advantage in this mode of encouragement is this. As I already pointed out the Government can wait until the company becomes a paying concern. Ordinary banks may not afford to wait for 2, 3 or 4 years by which time the concern might become a paying one; but the Government can afford to wait for such a length of time provided everything goes on well.

Another thing which was perhaps attempted to be done by this Government is the starting of demonstration factories. I would, however, say that so far as the tannery is concerned, judged from the amount which has already been spent upon it and from the recurring expenditure, it cannot be described as a mere demonstration factory. Even if a demonstration factory is to be started, this was not the one that was wanted. There are so many of its kind in this country, which are being run at much lower cost and they are bringing very good profits to their owners. I have personally visited one of the biggest tanneries in Sindh and I found that with about one-third of the capital which the Government has already spent on its own tannery, that tannery was making good profits and was also giving employment to hundreds of persons.

Then, Sir, what is more necessary is to induce people to take up industrial enterprises. Honourable members of this House who have anything to do with commerce or industry know that capital is shy as a rule and it is much shyer in this province because of some of the disastrous experiences that this province has had. Therefore it is necessary that some inducement should be held out to those who want to invest capital or who are prepared to take risks. That inducement can be held out in one way, as has been suggested by the honourable member Mr. Barron just now, that their eyes should be opened with respect to the actual condition of trade and commerce in this country. That is one thing. There is another which is far more necessary than this and that is to spread expert knowledge with respect to the various industries which are flourishing elsewhere. There is, *e.g.*, a man with a capital of Rs. 10,000. He wants to invest it in some industry; he does not know which would be the best industry for him, considering the amount of his capital and the likelihood of his profits. There are hundreds of such people in this province. My submission is they ought to be helped with information that such and such an industry will suit them. They should be also helped in this matter by preparing prospectus and balance sheets which may be placed at their disposal. They should also be instructed as to the proper market for the particular raw materials and should be instructed as to which place would be the best market for such products as they may turn out. These are all methods of encouraging industry and in fact this is being done in other countries and if I am not mistaken the various consuls of foreign countries deputed in India are supplying this kind of information to their own countries. One of their most important duties is this that they are supplying information to their own countries as to the requirements of India, as to the kind of cloth that is in vogue, say with the ladies so far as *saris* are concerned and with respect to other articles, and what happens is that after a few months the same patterns come into this country. Similar methods should be adopted in this country. I do not say that nothing is being done but certainly not much is being done in that connection. In fact there is an impression that the Department of Industries is being run not in the interests of this province but in the interests of other countries,

[Dr. Gokul Chand Narang]

so that Great Britain may be kept informed of India's needs and manufacture and may import those things into this country. I do not say that the impression is correct but it is there and something should be done to remove that impression and in removing that Government should do something practical for the encouragement of the industries of the province.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, reduction moved :—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 7,91,000—85—Industries."

[The question is that that reduction be made.]

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadian), Urban] : Sir, to what has been said by Dr. Gokul Chand Narang, on the indifferent attitude that has been adopted by Government towards the industries of the province and whatever suggestions have been made by Dr. Gokul Chand which Government should adopt in order to develop the industries of this province, I have to add a few words with reference to the town to which I belong. Multan which is an important town in the province has been well-known for its industries. I have had the opportunity of speaking to the Minister for Agriculture on the subject and I asked him to pay his attention to the industries that are dying out at Multan. For your information I beg to say that for the industries of enamel work, of pottery, of carpet making, Multan is well-known in the whole of the province but all these industries are now on the verge of dying out. I do not think that during the last three years any efforts have been made to revive these industries or to develop them. There are some families that have adopted those professions and the sons of those families have passed the Matriculation, some of them have graduated and others are post graduate, but they are not in a position to go to foreign countries in order to have further training in the industries because of want of resources available to them. I beg to draw the attention of Government and specially the attention of the Minister in charge that they should see their way to set apart a sufficient amount for scholarships for such boys. The non-official members of this House keenly feel on the point that a very small sum of eight lakhs of rupees has been reserved by Government for this department on which the prosperity of the province and the welfare of the people depends. We cannot help because the defect lies in the constitution. We have got no power of appropriation, the only power that has been given to us is that we can omit or reduce the grants that are placed before us. I beg to submit that the amount of Rs. 15,000 or Rs. 20,000 which has been reserved in the budget for scholarships is not a sufficient amount. This amount should be increased. Our province is a province of weavers and farmers. Co-operative societies have been started to encourage agricultural industries in the province, but no attempt has been made to start such societies to encourage the cottage industries such like weaving, etc., of the province. I hope the Honourable the Minister for Agriculture will see his way to do what he can to encourage the cottage industry so that the weavers are in a position to purchase raw material and sell finished articles in the market and be in a position to export their finished articles to outside countries.

The oilseed worth crores of rupees is exported from the country and a sufficiently large quantity is exported from Multan. It would have been better if, instead of exporting oil seed, we should have been able to export it in the form of soap, glycerine and candles, etc. No attempt has been made to produce these things even for local consumption.

One more suggestion I would like to make and it is this that just as the Industrial Board has been organised in the Province, it would be better to organise a Labour Board also the members of which in consultation with the Industrial Board shall consider the problems connected with the interests of the labour, the hours of work, their wages and other complicated problems that are bound to arise as the Province advances.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar [East and West Central Towns (Muhammadan) (Urban)] (Urdu): Sir, much has already been said on the subject under discussion and considering the fact that there is not much time left, it would be futile on my part to make a long speech. I would, however, like to draw the attention of the House to one important aspect of the case. I mean the aspect on which Dr. Gokul Chaudhary has already laid sufficient stress, viz., that Government should use every means in its power to encourage the industrial development of the Province and should not offer itself as a competitor of private companies. It is said in the memorandum that the model tannery has been made a separate commercial concern paying to Government interest on the capital invested in it. This means that Government is out as a competitor in the field and if this continues either the proprietors of private tanneries will suffer heavy losses, inasmuch as it is possible for the Government to turn out cheaper goods or the Government tannery may have to suffer loss if the private tanneries arrange and manage to supply leather at cheaper rates. Private concerns are doing the same work which the Government intends to do, viz., the manufacture of chrome-tanned and bark-tanned leather. I appeal to the Government and the Honourable Minister to encourage private enterprise rather than throttle an infant industry, for by so doing the alleged object of the Government, i.e., the industrial development of the Province can never be achieved. I hope that my suggestion will receive due consideration and will be acted upon.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Minister for Agriculture): Sir, so many individual suggestions have been made that it would be very difficult for me to deal with each and every one of them or to make a suitable reply as to what should be done or could be done or will be done with respect to those individual suggestions. So I shall have to confine myself to a few of the important points that have been raised by the various speakers and would like to say in general terms that I have every sympathy with the industrial development in the Province and that with the funds that can be made available to me. I will do my very best to encourage and develop industry and will at the same time try to get full value out of every rupee that is spent.

There is just one thing which has been mentioned by the mover of the amendment and I think, by Lala Bodh Raj and the last speaker Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar, as well and that is the tanning factory. I am afraid this was started by a gentleman for whom I have the greatest possible respect and who has a reputation for a knowledge of industry and commerce far superior to that of anybody here and I find it rather difficult for me to presume to sit in judgment upon his doings. Of course I refer to Lala Harkishan Lal. He started this thing and I am inclined to believe in the soundness of his judgment and certainly it seems to me that it would be safer for me to follow his judgment than the judgment of any of the speakers who have spoken on the subject. But at the same time I may tell them that this tannery was not started for the purpose of competing with private tanneries. I would not allow any spirit of competition to guide the factory which has now

[Hon'ble R. S. Ch. Chhotu Ram.]

come under the auspices of Government. As a matter of fact the whole object of this tannery, I understand, was to set up a model tannery to act as an example for small village tanneries in the neighbourhood and in the Province generally. It is in order to demonstrate that by using better methods by using more scientific and more up-to-date methods in tannery, we can improve our hides to a wonderful degree, that the school was started. It is in order to save a vast amount of money that we have had to spend in order to send students to England to study tanning that this school was started. That was the whole object and that is the object that will be followed in the future. It is in no spirit of competition with private tanneries that this institution was started nor is there any intention in the least degree to allow the institution to be run on those lines.

There was one other point to which reference was made by Dr. Gokul Chand and that was with reference to the very large amount of money that was being given by way of scholarships to students attending ordinary weaving schools in the various towns of the Province. As a matter of fact I visited some of these schools and was surprised to find that every student whose name was borne on the roll of the school was in receipt of a scholarship. I was surprised at it and even spoke to one headmaster asking him what guarantee there was that these students were attending school with a genuine desire to learn weaving and were not attracted merely by the scholarship. He could not say anything about that. I came to know this for the first time and I made up my mind to reconsider the matter and the policy which underlies the giving of these scholarships. I was a little nervous about the attitude of the Swarajists, in the matter but now I am very glad that Dr. Gokul Chand takes the same view of the thing as I do. I do not believe in giving scholarships of Rs. 10, 15 or 18 to children of weavers who might as well learn their trade at their own homes. They ought not to be attracted to these schools by the amount of scholarships.

Another point raised by Dr. Gokul Chand was that we should start large industrial banks and give large loans to those who want to start any new industry or commercial enterprise. But we should take care that the loans are advanced only to businesses which offer reliable securities. I may tell this House that Government is already empowered to advance loans to enterprising people under the Industrial Loans Act. As a matter of fact there were a couple of applications for loans this year and when the Government insisted that good and reliable security should be offered nobody was willing to offer such securities. If Dr. Gokul Chand's suggestion which seems to me very sound is to be accepted, I am afraid very few people will be found who will take loans and offer reliable security. But if there are men who are prepared to offer good securities Government will always treat those applications with liberality.

Another suggestion was made that Government should purchase shares in newly started commercial enterprises or companies. I am not a commercial man nor am I an industrial expert, but I am certainly prepared to consider this point. However, there is one thing which makes me rather nervous. Unless the Government is assured that the business has been started on very sound lines it will be difficult for the Government to assume any substantial liability for the transaction of such a company. Reference was made to the shares that had been purchased by the Government in a company which was started to improve British dyes and compete probably with Germany. British Government certainly did purchase shares but lost

very heavily over those shares. I do not know whether this Province is sufficiently rich to make loans to enterprising industrialists who start industrial banks and at the same time purchase shares in newly started enterprises. But if there is sufficient money forthcoming, there is the Standing Committee on Industries elected by this House which can certainly bring forward proposals. I think such proposals can be better considered and discussed there and if any reasonable and practicable scheme is put forward I can certainly take the House again into my confidence. Such proposals can be brought to the notice of this Council by moving resolutions or in other formal or informal manner and I shall always be prepared to listen to such proposals carefully and sympathetically. Of course I cannot give any valuable advice on purely industrial matters, but I can certainly assure them of very sympathetic consideration, and at the same time secure sound advice from experts. Lala Bodh Raj referred to industries in Multan. I have been to Multan, I have been to Amritsar and I really feel that there are certain industries in some towns of the Province which require encouragement and I am thinking of the means which should be adopted to encourage those industries. I will call together a meeting of Industries Committee which will discuss these things and also discuss the means which should be adopted to encourage the various local industries that exist in the Province (Cheers).

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: My object in moving the resolution was not to press it to a vote. I therefore beg leave to withdraw.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. President: Now the question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,18,000 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 1926 in respect of Industries (both Revenue and Capital)."

The motion was carried.

AGRICULTURE GRANT.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Minister for Agriculture): Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,84,000 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 1926 in respect of Agriculture."

Mr. President: The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,84,000 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st of March 1926 in respect of Agriculture."

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh, Urban): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 10,500 with respect to the item of Rs. 20,700—Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and Veterinary Assistants."

(Urdu): Sir, my object in moving this amendment is to protest against the grade of pay, viz., Rs. 100—10—300 fixed for the

[Sardar Jodh Singh.]

Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, which is very high. In the Veterinary College a new class has been opened in which matriculated students are taken and trained for 4 years. But similarly in the Medical School there is a class where matriculates are admitted and trained for 4 years and when they get their diplomas they are employed in the grade of Rs. 70—10—170. Is it not a pity that medical men who are entrusted with the treatment of human beings are paid much less than those who are to look after cattle? My submission is that this preference is not justifiable. When this matter came up before the Finance Committee it was observed that it should be reconsidered.

Mr. President: I may just inform the honourable member that he has got barely two minutes and if he wants any reply from the Honourable Minister he had better stop now. Otherwise I will have to put the question without giving an opportunity for the Honourable Minister to reply.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Urdu): I think the Honourable Minister might have paid more heed to it and I hope he would be able to give a satisfactory reply in connection thereto.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration reduction moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 10,500 with respect to the item of Rs. 20,700—Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and Veterinary Assistants."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Urdu): Sir, if I recollect aright this matter was considered in the Finance Committee and it was verbally agreed upon that in the beginning this grade might be fixed.

Sardar Jodh Singh: Sir, I rise to a point of order. No reference can be made to the talk in the Finance Committee. (Laughter).

Mr. President: The Honourable Minister, if he is the chairman of that committee can refer to it.

Sardar Jodh Singh: He is not the chairman, Sir.

Mr. President: Then he cannot make the reference.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Urdu): I have not had sufficient time for considering these matters. I may, however, tell the honourable mover of the amendment that after the Budget Session is over it will be examined whether any cut can be given effect to or not.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Urdu): Sir, if the Honourable Minister is prepared to bring this matter before the Finance Committee I am ready to withdraw my amendment.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Urdu): Sir, I have got no hand in it. It rests with Honourable the Finance Member.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I am sorry I do not understand what the honourable member wants, whether a reduction or an increase.

Sardar Jodh Singh: Reduction in the scale of salaries,

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : That can be done without any reference to the Finance Committee. Reduction is always possible on the executive side.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Why should not the Honourable Minister for Agriculture use his power ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Urdu) : I have already said that I will put this matter before the Standing Committee of Agriculture to see whether a cut is desirable or not.

Mr. President : Does the honourable member wish to withdraw his motion ?

Sardar Jodh Singh : No, Sir, I wish to press my motion to a division.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 10,500 with respect to the item of Rs. 20,700—Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and Veterinary Assistants."

The question is, that that reduction be made.

The Council divided : Ayes 12, Noes 32.

AYES, 12.

Sardar Jodh Singh.
Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.
Pandit Nanak Chand.
Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni.
Lala Sham Lal.
Lala Boddh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Lala Mohan Lal, Bhatnagar.
Mr. Lakh Singh.

NOES, 32.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Colonel C. R. Bakhle.
Mr. C. A. Barron.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. A. R. Astbury.
Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan.
Sir George Anderson.
Lieut.-Col. B. C. Battye.
The Hon'ble Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
The Hon'ble Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain.
The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
Mr. J. G. Beazely.
Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. J. M. Dunnnett.
Mr. H. D. Craik.

Dr. C. A. Owen.
Mr. Owen Roberts.
Mr. J. Coldstream.
Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
Sardar Bahadur Sardar Jowahir Singh.
Lieut. Malik Muzaffar Khan.
Rai Shabadat Khan.
Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
Chandhri Nur Din.
Sardar Randhir Singh.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Chandhri Duli Chand.
Rao Pohap Singh.
Chandhri Ram Singh.
Chandhri Kesar Singh.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,31,000 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 1926, in respect of Agriculture."

The motion was carried.

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH GRANT.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 39,11,000 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 1926, in respect of Medical and Public Health."

The motion was carried.

The Council then adjourned till 2 P. M. on Saturday, the 14th March 1925.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

6TH SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Saturday, the 14th March 1925.

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. W. Mayes :—Official-Nominated.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

GIRLS' SCHOOLS.

1606. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram : (a) Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of emphasising the need for teaching tailoring or sewing work in Girls' Schools more than embroidery work ?

(b) If the Government is not prepared, will it please state the reasons ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Plain sewing and cutting out are already taught in Girls' Schools in addition to embroidery. More emphasis will be attached to the former in future.

PROFESSIONAL COLLEGES.

1607. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram : Is it a fact —

(a) that the number of candidates seeking admission into the professional colleges in the Punjab is much more than can be admitted in these colleges ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of starting a few more professional colleges in the Province ?

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

(b) It has already been arranged to provide training for an additional sixty students in the Central Training College in 1925-26. With regard to Medical Colleges, as soon as the financial position improves and medical relief is made available to a larger extent than at present, the honourable member's suggestion will receive due consideration. Government does not consider that there is room for a second Agricultural or a second Veterinary College at present; at the Agricultural College all that is needed is increased hostel accommodation.

AYURVEDIC AND UNANI DISPENSARIES.

1608. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram : Is it a fact —

(a) that there are no model Ayurvedic and Unani colleges and Ayurvedic and Unani charitable hospitals in the Punjab ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to establish free Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries in every Municipality and District Board area ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Government will not hazard a general reply to this. There has been a Unani and Ayurvedic College in Delhi for some years, and it is understood that the trained practitioners of the institution are to be found in the Punjab.

(b) No.

LICENCE FOR MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

1609. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram : (a) Is it a fact that various persons have started medical practice in the province without having the requisite medical certificates and qualifications ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of asking them to take licence for medical practice ?

(c) If not, why ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) It is not understood what the honourable member means by "the requisite medical certificates and qualifications." There is no law in force in this Province under which persons who practice medicine are required to have certificates and qualifications.

(b) & (c) do not arise.

TEMPORARY SERVICE OF CIVIL ASSISTANT SURGEONS.

1610. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : (a) Will Government kindly state if it is a fact that the temporary service of Civil Assistant Surgeons does not count towards pension and increment ?

(b) Does the temporary service of other officers in the provincial service count towards pension and increment ?

(c) Will Government take steps to see that the temporary service of Civil Assistant Surgeons is counted for pension and increment ?

The Honourable Mian Sir 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.

1611. *Cancelled.*

SALE OF LAND IN NEW COLONIES TO INDIAN CHRISTIANS.

1612. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will Government be pleased to state if there is any proposal to sell land in the new colonies to Indian Christians on any conditions ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : No special scheme is before Government at present. Indian Christians can of course buy land like any one else at auctions on the ordinary terms.

Mr. Earnest Maya Das : Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of giving some land to Indian Christians at a low fixed price ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : No.

HUJRA AS A RAILWAY STATION ON THE CHUNIAN-PAKPATTAN LINE.

1613. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : (a) Has Government received a representation from the people of Hujra, District Montgomery, as regards fixing Hujra as a railway station on the proposed narrow gauge railway line from Chunian to Pakpattan ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if in any of the projects for narrow gauge railway lines in the Punjab it has been proposed to establish a station at Hujra ?

(c) If Hujra has not already been selected as a railway station on the proposed narrow gauge line between Chunian and Pakpattan, will Government be pleased to recommend that Hujra be selected for a railway station on the proposed line ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :—

(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) It has been suggested that a 2' — 6" Tramway be constructed from Pattoki to Chunian. It has further been suggested that the line might eventually be extended to Pakpattan. The matter is being considered by the Communications Board and in the event of such a project being possible the question of the line passing through Hujra will no doubt receive the fullest consideration.

KHARABA INSPECTION.

1614. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : (a) Is there any Standing Order of the Irrigation Department fixing—

(a) a date within which the zamindars should put in their applications for purposes of Kharaba Inspection ; and

(b) a date within which the Canal Officers should inspect it ?

(c) If there is no such Standing Order, will Government be pleased to issue a Standing Order to that effect ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) Yes. The dates are laid down in Rules 20 and 70 of the rules under the Northern India Canal and Drainage Act, No. VIII of 1873.

(b) The bulk of the applications for remission on account of failure of crops fall under Rule 20 (2) of the rules applicable to the Western Jumna, Sirhind and Upper Bari Doab Canals and under Rule 20 (4) in the case of the newer canals. Claims for remission under these rules are dealt with as rapidly as possible and in practice the Zilladar is required to make his inspection of sites within 15 days of the receipt by him of the application from the Executive Engineer, Sub-Divisional Officer or Deputy Collector.

[Hon'ble S. B. S. Sundar Singh, Majithia.]

Cases of erroneous "Khasra" entries are dealt with under Rule 70, which lays down that the claims must be investigated on the spot within 15 days of receipt.

(ii) The existing rules on the subject appear to be sufficiently explicit.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN CERTAIN HONORARY OFFICES IN MULTAN.

1615. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will Government be pleased to state the number of (i) Hindus and (ii) Muhammadans in the Multan Division who hold the following honorary offices :—

(a) Honorary Magistrates ;

(b) Viceregal Darbaris ;

(c) Divisional Darbaris,

(d) Zaildars ?

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.

LAND ACQUISITION OFFICER.

1616. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Will the Government please state since how long the Land Acquisition Officer has been posted at Multan ?

(b) What is his monthly pay and what is the monthly expenditure on his staff ?

(c) What has been the total expenditure on account of travelling allowance incurred by him and his staff ever since he was posted to Multan up till now ?

(d) How many notifications for the acquisition of land have been dealt with by him since his posting to Multan up till 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.

ACQUISITION OF GANESH DAS' HOUSE BY THE GUJRAT MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

1617. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Will the Government please state if the further report referred to in part (d) of reply to question No. 1133* has been received ? If so, will the Government please lay it on the table ?

(b) Will the Government please state what compensation has been made to Mohan Lal Ganesh Das under the Notification No. 4224, dated 8th February 1924, referred to in question No. 765,† asked in the Council on 8th August 1924 ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Commissioner of the Division recommended the grant of some land somewhere else in lieu of the land acquired ? If so, what was the area of the land recommended to be given ? Has the recommendation been given effect to ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) A report is still awaited.

(b) No compensation has been paid as the land has not yet been acquired.

(c) The Commissioner has made no recommendation.

*Vol. VII pages 619-20.

†Vol. VII, page 245.

QUARTERS FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AT SIMLA.

1618. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Is it a fact that quarters are provided at Simla for the Anglo-Indian subordinates and not for the Indian subordinates of the Punjab Government ?

(b) Is it a fact that Government contemplates provision of residential quarters in Simla for gazetted officers of the Government ?

(c) If the reply to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will the Government please consider the claims of the Indian subordinates for provision of house accommodation in Simla ?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : (a) Quarters are provided in Simla for the Anglo-Indian subordinates and also for certain junior Indian subordinates.

(b) No provision is at present under consideration for quarters for gazetted officers in Simla.

(c) Provision for quarters for Indian subordinates have been under consideration for sometime and negotiations for a suitable site in Simla are proceeding.

RESEARCH OFFICER IN THE IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.

1619. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Is it a fact that a Research Officer has been appointed in the Irrigation Department ?

(b) Is it a fact that the said Officer was in the Education Department before his appointment as Research Officer in the Irrigation Department ?

(c) What is the estimated annual expenditure on account of this appointment and what is the work the Government intends to take from him in the Department ?

(d) Will the Government please state if it is aware of any similar appointment in any other Province ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The estimated annual expenditure is Rs. 37,176. The work entrusted to the Research Officer is the investigation of the causes of seepage and consequent waterlogging in the neighbourhood of Canals, and if possible to devise a remedy for this evil.

(d) Government has no information regarding the establishment or arrangements made in other Provinces for research work.

The Bombay Government is understood to be spending three lakhs of rupees recurring on research work similar to that now being undertaken in the Punjab.

PROVINCIAL ENGINEERING SERVICE.

1620. Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Government please lay on the table the information referred to in reply to part (c) (v) of question No. 442* asked on 7th August 1924 ?

[Lala Bodh Raj.]

(b) Will the Government please state the names of those subordinates who were in charge of sub-divisions in 1920 in the Buildings and Roads Branch and who have not been till now promoted as Assistant Engineers?

(c) Will the Government please state the names of those Subordinates who were working under the officials referred to in part (b) above and who have since been promoted as Assistant Engineers?

(d) Will the Government please state the educational qualifications of the officials referred to in parts (b) and (c) above and also the special qualifications of those referred to in part (c) who superseded those referred to in part (b)?

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: (a) The information asked for in question No. 642* (c) (v) was supplied in September 1924. A copy is, however, now laid on the table.

(b) (c) & (d) It is considered that the labour involved in the collection of the details asked for would not be commensurate with the results.

Statement showing for how many years the undermentioned officers of Punjab Engineering Service held charge of Sub-Divisions before their appointment to Punjab Engineering Service.

Serial No.	Names.	Period for which they held charge of Sub-Divisions prior to appointment to P. E. S.		REMARKS.
		Y.	M.	
1	Sardar Sahib Buta Singh ...	19	0	
2	Khan Sahib M. Fazal Elahi	6	1	
3	Lala Mehar Chand ...	9	6	
4	Lala Harbans Rai ...	3	8	
5	Mr. George Gilbert ...	7	10	
6	Mr. W. T. Eccleston ...	6	8	
7	Rai Sahib Lala Swami Das...	0	9	
8	Lala Johri Mal ...	4	9	
9	Lala Lal Chand ...	3	1	
10	Lala Munshi Ram ...	1	0	
11	Lala Jagan Nath ...	0	2	Transferred from Burma to Punjab in 1918.
12	Shaikh Abdul Qadir ...	0	2	
13	Mr. A. M. Jafar ...	3	1	
14	Sardar Sunder Singh ...	8	2	
15	Syed Ismail Hussain ...	6	weeks	
16	Lala Bhikam Singh ...	2	3	
17	Lala Kidar Nath ...	2	0	
18	Lala Behari Lal ...	...	
19	Lala Murari Lal ...	...	
20	Lala Ram Rakha Mal ...	1	3	

RETIRING OF NON-GAZETTED OFFICERS AT THE AGE OF 55.

1621. Lala Bodh Raj: (a) Will the Government please state—

(i) the number of non-gazetted officers, especially the clerks in each department, who have attained the age of 55 years or who will attain that age before 31st March 1925?

(ii) How many of them will retire from Government service on or before 31st March 1925?

(iii) How many of them have been retained under Fundamental Rule 56 (a) or (b) on public grounds and on grounds of efficiency?

(b) Will the Government please state if yearly sanction of the Local Government is obtained in each case for retaining officers and clerks who are required to retire on attaining the age of 55 under the above rule, or sanction is given in each case for retaining them for a specified number of years?

(c) Will the Government please state how many junior Government servants and especially clerks in each Department have been barred from getting promotion to higher posts and higher salaries consequent on the retention of officers and clerks who have attained the age of 55?

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.

AMALGAMATION OF THE CANAL AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

1622. Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan: (a) Is it a fact that on the Western Jumna Canal the reduction in expenditure on the staff as a result of the amalgamation of the Civil and Canal Departments is not very appreciable?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount spent on the staff of both the Departments in the year previous to the amalgamation scheme and the amount spent on the staff during the year following the amalgamation?

(c) Is it a fact that civil officials are not able to cope with their work due to amalgamation?

(d) Is it a fact that in most places in the Rohtak District canal *parchis* have not been distributed among zamindars, as a result of which zamindars cannot file objections?

(e) Is it a fact that it takes longer time now-a-days to dispose of petitions of zamindars than before?

(f) Is it a fact that applications of zamindars about the change and raising of outlets remain pending for a long time?

(g) Is it a fact that since the amalgamation, zamindars in the Karnal and Rohtak Districts are complaining of scarcity of water?

(h) Is the Government aware that the zamindars of this *shaga* in general disapprove of the amalgamations?

[Ch. Md. Shafi Ali Khan.]

(2) If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, does the Government propose to give up the amalgamation scheme?

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.

CULTIVATION OF UNPRODUCTIVE LANDS IN THE LOWER BARI DOAB CANAL.

1623. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Will the Government please state if any lists were prepared of those persons who had been cultivating unproductive lands on temporary lease for eight seasons from Rabi 1919 to Rabi 1923 on the Lower Bari Doab Canal?

(b) If so, will the Government please state with what object those lists were prepared?

(c) Will the Government please state if any proprietary rights were granted to any of those persons in the lands under their cultivation? If so, what were the terms of such grants, and why were not all of them granted such rights?

(d) Will the Government please state if any instructions have been issued to their subordinates for the grant of rights referred to in part (c) above? If so, will the Government please lay them on the table?

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.

CANDIDATES FOR EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERSHIP FROM MULTAN.

1624. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Will the Government please state if any candidates from the Multan Division for Extra Assistant Commissionership have been taken on Register C during the last five years?

(b) If so, will the Government please state their names with their qualifications?

(c) What is the minimum educational standard, if any, prescribed for such recruitment?

Mr. H. D. Craik : (a) Yes.

(b) Government is not prepared to disclose their names and qualifications.

(c) Candidates who have passed the matriculation examination of the Punjab University or have passed or read up to the Diploma class of the Aitchison Chiefs' College, Lahore, are eligible for nomination on Register C.

Lala Bodh Raj : Will Government please state if the candidates referred to in part (a) satisfy the conditions mentioned in part (c)?

Mr. H. D. Craik : So far as I know, yes.

CORRUPT PRACTICES AT ELECTIONS TO LOCAL BODIES.

1625. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Is it a fact that Government contemplates framing rules for dealing with corrupt practices at elections to local bodies?

(b) Are there not any rules at present existing to deal with corrupt practices at such elections?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Government propose to revise the rules if and when the various bills to amend the Local Self-Government Acts are enacted.

(b) Yes.

ELECTION OF PANDIT SHIV DATTA RANGA AS MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER.

1626. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Muzaffargarh, recommended to the Commissioner, Multan, to set aside the election of Pandit Shiv Datta, Ranga, as Municipal Commissioner?

(b) If so, will the Government please lay on the table the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner and the decision of the Commissioner and of the Government thereon?

(c) If the Government is not prepared to lay the recommendations of the Deputy Commissioner on the table, will it please say for what reasons Pandit Shiv Datta Ranga's election has been recommended to be set aside?

The Honourable Mian Sir 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.

EMPLOYMENT OF PUNJAB CIVIL SERVICE OFFICERS TO POSTS RESERVED FOR INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE OFFICERS.

1627. Lala Bodh Raj : (a) Is it a fact that this Council passed a resolution recommending to the Government to appoint 25 per cent. of the Punjab Civil Service Officers to the superior posts reserved for Indian Civil Service Officers?

(b) Will the Government please state if any correspondence has passed between the Government of India and the Local Government in regard to giving effect to the above resolution? If so, what decision has been arrived at?

(c) Is it a fact that the Lee Commission has recommended that 50 per cent. of the superior posts should be given to the Indians?

(d) Will the Government please state as to what action it has taken or it contemplates to take to give effect to the above recommendation of the Lee Commission?

(e) Will the Government please state what percentage of the superior posts it intends to reserve for the Punjab Civil Service Officers and from what date it proposes to give effect to its intentions?

Mr. H. D. Craik : (a) On the 28th of July 1921, the Council adopted a resolution recommending that the number of Indian Civil Service posts listed as open to members of the Provincial Civil Service in the Punjab be raised at once to one-fourth of the superior civil service posts, and that the proportion thus reserved should not affect the proportion of appointments to be reserved for members of the legal profession.

[Mr. H. D. Craik.]

(b) Yes. No decision has yet been arrived at, as the whole question of recruitment to the Indian Civil Service was left over for consideration of the Royal Commission on the superior Civil Services in India.

(c) The honourable member is referred to paragraphs 35 and 36 of the report of the Royal Commission, a copy of which is available in the Council library.

(d) & (e) The question of the proportion of superior posts to be reserved for officers of the Punjab Civil Service is, it is understood, still the subject of correspondence between the Government of India and the Secretary of State. The ultimate decision rests with the Secretary of State in Council.

INDIAN AND PROVINCIAL ENGINEERING SERVICES.

1628. **Chandhri Sahib Dad Khan:** Will Government please lay on the table the answer to my question No. 911* put on the 13th November 1924?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia: The answer to question No. 911 is laid on the table.

*Answer to question No. 911.**

(a) Appointments to the Engineering Services are made from the following sources, *viz* :—

(1) *To the Indian Services of Engineers (India—recruited Branch)—*

(i) Graduates of the Civil Engineering Colleges in India,

(ii) Selected officers of the Provincial Engineering Service.

(2) *To the Provincial Engineering Service—*

(i) The Engineering classes of the Indian Engineering Colleges, of qualified engineer students,

(ii) The promotion of selected members of the existing Upper Subordinate Establishment,

(iii) Selected Temporary Engineers and Temporary Upper Subordinates.

Government cannot take any special action to make up the deficiency of Muhammadans in the Engineering Services, because to effect this it is necessary for Muhammadans to qualify themselves by becoming graduates of Civil Engineering Colleges in India, and by taking sufficiently high places in College to ensure their appointment either to the Indian Service of Engineers or the Punjab Engineering Service under the existing rules.

As regards the appointment to the Punjab Engineering Service of Members of the existing Upper Subordinate Establishment and of selected Temporary Engineers and Temporary Upper Subordinates, selection is primarily of Engineering Qualifications, and of good character, both of which it is in the power of Muhammadans to attain, equally with the other communities.

(b) and (c). Appointments to the Indian Service of Engineers and to the Punjab Engineering Service, not being made from "outside" candidates, these two matters do not arise.

**TAMPERING WITH THE NOMINATION PAPER OF A CANDIDATE FOR THE
HISSAR DISTRICT BOARD.**

1629. Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan: (a) Will Government please lay on the table the answer to my Question No. 1245* put on 17th January 1925?

(b) Will the Government please say whether any inquiry was made as to who was responsible for this alleged tampering with the nomination paper and what action has been taken against the person concerned?

The Honourable Mian Sir 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.

CRIMES AT BAHALI.

1630. Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan: With reference to my Question No. 1192† put on 24th November 1924 and the answer thereto communicated to me, will Government please state—

- (i) the names of persons challaned,
- (ii) offence under which challaned,
- (iii) date of challan,
- (iv) police station from which challaned,
- (v) court in which challaned, and
- (vi) court in which cases were pending at the end of last year?

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.

CANDIDATES FOR POSTS OF SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE.

1631. Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (i) the names, (ii) place of residence, and (iii) caste and religion of candidates selected for the post of Sub-Inspectors of Police in last December in the Eastern Range, Ambala? and

(b) Is it a fact that the Muhammadan Rajput candidates were unsuccessful in the said selection?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, will the Government please state why they were not selected?

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.

ANSWERS TO CERTAIN UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

1632. Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Will Government please lay on the table the answers to my Questions Nos. 1364* and 1365† put on 19th January 1925?

Mr. H. D. Craik : The answer to Question No. 1365† is laid on the table. It is regretted that the answer to Question No. 1364* is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

(Answer to Question No. 1365.)†

CONDUCT OF SUB-INSPECTOR SARDAR NARINDAR SINGH AT BUDHLADA.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard. (a) Yes. The enquiries of the Superintendent of Police showed that the Sub-Inspector had been guilty of nothing more than carelessness in writing and, under the orders of the District Magistrate, the case was dealt with departmentally.

(b) No.

1633. Cancelled.

HONORARY SUB-JUDGES IN THE AMBALA DIVISION.

1634. Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : (a) How many of the Honorary Sub-Judges in the Ambala Division are—

(i) Hindus, (ii) Muhammadans and (iii) Sikhs?

(b) Will the Government please say whether it is a fact that there are no Muhammadan Honorary Sub-Judges in the Ambala Division? If so, does the Government propose to appoint suitable Muhammadans as Honorary Sub-Judges?

Mr. J. M. Dunnett : (a) The information is contained in the January issue of the Quarterly Civil List, a copy of which is in the Council Library.

(b) No.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES IN AMBALA DIVISION.

1635. Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Will the Government please lay on the table a statement showing for the Ambala Division according to district—

- (i) the names of Municipal Committees and Small Towns;
- (ii) the original strength of each according to community and the changes it has undergone from time to time up to the present;
- (iii) the number and date of the notification of the Government sanctioning and approving their present constitution and the date of its publication in the *Punjab Government Gazette*;
- (iv) whether representation is joint or separate for the various communities;

- (v) the names of members of the present committees with particulars as to whether they are elected or nominated ;
- (vi) the names of the Presidents with particulars as to whether they are officials or non-officials ; and
- (vii) the names of Head Clerks, the Secretary, the Health Officer and the Municipal Engineer, if any, of each Municipal Committee with their monthly pay and the dates of appointment ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Two statements are laid on the table.

The preparation of an answer to part (vi) of the question so far as municipal committees are concerned would involve an amount of labour which would be incommensurate with the value of the results. The honourable member himself can obtain the information desired in part (vii) of his question by application to the committees concerned.

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

Statement showing names, etc., of Municipalities in Ambala Division.

(i) Name of District.	(ii) Name of Municipality.	(iii) Notification of present constitution of Committee.	(iv) Communal (C) or Non-communal (N. C.) representa- tion.	(v) Whether President is official (O) or non-official (N. O.).
Hissar	1. Hissar	No. 17535, dated 16th July 1914	N. C.	N. O.
	2. Henui	No. 5287-A, dated 26th February 1925	N. C.	O.
	3. Bhirwani	No. 2059, dated 29th January 1925	C.	N. O.
	4. Sirsa	No. 15156, dated 7th May 1923	C.	N. O.
	5. Rohtak	No. 17589, dated 15th July 1924	C.	N. O.
	6. Jhajjar	No. 10298, dated 28th March 1923	C.	N. O.
	7. Beri	No. 6558, dated 3rd March 1924	N. C.	O.
Rohtak	8. Bahadurgath	No. 7557, dated 12th March 1924	C.	N. O.
	9. Gohana	No. 23647, dated 10th October 1923	N. C.	O.
	10. Sonapat	No. 1809, dated 17th January 1923	N. C.	O.
	11. Rewari	No. 18286, dated 2nd July 1923	C.	O.
	12. Patwal	No. 32374, dated 27th December 1922 and No. 14950, dated 4th May 1923	C.	O.
Gurgaon	13. Firupur-Jhikha	No. 92897, dated 27th December 1922 and No. 14950, dated 4th May 1923	C.	O.

Parts I-A and I-B

		No. 18952, dated 9th August 1924	N.O.
14. Hoda		No. 18949, dated 6th August 1924	N.O.
15. Ballabgarh		No. 32399, dated 27th December 1923 and	O.
16. Faridkot		No. 14950, dated 4th May 1923	N.O.
17. Karnal		No. 3784, dated 5th March 1924	N.O.
18. Panipat		No. 18557, dated 7th July 1923	O.
19. Raithal		No. 18223, dated 3rd July 1923	O.
20. Shahabad		No. 17850, dated 18th June 1923	O.
21. Thanesar		No. 18463, dated 3rd July 1923	O.
22. Ambala		No. 14453, dated 1st May 1923	N.O.
23. Jagadhri		No. 33659, dated 27th December 1923	N.O.
24. Rupar		No. 13003, dated 23rd April 1923	O.
25. Sadhaura		No. 19073, dated 18th August 1924	O.
26. Baria		No. 1935-S, dated 15th October 1925	N.O.
27. Simla		No. 14444-A, dated 30th April 1923	O.
28. Kasumptul		No. 1868, dated 19th January 1923	O.

Pride Gazette

For names of Presidents of Gazette Parts I-A and I-B.

FOR PARTS I-A AND I-B.

D. O. only constitutes the M.V.

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

Statement showing names of Small Towns in the Ambala Division with original strength of the town committee, etc., etc.

Name of District.	(i) Name of Small Towns	(ii) ORIGINAL STRENGTH OF SMALL TOWN COMMITTEES.			(iii) Notification sanctioning and approving the constitution of town committees.	(iv) Communal or Non-Communal representation.	(v) and (vi) Names of members and presidents.
		Appointed members.	Elected members.	Total.			
Hissar ...	Jakhal ...	1	4	5	No. 1412, dated 14th January 1924...	N. C.	
Do. ...	Tobana ...	1	6	7	No. 3806, dated 6th February 1924...	N. C.	
Do. ...	Budladha ...	1	6	7	No. 1552, dated 13th January 1924...	N. C.	
Do. ...	Kalanwali ...	1	4	5	No. 3832, dated 4th February 1924...	N. C.	
Rohat ...	Mehm ...	2	8	10	No. 18748, dated 2nd July 1924 ...	N. C.	
Gurgaon ...	Hidayatpur Chhasoni ...	2	6	8	No. 4957, dated 14th February 1924	N. C.	
Karnal ...	Lodwa ...	1	5	6	No. 9197, dated 26th March 1924 ...	N. C.	
Do. ...	Pundel ...	2	6	8	No. 7170, dated 8th March 1924 ...	N. C.	
Do. ...	Badaur ...	1	5	6	No. 5077, dated 27th February 1924	N. C.	
Ambala ...	Kalka ...	2	8	10	No. 10697, dated 7th March 1924 ...	N. C.	
Do. ...	Kharar ...	1	6	7	No. 3018, dated 29th January 1924	N. C.	

Vide Gazette Part I-P, 1924-25.

SCHOOLS IN MULTAN DIVISION AND GRANT-IN-AID.

1636. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : (a) Will Government be pleased to give a list of all schools in the Multan Division which applied for grants during the current year, but which were not already on the list of Government aided schools during the last two years ?

(b) In how many cases were the applications accepted ?

(c) Will Government state the reasons for rejecting the applications in each of the other cases ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) As follows :—

- (1) Anglo Sanskrit High School, Dera Ghazi Khan ;
- (2) Hindu High School, Dera Ghazi Khan ;
- (3) Islamia Lower Middle School, Dera Ghazi Khan ;
- (4) Ghausia Islamia High School, Chak 333, District Lyallpur ;
- (5) Hari Bhagwan Anglo-Sanskrit High School, Shujabad.

(b) Two, while the case of the remaining three is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : With reference to part (b) which two schools have got the grant ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : They must be included in the five schools named in part (a).

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I know they are, but which of the two have got the grant ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : I cannot say without notice.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Does not the Honourable Minister remember as to which ones they are ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : I never knew, so I cannot remember it.

Mr. President : The Honourable Minister wants notice.

EXAMINERS AND COPYISTS IN DISTRICT OFFICES.

1637. Sayad Husain Shah : Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact—

- (a) that the Retrenchment Committee had recommended that the examiners and copyists in the District Offices be entertained as Government servants on time-scale ;
- (b) that copyists get one-half of the copying fee charged by Government ? If so, will Government be pleased to state whether or not the entertainment of copyists as Government servants on time-scale will prove cheaper to the Government ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that in certain districts, copyists have been employed as Government servants with fixed salaries for the use of Public Prosecutors ;

[Sayad Husain Shah.]

- (d) If the answers to (a), (b) and (c) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of making the posts of examiners permanent ones in all the districts?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia:

(a) Yes.

(b) (1) Yes.

(2) No.

(c) Government is not aware of this.

(d) Government does not consider it advisable to make the posts of examiners permanent.

GOVERNMENT'S DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(CONTD.).

EDUCATION (TRANSFERRED) GRANT.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) :
Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,97,000 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 1926 in respect of Education (Transferred)."

Mr. President: The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,97,000 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)."

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Punjab University) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 82,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 82,000—
Provincialisation of Local Board High Schools."

Sir, I oppose this grant on three specific grounds, each one of which is in my opinion sufficient reason for disallowing it. The first reason which I wish to advance is that it is a retrograde and reactionary measure. It is like the proverbial backward movement of the crab. I say 'proverbial', because I believe that the real crab, I mean a live crab, never moves backwards. I have had occasion, Sir, once to watch the movements of hundreds of crabs in their native habitat for a good couple of hours; and I may claim for myself that I was fairly observant, I did not see one of them moving backwards. But here we have a motion for a grant for a retrograde measure. When a similar grant was asked for last year, I opposed it on the very same grounds, namely that it was a retrograde and reactionary measure and went against the declared policy of Government. It is against the spirit of the Local Self-Government Act of 1882. It goes against the recommendations of the Education Commission over which Sir William Hunter presided. It goes against the policy of decentralisation which the Government are advocating and are pursuing in much higher and more important spheres of public activities than education. Sir, in the year 1882 an Education Commission was appointed under the Presidency of the late Sir William Hunter, and what did that Commission recommend? They recommended that local bodies should spend such funds as they have at

their disposal entirely upon the promotion of primary education. Their own words are: "Primary education be declared to be that part of the whole system of public instruction which possesses an almost exclusive claim on local funds set apart for education and a large claim on provincial revenues." As regards secondary education, they say. "That it be distinctly laid down that the relation of the State to secondary education is different from its relation to primary education, in that the means of primary education may be provided without regard to the existence of local co-operation, while it is ordinarily expedient to provide the means of secondary education only where adequate local co-operation is forthcoming, and that, therefore, in all ordinary cases secondary schools for instruction in English should hereafter be established by the State preferably on the footing of the system of grants-in-aid". Sir, this was as far back as 1882-83. In the case of collegiate education also they say that such encouragement as the State might give be given preferably by means of the system of grants-in-aid and they say "We therefore recommend in the first place that in order to evoke and stimulate local co-operation in the transfer to private management of Government institutions for collegiate or secondary instruction, aid at specially liberal rates be offered for a term of years, whenever necessary, to any local body willing to undertake the management of any such institution under adequate guarantees of permanence and efficiency". Well, Sir, that is the position which that Commission took up as far back as 1882-83.

I know, Sir, that when a similar reduction was moved by me last year, the Honourable Minister for Education gave two reasons against the acceptance of that reduction, both of them very strange reasons. One of the reasons was that this was being done in order to release the funds for being spent on primary education by local bodies. The second was, possibly this is a stranger reason still, that as the Minister for Education was the representative of the people and an elected member of this Council, and since education was now a transferred subject it would not be a case of centralisation if he assumed into his own hands the control of these schools. Now, Sir, with regard to the first part of his contention I would say in the first place, that the amount which is expected to be released by this process is so small that it means very inadequate relief given to municipalities or local boards. It will not be Rs. 82,000 for which I am making this motion, but it will be a very small fraction of Rs. 82,000. I cannot give you the exact amount but I will say this that it will be Rs. 82,000 minus the income from fees, and also minus the amount of grants-in-aid which are now being paid to the schools which it is proposed to take over. The net amount which will thus be released will be somewhere near Rs. 15,000. Besides what guarantee is there that the sum so released will actually be spent on the promotion of primary education and on nothing else?

The second point is, as I said, stranger still. It is said that, because education is a transferred subject and the Education Minister is an elected member of this Council, therefore there was no centralisation. Well, Sir, I put it to this Council, suppose the President of the United States were to assume the reins of management of all departments into his own hands and he were to turn round and say, 'Here I am, an elected representative of the people, elected on a very thorough and searching system of election, if I take over every department of the State into my hands, I am not doing anything in the direction of over-centralisation. What would you think of this argument? Local bodies are composed of elected members of the people, they

[Prof. Ruchi Ram Sahni.]

are elected through a wider franchise, they know local conditions. (Hear, hear). They know how to manage their own schools and they ought to be encouraged to manage their own schools. That is the whole process. The Minister for Education by taking over the schools and the management of the inspectors of public health and things of that kind will be going beyond the legitimate processes consistent with the objects of popular representation or the reforms scheme. That is my first reason.

The second reason is that the taking over of these schools involves a very serious hardship and grievous wrong upon a large and deserving body of public servants whose cause I pleaded in this Council a few months back. Their case is still, in a way, *sub-judice* and I hope that something will be done for that very deserving class of men, I mean the members of the subordinate educational services. Now Sir, I will show you in a minute how it does a serious injury to the contentment of this deserving class of men.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : How ?

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : In 1921, there were 936 officers in the service and now there are 1,450 officers more or less in that part of the service. The increase is accounted for partly by the teachers who have been drawn into the new intermediate colleges, partly by the creation of additional posts for assistant district inspectors and there may be a few others. All this will account for something like 100 men. The remaining 400, or a little over 400 men, are men who have been taken over from provincialised schools during these four years from 1921 up to date. They do not include the teachers who are to be taken over with the eight schools which are going to be provincialised. These men are taken over from municipal and board schools, and put into the various grades over the heads, in many cases, of more deserving men, men who have spent their whole life in the service of the department. There is an increase of 400 men, that is to say, nearly 50 per cent. more men with less qualifications and less service in many cases, are to be put over their heads. These points need not be controverted because I have explained them fully in the course of my resolution which I moved in this Council in November last. I do not want to take up the time of the Council in going over the same ground again. Fifty per cent. more teachers have been added to the service and these men have been put over the heads of the present incumbents who have done good service to the department and spent the whole of their life in the service of the education department. When 50 per cent. more men are brought into the service and put over the heads of the present incumbents in the various grades, they naturally retard the promotion and stop the progress of men who were looking forward to progress and promotion in the ordinary course, such as was open to them, under the existing graded system. Under the existing system, therefore, a serious injury is being done and has been done by these 400 men and will be done by a number of men who will be put over the heads of these men, if the present grant is allowed and eight or ten more schools are provincialised. That, Sir, is my second reason for opposing this part of the grant.

My third reason is this. There is in existence such a Committee as the Standing Education Committee of this Council which was appointed in January last year, when this new Council was constituted. Will it surprise the House to learn that not a single meeting of that Committee was called in spite of repeated requests from me and possibly from other members of the

Council ; up to the time when the Standing Education Committee was constituted again, that being in August and from then up to lately with the exception of two meetings held during the last few days at my repeated, insistent and persistent requests to consider my resolution, no meeting of the Education Committee has been held during the whole of the 15 months that I have been a member of this Council and a member of the Education Committee. Now, Sir, what is the use of having a Committee when it is not allowed to function at all. Here we have men who have given some little thought to educational questions, and surely some of these questions also come before the Education Minister. What is this Education Committee for, if even as advisers to the Minister, they are not consulted on important questions which he has to consider. Not a single meeting of the Committee has been held and, as I have said, this question of provincialisation did not come up before that Committee, as no other question did.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Did not this very question of provincialisation of schools come up before this Council in the form of a resolution and rejected ?

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I never put forward a resolution before, because I had another resolution on the agenda and it was useless to have too many resolutions. With due deference to the Education Minister and my honourable friend Mr. Noon, I would submit this was not a subject for a resolution. Even if I had tabled a resolution of that kind I submit, Sir, you would have been perfectly justified in disallowing that resolution. You would have said : " You have got the Standing Education Committee, why do you not go and ask the Minister or the Director of Public Instruction to call a meeting." All that I can tell this House is this. I have again and again written to the Education Minister, once I believe as far back as May or June last, from Murree but no adequate response in the way of calling a meeting was given. Apart from that, even if I had not asked the Minister, it was, I believe, under the constitution of this House, since the Standing Education Committee is provided by the rules and regulations of this Council to advise the Minister on certain important matters of educational character, that meetings of the Committee should be called. It is not necessary that one should give notice of such a kind or make personal requests to the Minister to hold a meeting. But even when such requests were made, they were not complied with.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Do I understand the honourable member to say that he made a request to me in May or August last and that he did not receive a reply ?

Mr. President : He said, no adequate response.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : What is meant by adequate response ?

Mr. President : I think this question of the holding or not holding of the meetings of the Standing Education Committee has only been incidentally referred to by the honourable member speaking on this question and he is trying to bring in his present point by saying that just as other points could not be considered for want of meetings similarly this point could not be considered. I do not think any further discussion as to why the meetings of the Standing Education Committee were not held would be relevant to the question.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : I have no desire to go against your explicit ruling, but I merely mention it as a ground for opposing this grant inasmuch as this question was not placed before the Standing Committee and incidentally I mentioned that no meeting was held. If a meeting of the Education Committee had been held, and if this question was placed before the Committee, we should have considered at the meeting which schools should be provincialised, what were the specific grounds for provincialisation of these schools and whether there were not other schools whose claims were more insistent. I would have had something to say about what I have been saying here. I would have been saved the trouble of speaking about these matters here in this Council, as, I believe, I would have met the arguments of the Honourable Minister and succeeded in persuading him to give up this process of provincialisation of schools. I do not admit in putting forward my third argument that provincialisation is a sound process. What I do say is that if there was a meeting of the Standing Education Committee and if this question was put before the Committee, I believe I would have succeeded in convincing.

Sir George Anderson : It was discussed two years ago.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : No doubt it was discussed two years ago. It was not considered by this Council and I hold that to mention that a thing was considered sound by an Education Committee of the last Council is irrelevant to the proposition now before the House. This question was not discussed at all during the 15 months that the present Council has lasted. Therefore, I believe I am right in holding that the Honourable Minister for Education will be pleased to reconsider his decision, and, at any rate, to refer this matter to the Standing Education Committee where he can bring forward his reasons and if he can convince the new Committee, he may bring forward this demand as a supplementary demand later on. This is not the time to bring forward a demand of this kind since it has not been discussed in the Standing Education Committee. With these words, I wish to oppose this part of the grant.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved —

That the grant be reduced by Rs. 82,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 82,000—
Provincialisation of Local Board High Schools.

The question is that that reduction be made.

Sardar Jodh Singh [(Sikh), Urban] : Sir, my objections to this process are based upon financial grounds.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Is the honourable member moving his amendment or speaking on the present amendment?

Mr. President : He is speaking on the present amendment.

Sardar Jodh Singh : I had tabled an amendment to raise this point and because I have got a chance now, I will give my reasons for it. Last year by means of facts and figures I showed that the average expenditure per Government school was Rs. 22,733 and the average expenditure per municipal or district board school was Rs. 16,638. The Honourable the Director of Public Instruction contradicted me on this point saying that while the Government schools did not possess primary departments, the local board schools did possess primary departments and therefore the percentage

was not correct. As to the expenditure per school, I think the figures will be even less when we take the expenditure of primary department from the total expenditure, but that may have some effect when we find out the average expenditure per scholar. According to my calculations last year the average expenditure per scholar in the Government school was Rs. 61, whilst in the case of board school it was Rs. 44 per scholar, allowing for the correction that primary school students were included. The day before yesterday the Honourable the Director of Public Instruction informed me that he had made a calculation excluding the primary students and the average expenditure per head was Rs. 57. Even then I submit that the average expenditure per scholar in a Government school is higher than the average expenditure per school under the Local Board management, and I am surprised to see that a department which has effected economy throughout is engaging in a method by which it will spend more money per scholar on education. I may also point out that this expenditure in Government schools is likely to increase because the Subordinate Educational Service men are complaining that they did not get their share (to use the word which was used by an eminent educationalist in the Standing Education Committee the other day) in the general loot that occurred before the Reforms were introduced. That is to say the pay of all the services was raised but they did not get a proportionate increase in their pay. That is their contention. I do not say yet that their contention is correct, but if that contention is proved to be correct, then the Department just to be consistent if nothing else would have to give some consideration to their claims and in that case the average expenditure per scholar in the Government schools will still further increase. Therefore I would bring to the notice of the Honourable the Minister for Education and his able assistant, the Director of Public Instruction that this method of provincialisation of schools is standing in the way of opening more schools. One argument that has been advanced in its favour is that Government is taking over charge of these schools in order to leave funds in the hands of the district boards and municipal boards for the spread of primary education. That is a very laudable object, but the question is, supposing we take over a school of a district board which is costing Rs. 17,000 and on which we ourselves would spend Rs. 22,000, would it not be better that we should give that district board Rs. 22,000, so that it may save Rs. 5,000 more for the spread of primary education? (Hear, hear.) Again, Sir, reading the Education Report for this year, I find that the difference is still greater. The average expenditure per scholar in a Government school has not gone down while the average expenditure per scholar in the district and municipal board schools as compared with last year has gone down from Rs. 44 to 36.

It is this consideration, Sir, which has obliged me to speak in support of this amendment, that this method of turning local board schools into Government schools is more expensive and since both funds belong to the public—the provincial funds and the local board funds, there is no use spending our money in the more expensive way.

The second thing is, Sir, which I hope the Honourable the Minister for Education and the Director of Public Instruction will admit, that the provincialisation of these schools will result in Government's taking over the staff of such schools as are taken over by Government, with the result that several graduates in those schools who have been in municipal board or district board service for one or two years only will be transferred to the Government cadre, of course, when you take over the school you cannot justifiably tell the staff that you are going to give them less pay than they

[Sardar Jodh Singh.]

were getting in the district board or municipal board service. Therefore you will have to make some sort of arrangement by either giving them the same pay as they were getting before or by giving them a little less, with the result that several of them would be paid much more than the men who have already served the Department for a much longer time. (Hear, hear). This has given rise to much heart-burning in the subordinate educational service. I am sure the Education Department will admit that this has happened, and if the present practice continues this heart-burning may increase in the future. It is on these two grounds that I support this amendment.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz [Lahore (Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, I regret to say that I am unable to support the amendment which has been moved by my learned friend Professor Ruchi Ram. My reasons are these. In the first place the Council has been pressing the Government again and again that certain schools should be provincialised and taken over from the local bodies. I beg leave to refer to Questions Nos. 960 of 1921,* 2701 of 1923,† 1251 of 1923,‡ 279 of 1924,§ 694 of 1924|| and 1013 of 1924,¶ and the answers given thereto by the Minister for Education. It is wrong to say that the Minister has provincialised certain schools of his own accord. We have been pressing the point and I remember that the subject in question was considered by the Education Committee in 1922 or 1923. Secondly, no school is provincialised unless the local body makes a request that it should be provincialised, and the Government has in no case agreed to its being provincialised except on condition that the school is entirely taken over by the Education Department. Now, Sir, I refer to the requests of the various municipalities which will conclusively show that I am in the right. The municipalities of Hazro, Phillaur, Chunian, Khushab, Jampur, Kamalia in the district of Montgomery, Jagraon in the district of Ludhiana, Palwal, Alipur, and the district board of Gujranwala, and the district board of Lahore requested the Education Department that certain specified schools in their respective areas should be provincialised because they had no funds to carry on the schools. I myself went to Sir George Anderson and requested him to provincialise the high school of Baghbanpura because the district board point blank refused to carry it on and wanted to reduce it to the level of a middle school. Surely then it was my duty as a member of this Council and as a member of the Lahore District in which the school in question is situate to take necessary steps that no harm was done. Thirdly the provincialisation of some schools will facilitate education in backward areas. The provisions made for different areas are so different that it is high time to remove the disparity. The Director of Public Instruction and Minister for Education have done the right thing in distributing the money all over the Province at a uniform rate. Fourthly, as pointed out by Sardar Jodh Singh and the mover of the amendment, the main object of the Council and that of the people of the country is to remove illiteracy, and this cannot be done unless the local bodies and the local boards give their whole-hearted attention to make primary education free and compulsory. Therefore the Minister in charge of Education has thought it right that the burden of the secondary education should be taken away from them.

*Volume II, page 321.

†Volume V, page 200.

‡Volume III, page 157.

§Volume VI, page 790.

||Volume VII, page 694.

¶Volume VII, page 501.

Well, Sir, as regards the cost, my learned friend Sardar Jodh Singh said that the cost per student came to Rs. 61 in the Government school while it came to Rs. 47 in the local school. But he is wrong. It really comes to Rs. 57 in the local board school. But if the fees are excluded it will come to Rs. 38 in the Government school and Rs. 32 in the local board school. The expenditure being pretty nearly the same, it cannot be said that the scheme of provincialising some schools is not financially sound. Further, Sir, it is to be remembered that all schools are not to be provincialised. So far as I know only 24 schools have been provincialised and in the present case we are making provision for the provincialisation of seven more.

Professor Ruchi Ram and Sardar Jodh Singh urged that the provincialisation of these local board schools will produce heart-burning in many quarters, because many men will be superseded and new men will be brought over top of the existing men. There may be heart-burning, but it cannot be helped. After all the fact remains that the number of schools has increased and also the number of school going boys has increased. Sir George Anderson has caused a considerable retrenchment in the expenditure. Having regard to these facts I really think it is not proper for the learned Professor and Sardar Jodh Singh to say that the provincialisation of some schools will produce heart-burning. For, every scheme that may be put forward will produce heart-burning in some quarter. For these reasons, Sir, I am unable to support this reduction and in my opinion it ought to be rejected.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Shahab-ud-Din [Sialkot (Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, the mover of the reduction and his supporter are under the impression that Government is over-anxious to take over the secondary schools in charge of district and local boards only for the sake of provincialising them. But the fact is otherwise. Seven municipalities including Lahore have approached the Education Department over and over again to take over the schools in their charge because they find the schools to be white elephants which they are unable to support. Several representations have been made to the Education Department by the Lahore Municipal Committee saying that they could not afford to deprive the people of Mozang of their educational facilities and at the same time expressing their inability to continue to maintain the school and requesting the Government to take over the management of the school. But the Government has not treated the Municipal Committee fairly, rather they have treated it worse than a bania in this matter. At first they made it a condition that we should extend the building of the existing school which involved a very heavy cost. Then they came forward with other objections so much so that they refused to take the school unless the municipal committee of Lahore was willing to give in cash at least one year's total expenditure in advance. Sir, the Educational Department treated us like a shylock, it would not give up its pound of flesh and we had to submit to the conditions. This is an instance to show how the municipalities are anxious to part with these white elephants which they cannot certainly manage without enormous expenditure which they cannot afford to incur.

Now, Sir, we have been told that 24 schools have been provincialised and seven are proposed to be provincialised this year and six more may possibly be provincialised in the near future. I don't know the exact number which is likely to be provincialised in the future. But assuming the figures given by Mian Shah Nawaz as correct I do not see why for the sake of uniformity

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

we should not allow seven more schools to be provincialised when this Council has already agreed to the provincialisation of 24 schools. Surely the honourable mover of the reduction does not mean that those schools which have been provincialised should be re-transferred to the local bodies and municipalities. I am sure that it is far from his intention.

Then, Sir, an argument has been advanced that the expenditure, whether the school remains in charge of a district or local board or whether it becomes provincialised, practically remains the same. I do not see what difference it makes. Even conceding that the expenditure remains the same really it is inexplicable why the mover of the reduction and his supporter should not concede for the sake of uniformity if for nothing else that these high schools whether they be Government schools or schools belonging to local bodies be treated alike and be managed by one department of administration. It is also argued that if these schools are provincialised perhaps the teachers will have to be given certain salaries and the Government coffers will be burdened with additional expenditure. It is ignored altogether that the Government does not only take over the boys and the registers, chairs, etc., but even the buildings which are worth more than a lakh. I think, on the whole Government is gaining and not losing. In fact in our own case, I am talking of the Mozang High School, the building is located in a space which is very valuable and the building of the school and the site are worth more than a lakh. It was even contemplated by certain shrewd members of the municipal committee that they should acquire another site and build a high school there and then transfer it and thus save about Rs. 50,000. This idea was ultimately given up, because of the theory 'honesty is the best policy.' Now Sir, I ask those who are in favour of the reduction, whether it is not the duty of Government to give secondary education to the students of the Province when the municipal and local bodies are expected to take over charge of primary education? Is it not the duty of the Government to give secondary education to the common people of the Province without restricting it to the urban people only, and thus spend the revenue of the Province upon the education of those people who are really contributing to the coffers of the Government? If I were to ask what contribution is being given to the maintenance of colleges and high schools by the so called urban people, surely none will be able to say that a pie is being contributed, while the fact remains that thousands and thousands of students of the urban areas are receiving higher education. I think it is the duty of the Government to spend as much money upon the education of the inhabitants of Mozang as it spends on the education of students in the Central Model School. I do not see why one school should receive patronage at the hands of Government and not another. I think all these municipalities and district boards which have been enumerated by Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz their very names indicate whether the people there feel the need for provincialisation of schools or not. I think those who pay the revenue have a right to request that Government should take the education of their children in hand so that they also may benefit ultimately at the hands of Government as the urban people are benefitted. For this reason also, I submit that it is not only desirable but absolutely necessary in the interest of justice that all those mufasil municipalities and district board schools should be taken charge of by Government and the sons of the rural people should be educated as well under the careful attention of Government as the sons of the urban people. For these reasons I oppose the motion for reduction of the grant.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (non-Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, as an old member of the district board of Lyallpur and for some time the chairman of the education committee of that board, I always welcomed the idea of provincialization of the schools of the local bodies, (Hear, hear) because in that way the funds of the boards would be released and they could be used in other ways, such as in primary education and the opening of new schools. This was the chief reason why I welcomed the idea that district board schools should be provincialized.

Since then a little change has arisen and that has been fully explained by the two learned professors, **Lala Ruchi Ram** and **Sardar Jodh Singh** that the cost to the Government of keeping up a school is much more than the cost to the district board. **Sardar Jodh Singh** has explained that it is Rs. 22,000 or so in Government schools, while it is Rs. 16,000 in district board schools. I take this as correct and I hope the Director of Public Instruction will say whether it is correct or not. I think this difficulty can be got over by giving sufficient grants in-aid to district board and municipal schools so that not only local bodies will learn to educate their boys as much as they can but they will also be put in such a position that in course of time they will learn to open second-grade colleges which Government intends to open by and by. In fact, one leading municipal committee applied for such a grant, but for some reason or other the application was not sanctioned. If we do not train local bodies to maintain high schools, how can we train them to keep up second-grade colleges? In order to do that, I think it would be better that Government should give grants-in-aid to district board schools, and not provincialize them. According to **Sardar Jodh Singh** Rs. 22,000 is the cost for maintaining a school by local bodies. Even if Government gives Rs. 10,000 as a grant, I suppose there are many district boards and municipalities which will only be too glad to accept that grant and continue keeping their own schools; thereby Government will have the benefit of helping two schools, instead of maintaining only one. This is one reason for which I think provincialization is not good.

The second reason is in regard to the complaint of the subordinate educational service. This is a very serious complaint. Sir, as explained by **Professor Ruchi Ram**, people who get into employment after two years are put on the top of such subordinate educational service men who have been serving in the department for 10 or 15 years. I may say plainly that, if we put such men in the education department as would not get that job in the ordinary way, then it is a kind of back-door entrance. I may say that friends of certain people are first taken as headmasters or second masters in district board schools knowing full well that in a couple of years these schools will be provincialized. The question of provincialization also happens to be taken into consideration only after a particular man gets into the school. After two years what do we see? A new graduate who has been taken as headmaster or second master in a district board school is put on the top of 15 subordinate educational service men. This I call the back-door entrance into the education department; it is an entrance which they could not have been able to secure by applying direct to Government. It is high time that these two troubles, namely, the heavy expenses and the back-door entrance were got over. If Government can get over these two troubles, I will be the first person to advocate provincialization of schools. But if these two troubles are continued, namely, heavy expenses of keeping up Government high schools and also the non-removal of the complaint of the subordinate

[R. B. Lala Sewak Ram.]

educational service men, I am afraid I shall have to support the amendment of Professor Ruchi Ram. There is no doubt that the professor has said that the burden to the district board is removed by handing over the school to Government. But I will not go into that point now. District boards and municipal bodies do certainly gain by getting rid of the schools. Every municipality or district board wants one high school. For instance, we in Lyallpur want a high school in each tahsil. One has been started at Jaranwala and three more will have to be started. Everyone is keen about this and I suppose Government will, instead of taking them over under its control, give substantial grants to district boards and let them manage their affairs. My submission is that local bodies should be freely allowed to manage their own affairs as much as they can. Supposing Government is bent upon taking these schools, then the difficulty put forward by the professor can be got over in this way, namely, that the cadre of the subordinate educational service may be strengthened and from that cadre headmasters and secondmasters may be lent to district boards as long as these schools remain under the management of district boards and municipalities. But, as soon as they become provincialized, the school staff remains just the same; and thus the complaints of the subordinate educational service men can be removed and the supersession by 2 or 3 years' service men over the 10 or 15 years' service men will not take place. This is one method by which Government can provincialize schools and at the same time remove the complaints of the subordinate educational service men. As regards the question how the expenditure can be reduced, this can best be thought over by the Director of Public Instruction. If he can reduce the expenditure, the other troubles will also be solved. If he cannot reduce the expenditure I submit that the district boards and municipalities should be given more grants-in-aid and they should be taught how to keep up their educational institutions, instead of Government doing everything for them.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar : I move—

“ That the question be now put.”

Mr. Presiden : I understand there are several honourable members still desirous of speaking on the subject.

Chaudhri Duli Chand [Karnal (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, the question before the House is that local board high schools may be provincialized. Some of the honourable members have remarked that local bodies do not want provincialization and that there is no need of bringing board schools under this system. I should like to know the names of the local bodies who are not in favour of provincialization. As far as I know it is the genuine desire of local bodies that their schools should be provincialized because in that case they will have the chance of improving other matters.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Nobody said that no school wants to be provincialized.

Chaudhri Duli Chand (Urdu) : Sir, in the last session of this Council great stress was laid upon this fact that all the local board high schools must be provincialized and that the money thus saved should be spent on free primary education. I may point out that teachers of these schools also wish to come under Government service because they will get a chance to show

their abilities and to improve their prospects. It is said that in the Brahminical age Sudaras were barred from receiving any kind of education. I do not believe in it, but, seeing that the Indian National Congress, which has been established since 1883, has done nothing in the way of improving the educational condition of zamindars, I am constrained to admit that that distinction might have been observed. The reason why the Congress has not taken any interest in these matters is that it is comprised of a predominant element of urban members who do not care to do anything for the rural population.

Pandit Nanak Chand : The honourable member is merely repeating what others have said.

Chaudhri Duli Chand : Please wait; I am coming to the point. Sir, when this provincialization is being introduced for the uplift of rural areas I fail to understand why this obstruction is made. If a local board high school is provincialized, the local body concerned will certainly save a lot of money and the money thus saved can be spent on more useful purposes. Moreover, a number of experienced teachers will become available to serve in Government institutions. Some of my friends are of opinion that this provincialization is likely to stifle private enterprise and that much more expenditure will have to be incurred. I should like to repudiate this statement. There is no doubt that under the new system Government will have to bear the entire expenses of these schools, but I may say that the balance of the expenditure can easily be met from the tuition fees which in future will go to Government. There is, however, one complaint which I cannot help laying before you, Sir, and I can assure you that my complaint is altogether of a different type. It is said that some junior teachers will receive a lift. Sir, in 1919 a circular was issued to the effect that on suitable occasions rural teachers will get their share of progress and advancement. In Government schools nearly 90 per cent of teachers belong to urban areas and now when the boards schools are provincialized this section of teachers will derive much more benefit at the expense of the interests of the zamindars. My submission is that a certain portion of urban teachers might be precluded from it. The urban teachers are not in a position to know and grasp the inner feelings and sentiments of rural boys, and one who cannot appreciate the ideas and feelings of the zamindars is quite unfit for imparting education to rural boys and this is the reason why zamindars are more backward in education than their urban brethren. One point more and I will conclude my remarks. Sir, if this system of provincialization is introduced, municipal committees will be left with sufficient funds that may be applied to the needs of adults. Sir, it is admitted on all hands that adult education is one of the essential means that lead to the common weal and progress of the country. The district boards and municipalities can utilize this money in instituting night schools for adults and introducing free compulsory primary education. With these remarks I strongly oppose this amendment and request that the provincialization of board schools may be accepted inasmuch as it is a boon to the illiterate zamindars.

Pandit Nanak Chand [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadian) Rural] : Sir, I have listened with considerable amusement to the two speeches, one from Chaudhri Shahab-ud-din and the other from my learned friend Chaudhri Duli Chand who has just sat down. If any proof were needed that this country is yet unfit for self-government, the speeches of these two honourable members have supplied that proof. Chaudhri Shahab-ud-din tells us that his municipal committee and Mian Shah Nawaz tells us that a large number of municipal committees have applied to the education department that their schools may be taken

[Pandit Nanak Chand.]
over by Government. Now, Sir, this is a very sad confession on the part of those who take part in municipal affairs that they are unable to manage their own affairs and they want to shift their burden of responsibility, which they ought to cheerfully shoulder, on to the heads of Government. My submission is that this policy of provincialization is the very negation of the preparation for self-government. It is the duty of local bodies and municipal boards that they should undertake cheerfully the duties that fall on their shoulders. I would refer my friends to the institutions in England and they will find that all the secondary education is in the hands of either County Councils or other such bodies and that they are not under the control of Government. The Board of Education makes grants to these schools and it is with the help of these grants that these local bodies in England carry on the secondary education of the youths of the country. You will find that the Government in England is anxious that the people should take up the education of the youths of the country in their own hands and they are investing their municipal committees and local boards with larger powers, but we find here that the representatives of such bodies are doing their level best to make over the schools to Government and shirk the responsibility which they ought to cheerfully undertake. Sir, I do not blame these municipal committees for doing this. Undoubtedly the policy pursued by Government during the last few years so far as education is concerned was a wrong one. They insisted upon large buildings and they made these local bodies and private individuals and private bodies which were responsible for the management and the carrying on of these schools spend large amounts of money on grand buildings and it was on that account that the municipal committees found their hands tied and they found that it was impossible for them to carry on the policy of private education. I must say, Sir, that Sir George Anderson is trying to check that policy. He is not insisting to-day upon the same kind of grand buildings and I find in his report that he is doing his utmost to find a *via media* for meeting the demands of the people in this connection. Now that we find that the financial strain is gone the municipal committees and the local boards should insist that Government should give them grants-in-aid, and not take over the schools which are under their charge. Not only this, Sir, but those municipalities which are making over schools to Government are guilty of a breach of public trust. The buildings that have been erected so far have been erected by the funds of the municipality only in collecting public subscriptions and they are making over these buildings to Government, which I submit is a breach of trust, and they are guilty of this breach of trust. It is on that ground also that I would oppose the provincialization of schools.

Then, Sir, no effective argument has been brought forward against the argument advanced by Sardar Jodh Singh that as a matter of fact Government management of secondary schools costs more money than the management of local bodies. That side of the question should not be ignored. It is unfortunate that no Government member has so far spoken against the proposal so that we should have heard their explanation. They have reserved their right of reply to the end.

Then my submission is that by taking over these schools you are doing away with the interest that is being aroused in the villages and in those places where private schools or schools of local bodies exist. Just imagine the case of a municipality where its members have gone from place to place begging subscriptions for the building of a school. Thus they try to

arouse people's interest in secondary education and when they find that the school has gone out of their hands the interest which was once aroused will be there no more. My submission is that, if you want to encourage the people that they should try to educate themselves and take a keener interest in their educational matters, then you should not pursue this policy of provincialization. You must try and find out methods so that there should be greater interest shown by those people than they show at present.

Mian Shah Nawaz told us that in the last Council and in this Council also that this policy of provincialization was accepted and he referred to a certain number of questions put here in this Council by a certain number of members. My submission is that that is not the decision of the Council. These questions merely show a certain sort of desire on the part of those members that the schools should be made over to the control of Government, but it does not show that the Council has decided by an elected majority that they are in favour of the provincialization of these schools. Of course they can carry these resolutions with the help of the official block, but in questions of this kind the official block should not vote at all.

I think, Sir, that the higher interests of the country require that this policy of provincialization should not be pursued and people should be made to take a greater interest and should be allowed to take a greater interest, in education than they have shown in the past.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh) Rural]: Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me time even though at a very late hour and I am sorry that I have to oppose the honourable mover of the amendment. I admit, Sir, that, as compared with his experience in education, I am yet a child; but I regret to say that he has discussed this subject from a purely theoretical and academical point of view. Sardar Jodh Singh, who is half-way into this department, has discussed it from the financial point of view. I will place before this House the real difficulties that arise in the working of the scheme. It is an open secret that a majority of the district boards and municipalities are not in a satisfactory condition from the financial point of view. Experience and personal observation tell us that they have for the last two or three years not been able to allot the same amount for education as the departmental rules require. The result has been that education among the rural areas where these schools are situated has gone down. Here the question is whether those institutions which are going to be provincialized are to be closed for ever or whether they are to be maintained. I will take the example of a school in my own district (A voice: Apply for grants). I will answer that question. In the present budget a very small amount has been allotted for grants-in-aid to these schools. These grants are not sufficient to maintain these schools and unless they are increased the schools will have to be closed this year. I will take the example of a school in my own district situated in Moga proper. On account of the financial stringency the District Board decided to close down that school altogether. The number of students on the roll in that school was between 300 and 400. There was a great hue and cry and all those interested in the education of their children ran about from door to door and entreated the members of the district board not to close the school. But the members were adamant, as hard as a stone, and they did not yield. At this time the Inspector of Schools came to their help and said that they should not close down the school at Moga, but transfer it to some other place where the people were willing to a certain extent to pay from

[Sardar Tara Singh.]

their own pockets; and in fact the people of that ilaqa did subscribe Rs. 20,000 for the maintenance of that school because they were anxious to see that the doors of education were not closed to their children. Now, Sir, this year that district board has clearly stated that they cannot maintain the school. That school is lying in the centre of the rural area and I can guarantee that cent per cent. of the students there are agriculturists. The question is, if you are not going to provincialize that school this year, it will be closed, which means you will be closing the education of over 500 boys. Not only will this discourage education, but no boy will join the school for a long period. The question is therefore one of practical difficulty. If you refuse this grant which is allotted for provincialization of the schools, then Government will not be able to take up the management, the local boards are not going to maintain them and the result will be that the schools will be closed. If you take the average number of students in each high school at 500, then you will be closing the education of about 3,500 boys by refusing this grant. It has been suggested that the grant to local bodies should be increased. My point is that according to the present budget the amount allotted for grants-in-aid is small and it is not sufficient to maintain those schools with these grants-in-aid. The question therefore comes to this: Do you wish provincialization of schools or the closing of schools? If you have the welfare and the educational advancement of the rural people at heart, then vote for this grant. At least this year allow the amount to remain. Next year perhaps the question may be reconsidered.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni: I rise to a word of personal explanation, Sir. It will be quite a practicable scheme I believe if this amount were distributed to the very same schools by way of grants-in-aid so that even though the schools are not provincialized they will get the necessary financial assistance.

Sardar Tara Singh: Sir, it has been complained to me that certain amounts which have been allotted to local bodies for education purposes have been lying with them for a certain number of years without being used and that in some cases they have been appropriated for some other urgent purposes. Therefore these grants are not usually utilized immediately for the purpose for which they are granted. Therefore I request that at least this year the amount may be granted to allow of the provincialization of the schools. As regards the expenditure per scholar, Mian Shah Nawaz has been good enough to show that the expenditure was the same, deducting of course the income from fees.

Sardar Jodh Singh: I question that.

Sardar Tara Singh: I am sorry I have to oppose the motion for reduction.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education): Sir, we have spent an hour and a half in listening to a debate which I venture to submit was unnecessary. If the proceedings of the previous budget meetings and of the Education Standing Committee which appear in the *Punjab Gazette* were perused by those who are responsible for moving this reduction this time

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni: Held when?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain..... may have been saved.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : When was that committee meeting held ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member representing the University must understand that I can concede a great deal to age, but not when I am on my legs trying to throw light upon the subject and trying to bring some order out of the confused ideas which have been poured forth in torrents of eloquence by my friend.....

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Sir, I shall refuse to give place to the Honourable the Education Minister if he wants me to give place to him in future if he does not give place to me when I want to put a question. I believe I am absolutely right when I put that question. Instead of answering that question he enters upon an irrelevant tirade upon some kind of virtues which some people may or may not possess.

Mr. President : Order, order.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Sir, I am absolutely unable to follow.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : Is that my fault if the honourable member is unable to follow ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Then it is on account of my inability to understand English or on account of the fact that I am so confused that I cannot understand what has been said. It must be due to one of these two.

It has been said—I do not know what really has been said—it has been so very difficult to follow. There has been a good deal of "crabbing" in the speech.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : It is a calumny upon the crab.

Mr. President : Order, order.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : It is very difficult really to try to put anything before the Council when there is so much excitement and so much emotion and so much confusion displayed. I will really try to reduce that confusion, and restore some sort of order, in spite of the emotional interruptions. Now, the first point is : How has the question of "provincialization" arisen ? Was it that the Ministry of Education, anxious to take possession of secondary education throughout the province, formulated a policy to take possession of all these high schools which were being managed by local bodies. Or, was it that the Ministry of Education, which also within its charge holds local self-government, was so anxious to destroy the independence and the capacity to manage schools of these local bodies that it devised a scheme to deprive these local bodies of learning how to manage the high schools ? It was, after all these two charges that the reduction amendment includes. If I may correct myself for a moment, it includes a third charge : that of extravagance. Is it that the Ministry of Education in its desire to waste Government money thought it better to spend it on the provincialization of these schools which were being so well and so efficiently and so economically run by the local bodies ?

Now, Sir, I may say that these three charges are not well founded. I will presently explain how the whole question arose, and who is responsible

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

for it. During the war the cost of almost everything went up. There was a general demand for a rise in wages. As soon as the war came to an end there was a revision of pay, with the result that the expenditure on high schools held by Government increased a great deal. When one set of high schools managed by Government were so run as to necessitate the teachers being paid a particular scale, a similar demand naturally had to come from the schools of local boards. The local boards found that they could not run their schools efficiently when the demands made by their schools on their purse grew in dimensions and their purse did not grow correspondingly, with the result that the district boards began to consider whether to give up secondary education altogether or to get more funds by fresh taxation. Fresh taxation, as we all know is not popular. District boards explored all avenues of fresh taxation and they increased their income considerably. On the other hand the reforms scheme came in and the claim of the Legislative Council that the interests of primary education should precede all others, was so strong that the Ministry of Education gladly adopted it, and thus persuasive pressure was being brought to bear on district boards and municipalities through the agency of grants-in-aid to develop free primary education. With what result it has been done this Council knows full well. The tremendous increase in the number of pupils, the increase in the efficiency of primary schools due to the increased grants-in-aid and through the efforts of district boards are facts all well known to the Council. Now the district boards and municipalities found that they could not possibly do these two things together. What was the result? They had to enlarge the scope of their work in primary education and for the time being reduce their activity in the case of secondary education. So it was really the pressure on the purses of district boards and in the second place the impossibility of enlarging their revenues to meet the increased demand from secondary education within their area and in the third place the fact that Government was pushing primary education on them, all these facts made them raise the question of the provincialization of these schools. Along with these came the demand for increased facilities for secondary education in rural areas. The policy of 1882 resulted in the neglect of education in rural areas. Is it not right that Government should stop that policy which makes the rich richer, and the poor poorer. Sir, I found it necessary in the interests of affording equal opportunity of acquiring education to all classes of people, to start the present policy to afford opportunities to the backward to come up to the level of the forward (hear, hear). If this policy is challenged in this House by any member, it is immaterial to me to what party he belongs, whether he belongs to the Congress party or the Swarajist party, liberal party or the conservative party or a reactionary party. I am ready to declare that I am bent upon continuing it as long as I am a Minister.

Then, Sir, the next point raised was the great solicitude for local bodies. Well, Sir, it reminds me of the Punjabi proverb which I once before three years ago mentioned in this very House—

Man nalon keji so phaphe kutani.

One professing to be more solicitous for the welfare of the child than the mother of the child is a fraud. All these schools are the children of local bodies. The local bodies in their solicitude for the welfare of their children want those children to be taken care of by the department and here we are told "Oh, no, leave them alone; the mother does know the interests of the child!"

Sir, I really do not think it is necessary for me to dilate any further on this subject, and that for very good reasons. When

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I took the matter of provincialization of high schools towards the end of 1921, I felt the proposal involved a distinct change of policy, and that the proposed policy may or may not be right. Therefore the matter was placed before the Standing Education Committee and the advice they gave me was in favour of the policy which I have just enunciated. Therefore a grant for this purpose was included in the schedule of new expenditure and placed before this Council. It was passed in the first year, it was passed in the second year and it is just being considered for the third year, this being the third year. As many as 24 high schools were provincialized during the last two and a half years and now I am being told: "Why have you not placed this matter before the Standing Education Committee?" Surely I am entitled to say "Where are you? Where were you when this policy was enunciated in the first instance and discussed in the Education committee and approved by this Council?" Was it my fault that the honourable member—Professor Ruchi Ram—did not choose to come into this Council in 1921? Did I prevent him from coming here? Not having done so, he now comes forward and says that all that was done during the last three years is not binding because he was not present, and that the whole thing must be discussed over again. That is a position which I, for one, cannot accept. If he wants enlightenment on these subjects, there are the annual reports of the Education Department which, if he in his leisure moments glances through, he will get all the information which I have been trying to impart during the last few minutes. I advise him to go through the reports of 1921-22, 1922-23 and 1923-24

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni: I have read more reports than the Honourable Minister.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Has the honourable member digested them?

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: He has got a very good digestion.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: If a medical man said that, I would believe him. Is that medical opinion? My honourable friend must know that it never pays to interrupt a man who has been a lawyer. Therefore, so far as this amendment is concerned, the only point which really seems to have prompted it is the solicitude of the honourable mover for the subordinate educational service. There I sympathize with him. What does he want in that connection? Somehow he has imported that subject into this debate. He says "Do not provincialize these schools, because, if you provincialize them, my pets will be in trouble". As a matter of fact, the subordinate educational service men who were in service before provincialization began constitute a list apart. Realizing the force of the various points that have been urged by the mover and seconder of this amendment, a separate list was in the very beginning made for those who were taken along with the provincialized schools. Every effort is being made to see that the men who have come through the door of provincialization do not injure the interests of those who were in service already. It is exceedingly difficult to do so, but every effort is being made to see that no injustice is done and it is with this end in view that a separate list has been maintained already.

I am afraid I cannot hold out any promise as to what will happen to the prospects of the subordinate educational service men. That is a matter in which

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

the Finance Department is most intimately concerned. That again is a matter which concerns the advancement of secondary education in the province and it will not be right for me, however anxious I may be to please the honourable mover and seconder, to commit myself. They must take their chance on the strength of their own case and not because amendments have been moved against grants for education in this House.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 81,070 with respect to the item of Rs. 82,000—Provincialization of Local Board High Schools."

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. 10 with respect to the item of Rs. 34,000—Maintenance Grants to Aided Schools."

The object of moving this reduction is to raise a debate on the new grant-in-aid rules. I am sorry to observe that, when such a discussion takes place, somehow or other other considerations thrust themselves in and an unpleasant atmosphere is created. As far as it lies in my power, I shall try to discuss the whole thing from an educational point of view and shall try to show that the data on which the famous circular No. 13070 G., dated 6th November 1923, was based was wrong or at least that the figures given there have been given a meaning which they ought not to have been given. Sir, the portion of the circular to which I take exception is this :—

"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 grants-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 population."

This last phrase is the phrase to which I take exception. With the spirit of the circular I have no quarrel. Backward areas and backward communities ought to be educated, and I, Sir, am one of those who feel that, so long as the whole of the Punjab is not educated and so long as the light of education is not brought to every door, be that door that of a Muhammadan, a Sikh, a Hindu or a Christian, or even of a Choda, so long we cannot hope to rise because a large portion of the uneducated masses are a dead-weight which the small educated portion of the community cannot carry forward. What I submit is that this allocation of grants-in-aid awarded according to the population of a community is a thing which will throw a damper on the missionary spirit of those communities who want to spend more for the spread of education. First of all, I will give some idea of what private schools are doing in the field of education in this province. There are 49 Government schools against which there are 140 aided private schools. The number of scholars in the Government schools is 18,714, while in the aided schools it is 59,751. The average cost per scholar in a Government school is Rs. 61, while in an aided school

it is Rs. 41 (the primary figures are included in the later figure, for which I cannot be held responsible because in the departmental statistics they are not given separately). But the cost which falls purely on the provincial revenues, is much less because in Government schools Rs. 33 per scholar is spent from the provincial sources, whilst in the private schools Rs. 16 per scholar is spent from the Government purse. Exclusive of fees and income from other sources every private school costs Government on an average Rs. 6,766, which is about half the amount that Government is spending on a Government school. My submission is if it is proposed to spread education in a wider area, it will be in the interests of education to encourage private enterprise as far as possible. When giving facts and figures in this circular, a good deal of attention was bestowed on the Rawalpindi Division, where it is claimed that the Khalsa schools were receiving Rs. 60,000 per annum by way of grant-in-aid, while the Sikhs formed only 5 per cent of the population. I submit that another interpretation can be put on these figures. As the Director of Public Instruction and the Honourable Minister for Education know full well, nobody can make money out of running a school according to the present grant-in-aid rules. A school must spend 4th of the net expenditure from its own pocket. In other words, if the Sikhs are getting Rs. 60,000 by way of grant, they must be spending at least Rs. 15,000 per annum from their own pockets. For what purpose? Not for the education of the Sikhs alone, but for the education of all the communities that constitute the division. I substantiate this claim of mine by a reference to the figures of the students reading in the Khalsa schools of that division. I sent a letter to the headmasters of all the Khalsa schools and now I have got the figures of almost all the Khalsa schools in my hand. I would divide them into three classes. Schools situated in centres where there are no board, Islamia or Government schools. In these schools, which are now five in number, the number of students is 456 Sikhs; 216 Hindus and 22 Muhammadans. From this it will be seen that these Khalsa schools are not only catering for the needs of the Sikhs but for those of the Hindus and Muhammadans as well. Where there is a board or a Government school, naturally because in that division some special concessions are given to the Muhammadans in the shape of reduction in fees in public schools, Muhammadans would not come to Khalsa schools in preference to Government schools, but in that case also, where there is a board or a Government school, I find that in the ten institutions there are 1,313 Sikhs; 658 Hindus and 371 Muhammadans. Even there other communities also find something to attract them to come to Khalsa schools and, even where there is an Islamia school, we find that Muhammadan students come to Khalsa schools. In the case of Gujar Khan, Sukho, Rawalpindi and other such centres the number of Muhammadan students and Hindu students coming to Khalsa schools cannot be very large because there are board and Islamia schools to attract them, but even in them I find 182 Muhammadans and 273 Hindus as compared to 1,237 Sikhs. These figures have been quoted simply to show that the Khalsa schools in that division are not established simply to educate the Sikhs, but that they are educating all the inhabitants of the places concerned, and therefore, if these schools are getting a grant-in-aid, we cannot say that that grant is given to the Sikh community alone. That is not all. I find that the Sikhs in their zeal for spreading education have gone still further. I find that in one of the Khalsa schools where they have arranged for the religious education of the Sikhs they have also arranged for the religious education of the Muhammadans. The Khalsa school, Kallar, specially employs a Muhammadan

[Sardar Jodh Singh.]

teacher for that purpose and the result is that year by year the number of Muhammadan students in that school is increasing. I do not know why against the dictates of its own circular, the education department has allowed the establishment of a board school there also. I do not know why, because I find that the Khalsa school is popular amongst all communities. The number of students there does not permit of a second school being opened, but still, after the Khalsa school had been established and it was found to be popular among all communities, a district board school has been opened. I hope that, as is stated in the circular that the district board will open schools only where there are no schools, this district board school will be transferred to a place where there is none.

The Hon'ble Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Which school is the honourable member speaking of?

Sardar Jodh Singh: The district board school, Kallar, district Rawalpindi. Sir, from these facts and figures I have proved that, wherever these communal schools exist, they cater for the needs of all the inhabitants of the surrounding ilaqa. Let us see what would happen if the grant was in proportion to the population in that division. I admit the number of the Sikhs in that division is very small and what would happen is that all these schools which were established at a great cost would starve and would be wiped out of existence because I must confess that the great wave of private enterprise that spread over the province during the last decade was due to the liberal grant-in-aid rules. And what will the Sikhs think of this treatment? Instead of being patted on the back by the education department for being the pioneers of education, for spending so much money from their own pockets, they are going to be told unceremoniously: "Look here your number in this division is so small that it does not warrant of any monetary help in any educational enterprise that you undertake". I may also assure the House that these Khalsa schools are always established in villages, excepting of course the one at the headquarters of the Rawalpindi district. When we know that there is need for a school, and the district board is too poor to start a school in that village, we go and open a school there. I may mention here that I had a talk with the Director of Public Instruction and with the officiating Director of Public Instruction and with the Minister for Education on this subject. They assured me that the rule would not be applied in the case of existing high schools. They also assured me that the rule of giving grants-in-aid according to the population has not been observed, but I submit, Sir, that, if there is no intention to apply that rule and if the old schools are not to be wiped out of existence, where is the use of keeping that rule in that circular? I will submit not only the complaints of the Sikhs alone, but I would also take the case of the mission schools also. Everybody in this House, I think, will admit that but for the efforts of the Christian missions in the early fifties the spread of education in this province would have been delayed for a long time (hear, hear). I myself am a student of a mission school and I finished my education in a mission college, Sir. If we now allocate our grants-in-aid to these mission schools on the basis of the population, then the Christian population in this province is not enough even to get a grant-in-aid for one school. But there is a network of mission schools all over the province doing a good deal of useful work even now. I would therefore submit to the education department that this rule of allocating the grants according to the population of the community should not be acted upon or rather deleted from this circular. There is a way out of

the difficulty. What the education department wants is to spread education amongst the backward communities in backward areas. If a little thought is bestowed upon this problem, it will be apparent that the backward communities generally dwell in backward areas. They are backward in education simply because they mostly inhabit the backward areas. The Muslim community is a backward community because the division of Multan is backward in education and most of the Muhammadans dwell there. Therefore, Sir, to the policy of the opening of the new Government schools in those areas which are backward or giving them money to encourage private enterprise, I have not the least objection. I would rather be pleased to see that. But, Sir, this policy of allocating grants-in-aid in proportion to the population of a community may hamper education. In the Multan division itself, where there was originally a very small Sikh population, in the canal colonies the Sikhs have now begun to settle. A large colony of Sikhs exists in Lyallpur, Montgomery and Multan and with their zeal for education they have established one small school for the present in the Multan district. Now, their population may not warrant any grant for that school. But I am sure that the Director of Public Instruction and the Minister for Education would be very sorry to refuse grant-in-aid to that school simply because the number of Sikhs in that district does not warrant it. I may say, as I have said already, that I am at one with the idea that Government schools from overschooled districts may be taken to underschooled districts. I have no objection to that. Government schools from overschooled district headquarters may be taken to underschooled tahsils. I have not the least objection to that. Government by allocating grants may help the backward areas by opening new Government schools and by encouraging private enterprise; but I would respectfully submit that, while the pace of the backward areas and backward communities is being accelerated, the pace of those communities that have taken to education in a progressive manner may not be retarded. This is the only consideration that has made me move this reduction. With these remarks, Sir, I move the reduction in order to elicit some satisfactory answer from Government.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, reduction moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 100 with respect to the item of Rs. 84,000—Maintenance Grants to Aided Schools”.

The question is that that reduction be made.

Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan [Gujrat-East (Muhammadan) Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, I have heard a great deal about education and educational schemes, but I am sorry to say that up till now no practical steps have been taken in the way of improvement. On the contrary every effort, direct or indirect, is being made to put hindrances in the way of the advancement of zamindars. My friend Sardar Jodh Singh has made some remarks about the educational needs of Rawalpindi and I have patiently listened to him. Sir, I have also the honour to belong to the district of Rawalpindi and I know much better than Sardar Jodh Singh. The population of the Rawalpindi district comprises a majority of Muhammadans, so much so that in a group of 20 men only one Hindu or Sikh can be found, but nearly all the headmasters and pleaders are either Hindus or Sikhs. I had on a previous occasion also remarked that in the Rawalpindi district there exists a very bad state of affairs. There are some primary schools where defective education is imparted to the children of soldiers and zamindars

[Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.]

and that does not help them in their future life. Now the army department has also made it compulsory for the Indian soldiers to have at least a rudimentary knowledge of English and it is a matter of regret that in the district of Rawalpindi there are some Sikh schools where Muslim children are not fairly treated. There is also one Islamia high school in Rawalpindi and that belongs to *Khojas*, who have no sympathy with zamindars and their children. Moreover in this district the Hindu-Muslim question has assumed such a grave aspect that each community tries to hoodwink the other. I have strained every nerve to improve the situation, but to no avail.

Mr. President: Order, order. The honourable member should try to connect his speech in some way with the item in question. I have been waiting to see if he is doing that.

Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan (Urdu): Sir, I was saying that secondary education is very badly needed in the district of Rawalpindi. This district contains a very large portion of the backward classes and is inhabited by a fairly large number of soldiers who also require secondary education because the knowledge of English is, to a certain extent, necessary for military service. In cities there are already sufficient schools established for the benefit of commercial people and it is high time that new secondary schools be opened for zamindars. For these reasons I beg to oppose the amendment.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar [East and West Central Towns (Muhammadan) Urban] (Urdu): Sir, the objections raised by my honourable friend Sardar Jodh Singh are chiefly directed against the wording of the circular relating to the distribution of grants-in-aid to schools, and the facts stated in connection therewith by him do not support his contention at all, but refute it. The discussion raised by the present amendment therefore is only of academic interest. I will, however, deal in a few words with the practical aspect of the question.

My honourable friend seems to be labouring under the misapprehension that the Khalsa schools are going to be ignored in the matter of distribution of grants-in-aid. I ask him whether the grants-in-aid of any of the Khalsa schools have been withheld or are going to be withheld or whether such schools are prohibited from being opened or started in future. The circular in question does not mean that at all. What is meant by the circular is that grants-in-aid be liberally given to the schools which belong to those classes which are backward in education. It is not meant by the circular that population alone will be the criterion on which the distribution of grants-in-aid will rest. The circular was drafted with a good deal of care and caution and to corroborate my statement I will read an extract from the circular, which runs as follows:—

“ This allocation having been made, the distribution or redistribution of grants amongst schools receiving grants-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.”

As I have stated before, this does not mean that population alone will count in the distribution of grants-in-aid, but that the proportion of the population of various communities will be taken into consideration. However, in a case where eight schools have been opened in a particular district by the Sikhs four belong to the Muhammadan community, some difficulty may

arise while distributing grants-in-aid. The question will be as to how much of the grant-in-aid reserved for that district should be given to the Islamia schools and how much of it should go to the rest. If the money is sufficient to be provided, all the twelve schools can get a share out of it, but, in case that sum is not sufficient, the best course for the department distributing grants-in-aid would be to distribute grants-in-aid taking into consideration the various factors mentioned in the circular, and, if aid is given to two Islamia schools and two Khalsa schools, no injustice would be done. This will leave no room for complaints by any community. And I may say that is the way that has been and is going to be adopted in future. In my opinion there is not the slightest chance of injustice being done to any community, and the words of the circular are sufficiently clear on this point.

In view of what I have stated above, I find that I cannot but oppose the amendment moved by the honourable member Sardar Jodh Singh.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, I wish to submit that in the Multan division, where the Hindu community is in a minority and in a backward condition, no grant-in-aid has been given to the Hindu schools during the last four years. I wanted to elicit information on the subject by means of questions, but the answers given were hazy. In the Dera Ghazi Khan district the Hindus are in a backward condition, e.g., Taunsa school gets no grant-in-aid, in spite of incessant demands for it. The Honourable Minister, however, says that he gives grants-in-aid to as many Hindu schools as he can. How this is manipulated is this. He gives grants-in-aid to the old Hindu schools and goes on opening new Mussalman schools. Because there are innumerable Hindu schools he can always show that he is giving grants to as many Hindu schools as to Mussalman schools. That is how the number has been made up in the list that has been given to us. I can prove to the Director of Public Instruction that during the last four years absolutely no grant has been given to new schools that have been opened by the Hindus in Taunsa, Dera Ghazi Khan, etc. The authorities of the schools have been trying their utmost to get grants-in-aid for their new schools, but without success. The Hindu education in the Dera Ghazi Khan district and in the Muzaffargarh district is kept in a very backward condition. I request the Director of Public Instruction to treat these two communities alike in the backward districts. In view of the fact that the claims of minorities are going to be conceded in every other place, I request that the claims of the Hindus for education in backward districts such as Dera Ghazi Khan, Muzaffargarh, etc., should also be conceded and the Hindu schools should be given grants-in-aid.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon [Shahpur East (Muhammadar) Rural]: Sir, before I proceed to argue the merits of the case, I should just like to answer my honourable friend who has just sat down as to the relative claims and rights of the various communities as far as grants-in-aid in the Multan division are concerned. Here I have an officially printed book which shows the grants-in-aid given to the various schools in the division.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: I have already given a reply to that list and there is no use of referring to it again.

Mr. President: The honourable member is quite in order in referring to it.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : In the Multan division the total grant is Rs. 1,13,000 ; out of this, the Hindu schools in that division are getting Rs. 45,000, and, roughly speaking, the Muhammadan schools are getting only Rs. 33,000. Now, Sir, in a division which is mainly populated by the Muhammadan community and where the Hindus form only a very small fraction of the population, the community which my honourable friend represents is already getting more than what they deserve, namely, Rs. 45,000 out of Rs. 1,13,000. Then, if we come to the Ambala division, where the Muhammadan community is probably in a minority, you will find that the Muslims are getting only Rs. 22,000 out of Rs. 1,34,000. If you go by the ratio of the grant which the Muhammadan community is getting in the Ambala division, I submit that the Hindus in the Multan division ought to get only Rs. 19,000 per annum, and not Rs. 45,000. If, under the circumstances, a helping hand is given to a community which forms the majority of the population, I do not think it is anything unfair. It is the duty of Government to help the people who are very backward. It will be seen, Sir, that the total amount of grants-in-aid in the province is Rs. 9,49,000, and out of this the Muhammadans in the whole province are getting only a paltry sum of Rs. 1,40,000, that is to say, about 14 per cent of the total grant-in-aid in the whole province. From this it can be seen that a community which forms nearly 60 per cent of the population of this province gets only 14 per cent of the public money which is given by way of grants-in-aid in this province. Is it not fair on the part of Government to lend a helping hand to a community which is so badly in need of help? As far as the argument of my honourable friend Sardar Jodh Singh goes, I will take up the case of the Rawalpindi division. In that division the total grant-in-aid is Rs. 2,15,000 per annum. Out of this the Muhammadans are getting only Rs. 19,000, whereas the Sikhs are getting Rs. 61,000, per annum. If the population of the Sikh community in the division is only about 5 per cent as stated by my honourable friend, then the Sikhs are entitled only to Rs. 11,000 out of the grant. Instead of that, they are getting Rs. 61,000. What are the Muhammadans getting? They are getting only Rs. 19,000, which is less than one-third of the amount which the Sikh community is getting. So I do not see any reason why my honourable friend Sardar Jodh Singh should have got up and spoken on an amendment of this nature when his own community is being so well paid already. There is not the slightest ground for him to bring forward any grievance at all. Now, Sir, as far as the principle of giving special consideration to backward communities is concerned, I think it requires no argument so far as this province is concerned. Everywhere we hear the Sikh community coming forward and saying : " Numerically we are fewer ; but take into consideration our backwardness. take into consideration our loyal service, take into consideration our political importance in this country. Taking all these things into consideration, you must give us extra privileges, extra grants and extra everything ". Now, Sir, my honourable friend would be the last person to come forward and dispute a circular of this nature, which only intends to help people who are backward and which only intends to distribute more or less equally the grants given out of public funds. I hope the House will not agree to an amendment of this nature.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz [Lahore (Muhammadan) Rural], (Urdu) : Sir, the matter being of great importance I would like to express my views in vernacular in regard to the amendment, under consideration, so that the non-English knowing members may be able to understand it fully well

My honourable friend Sardar Jodh Singh, for whom I have great regard, has admitted this much; that the principle of giving grants-in-aid to private schools is a sound and good principle. He has further admitted that such grants-in-aid should be liberally granted to the backward areas and to the class of people who are backward in education. So far so good. Now I ask my friend as to what there is in the circular that has made him move this amendment. I am really at a loss to understand why my friend should have taken the trouble to discuss the matter when he admits these two principles. It is further an admitted fact that in the two divisions of Rawalpindi and Multan the grants-in-aid that the Hindus are receiving are much more than their population would admit of. Now if the principle that those who are backward in education should be given more grants-in-aid is to be acted upon, I see no reason why the Muhammadans should not be allowed more than what they have been already getting and more so because these two divisions are preponderantly populated by the Muhammadans. When the principle has been admitted, I cannot understand why the discussion in the matter is being prolonged. And if, in pursuance of this principle, more grants-in-aid will be given to the Muhammadans in future, it does not follow that the grants-in-aid given to the existing institutions will be withheld. My friend need not apprehend that the honourable minister has agreed to close all the old schools by withholding their grants. Such an idea is farthest from his mind.

The apprehension to which Sardar Jodh Singh has given expression might be consequent upon the fact that the Sikhs and Hindus are not going to be granted as much grants-in-aid as they were receiving previously, but, if that is not done, how is the principle, that the backward classes be encouraged, going to take effect? If that principle is given effect to, the Muhammadans must be allotted more grants-in-aid than before.

Then my friend Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram, for whom too I have a great regard, has remarked that the Hindus in the Multan division and elsewhere have been ignored and have not been given as much grants-in-aid as they deserved. In reply to this remark I may say, without fear of contradiction, that thereby he has betrayed his ignorance of facts. I have got a list with me of the schools receiving grants-in-aid. That list clearly shows that the Hindus are receiving not only what is due to them, but more than that. I may assure my friend that I do not cherish any ill-will against Hindus. I love them as my brethren. I feel for them when they are in trouble, and in their happiness I find pleasure. But they should not expect me to support them when they are unduly exacting. I must support Government when it is going to encourage education in the backward classes.

I will not detain the House long, but will end my remarks by saying that the circular in question does not contemplate the distribution of grants-in-aid with regard to population alone. It proposes to take into consideration the fact of backwardness of a particular class also. The circular is based on equality of treatment and fairness. It has justice as its aim. The total grants-in-aid come to nearly 9 lakhs and out of this amount the Muhammadans are getting only 1½ lakhs. Their population is 55 per cent in the province, their contribution is more than one-half towards the provincial revenues; they are also illiterate, poor and backward in education. In these circumstances it is but right that they should get at least one-half of the total grants-in-aid. For these reasons I oppose the amendment, which is virtually a vote of censure on the policy of the education department.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) (Urdu): Sir, the matter under consideration was discussed last year at a sufficient length and I do not think it necessary to make any long speech at this stage. I would confine my remarks to stating a few facts and that too because I find that some of the honourable members have not only said that the circular in question is bad, but have gone to the length of alleging that it was issued with some special motive in view. Some members have not even hesitated to remark that the circular was issued in order to allot more money reserved for grants-in-aid to the schools belonging to the Muhammadan community. In reply to that remark I would only refer the House to the statement which was supplied in answer to question No. 1350.* That statement makes it more than clear that the Muhammadans have not benefited in any way by the circular and that they have not been given even the share due to them.

Further, a hue and cry has been raised that the arrangements existing with regard to the old schools have been upset and that every pie out of the money reserved for grants-in-aid has gone to run the Muhammadan schools. To show that this hue and cry is the outcome of prejudiced minds I would refer the honourable members again to the same statement. It will appear from that statement that the distribution of grants-in-aid takes three different forms. The first of them relates to the district boards. The study

of the list in this connection will show that no grants-in-aid have been given to any Muhammadan district board if there is any such board in the province. Next comes the distribution of grants-in-aid to new schools. Out of the total grant to the new schools, the Muhammadans will be found to have been given only 16 per cent. while the remaining 84 per cent of the grant has been granted to the schools belonging to other communities. Then comes the grant which is as named Special Grant. There too the share allotted to the Muhammadans does not exceed 30 per cent of the whole grant. After what has been stated above I ask how the circular can be said to have brought misery and hardship to the non-Muslims? How can it be said that the Muhammadans have been given everything and nothing is left for the other communities? I think the figures to which I have referred will satisfy the members if they can at all be satisfied.

Mr. President: Now that the discussion has taken place, I hope that the honourable member wishes to withdraw.

Sardar Jodh Singh: Sir, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: Sir, before leave to withdraw the motion is given I should like to know whether the Honourable Minister for Education means to stick to the existing policy.

(A voice: This is not the time for asking questions.)

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: I do not think it will require much time to say yes or no.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni: In the absence of any answer to this question I would certainly say that we object to leave being given for the amendment to be withdrawn.

Mr. President: Those who object will please rise in their places.

(Eight members stood up.)

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Pandit Nanak Chand [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] :
Sir, I beg to move—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 100 with respect to the item of Rs. 32,56,000—
Minor Head—B—Secondary.”

I wish to assure the House that this is a more pleasant question. It is a question which mainly affects the agriculturists, and it is a question which benefits mostly my friends who are representing our friends the Muhammadans. I wish to raise the discussion with regard to the Director of Public Instruction's circular No. 10, dated the 6th of April, 1923, in which it has been laid down that students from unrecognized schools are not to be taken or admitted into recognized schools,—both aided and Government schools. Sir, before I proceed to show the defects of the arrangements, I want to explain to the Council what the system was before this circular came into force. There are two kinds of schools: recognized schools and unrecognized schools. They are again divided into two heads: vernacular schools and Anglo-vernacular schools. The course pursued in vernacular schools is different from the course pursued in Anglo-vernacular schools. The syllabus of studies is absolutely different. The circular seeks to enforce an examination upon the unrecognized Anglo-vernacular schools, while there is no public examination with regard to the schools which are recognized by the department. Thus a difference is sought to be made between the recognized schools and the unrecognized schools. That is to say, a student who reads in an Anglo-vernacular unrecognized school has to pass a public examination before he can get an entrance into the 9th class of recognized secondary schools. The previous system was that, if a student wanted admission into an Anglo-vernacular 9th class of a recognized aided or Government school, the headmaster examined the boy, and, if he found that he was fit to be taken in the 9th class, he was admitted, but, instead of that, now a public examination has to be gone through, and that public examination is one which is prescribed for Anglo-vernacular schools. I submit, Sir, that in the first instance the syllabuses of the two schools are different. The vernacular schools follow a certain kind of syllabus and the Anglo-vernacular schools follow another kind but the examination which students of unrecognized schools have to pass is the one which is prescribed for the vernacular schools. That, I submit, is a great injustice and it has worked a real hardship. All classes of people have protested against this circular. In a meeting held at Montgomery presided over by Chaudhri Shahab-ud-din they protested against this circular. The resolution was put from the chair and was carried. The headmasters' associations of various districts, including that of the Lahore district, passed a resolution against this circular. Similarly, the Khalsa schools, as well as the managing committees of the Hindu schools, passed resolutions of protest against the enforcement of that circular . . .

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : On a point of order, Sir, the honourable member who is speaking just now himself moved a resolution in this Council on the 26th of February, 1924, on this very subject on which the House divided and gave its opinion. Under the rules is he allowed to bring up the same subject again ?

Mr. President: The honourable member is in order in discussing it now.

Pandit Nanak Chand: I was saying that men of different communities and especially our Muhammadan friends, assembled at Montgomery passed a resolution under the chairmanship of Chaudhri Shahab-ud-din. From this it would be clear that this circular touches men of all classes. Then my submission is that this circular is really a hindrance in the way of agriculturists. Where are these unrecognized schools situated? Not in urban towns because there these urban people who are rich, according to our agriculturist friends, have got schools which are recognized. These unrecognized schools are generally in the villages where the people, knowing that the district board or the municipal committee or Government is unable to establish a school, try to establish a school of their own. Last time I gave instances where the villagers at great personal sacrifice started certain schools and they found that, when the Director of Public Instruction's circular came into operation, that was a great impediment in their way because that really means one more year of education in these schools because in order to pass that examination the students have to prepare themselves for that examination, which was really meant for the vernacular schools and which had a different syllabus altogether. I could not understand possibly the opposition of those members who represent the rural constituencies and who are every day telling us that they are agriculturists and that they are the defenders of agriculturists' interests, and have from time to time started these schools for the benefit of their own children; and they find suddenly that this circular issued by the Director of Public Instruction places a great hindrance in their way. One objection that was stated against these schools was that they were really not so efficient, and therefore they did not like that there should be any inspection. From a number of letters which I received I found that these schools were prepared for inspection, but they wanted that they should be allowed to educate their students in these schools and that they would be prepared to open their schools for inspection by any District Inspector or Assistant District Inspector. So far as that objection is concerned, that objection goes.

Then we were told that these schools could easily apply for recognition. An assurance was given to this House that, whenever applications for recognition are made, they will be sympathetically treated. Sir, the other day, when I left the House, I found a letter on my table in which it was stated that many efforts were made for the recognition of a particular school and that the Inspector always stood in the way. Undoubtedly Sir George Anderson is a very sympathetic educational officer (hear, hear). But there are other people who have to grant the recognition and who do not think in the same way as the Director of Public Instruction does. They require certain conditions to be fulfilled, they want their own whims and idiosyncracies to be satisfied. The result is that many schools which ought to have been granted recognition long ago are withheld recognition and thus a blow is given to private enterprise.

Then again for so many years the old system has been in vogue. The headmasters, who ought to know the interests of their own schools, admit only those boys who can follow the secondary or high school course. This power that was given to headmasters, who are really the watchmen of the interests of their schools, is being taken away from them. The Inspectors were given power to exclude any student if he was wrongly admitted by

the headmaster. In spite of these precautions, the power given to headmasters has been taken away. This is unduly interfering with the powers of headmasters.

Now, Sir, I cannot understand why, when you do not prescribe any public examination for the boys of recognized schools, you should prescribe an examination for students of unrecognized schools. It is recognized on all hands that public examinations are a great nuisance so far as mere children are concerned and it was in pursuance of that policy that the old middle school examination was abolished. Now you are imposing the middle school examination on students of unrecognized schools in another form. There is thus great dissatisfaction among the people and the circular is a blow to rural education, to the education of those poor people who have built schools with their own money after making great sacrifices. This circular it is high time now to withdraw, and, so long as it is not withdrawn, there should be some instructions issued that recognition should be granted to those schools on easy terms and that Inspectors should not stand in the way of those schools being recognized, because it would be a great blow to the education of those backward areas whose representatives are always crying for their education.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, reduction moved—

‘ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 100 with respect to the item of Rs. 32,56,0.0 — Minor Head “ B—Secondary.”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Sir George Anderson (Director of Public Instruction) : Sir, the subject of this circular was considered with great thoroughness and at great length some 12 months ago. I have in my hand a copy of the proceedings of this Council and I find that at about 2-30 on the afternoon of February 26th, 1924, Pandit Nanak Chand moved a resolution on exactly the same subject that we are discussing this afternoon. I also find that just before 6 o'clock, the time for adjournment, a vote was taken. Therefore, a little more than 12 months ago, this Council discussed for some 3½ hours this very same subject, but Pandit Nanak Chand has preferred to reopen it again.

Pandit Nanak Chand : I shall always reopen.

Sir George Anderson : Pandit Nanak Chand says that he will always reopen the question. I think, and I expect that many members of this Council think also, that, if Pandit Nanak Chand desired to reopen the question, he should have placed before the Council some new arguments (hear, hear), some new information, some further statistics which would induce the Council to alter the decision which they made 12 months ago. But he has not done so. He has treated the question on exactly the same grounds that he brought forward last time and he still continues to go round and round the mulberry bush, but expects this Council, after an hour of that amusing diversion, to say “aye”, to what they said “no” 12 months ago. I repeat, Sir, that Pandit Nanak Chand has put nothing new before this Council to induce it to reconsider the decision which it arrived at 12 months ago after 3½ hours’ discussion.

I shall confine my remarks to as few points as possible and I shall not repeat all that I said on the previous motion. But I should like to explain the reasons for this circular. I wish to explain to this Council that it is not the action of a department trying to discourage education, but that it is an effort to meet a very serious and difficult educational problem. I must also explain to the Council the nature of

[Sir George Anderson.]

our educational organization. There are the primary classes, 1, 2, 3 and 4 which need not concern us at the present moment. What we are concerned with are the classes 5, 6, 7 and 8 which constitute the middle department. There are five types of middle departments. There are the middle departments of high schools; there are the anglo-vernacular middle schools; the vernacular middle schools; the vernacular middle schools with optional English; and there are the unrecognized and uninspected schools. The 8th class leads to the 9th class, which is the great educational junction to which boys from each of these five different categories of middle departments come. So the Council will agree with me that it is a matter of very considerable difficulty to regulate the admission of boys to the 9th class, coming as they do from these five different categories of schools. There are two matters of great importance that have to be considered in regulating these admissions. First of all, we want to ensure as far as possible equality of treatment to boys coming from any of these five classes of schools. It has always been a mystery to me and I cannot understand why we should make a concession to boys coming from unrecognized and uninspected schools, which concession we do not allow to boys coming from vernacular schools which are maintained by local bodies and are inspected by Inspectors. I cannot understand why these two categories should not be treated on exactly the same conditions; and that is provided for by the circular under discussion. In the next place, we have to ensure that the demands of the 9th class are met in as satisfactory a manner as possible. Here again I think that everyone will be in agreement with me when I say that it is not a kindness to boys to admit them to the 9th class if they are totally incompetent to benefit by that instruction (hear, hear). That, I presume, must be accepted by all to be false kindness. Again, if we admit a boy who is not suited to benefit by this form of instruction, is it to the interest of the class as a whole?

How then are we going to solve this problem? We can return to the old system of the Anglo-vernacular middle examination; and there are many who feel that since the abolition of this examination the standards have deteriorated. But, Sir, I am opposed, and I believe Pandit Nanak Chand also is opposed, to the reimposition of this examination for all pupils (hear, hear). We therefore prefer to depend on the present system, namely, that of recognition and inspection, supplemented where necessary by examination. In other words, if boys come from schools which are recognized and which are open to inspection, it is comparatively an easy matter for the headmaster of a recognized school to admit the boy to the 9th class after a short test because he knows all about the preliminary training of that boy and he knows the type of education which he has received. But, in the case of boys coming from unrecognized schools and from schools which are not open to inspection, the headmaster knows nothing whatever about their previous training and he has not the remotest idea about the subjects they have been taught and the manner in which they have been taught. Therefore the system of inspection is supplemented in this case by an examination which is the same one which is imposed upon the vernacular middle school boys.

I want to say just one word more. Pandit Nanak Chand seems to think that there is a great lack of sympathy in granting recognition. I have yet to learn that it is so. I deal with this matter most carefully and I find that every sympathy has been shown by Inspectors in the past. I hope this

Council will consider that it is quite unnecessary to review this matter a second time, especially as no further arguments have been brought forward and that, if a vote is to be taken, the Council will oppose the amendments by a large majority.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni (Punjab University) : Sir George Anderson has put his fingers on the crux of the problem when he said there are many different standards leading up to the higher classes. There is, first, a difference in the standard of teaching in the various departments which he has mentioned. There is also a difference in the medium of instruction. Some students, in certain subjects at least, are taught through the medium of the vernacular, while others are taught partly through the medium of English and partly through the vernacular, and, even where the department prescribes the teaching to be done in English, the actual teaching is very often partly in the vernacular and partly in the English language. The technical terms are given in the English language, and the explanations are in the vernacular. Then, Sir, there is a difference as regards the character of the subjects taught. There is a difference also in the nature of the separate examinations. I may say the medium of the examination itself is not the same. There are all these differences in existence which make it simply impossible for a private candidate who has been taught according to a certain standard in certain subjects and through the medium of English or partly through the medium of English and partly through the medium of the vernacular to do justice to himself and to the teaching he received at school if he is called upon to be examined through the medium of the vernacular. It may surprise some honourable members of this House to be told that a student who has been instructed through the medium of English or partly through the medium of English and partly through the vernacular finds himself in an awkward situation if he is called upon to answer a question put to him in the vernacular. I remember once, when I was in the high class, our headmaster was teaching us mathematics through the medium of the English language. Then all of a sudden that headmaster left us and another gentleman came; he had been the headmaster of a normal school so that he was in the habit of teaching algebra, Euclid and other mathematical subjects through the medium of the vernacular. I can assure the House that we all found ourselves at sea when the headmaster began to explain a certain algebraical proposition and say "*la ki taqat do*". I would personally wish all the teaching not only in the high schools, but in the higher classes also, to be done through the medium of the vernacular. But, so long as the present system lingers and is not changed, so long our students cannot be expected to know what "*la ki taqat do*" means, while they can easily understand X raised to the power of two. Under these circumstances, it would be unfair to expect these men as are taught in this way to do justice to the teaching which they received at school. That, Sir, is the whole problem. What we want is that the whole system of instruction should be changed. You must see that the system of instruction is unified, you must see that in all these different grades and classes of schools the subjects are identical, which they are not at present, that the standard of subjects is the same, which is not the case at present, that the standard of examination is the same, which it is not at present, that the medium of examination is the same as also the medium of instruction, which is not the case at present. If you see that all these things are done, then I, for one, will have no objection to that circular being put into

[Prof. Ruchi Ram, Sahni.]

force. I would welcome it because it would lead to the instruction of the boys in the various grades and classes being conducted through the medium of the vernacular. If therefore I oppose the issue of the circular and support the amendment of my honourable friend, Pandit Nanak Chand, it is not because I do not appreciate the good motives and the sympathetic attitude of the education department, but because I feel that, for once, the education department has not realized the difficulties of students who are called upon to undertake an examination in subjects in which they have not been instructed to a particular standard, and to pass an examination in a language which, although their mother tongue, yet in some ways in matters of technical terms is quite a foreign language.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] : Sir, I am not going to discuss the propriety or the impropriety of the circular. I will just draw the attention of the House to the item of Rs. 10,000 on page 221 which forms part of the item under discussion. It comes under the head of non-recurring expenditure and a similar amount was shown last year. I presume that the amount which was budgeted last year was for the institution for which the amount is being budgeted now; that is, for a grant to the Anjuman Islamia Orphanage, Lahore. I think this grant is being given to the orphanage simply with a philanthropic motive. . . .

Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar : Is the honourable member in order in referring to this ?

Mr. President : The amendment under discussion is for the reduction by Rs. 100 with respect to the item of Rs. 32,50,000 and the honourable mover made it clear what his object was in moving that amendment. I do not think we can go into other items with which the amendment has no connection.

Pandit Nanak Chand : I wanted to restrict the discussion to the circular of the Director of Public Instruction. My object having been served, I beg leave to withdraw the amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,97,000 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 1926 in respect of Education (Transferred)."

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. 6,66,000 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 Education (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS GRANT.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram, (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,000 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 1926 in respect of Scientific Departments."

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS (TRANSFERRED) GRANT.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I beg to move :—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 24,000 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 1926 in respect of Miscellaneous Departments (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS (RESERVED) GRANT.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 73,000 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 (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

POLICE GRANT.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,02,11,000 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 Police."

Mr. President : The question—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,02,11,000 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 Police."

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh), Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 31,320 with respect to the item of Rs. 31,320—Deputy Superintendents for Police—Prosecuting Agency."

Sir, the idea of prosecution is sickening. The very idea of it has brought slight fever on me.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : A Sikh should be made of sterner stuff.

Sardar Tara Singh : Fever only in the Council Chamber, and not outside it. When I was a student in the college, I used to see that the public prosecutors of the districts not only conducted cases at the headquarters, but they also attended cases in the mufassil. That is, they could cope with the work both at the headquarters and at the mufassil. But during these ten years the prosecuting agency has been increased continuously and we do not know when it will stop.

In the report on the administration of justice I have not been able to discover that it has ever been complained that prosecutions have ever suffered simply because of the shortness of the prosecuting agency. I find, Sir, on the other hand, that during the last three or four years, when there was a great rush of prosecutions—prosecutions for conspiracies, prosecutions for gangs, political prosecutions and other prosecutions—the necessity for engaging deputy superintendents was not felt. In those abnormal days this normal agency worked satisfactorily and never was there felt the necessity of engaging additional prosecuting deputy superintendents. Moreover, Sir, we find that in the mufassil in sub-divisions court sub-inspectors have been appointed and they are quite sufficient to cope with the situation so far as the mufassil is concerned. This shows that with the additional engagement of court sub-inspectors in the mufassil the work of the Public Prosecutor has been lightened. Moreover, he has a large police force at his disposal and a court inspector too. So that I do not think these additional deputy superintendents should be sanctioned. The most important point is that it will discourage the engagement of private pleaders. We find generally that almost in all challan cases the complainants engage pleaders privately, so in the presence of a private pleader there seems to be no necessity of engaging these deputy superintendents. Then the most vital point is that the sanctioning of these new posts will involve new expenditure. It might be argued that this year there has been a surplus, but this does not mean that we should increase our expenditure by creating new posts. My submission is that Government has asked for five temporary deputy superintendents this year. There is no guarantee that they will not ask for a batch of five next year and another batch of five in the following, and so on, so that in the course of five years 25 or 30 deputy superintendents will be appointed for the whole of the Punjab. This will cost according to the present calculation Rs. 1,62,000. This means that our normal expenditure will increase by Rs. 1,62,000. So I expect, Sir, that the House will, by accepting the amendment, refuse the sanction of deputy superintendents for prosecution purposes.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, reduction moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 31,620 with respect to the item of Rs. 31,620—Deputy Superintendents for Police—Prosecuting Agency."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari (Non-official—Nominated) : At last the amendment moved by my friend who sits on my left has made me break the silence which I have been keeping the whole day. I do not wish at all to put the experience of my honourable friend the mover of the amendment at a discount, but, if experiences are to be taken into consideration, then I think this is really a very valid necessity for which the demand has been made. I fail to understand, possibly those who practise in the High Court may not have that experience in this respect, but those who

practise in the mufassil fully understand that deputy superintendents should be engaged to prosecute the cases on the side of the prosecution. What do we find? We have got one public prosecutor, one court inspector and the others are persons who are drawing only Rs. 12. To each court is attached one officer, I should say, of that position. The fact is this: that the court inspector has got such a lot of work that he certainly cannot be spared. With regard to the public prosecutor, you can say that he necessarily has to attend to sessions cases and the more important cases of challans come to magistrates and none appears from the side of the prosecution. I generally have to defend the accused and I find that there is no one on the other side. Is it not known to the House that the lawyers on the defence side, if there is no one on the side of the prosecution, influence the opinion of the magistrates in many cases? Does this Council wish that there should not be a very fair trial? Supposing no officer of the proper standing and legal acumen appears on the side of the prosecution, many accused are acquitted where they should not have been acquitted. In this case what is the proper thing to do?

Then my friend said that probably there will be another demand made by Government next year for more deputy superintendents. Well, if the experience of this year shows that more men should be engaged, then that demand should be made. Whenever some new demands are made by Government, it can be said that they are exaggerated, but still they are based on facts. If in future years we find that this agency should be augmented because there are reasons for its augmentation, I do not see why this House should reject that demand and simply say: We have already provided for five such officers so we will not sanction any further officers this year. The question is whether it is necessary to engage or not to engage these officers. I am confident that the members on the official side will not be at all extravagant. It was said the other day at the time of the discussion of the budget that the Finance Member really assumes the rôle of the *bania*. Can it be then admitted that he would be so extravagant as to ask for unnecessary demands? I beg to say that the proper thing would have been not to move this amendment at all. I find that there are so many amendments to be moved against the police grant as if the whole police force is to be abolished altogether. If that is the object, at least I shall have to take part with regard to each and every amendment.

(A voice: You are welcome.)

Mr. President: Does the Honourable Member for Finance wish to speak?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: No, Sir. Sir Gopal Das has said all that I wanted to.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, reduction moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 31,620 with respect to the item of Rs. 31,620—
Deputy Superintendents for Police—Prosecuting Agency.”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq [Hoshiarpur-cum-Ludhiana (Urban)] (Urdu) :
Sir, I beg to move :—

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 17,400 with respect to the item of Rs. 17,400—
Increase in Permanent Establishment of the Mianwali District.”

Sir, there is no doubt about it that the additional police that is contemplated to be made permanent has been in the Mianwali district a long time. I admit that, but in the other districts of the Punjab the practice of posting additional police has been adopted whenever circumstances necessitated such a force being posted. What I mean to ask is why the demand of making the additional police in the Mianwali district is being made when no such demand has been made in respect of other districts in the province. What are the reasons to justify this demand? Is it that the number of crimes in that district has abnormally increased? Is it that the population of the district has at once increased or is it that the police in that district has lost its prestige? I again ask: What reasons or circumstances have since cropped up to make the Government come forward with this demand?

I would, first of all, take the question of population, and, in doing so, I would refer the House to the administration report of the year 1923 because that is the only report I have been able to get from the library. In that report the sanctioned strength of the police for a population . . .

Mr. President: It is now 6 o'clock. The honourable member will continue on Monday.

The Council then adjourned till Monday, the 16th March, 1925, at 2 P. M.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

6TH SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL.

Monday, the 16th March 1925.

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

GOVERNMENT'S DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (contd.).

POLICE GRANT (contd.).

Mr. President : The Council will now resume discussion on the amendment* moved by Chaudhri Afzal Haq on 14th March.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq (Hoshiarpur-cum-Ludhiana, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, the other day I submitted that in order to increase the police force of a district we ought to consider the following three important points. First, whether the present strength of the police is insufficient taking into consideration the number of population. Secondly, whether the crime has increased so as to render the Police Administration ineffectual. Thirdly whether the offences are of such a heinous nature that increase in the District Police appears necessary. Sir, I draw the attention of the House to the Police Administration Report in which it is stated that where the population of the Mianwali District is about 358,000 the Police strength is 557, while the population of Attock is about 512,000 and the Police force numbers 505. The same is the condition of other Districts of the province. This shows that in the Mianwali District there is one policeman for every 643 persons, while in Attock and Shahpur Districts there is provided one constable for every one thousand persons. In some other districts there is only one constable for every two thousand persons. Thus even on the basis of population the increase in the permanent establishment of the Police is uncalled for.

Let us now turn to the second point, that is whether the crime has so much increased in the district that there appears no other way to cope with the situation except to increase the Police force of the district. I am at a loss to understand on what reasons the case of Mianwali is taken up while the other districts have been totally ignored. There is another statement pertaining to the Frontier districts wherein it is mentioned that in the Dera Ghazi Khan District about 200 cases have been decided by Jirga, but the cases decided in Mianwali are perhaps less than ten. Under such circumstances, I see no reason why the Police force should be increased. Even in the Police Report in which there is given some account of dacoities committed in the three Ranges of the Police Department, it is stated that the Central Range is the only Range where

* That the grant be reduced by Rs. 17,400 with respect to the item of Rs. 17,400—Increase in permanent establishment of Mianwali District.

[Ch. Afzal Haq.]

some disregard had been shown to the Police Administration. Being impressed with the prevalence of crimes the officials of certain districts have indeed asked the Government to increase the Police strength of their district but nothing has been done in respect of Mianwali District. Both the Deputy Commissioner and the District Superintendent of Police have admitted that there has been considerable decrease in the number of crimes in the Mianwali District. But as the Persian proverb goes, *مردان می پراند* (The Pirs do not say much in self praise, it is their followers who extol them to skies. Their subordinates induce them to take preventive measures. I really sympathise with the Secretariat authorities who tried in vain to justify the grant under discussion. They ought to have given some solid reason why the demand is put before the House.

Well, Sir, for the sake of argument let us take it for granted that the Police force is not at all proportionate to the population of the district, that the crime has increased by leaps and bounds and that the Police is shown no respect whatsoever by the offenders, even then the remedy suggested to deal with the armed dacoits is no good. But on the other hand the end can better be achieved by arming the inhabitants of the district so that they might be able to defend themselves in time of danger. The idea that only 30 or 40 Policemen would be sufficient for the protection of population of three lakhs, is an extraordinary one. The Government should remove all restrictions imposed on the grant of licences for arms and thus infuse a manly spirit in the people so that they might successfully withstand the aggressions of the outlaws. Our troubles and sufferings are chiefly due to our incapacity to keep arms. A crippled man can have a temporary support of a staff but in order to cure him permanently some medical help would be required. During the debates of 1921 the Honourable Sir John Maynard had remarked that the number of dacoities in the Mianwali District had increased and that it was due to the Afghan War and the disturbances on the borders of British India. Even if the disturbances pointed out by the leader of the House two years ago continue till to-day, to increase the Police strength is not a proper measure to suppress the crime. I admit that the Honourable Sir John Maynard is in charge of the Police Administration and his opinion can hold good, but I have also got some experience for I had been a Police servant for some time, I can say on my own experience that the Police serve the time and act according to the situation often avoiding the risk which is sometimes involved in the honest discharge of public duties. It is therefore submitted that there is no use of increasing the Police force. I would suggest that either some military training be given to the inhabitants of the district or a military force be attached to it. Nowadays the dacoities committed in the Rawalpindi, Dera Ghazi Khan and Attock Districts respectively outnumber those committed in the Mianwali District. I cannot understand how the Government would be able to improve the matters with the help of 30 or 40 Policemen when they have not been able to do so with the help of say 500 or 550 Police servants. I am not dealing with this point with a view to criticise the Police Administration but press it on the principle that if we sanction the present grant the other districts like Rawalpindi, Lahore and Sialkot would soon follow the example of Mianwali and the Council would have to sanction lakhs of rupees for Additional Police. It would be better for the House to reject the grant and thus nip the evil in the bud. On many previous occasions the Government was asked either grant more licences for arms or attach some military detachment to the

district or erect a rampart around it, but no heed has been paid to any of the proposals. In the end I would request the Government to calmly consider the whole situation in the light of my remarks and say frankly whether the remedy suggested could ever be effectual.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 17,400 with respect to the item of Rs. 17,400—Increase in permanent establishment of the Mianwali District.”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett (Home Secretary, (Urdu) : Sir, I rise not to say anything on the merits of the case before the House. This I leave to those members who have personal knowledge of the local conditions. They I am sure will convince the House of the need for this grant. I would have kept quiet during the discussion on this item but for a most ignominious and shameful charge laid against our Police. At the present time to say about the Police that they are cowards and shirkers and that they hide themselves at the time of action and avoid any grip with the dacoits is shutting ones eyes against facts when they are staring you in the face.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Sir, the honourable member has used the word shameful for the remarks I made about Police. I submit, Sir, that is objectionable and I resent that.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett (continued in Urdu) : After the end of the last War till the close of the last year a strong wave of crime passed over the country which required almost miraculous strength to oppose it. Desperadoes and criminals from all parts of the world returned to the province. Versed in all the modern tricks of the underworld as they were they were armed with the most dangerous and up-to-date types of weapons that are known to us ; and of these they made a free use. Crime rapidly increased, especially that of a very violent nature against person and property. In fact it was quite unparalleled in the recent history of the country. How did the Police behave in such trying times ? If I were to lay bare the history of the brave deeds of these brave people who unhesitating carried their lives in their hands I am sure the time at my disposal would not suffice. Only the other day I read of the officer who gave up his life in successfully arresting a murderer who had sworn not to be arrested alive. I recall also Lala Dewan Chand, Havildar, who had come on leave to his home and was attending a dewan when he was told of a suspicious character passing by. He questioned the man about his destination and identity. But he received no satisfactory reply and when he was about to arrest him he was killed in no time and it is a matter of great pride to me to announce that two private Sikh gentlemen who went to assist in the arrest also gave their lives.

Mr. President : Order, order. I would ask the honourable member to confine himself to the particular item under discussion. It is true that I allowed the honourable member to make certain remarks not strictly on the subject under discussion but I allowed him because something had been introduced in the first speech which called for those remarks.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett (continued in Urdu) : Sir, I bow to your ruling. I was trying to answer the arguments advanced by the honourable mover that Police should not be entertained in Mianwali because bravery is required and they do not possess it. But, Sir, now that the charge has been fully answered, I resume my seat.

Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan [Mianwali (Mubammadan) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I deem it my duty as a representative of the Mianwali District to lay my views before the House on the out of Rs. 17,400 moved by my honourable friend Chandbri Afzal Haq. Mianwali is situated close to the frontier districts and most of the members I believe must have read in the papers of the large number of cases of dacoity, murder and kidnapping occurring there every now and then. Waziri and Mahsud outlaws find it easy to come down from their dens to our district,—especially the tahsil of Isa Khel which place is particularly the mark of their evil designs—plunder and return to their strongholds in the neighbouring mountains where they keep in hiding. If the additional police were not there to defend the poor villagers, Hindus and Muslims, they will surely tread down the whole of the country in a day. These outlaws very often carry away young children and women and demand heavy ransoms running up to thousands of rupees, and if they are not paid up, these children are put to death. This additional police is meant to watch the passes and mountain paths which let these dacoits in. The police will be recruited from the warlike people of the hilly areas of the district who are no less hardy than these dacoits. Sir, there are always exceptions to every rule, and I request the House, through you, to treat this as an exception and allow the grant so that the person and property of the poor people of our district may be protected.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari (Nominated Non-official): Sir, I said at the end of my speech the day before yesterday that I was going to speak on each amendment that may be moved against the Police grant. I do not wish to give the impression to the House that I am going to support these demands without any reason; the exigencies of the circumstances really goad me to stand up and to say a few words against the amendment.

I think that all the discussion on the present amendment would have been unnecessary if the mover had studied the reasons which have prompted Government to ask for the demand, and I honestly think that the views taken by the honourable the mover of the amendment are absolutely unreasonable and unsound (hear, hear). First of all, he has contended and contended with vehemence that other districts are not being treated just like Mianwali, but, Sir, such sentiment I think in itself is not a noble one. We should deal with each case on its own merits and not make comparisons in the way he has done. He is a little confused when he thinks that the number of police in a place should necessarily in all cases depend on the population. I differ from him and differ materially, because there may be very few people living in one district but who may not be very law abiding, while another district may be thickly populated with people who are well behaved. So it cannot be said that the question of the number of police to be located in a place should depend on the population of that place; we have necessarily to look to the conduct of the people in each place. (At this stage Chandbri Afzal Haq said something which was inaudible.) I am always accustomed to such interruptions and shall not pay much heed to them. If that is not the case in Rawalpindi that is not a good reason. What I beg to say is that this new expenditure is not on account of the population. The fact is that Mianwali people deserve more protection than do the other districts. It is again contended that very few dacoities take place in Mianwali and for that reason the amount asked for should not be sanctioned. If there are not many dacoities there it is because there is an additional police located there. Let us sanction this grant as an experimental

measure this year and if the Deputy Commissioner in charge of the district is satisfied that there is no necessity for the additional police, it need not be continued. It can be said perhaps that this unnecessary demand has been made on account of certain malicious grounds. But, Sir, Government wants to give protection and it knows where more protection is needed. If something happens, if some dacoities take place, then the honourable member will charge the Government for not having taken precautionary measures. But when it takes precautionary measures, then he comes forward and objects to our sanctioning the demand for additional police. If something happens, if dacoities take place, if Hindu or Muhammadan girls are kidnapped or murders are committed, then the newspapers are full of articles criticising Government for not having taken the necessary precautionary measures. I can say that in this case the proper thing would be to take the measures that Government wishes to take, so that dacoities and such like things may not happen. I respectfully contend, Sir, that this amendment has really got no force and the Council will be doing a great injustice to the people of Mianwali if it rejects this demand.

Lieutenant Malik Muzaffar Khan (Representative of Indian Army) (Urdu): I have listened very attentively to all the speeches delivered both against and in favour of the amendment. But an inhabitant of a district can have a better knowledge of that place than one whose knowledge is solely based on the official reports and papers. As the Persian proverb says *شہدۂ دل برد مالک دہد* (which when translated means that whatever is witnessed is far more trustworthy than what is heard from others), the knowledge that has been derived from hearsay cannot be relied upon. Keeping in view the sufferings of the inhabitants of the district I would submit that the necessity of the Additional Police is undoubtedly a real one. The Mianwali District is situated in such a place that it is surrounded on all sides by the districts of the North-West Frontier Province that is, Bannu, Kohat, Dera Ismail Khan. The mountainous tract is the abode of outlaws, dacoits and robbers. On the other side of this tract there is the Ilaga of Kache which is as dangerous as the tract itself. The offences like robbery, incendiarism and kidnapping are committed in broad daylight every now and then. In spite of the fact that the Deputy Commissioner and the District Superintendent of Police have left no stone unturned to suppress the crime no considerable decrease in the crime has been effected. If there has been some decrease in the crime that is only due to the temporary Additional Police. The dacoits never give notice of their intentions and designs but avail of any opportunity they get, and hence it is but reasonable that the district should be provided with permanent Additional Police. I wish any of the honourable members, who have spoken against the grant, take his residence in the district for two months and witness the poor plight of the inhabitants. I am sure he would then certainly approve of the necessity of permanent Additional Police. Sir, I am not a lecturer, I am a soldier and represent the Indian Army. I do not propose to take much of the precious time of the Council but would simply submit that the Government should sanction Additional Police for the Mianwali District.

Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz [Lahore (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I feel it my duty to give expression to my views on the point for the reason that I am personally acquainted with the Frontier Province in general and this district in particular. My father lived for a long time in the Frontier Province and I too passed long years in that place. Isa Khel I

[Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz.]

know well, is very much troubled by dacoits and it is our duty to put an end to these troubles. I have a personal experience of these *Badnashes*. I was once myself attacked by a gang of these robbers. These marauders leaving their place early in the morning hide themselves in the neighbouring parts and when darkness falls they pounce upon their victim and before daybreak return to their strongholds with their booty. The police that is proposed to be entertained is not for the peaceful inhabitants as I believe, is the general impression in the House. This is for the *Bandobast* of the outlaws who know no law and who wage war against the King and who live outside our territories. Is it not, then, our duty to prevent such people from working any havoc in the country? That was the reason why a similar amendment was disallowed in the last session as well. That is why Act I of 1901 Frontier Crimes Regulation has not been repealed. Government of India appointed a committee to discuss this question. They even did not recommend the repeal of this Act for they felt that it was the duty of the Government to protect the people from these outlaws. A perusal of the proceedings of that committee will convince the House of the need for such measures. I admit that licences should be granted more liberally. But the Hindus of the place object to that. They fear lest they should be attacked. But in spite of that there should be a freer distribution of licences but if they are not granted freely it is no argument against the employment of the additional police. It is our duty to protect those people. I, therefore, request the honourable the mover to withdraw his amendment.

Sheikh Muhammad Sadiq [Amritsar City (Muhammadan) Urban] : Sir, It has been the habit of this House, whenever it finds that expenses on police have been increased, to look at the figures with suspicion. Very often we have been told, and very often it is true, that the police is posted to certain districts as punishment for their being political. But, Sir, it does not mean that because the Government is in the bad habit of putting as a punishment some extra police in certain political districts, so for this reason we must not help other districts with police protection where it is genuinely wanted. You find that I very seldom join the official benches (laughter) but in this case the district of Mianwali is really in need of Police protection, so I oppose the amendment.

The case made out by my honourable friend Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan and the able speech of Mr. Muzaffar Khan leave no doubt about it that it is absolutely necessary for the safety of the people that this district should be given sufficient protection (hear, hear). It is absolutely necessary, not for the sake of harassing the political leaders, but in this case for fighting against the outlaws, who come from outside the districts to do the nefarious work, that the people should be given sufficient protection. I think, Sir, this case has been fully discussed and I shall be only wasting the time of the Council if I make any lengthy speech on this point. I shall therefore request the House to sanction the grant without any further waste of time of the Council.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, the arguments of the honourable member have been so completely demolished by the subsequent speakers that it is hardly necessary for me to speak anything at all on this subject.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, reduction moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 17,400 with respect to the item of Rs. 17,400—Increase in permanent establishment of the Mianwali District.”

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. 48,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,88,600—
—Contract contingencies—District Executive Force.”

Sir, I do not wish to say anything at length on this reduction. I only want to refer you to the figures of the last year. The budget estimate under this head last year was Rs. 1,89,000. I do not see any reason why a bigger sum is provided for this year. I have therefore suggested a reduction which will bring the grant to what it was last year. My motion is only from the point of view of economy.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion reduction moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 48,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,88,600—
—Contract contingencies—District Executive Force.”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett (Home Secretary) : Sir, I think the honourable member is perhaps under a misapprehension about this figure. He wishes to reduce the figure Rs. 1,88,600 because he thinks that it exceeds the budget estimate of the past year. The actual amount that has been budgetted for is a reduction of Rs. 19,000 on the sum previously provided. If the Sardar Sahib will look at the budget column he will find that there was a sum of Rs. 66,000 last year which was not distributed and it was in one of those pockets of the Finance Department to which objection was taken two or three days ago. The real difficulty is that the figures of last year's estimate are not really suitable for comparison with this year's estimates, partly because of this sum of Rs. 66,000 which was in the pocket of the Finance Department and which was not distributed. The actual amount that was given last year for this head remained at Rs. 2,07,680, so that the actual amount of this year's is a reduction over the last year's by Rs. 19,080.

Sardar Tara Singh : Sir, in view of the information given by Mr. Dunnett, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 100 with respect to the item of Rs. 84,08,540—
—Total District Police Force.”

Sir, I do not propose to take a very long time over this motion. I only want to draw the attention of the Government and of the honourable member in charge of the Police to one fact and that is this : Since the revision of the Government policy in the matter of recruitment of Inspectors of Police, since the reduction in the number of Inspectors in this department and their replacement by Assistant and Deputy Superintendents, the Sub-Inspectors have very little impetus to do any work. Formerly when the Sub-Inspectors had a chance to rise to Inspectorship every one tried to show good work. But now that the Sub-Inspector knows that he is not to get the selection grade before 10 years and that he is not to get the

[Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.].

Inspector's post at all throughout his career because the Deputy Superintendents and the Assistant Superintendents are every day being recruited direct into the service, he has got very little impetus to put his soul into the matter. I therefore wish to draw the attention of the Honourable the Home Member to this point that there must be some provision made by which a Sub-Inspector may hope to rise in his career.

Another point that I just want to draw attention to on this occasion is that these Deputy Superintendents of Police who are to be taken for the purpose of prosecution.....

Mr. President : That point has been discussed already.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Then I don't want to take any further time of the House. With these words, I commend my motion for the reduction to the acceptance of the Council.

Mr. President: Grant under discussion, reduction moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 100 with respect to the item of Rs. 84,08,540—
Total District Police Force."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I am much obliged to Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh for drawing my attention to the fact that the prospects of the Sub-Inspectors of Police are not at present sufficient and I shall be very glad to attempt to find some method of improving those prospects. I hope that under these circumstances he won't wish to press his motion for the reduction.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Sir, in view of the assurance given by the honourable member, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq (Hoshiarpur-cum-Ludhiana, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move :—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,88,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 3,88,000—
Other Police."

Sir, although there is no explanation given in the "Budget" what "Other Police" means, yet the other day we were told that "Other Police" meant Punitive Police. If "Other Police" means punitive police I would submit that I am quite opposed to it because it serves no good purpose but on the other hand it has proved mischievous and troublesome to the people. Undoubtedly the law takes every person to be innocent unless he is proved guilty. But the imposition of punitive police quite reverses the meaning of the law, that is every person can be declared guilty unless he proves himself not guilty. Let us now see what the nature requires in this respect. It requires reform, but even this object of nature is not fulfilled by the imposition of the punitive police. In the introduction of the book namely 'The Making of Men' it is given in the form of stories that one should not call other by a bad name because it would create a bad impression in the mind of others of his badness. Islam does recognise this principle and I think other religions too hold the same. If the punitive police is posted in some village the idea that the villagers of that place are habitual offenders would then outlive even if the punitive police

is removed. The bad characters of a village go off as soon as the punitive police is posted and only the law-abiding people are left in the clutches of the police. The Borstal Bill which is going to be introduced into the Council shortly and the law enacted recently in England both aim at the same object of reform. Although I feel that I am entitled to criticise the Police Administration in constitutional manner yet I am sorry for the uncalled for remarks of the honourable member Mr. Dunnett. But in reply to his remarks I would recite the Persian couplet :—

بدم رفتی و خورسندم عفاک الله لک و کفنی

جواب داف مر (بید لب لعل ذکر خا)

Even in the light of what Mr. Dunnett has said my conviction has undergone no change. I still hold that much reform is required in respect of the Police Administration. I would like the Police far more hardy and honest than they are at present. Their morals are not improved. If the honourable member is anxious to hear in detail the drawbacks of the Police Administration, let him wait till I move a reduction of one rupee in the total grant for the Police.

Of course the hostile countries can be better treated in this way as the object underlying this treatment is to demoralise them. But this country, for which it is alleged that the Government feels much, is no fit place for this experiment.

In the end I think it is the bounden duty of the Government to improve the morals of the people and accede to their wishes. The bad characters in the villages can be dealt with under the Criminal law obtaining in the country. They can be interned or imprisoned for three years. While penalising the villages by the imposition of punitive police, the Government should take care that they are not creating indignation and contempt in the minds of the convicted persons towards themselves. I would request the Government with all the emphasis at my command that they should take some other steps to realise their object instead of imposing punitive police posts in villages for they are in my opinion quite useless.

Mr. President: Grant under discussion, reduction moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,83,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 3,83,000—Other Police."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Pandit Nanak Chand [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, I rise to support the amendment which has been moved by my honourable friend Chaudhri Afzal Haq. The object of punitive police is really to inflict a sort of punishment on men of certain locality without any distinction whether all the members living in that locality are guilty or not. My submission is that this form of punishment is really unjust. It is really meant to humiliate those who are not criminals. My object is to draw pointedly the attention of the Government to one town, named Bajwara in Hoshiarpur District which is a town about 3 or 4 miles from Hoshiarpur itself. It is mainly inhabited by people who are very loyal to the Government. Most of them are employed either in trade or in Government service and there are also a few pleaders. It is an enlightened town. For the last two or three years the punitive police has been imposed upon the men of the town. In answer to a question put some time back, the Honourable Sir John Maynard

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said that this town some time ago gave refuge to Babbar Akalis. I do not know who the persons are that gave refuge to the Babbar Akalis. But if an investigation were to be ordered by the Government, they will find that these are people who are terribly afraid of the Babbar Akalis. They would be the last persons to give refuge to men of that type. It is possible that as these Babbar Akalis were passing through the Hoshiarpur District, threatening the people with murder and vengeance, they could have overawed one or two people and could have sought shelter with them. But I cannot for a moment conceive that the people of Bajwara could have given shelter to men of this type. To impose a punitive police post for the fault of one or two people is, I submit, a grave injustice which the Government can do to men who are loyal in every way. Now the other ground on which I oppose the imposition of the punitive police is that when men everywhere are imbued to-day with communal feelings, the Government does not get proper kind of report about the existence or non-existence of political crimes. Therefore the Government should be very careful in imposing punitive police on the people of towns which are generally inhabited by peaceful men, men who are either in the Government service or who are trading and who will be the last persons to take part in any such crimes which are ascribed to the people of Bajwara. I would submit to the Government that it is an order of an unjust humiliation. I would compare this imposition to the order given during the Martial Law days by a certain military officer according to which those who wanted to enter a certain street were made to crawl on their stomachs. That sort of punishment was denounced by the highest authorities in England and in India, but this imposition of punitive police is the same kind of punishment and the Government ought to find some better methods of punishing the criminals.

Then I oppose this imposition of punitive police on another ground and that is that innocent people should not be made to suffer. It is one of the principles of criminal administration of every civilised country that it is better to allow guilty persons to escape punishment rather than to allow innocent persons to suffer. It is a principle of criminal administration which has been accepted by the British Government also. It is also an accepted principle that the benefit of doubt is given to the accused. This imposition of the punitive police post is the very negation of that principle on which the criminal administration of this country is based. Therefore I would request those who are responsible for the imposition of punitive police that they should take care and find out the real culprits. If they are punished according to the law, this House would have no objection. But this indiscriminate punishment without looking into the characters of the persons, without looking into their previous history, without seeing whether they are robbers or murderers, that sort of thing should not be allowed to go on. It is high time that Government should find some other method of punishing the guilty. The present method is a primitive and savage kind of punishment which is sometimes imposed on innocent people as it was done in the case of Bajwara people.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh), Rural] : Sir, Sir Gopal Das who sits on my right has been saying in most of the speeches that Government knows everything before it comes to this Council for grants and that it has no *mala fide* in moving these grants. Nobody disputes the *bona fide* of

Government, but does Sir Gopal Das mean that we who come here to give our sincere and honest opinion should keep our mouths shut and go back home without expressing it? So I express my opinion without any ulterior motive.

The main object of this demand is to enable Government to impose punitive police for keeping law and order. Law and order is such a wide term that everything can be included in it. In fact, we find that in places where punitive police is posted, it is posted with the object of destroying political movements or any other popular movement in which people are interested, like the Akali movement. Sir, if we peruse the names of the villages where this punitive police is posted, it will be seen that they are almost all situated in Sikh districts and specially in those parts where Akali movement has been rather strong. Government may have its own reasons, but people think that it is merely to stifle their legitimate movement for the reformation of their gurdwaras.

I will now describe how these posts are imposed. Sir, I know that in a certain village there was living a certain independent gentleman and the sub-inspector wanted to humiliate him and with that object he went on sending reports after reports against him. Those reports resulted in a search being made in the house of that gentleman. On this search nothing was found. Then it was reported against him that he harboured Babbar Akalis and that he possessed bombs. He was a very good gentleman and on search nothing was found. But on such reports the higher authorities ordered the imposition of a punitive police post on that village. This is, Sir, how the punitive police is posted. I would ask the Honourable the Finance Member who is in charge of police to make careful inquiries to see whether it is really necessary to impose any punitive police in a village or not. I will cite the case of another village where punitive police was posted. In that village 10 or 16 persons were prosecuted under sections 107 and 110. Their cases were prolonged for one year and the accused had to be discharged after a long trial. The Police failed actually to bring home conviction against them, but still on the strength of those very reports punitive police was posted in that village, simply because they had taken part in the Akali movement. Then there is a third point that I want to raise. The first point is that the punitive police should be posted where it is absolutely necessary. In the second place where this punitive police is posted, there the police has two pockets, one pocket of the local police or the punitive police which is posted in the village and the second pocket of the thana police. I can say, Sir, that in these villages where the punitive police has been posted, crime has not gone down. In answer to a question in this Council about crime in village Ghawind district of Lahore, I elicited a reply that crime had not decreased. When it has not decreased in the presence of the local police, what is the necessity of keeping that police there? The object of this police is to terrorise the people, their object is to humiliate the public. I will give you a few examples. In village Gholia Kalan punitive police was posted. The Sub-Inspector was passing through the street and a certain man happened to pass by him and did not salute him. The Sub-Inspector began to cane him because he had not saluted the Sub-Inspector. This is a fact. He was caned because he did not salute the Sub-Inspector. Another example I want to give is that a man in a certain village happened to pass by the Sub-Inspector of the locality and he spat on the ground. The Sub-Inspector took the man to task for insulting him by spitting in his presence, and began to beat him. Such are the humiliations that are inflicted on the villagers. I would request the

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Honourable the Finance Member that he should place punitive police for legitimate purposes and not for stifling popular movements. I know of several villages where the inhabitants are habitual offenders, they commit dacoities, but there is no punitive police posted in those villages. I also know of villages where the inhabitants do not commit dacoities but where punitive police is posted simply because they take part in national movements. Therefore, I would request the Honourable Sir John Maynard that he should be very cautious before ordering punitive police to be posted in a village, and when posted he should see to it that they do not mete out humiliating or disrespectful treatment to the people of that village, especially to females. For these reasons I support the amendment moved by Chaudhri Afzal Haq.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das Bhandari (Nominated Non-official): Sir, it would probably be said that I am the defender of police, but, Sir, if I have ever any grievances against the police as to their individual actions, you will hear from me a good deal against them.

Pandit Nanak Chand: Not here.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das Bhandari: Yes, in this room. The fact is this that we are losing sight of the real point. The question before the House is whether this demand should be granted or not. If arguments had been advanced against the demand not being granted that would have been something, but what is done is that Sir John Maynard is asked to locate the police in a little more careful way. That means that you are prepared to give the money but you request that whenever there is an imposition of the police all the facts should be considered before a punitive police post is levied. It comes to this and no more. The question should be confined only to whether we should grant the money or not. Do you think I could ever be a party to a wrong policy, a policy which allows good people to be unnecessarily molested? Would any man, European or Indian, ever support that policy? I would be the last man to do that myself. Moreover if you look at page 184 of the budget you will find that Rs. 3,81,000 was in the revised budget.

Pandit Nanak Chand: This money is got from the people as a sort of fine.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das Bhandari: I think I have sense enough to understand the budget. What I say is that estimate which I have pointed out is on the expenditure side and on the expenditure side you had sanctioned the amount for which this sanction is asked for. I do not see why the honourable member stood up to give me a lesson in that respect. What I say is that the figures that are posted for the present year are those that were posted in the similar column as we did find out now. What I beg to say is that if the punitive police is a punishment then they certainly deserve it and deserve it well too. This reminds me, Sir of the story of a boy who having killed his father and mother pleaded that he was an orphan. Similarly where a village has misbehaved itself and misbehaved itself to an extent that no discrimination can properly be made with regard to individuals, to say 'don't punish us, don't impose punitive police' really is just like the story which I alluded to. In these circumstances punishment there should be. I don't say at all that punishment should be given indiscriminately and that there should be no enquiry. What I beg

to say is that in this matter the Government should carefully apply the powers it possesses. But to say that this grant should not be made is rather unreasonable. I respectfully submit, Sir, that this motion should be rejected.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division. (Non-Muham-madan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I rise to support the amendment. The object with which the punitive police is posted is not at all achieved, for the people to watch whose activities this police is posted migrate and void the surveillance while the innocent and the peace-loving people of the village come to suffer the punishment, and the police enjoy themselves. The money that the Government pays them as their pay and allowance is pocketed by these people while they live as guests of the people on whom they have been thrust. Sir Gopal Das who has now gone away would have felt it keenly if he had been a resident of some village where such a post had been imposed. I know well how these people annoy us. During the Martial Law days a watch was ordered to be kept by the Police over the railway line near our village. The police always took men from us for keeping the watch and annoyed us in sundry other ways. This continued for three months but once I happened to ask the Sub-Inspector in charge and that even very respectfully, to get men from some other village. This enraged the Olympian god and he complained to the Superintendent of Police that Rai Bahadur would not supply men. Thus all our service of three months was forgotten in a minute. These posts I know are appointed only to trouble the people. I have many chances of going in the villages through the whole of the Division and I know well how the people are put to untold hardships. People suffer while the policemen enjoy. I shall be glad to be employed as an officer in such a post (Laughter). If these posts are imposed for the convenience of the people, then, I submit, that the sooner they are abolished the better. Government has to pay nothing out of their pockets for they charge the people to the tune of what they pay, but the police do manage to make money. These posts should, therefore, be abolished. My second argument is that a report is made that a criminal is in hiding in a certain village. The Police inquire but find nobody. They make inquiries again and if they fail to lay hold of the criminal this time as well they recommend the posting of the punitive police in the village. Now the criminal steals away and the police fail to arrest him but the poor villagers are made to suffer. Sir Gopal Das would have better realised the pitiable plight if he had been a resident of such an unlucky village himself.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari : One word, Sir. I have a far bitter experience of this. In 1919 I was also made a Head Constable. Do not think that I speak without any experience. I say, I have had bitter experience, but on the question of principle you certainly are required to sanction the grant for the reason which I have given.

Rai Bhadur Lala Sewak Ram : The gallant Knight is happy because he was made a Head Constable. He has no experience of being one of the people. He would have been sad to be one of them. Sir, we oppose this grant as a matter of principle for the money does not go out of the provincial coffers. The posting of such police enrages even the innocent and the loyal people and they begin to defy the Government. I, therefore, support the amendment.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett (Home Secretary) : Sir, this discussion on punitive police was carried on by earlier speakers, perhaps not by the mover of the present motion but by earlier speakers, in a very calm and reasonable way and they raised various points which, although they were not inclusive were perhaps a little misinformed. They wished to argue in a reasonable manner. I think perhaps it is time to get back to that tone in this debate.

I shall refer to the general objections which were taken in the first place to the principle and then to the reference to one or two particular cases and to the methods of Government in employing that principle. The first remark which I wish to make is this: that there is in the law no authority for the word 'punitive.' What section 15 of the Police Act contemplates is additional police for local necessities, that is to say, the section runs somewhat like this: "If the state of a village is so disturbed or dangerous that special police arrangements must be made then a special post of additional police may be quartered in that village at the expense of the villagers." There is no mention of the word 'punitive.' It is purely a custom which has arisen and the law contemplates additional local posts quartered among and on the people. This is the method in which Government interprets the Act and the spirit in which Government views this provision.

The posting of punitive police and collecting the cost of that police from the inhabitants is a matter of administration not of punishment. Do the gentlemen like the Pandit opposite think that, when a particular village is so criminal and is such a danger to the rest of the community and special arrangements are made to prevent it, does the Pandit opposite contend that the cost of the special arrangements should fall on the general community and must not be realised from the offending village itself? I understand the attack to be this that if a village is criminal there are at least some well-behaved people in that village and they should not be taxed. That is a very plausible argument, but the effect of this is that you throw the cost of this additional police on the innocent victims of these *badmashes*, on the people round about, on whom they are preying. It seems to lead to this that if a village becomes to a marked degree dangerous and disturbed it should pay for the protection which the rest of the community requires.

Well, Sir, now I wish to say something about the method in which proposals are made to Government. It is not that general and vague accusations are made against a village where it is proposed to post punitive police. The statement that comes to Government is in great detail. Detailed information is given as to the number of offences that have been committed in the village during the past year and during the past series of years. The next column, I think, is of the number of cases that have been traced to the village. The next column, I think, is of the number of people who are on security for bad livelihood. The next column is of the number convicted and the last column is the percentage of people in the village who at some time or other have been convicted of crimes. Now, Sir, I think I can safely say that in not a single case have proposals reached the Government for the imposition of posts in which there has not been a history of criminality in the village. Not a single case. My honourable friend, Sardar Sahib, was particularly anxious that people should not be saddled with posts for additional police simply because they have political leanings or simply because they were interested in the gurdwara reform. That is the aim which Government has constantly within recent years, and I believe in past years

also, kept before it. In the short time in which I have been in the Secretariat, perhaps for six or seven months, I have seen the Honourable Sir John Maynard turn down proposals which although they contained some traces of criminality in the village were based mainly on the reception of Shahidi Jathas or some other political activity. I have never seen a case pass through and sanctioned in which the sole justification for the post was not the dangerous and the disturbed situation of the village and the amount of crime that was being committed in it. I am not aware of a single case, in which on political grounds or particularly because of the gurdwara reform efforts punitive police posts were imposed. Now, Sir, that I hope will satisfy the Sardar Sahib. He is a reasonable man and I hope it will satisfy him.

Now I propose to meet the particular objection taken by my honourable friend Pandit Nanak Chand who laid great stress on the case of Bajwara. Now, Sir, that village—and I think the Pandit will admit and I state this not as a ground for the imposition of the punitive police post—is a village with a long political history. That was not the ground on which the Government imposed the post. The definite ground was that the village—it is not a village, I think it has a population of 4,000—was in a disturbed and dangerous condition. I have a file here and I do not wish to trouble the House by reading it. My own recollection is that whenever there was disorder in Hoshiarpur City which I think is only about 3 or 4 miles from this village of Bajwara, I think the disorderly element there was very largely contributed by this village. I forget the exact figure of the proportion of the population which has been convicted, but I think it is appreciable. The case of that village was judged on the usual lines on the condition of the village with reference to the order and the state of crime and not with reference to political agitation or political interests. Now, in that particular case, I think I may say without breach of official confidence particular care was taken. . . .

Pandit Nanak Chand: May I enquire how many convictions were there and under what sections of the Indian Penal Code?

Mr. J. M. Dunnett: I think that should be put in the form of an interpellation and I do not think I should take up the time of the House in answering it. After all it is merely a particular instance and I merely wish to define the general principles. Actually in this particular case there was no political bias or political feeling. That was not the cause of the imposition of the punitive police. This particular case was treated with the greatest care. The case went up to His Excellency Sir Edward Maclagan and he made a reference to the Commissioner of the Division. The Commissioner of the Division was particularly consulted and the further point that was investigated was that the full burden of the post fell on the Hindu population. I think repeated references were made to the Commissioner of the Division—I think in those days, it was Pandit Hari Kishen Kaul—I believe he was even verbally consulted and only after the Government was fully satisfied was a punitive police post imposed. It is now off, the period for which it was imposed having expired.

Pandit Nanak Chand: For how many years were these posts imposed?

Mr. J. M. Dunnett : It has been said that these posts are not efficient. They are put on merely for checking crime. It has been said that these posts are not effective. I may say that the greatest efforts have been made to make these posts effective. I have by me a recent order issued and published in the *Gazette* regarding the conduct of these posts. It is somewhat lengthy and so I will not read it in detail. It has three objects in view. The first object is to provide for the proper staffing of these posts and to post only men who are reliable, experienced and trustworthy. The second object is to define the duties of the Police with perfect clearness and to show what they may do or may not do, to provide for daily diaries and for supervision of bad characters and so on. The third object in these instructions is to provide for the periodical inspection and supervision of these posts. Now, Sir, the long and short of the story, the kernel, the *lube lubba* of it is this : we do not put on post of additional police either to punish or to suppress political agitation or for any object other than the preservation of peace of the countryside. The general principle is that a local disease should be cured by a local remedy and therefore it is perfectly fair and right that the general taxpayer should be saved this burden and that the burden should fall on the offending village. Secondly and lastly I wish to say that particular care has been taken and is being taken to have these posts properly staffed, fully instructed in their duties and supervised and made efficient.

Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan [Hissar-cum-Gurgaon (Muhammadan) Rural (Urdu) : Sir, it has been said that before posting punitive police more than one thing is considered. May I ask if along with the number of cases reported the number of years for which these figures are taken are also reported. Are they figures for the last few years or do they cover the whole span of time since the foundation of the village ? Then Sir is an inquiry made about the correctness of the figures ? Or the word of the Sub-Inspector is taken as a Gospel truth ? Punitive police has been posted in two villages of our district. And in reply to a question put by me about these posts the number of cases given was 165 but in reply to a more detailed and definite question the number given was only 45 but it was never stated how many years were covered by the answer. Sir, since the imposition of these posts not a case has been challaned by these police. Should we take it that the people have been reformed or is it that the police have been befriended and that they are properly served for which they do not report any case against their hosts ? But, Sir, if no new cases occur what are the grounds on which further extension is granted ? Is it only on the strength of the old cases ? If the people have not changed their habits what is then the police doing there ? How do they justify their presence ? But if they are better people now and no more cases occur, why is this extension granted ? Sir, when only a score of men are bad in a population of 5 to 6 thousands then there is no justification for penalising the whole village. This will leave a permanent mark on those people. They think that the Government is unable to arrest the dacoits and makes the people pay for its inability. Unhealthy feelings are engendered. We cannot reform people in the 20th century by the force of public opinion. No body listens to others. You have at your disposal the whole of the Indian Penal Code and Act V of 1918, why not use them to stop the objectionable activities of these bad characters ? It is no use indicting a whole village. Sir, the two villages in our district where punitive police have been posted gave a greater number of recruits than any other single village. They had more men at one time fighting on

different fronts than any other had and in recognition of these services half the land revenue in one of these villages has been remitted for ten years. But, Sir, now these very people who rendered such service to the Government and on their return helped in the arrest of many a notorious character have been penalised and branded criminals. Sir, in most cases these posts are established on the reports of the Sub-Inspectors. They very often make false and exaggerated reports simply out of grudge against some people. Once, I know well, Mr. Wilson the then Superintendent of Police of our district rejected such recommendation for he was convinced of its falsehood but the same was sanctioned by his successor on his transfer. Sir, out of the 15 thousand of land revenue remitted by the Government 12 thousands have been realised in the form of the police expenses. If these 12 thousands had been spent on the people, think what an amount of good could have resulted. No good has been done by these posts in the Hissar District; but the pity is that nobody inquires from these policemen what they do in the villages. If the number of cases increases they continue to be posted and if the number decreases they still continue.

Lieutenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan: Do these posts still continue in your villages?

Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan: These posts have been discontinued only from the 28th February last. With these remarks, Sir, I support the amendment.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh) Rural]: Sir, I am not one of those who believe that all punitive police posts are an evil and that no punitive police posts should be posted under any circumstances whatsoever. But, Sir, I am one of those who follow entirely in the lines set out by my honourable friend Mr. Darnett. If my honourable friend Mr. Darnett can satisfy us that the posting of every punitive police post under all circumstances satisfies the conditions that he has been kind enough to lay down in this House to-day, then I am sure nobody here would raise any opposition to the posting of the punitive police.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq: I will.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh: I hear my honourable friend saying that he will object to the posting of a punitive police post howsoever necessary it may be. I beg to differ from him. There are circumstances when the posting of punitive police becomes absolutely necessary. Instances of villages of hardened criminals can be found out in this province. Although on strict lines of judicial testing this practical imposition of a fine on the inhabitants of that village may not be found justifiable, still the administrative requirements and the necessity for keeping the stability of society require that certain exceptional measures might be taken under certain given conditions.

But, Sir, my friend Mr. Darnett has suggested that every case of posting a punitive police post is decided on two points, first, that a detailed statement is taken and, secondly, that no police posts are posted in a revengeful spirit and that these posts are never sanctioned simply to suppress the legitimate aspirations of a body politic. But, Sir, I beg to differ from my friend. I am sure, Sir, that the idea when this particular measure was introduced into the Police Act was not present at that time that it would ever be employed to suppress the legitimate and constitutional struggle for the

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freedom of a people and that the only thought that was present at the time in the minds of the framers of this law was that certain circumstances might arise when the ordinary law might not be able to cope with the situation and so the executive might be given certain extraordinary powers. But our experience since 1919 shows that this is not true in all cases. Sir, I personally know a number of cases where punitive police posts were sanctioned simply because a particular village was of an extreme political bent of mind or was taking very keen interest in the gurdwara reform movement, and, Sir, I can hardly think that all the circumstances which Mr. Dunnett read out this morning were satisfied in those cases. I can say that in certain circumstances of excitement people may make mistakes and all the necessary conditions in those days of excitement may not have been satisfied and even the most responsible officers who might be wisting all the time to work according to the very spirit and the letter of the rules laid down might still have failed to satisfy those very rules under which they thought they were working. Sir, the fact that a crop of these posts sprang up when the non-co-operation movement and the gurdwara reform movement were present in this country in full swing, shows that it was not from the point of view of checking crime that such a large number of posts were sanctioned in those days but that it was to punish people for holding particular views on politics of the country. If we take the statistics of these posts from year to year, I am sure, Sir, and I can say it without any fear of contradiction, that the numbers for those years will outnumber all previous ones. The number of punitive posts in those years will be, I suppose, three or four times the number in the ordinary years of administration in this province. While thinking over this question because it has been disturbing the minds of the members of this House off and on, I once read in the paper that the Bombay Legislative Council has passed an amending Act which provides that every post is to be sanctioned after being laid before the Council of that Presidency and after the sanction of the House is obtained. I began to think whether any measure like that could be introduced in this province also, but I find that that cannot be the case here. In Bombay the legislation on the subject is a special legislation of the province but our police administration and the posting of these police posts are governed under the Police Act which is an all-India Act and I do not think that an amending provision of that law could be introduced in this House. In order to suggest and bring to the notice of Government that some such measure on those lines was necessary, I submitted a resolution to the effect that the posting of a punitive police post may be made subject to the confirmation of the members of this House which may represent that particular district and the executive officers, the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police may make their recommendations to Government after they had first consulted and got their proposals confirmed by the representatives of the people of that particular district. But, Sir, unfortunately that resolution could not be ballotted and has not yet been taken up. My friend Mr. Dunnett has told us just now that Sir John Maynard has turned down every proposal made for posting punitive police in a village whose only offence was its taking part in gurdwara reform or in any political movement. Of course I have to take the statement of Mr. Dunnett to be correct, but, Sir, I have got an explanation of that statement.

In these days when the political atmosphere of the province and the country at large is absolutely calm, I am sure that the Honourable Sir John

Maynard will certainly see that every letter and not only the spirit of the law which governs the posting of punitive police posts is satisfied, but this is no satisfaction to us. We have had the bitter experiences of the last few years and we wish that such reforms may be introduced in the administration of these posts which may make the repetition of that state impossible in future. I wanted to bring these facts to the notice of this House so that some measure on the lines which I have just now stated may be considered by this House and I hope that Government will also give its due consideration to some such measure as this on these lines.

Lala Mohan Lal [North-east Towns (Non-Muhammadian) Urban]: Sir, as considerable amount of feeling on the subject exists in the minds of the members of this Council, I beg to submit whether it would not be prudent and wise on the part of Government that before any punitive police is imposed in any area, the facts relating to that area should be placed before the Standing Police Committee. I believe that if my suggestion is followed and all the facts are put before the Committee before imposing a punitive police post and the members of this House are taken into confidence, probably the feelings of the public against the imposition will be appeased. With these few words I put this suggestion before Government and hope that it will give its serious consideration to the matter.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-west Towns (Non-Muhammadian) Urban]: Sir, if the Honourable the Finance Member feels inclined to answer this question which has been raised by two honourable members of this House, it would not be necessary for me to say anything on the amendment. The question is whether it would be possible for him to place the matter before the Standing Committee for Police before a punitive police is posted anywhere.

Mr. President: Perhaps he would prefer to reply to this as well as the other points raised at the end because the mover of the amendment has distinctly said that he did not want to withdraw his amendment.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq: In the case of this suggestion being accepted by the Finance Member, I would withdraw my amendment.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: No, Sir, I prefer to deal with all these matters in my closing speech.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: Then it cannot be said that we are unnecessarily inflicting speeches on this House. Now that it has been found necessary for me to say a few words, I will do so. Sir, the principle that underlies this imposition of what is conveniently called punitive police is this, that every member of every society is supposed to be responsible for the maintenance of peace and order. In other words the old saying "I am my brother's keeper" or rather "you are your brother's keeper" must be held to apply to the present times as well before one person can be made responsible for the misdeeds of another. To a certain extent there is not the slightest doubt that that principle holds good. There would be no difference between human society and the society of or rather I should say a herd of beasts, if there was absolutely no consciousness as to our mutual and reciprocal responsibility towards one another. But there is such a thing as carrying that feeling and that duty to inordinate lengths and I think the essence of the objection that is being raised against the imposition of the punitive police is that very often this principle

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is carried beyond its legitimate lengths. So far as the legal proposition is concerned I must admit that my friend Mr. Dunnett was on safe ground not only when he said that there is no such thing as a punitive police under the law but also so far as the legal rights of Government to impose an additional police on any particular area are concerned. But it should be remembered that under section 15 there are really three cases in which additional police can be imposed. One is that a certain area should be disturbed, the second is that it should be dangerous and the third is that the conduct of the inhabitants of that area should be such as may require some sort of restraining influence and it might be expedient to increase the number of police. So far as the first two are concerned if the area is disturbed or if the area is dangerous, then it might be said perhaps that the imposition of additional police or rather the quartering of the additional police might be in the interests of that area itself. For instance, if a small village of good loyal and law-abiding people is situated in such a place as is exposed to the depredations of certain other people who have not got the same respect for the law or for private property, it might be necessary to send out extra police for the protection of that village and it might be justified on that ground too that that village should pay the cost of the additional police. That would be like a few more watchmen for the protection of property. In the same way if there is a certain area which is so disturbed that it is dangerous to the maintenance of law and order in the neighbouring area as a whole it might be considered necessary to send out additional police. But it should be understood that the village as a whole should be of that character as may be the case, if certain people who do not care for law and who do not care for the personal safety of others and do not respect private property assemble from different quarters and found a sort of habitation in a village like Saadi's—*Taaju-e-dusdan bar qillah-e-koh aadasta* "gang of thieves perched on a hill-top" or that sort of thing, then it would be justifiable to impose any kind of police on that village in order to keep order there. But so far as our practical knowledge and experience are concerned we find that there are no such villages in this province. If there were any in ancient times they have ceased to exist now, thanks to this extent to *Pax Britannica*.

Then comes the third case where the conduct of the people is such that it is expedient to increase the strength of the police. Here again a distinction has to be made between the conduct of the villagers as a whole and of a number of inhabitants of certain areas. My submission is that so far as my knowledge goes wherever punitive police has been imposed, it has been imposed not because the whole village came within the purview of this part of section 15 of the Police Act, but because there were a certain number of people who made it necessary that special steps should be taken for the maintenance of law and order. If there are other provisions which can achieve the object desired, then certainly the imposition of punitive police not only becomes unnecessary but improper. I do not know if Mr. Dunnett has looked at the section. If he has not, I should just like to refer him to sub-section (6) of section 15 of the Police Act and also to the explanation that is appended to this section. In sub-section (6) the period for which this police force may be imposed is not mentioned. No time limit is placed upon the period for which this additional police may be imposed. It is a most dangerous weapon in the hands of those who have got the power to impose the additional police.

The second important thing in connection with it is this, that the definition of the word 'inhabitants' which is given in the explanation is an extremely elastic one. In sub-section (3) it is said, "subject to the provision of sub-section (5) of this section, the cost of such additional police force shall be borne by the inhabitants of such area described in the proclamation." Then in the explanation the word "inhabitants" is defined for the purposes of this section thus: "'Inhabitants' shall include persons who themselves or by their agents or servants occupy or hold land or other immovable property within such area, and landlords who themselves or by their agents or servants collect rents direct from rayats or occupiers of such area, notwithstanding that they do not actually reside therein." This definition, as I submitted, is extremely wide and therefore extremely dangerous. I am not now suggesting that this Council should change the provisions of the Act or that by any resolution passed in this House the provisions of the Act can be changed or that they ought to be changed. My only object is to point out that the powers conferred on the executive under this section are very very wide and therefore proportionately the executive should be very careful before applying the powers under section 15 to the areas concerned.

I find however that proper caution and care has not been taken in imposing additional police in various areas. I may not have much experience of the ways of the police, but I know of one occasion when I visited one important village in the Lahore District, the village of Ghawind situated on the canal side towards the south of Lahore. There was a good deal said about this village about three years ago in the press. My honourable friend Professor Ruchi Ram paid a visit to that village and he came back really with a very depressing report about the ways of the police. But as he was intimately connected with the Congress he thought it proper that some independent persons should go to make an enquiry there. So Raja Sahib accompanied him and I also accompanied him to pay a visit to that place. We examined a large number of witnesses on the spot and recorded their statements explaining to them the responsibility that they were incurring in making those statements. Those statements were made by people whom we examined with full consciousness and realisation of the responsibility that they were incurring in making those statements. The statements were really astounding and were to the effect that the whole village was practically under the heel of the police, there was extortion, people were confined in their shops or houses until they met the demands of the police and even the minors did not escape the imposition of the tax for the maintenance of the punitive police there. A report was issued by us and so far as I am aware, I should, however, like to be corrected if I am mistaken, so far as I am aware that report was not contradicted by the executive of this province. So that, I take it that the facts that were mentioned in that report were absolutely correct as there was no denial of them. If these facts are correct, and as I said, I take them as correct as they have not been contradicted up to this time, then certainly it is a matter of great shame that these things should be allowed to continue under the British Government in this province. There may be cases in which it may be necessary for the executive to take extraordinary measures. No one who holds the reins of Government would like to be deprived of the extraordinary powers of interference when circumstances are such as call for their exercise. But in such cases the help of the judiciary should not be entirely ignored. I may submit here that in order to meet individual cases which

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alone have been made the basis for the imposition of this extraordinary police, there are at least three other provisions which I would beg leave to suggest here and which in my humble opinion would meet the requirements of each case whenever it arises. The first is section 110, Criminal Procedure Code. If the whole village is disturbed and the inhabitants are in armed resistance against Government, that would be entirely a different thing, but so far as *badmashi* or misconduct of certain individual inhabitants of certain areas is concerned, section 110, Criminal Procedure Code, would be sufficient to deal with them. They can be bound down and if they refuse to give security they can certainly be locked up. There is an additional provision which has been hinted at by my honourable friend Chaudhri Sabib Dad Khap, that is to say, Act V of 1918, the Habitual Offenders Restriction Act. If there are any such people in any area who have been reported against again and again and whom it is thought necessary to restrain from repeating the misconduct then action may be taken under the Habitual Offenders Restriction Act. Even if that fails for want of evidence forthcoming from the village and if the people who are to assist the administration are really colluding with the *badmashes* then I would preferably have recourse to section 17 of the Police Act. Section 17 of the Police Act gives power to certain police officers to enlist some people as special constables and that is, I believe, the provision under which our honourable friend Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari, had the honour of being appointed as head constable. (Laughter). If *lambardars* and *sahukars* and other leading men of a village really tolerate misdeeds of their co-villagers and do nothing to restrain them from committing offences, then instead of fastening the police on the whole village and making the poorest people even to contribute towards the maintenance of the police it would be sufficient, and I think more justifiable, that a limited number of people of that area should be enlisted as special constables. I don't think they will consider it an honour, I don't think Sir Gopal Das felt it an honour to be enlisted as special constable and to be asked to attend the parade and to attend to the various duties which will be imposed on them as special constables. This will make them not only feel that it is not an honour to be enlisted as special constables, but that there is no fun or pleasure in it for people of peaceful occupations and it is really a matter of great trouble and botheration to be enlisted as special constables. The very fear that they may be enlisted as special constables would make them assist the administration in the maintenance of law and order. My submission is that this is a more humane and more justifiable procedure than the procedure which is now being adopted by the executive in cases of emergency. The burden will fall on a limited number of people and on the people who can bear the burden. The poor widows and orphans and minors and the absentee landlords who have had no hand in the breach of the peace will not be penalised for the misconduct of others. With these remarks, Sir, I would submit that the motion for the reduction moved by my honourable friend may be accepted. It should be understood that this year at least there is not going to be any punitive police in this province. In any case the suggestions I have made may be tried for one year and if they fail in achieving the object which the executive have in view, then again the matter may come before this House next year. We are not bound to stick to the opinions that we have expressed now if we find that we were mistaken and then we may change our methods.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): Sir, I begin by dealing briefly with the question of principle on which additional police

are imposed under section 15 of Act V of 1861. I do not think anybody hereafter hearing the explanations which have already been given by my honourable friend Mr. Munnett and also by some other speakers still suppose that the principle upon which this additional police are imposed is the principle of punitive treatment. It is not a question of punishing the village for the wrong done by particular persons who live in that village. It is a question of imposing additional police because the circumstances are such as to make it necessary that additional police shall be imposed. No one here probably would question, when a village or any area is in reality in a disturbed or dangerous state, the propriety or indeed the duty to station police there. The only point upon which opinions could possibly differ would be whether the cost in such circumstances should be collected from the locality or should be borne by the general taxpayer of the province as a whole. It appears to me that there are not very many thinking men who would say that in such circumstances where the disturbance or danger had really proceeded from the people of a certain area, that it was reasonable that those few people should be able to impose a burden on the province in general. Apart from these extreme cases of an area in a disturbed or dangerous state, there remain those numerous cases where the conduct of the inhabitants of a particular area is such as to make it desirable that additional police shall be stationed there. It is in the vast majority of cases for this reason that additional police are imposed under section 15 and this is the class of case which I think is particularly at present in the minds of those who have spoken this afternoon. Some speakers appeared to assume that because there are present in every area some individuals who are not personally responsible for the misdoings of the inhabitants or a large number of the inhabitants that therefore it is wrong to treat the locality as a whole for the purpose of the application of this particular provision of law. Those who fancy that this is the case do not realise the extent to which it is possible for the inhabitants of a particular area to exercise a restraining influence over the remaining inhabitants. I shall give what I think is a convincing instance on this point. Where our police arrangements often break down is in the unwillingness of the inhabitants to give evidence against the offenders. That is the manner in which it is always possible for the people of a particular area to hold in check the criminals of that area. If for any reason they are unwilling to report crime or to bring home crime by their evidence to the persons who actually commit it then, I say, Sir, that they are participators with the rest of the people of that area in the commission of crime and it is proper and necessary that additional police should be quartered to bring them to their senses.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : What about the absentee landlords?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The honourable member opposite has tactics which I well recognise and I am now prepared for them. He supposes that by constant interruptions it will be possible for him to confuse and put out a speaker. I am in possession of the House and I have a right to continue to be in possession of the House so long as you, Sir, do not direct me to sit down and I shall decline to be interrupted by any honourable member.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang : That was not my object in interrupting the honourable member. I know that a seasoned speaker like the Honourable the Finance Member can never be upset.

Mr. President: There should be less of these interruptions hereafter.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I have watched the tactics of the honourable member opposite for some days. I have observed that he employs this device when he wants to confuse a speaker or put him out. He does use these tactics with the obvious intention of putting out a speaker and of interrupting the thread of his thought.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang: I repudiate the suggestion that I am using tactics. If I have interrupted at all, I have only followed in the footsteps of the Honourable the Finance Member.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I shall continue my speech. I trust the honourable member will discontinue these tactics. He will discover they are not efficacious in dealing with me.

In order that I may make it plain, what are the circumstances in which it is necessary to impose additional police in particular areas I think the best course that I can take is to give to the House two particular instances. They are typical instances and they will make it plain why it is necessary to deal in this manner with particular localities. In the first place there is the typical case of a village which habitually indulges in cattle theft or in the forwarding of stolen cattle. That is a matter which everybody in a village of that kind is perfectly well aware of. The leading men are aware of what is going on and they are all concerned therein and are making money out of it and they are able, if they desire to do so, to restrict the proceedings of those who are directly concerned in the commission of the crime. If they do not do so, then it becomes the duty of the Government of this country to deal with that area by the imposition of additional police who will keep in check those criminal tendencies. There is no reasonable man who will sympathise with the people of that area who abstain from attempting to bring to justice those who habitually commit depredations on the countryside. That is one instance.

There is another class of case of which an instance has quite recently come closely to my notice. The case is one of a particular village in which a certain unpopular person was set upon in broad daylight by a body of ruffians in the village and was battered to death in broad daylight, many people looking on, everybody sympathising with the murderers so much so that it was impossible to discover the culprits. No evidence or no information was forthcoming against the perpetrators of the offence. There was a man done to death. There were people looking on; but not one who was willing to come forward to give evidence to bring the offenders to justice. What I ask is, is it possible for a Government which desires to maintain peace and order in the countryside to allow this to pass? Should this unwillingness of the village to bring the offenders to justice have been allowed to achieve its object? Should the Government have waited until some other crime of a still more startling character had blackened the record of the village or should it do what it actually did, that is to say to locate in the village police who would take steps to see that similar offences were not committed again?

Certain specific cases have been mentioned by speakers on the other side. It is a curious fact that in all those instances in which a particular village was named, in every one of such cases, the period of the additional post has already expired, and so strictly speaking the matter is not relevant to the question of

next year's budget. In one instance, there was a reference to the case of Bajwara where it was stated that for certain political reasons police posts were imposed. In another case an attempt was made to rouse sympathy on behalf of the soldier inhabitants of two villages in the Hissar District. In all these cases the period of the additional police had already expired and I do not think that a single instance has been quoted of a village in which the additional police are still posted.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : On a point of information, Sir.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I am in possession of the House and my honourable friend has no right to interrupt me.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : It is a constitutional right under the Manual that we can rise, with your permission, Sir, and I draw your attention to a point of order or we can rise to offer a personal explanation. My Honourable friend the Finance Member cannot take away that right from the honourable members of this House.

Mr. President : The professor got up and said that he wanted some information. He did not rise either on a point of order or on a point of personal explanation. This is a very simple matter.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : It is neither on a point of order nor on a point of information that these honourable members rise. It is on a point of interruption and I decline to be interrupted.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Not even when necessary.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : On one point I must say a few words because an honourable member opposite said that in a certain case some years ago he made certain allegations and he believed they had not been contradicted by the Government and therefore he assumed that the facts were admitted. The answer to that is that no such statements are admitted to have been true at all, that the allegations made on that occasion were completely without foundation and that the obvious inference was that they had been made without that completeness of investigation which should be undertaken on such occasions.

Now, Sir, I think it will have been sufficiently obvious from the statements which have been made by honourable members opposite in dealing with this subject that there is not one of them who wants the total abolition of this system of the imposing of additional police under section 15 of the Police Act. I think even the protagonist of the speakers on the opposite side himself said that when an area was in a disturbed or dangerous state, it was the duty of the Government to impose additional police for the purpose of maintaining order. I think it is also just possible that he and other honourable members would admit that in such cases as I have cited where a murder was committed in broad daylight and where all the villagers abstained from giving that information which was necessary in order to bring the offenders to justice, that in such cases also the necessity does arise for imposing additional police. While it was quite evident that with the exception of possibly one or two extreme thinkers they did not desire complete abstention from the imposition of additional police, there were certain remedies which they thought could quite properly be applied. One of these which was suggested was that before proposing the imposition of additional police in any area the local authorities should consult all the

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local members of the Legislative Council. Now, Sir, this I suppose sounds very attractive to those who have not considered very closely what the probable results of such a step as this on the maintenance of order in the district would be. I would only ask honourable members who have any lingering liking for such a proposal as this to ask themselves. Is it not a trifle difficult for honourable members of this Council to say or do something which their constituents or a vocal section of their constituents do not like? Is it not just possible we have all of us experience of something of the kind that representations from these malecontents and a large number of others would come flowing in upon the members of the Legislative Council, if it were known that they would be consulted in the matter of the imposition of the punitive post? We have all experience of that sort and some of us know that it is not very easy to resist even when our places do not happen to depend upon giving way to importunity. That to my mind is a sufficient reason for not acceding to that suggestion. There was one other speaker who suggested that it might be an excellent thing to refer every question of this kind to the Standing Committee on Police. The Standing Committee on Police is a body which is very well qualified indeed to deal with the general questions of policy which are submitted to it for advice by the executive Government. It does so and I am always very happy to acknowledge the valuable nature of the contribution which it often makes. But these are specific questions dealing with the facts of particular localities and I am afraid I must say quite definitely that I and I think the Government of which I form a part would not be prepared to refer for advice to the Standing Committee on Police these specific questions dealing with specific facts. The Standing Committee on Police is the proper machinery for dealing with questions of general policy and not with specific applications of it.

When I ask myself what is it that the members of the Council who have spoken on this question really have in their minds and what is it they really desire the Government to do when they speak on this subject of additional police, I think I find on a careful analysis that it all comes to practically three points. In the first place, they do not want the machinery of additional police to be used for the purpose of suppressing political activities. That I think is one of the objects.

As to that the Council has heard something like an assurance on the point from my friend Mr. Dunnett who sits behind me and I can inform the House that it has not been and is not the intention of Government to make use of additional police for the purpose of suppressing political activities.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni: Question.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The honourable member opposite says, question. It is the custom of honourable members of this House to accept a statement of fact when it proceeds from a member who speaks with authority and with the knowledge of facts. During the 4½ years that I have spent as a member that has been the principle which I have followed and which I intend to follow.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni: It is a question of opinion.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I am glad to hear that my statement is accepted.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : He did not accept the statement. What he said was that it was a question of opinion and not a statement of fact. What is the political situation, that is a matter of opinion.

Mr. President : After all Sir John Maynard is the best person to inform the House as to what his intention is and he has done so and I am afraid he cannot take the matter any further.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : We have not questioned his intention at all.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The matter is really perfectly simple, for a certain class of offences which have been committed in a particular area are obviously of a non-political kind, and there is no difficulty at all in distinguishing between the purely political and the matter which is non-political. I have given this House an assurance and I repeat it again that the practice has not been to impose additional police on account of political activities and that it is not the intention of making use of the section for that purpose.

I now come to the second point on which certain speakers desired to have a discussion. They want to know if before additional police is imposed in any locality there will be proper preliminary inquiries. As to that my friend Mr. Dunnett endeavoured to explain to the House the sort of enquiry which is made. It is not a matter, as one speaker suggested, of merely acting on a report made by a Sub-Inspector on the subject. There are actual statistics taken from the records which show what the past history and antecedents of the village have been and there is no possibility of any mis-statement of fact. We go upon actual figures of convictions and actual figures of the number of persons who are on security and in all respects we have a complete history taken from the records which are in the possession of the district authorities. There is, therefore, a very complete inquiry before there is any imposition of additional police in any locality. There is, I think, besides these, two points, the first being that the police should not be imposed for merely political reasons and, secondly, that they should not be imposed without proper investigation—there is yet another third point which so far as my analysis goes, emerges from the speeches of those who have attacked the institution of additional police. I think they also want—if I have interpreted the speeches correctly—they also desire that there should be proper supervision of these additional punitive posts that have been imposed with the object of seeing that they do not abuse their position. As to this, the matter has received very careful consideration from the present Inspector-General of Police and also the Secretary in the Home Department, and certain instructions have been issued and certain other steps have been taken which should have the effect of securing very much improved supervision. The instructions are, in the first place, that the staff of these punitive posts shall be very carefully selected. The officers in charge are to be men of status and experience. No untrained men and no men with purely military experience are to be employed above the rank of foot constable. That is the first point. The next point is that instead of leaving them as, I admit, they were previously left, more or less in the air under the control

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of the authorities of the district and not under the immediate supervision of the local police station, it has now been arranged to place them in very close relations with the local police station. The officer in charge of the additional police is directly under the station house officer and he is liable to receive visits of inspection from the station house officer. There is therefore a very close connection between the local additional posts and the station house officers and the result of that should be the bringing of the additional police into closer co-ordination and closer relation with the whole police machinery in the district. In the next place, the duties of the posts are very definitely fixed. The officer in charge of the post has to send up regular diaries and he has to act as a lieutenant of the local thanedar. There is also provision for supervision by the district police authority and in one district in which the number of additional police is substantial it has been arranged, without adding the cost to be recovered from people in any way, to post two officers whose duty it will be to keep in constant touch with these additional posts and to see that there are no abuses in the working of them. These, Sir, are measures which will have the commendation of all reasonable men. We are all of us anxious to receive benefit by suggestions for the improvement of our agencies, for the police as for others, and I trust it will be understood that it is intended to work these additional police posts in a manner which probably diminish some of these objections to which certain speakers opposite have taken exception.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,83,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 3,98,000—Other Police.”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council divided : Ayes 22, Noes 30.

AYES 22.

Munshi Fazal Khan.

Chandhri Saadullah Khan.

Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan.

Sardar Narain Singh.

Sardar Tara Singh.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq.

Sardar Partap Singh.

Sheikh Mubammad Sadiq.

Pandit Nanak Chand.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahai.

Captain Dhan Raj, Bhasin.

Lala Bodh Raj.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sawak Ram.

Lala Banke Rai.

Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.

Lala Diwan Chand.

Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.

Mr. Labh Singh.

Lala Mohan Lal.

NOES 30.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.

Colonel C. R. Bakhle.

Mr. C. A. Barron.

Mr. C. M. King.

Mr W. Mayes.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan.

Sir George Anderson.

The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard.

Mr. J. G. Beazley.

Mr. Miles Irving.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett.

Mr. H. D. Craik.

Dr. C. A. Owen.

Mr. Owen Roberts.

Mr. J. Coldstream.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.

Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr Shah.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood.

Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.

Lientenant Malik Muzaffar Khan.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muhammad Jamal Khan.

Lientenant Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari.

Mr. V. F. Gray.

Captain Malik Mumtaz Muhammad Khan, Tiwana.

Mr. E. Maya Das.

Chandhri Kesar Singh.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural]: Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 100 with respect to the item of Rs. 74,000—Police Training School at Phillaur.”

Sir, in moving this reduction, I again do not propose to take much of the time of the House. I have only one purpose in moving this reduction, and that is, to bring a couple of facts to the notice of Government. One is that we have been watching year after year the recruitment of these police Sub-Inspectors in the Eastern Range and I have just to bring to the notice of the honourable member in charge of the Police Department that the Ambala Division has been mercilessly ignored in most cases. No recruitment in the Eastern Range has been made for the last several years from the Ambala Division. The overwhelming majority of the Sub-Inspectors taken in that range belongs to districts which are closer to the Central Districts of the province such as Jullundur, Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana, etc. Only last year an exception was made in the case of Rohtak, but even then the other districts have been ignored. So I just want to bring to the notice of the honourable member the fact that he should issue instructions to the effect that all the districts should be given their due share in the police service of the province. (At this stage Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq said something which was inaudible.)

5 P.M.

[Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.]

Of course I am prepared to meet the argument of my honourable friend Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq that every district is equally fit for any sort of service. But my complaint is that it is only the central districts that have monopolised this department or others, (hear, hear). Amritsar and Lahore are not the only districts that can feel proud of providing men for the public service of the province.

Another point I wish to bring to the notice of the Honourable the Finance Member is this. For the past many years there have been several complaints about the treatment of the probationers in the Training School at Phillaur. I do not propose to make any definite allegations or charges. Some of these complaints were brought to the notice of the Government by means of questions. Those complaints have been heard repeated by every probationer that is lucky enough to get admission to that school. These are the two points, Sir, that I wanted to bring to the notice of the Government and I hope they will receive due consideration.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, reduction moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 100 with respect to the item of Rs. 74,000—Police Training School at Phillaur."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq [Hoshiarpur-cum-Ludhiana, Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, the facts stated by the honourable member Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh appear to be based on wrong information. He is perhaps unaware that the last few years have experienced a substantial decrease in the matter of recruitment of probationary Sub-Inspectors from the three districts of Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana and Jullundur. Some time ago a question was also asked as to the reason for this substantial decrease. The honourable member should have known that at least during the last three years a greater number of probationary Sub-Inspectors has been taken from the Ambala District than from any other district in the Eastern Range. The grievance that the honourable member is putting forward should have proceeded from me and I should have asked the Government that steps should be taken to remove that grievance.

Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan [Gurgaon-cum-Hissar (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, it must be in the recollection of the honourable members that in November last I asked a question whether any Muhammadan Rajput in the Ambala Division had been taken as a probationary Sub-Inspector during the last five years and the reply to that question was that none had been so taken. In the selection of this year too no Muhammadan Rajput has been taken as such although amongst the candidates, who appeared for selection there were sons of Subedar-Majors, Rasaldars and one amongst them was the son of an honorary lieutenant. I will, therefore, request the Honourable Finance Member to pay due regard to the claims of the Muhammadan Rajputs.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I am not quite clear why this particular point was raised on a vote for the Police Training School at Phillaur. But all I can say about it is this : Each Deputy Inspector-General of Police, of whom there are three in the province, receives applications from candidates for Sub-Inspectorships from residents of his own area. It is true in no case is the area of jurisdiction of the Deputy

Inspector-General identical with a particular revenue division, because there are only three Deputy Inspectors-General whereas there are five revenue divisions. I can only say, in the absence of any facts which are known to me or statistics available to me on the subject, that I should be glad to look into the matter and see whether there is any particular division which is being badly treated in this matter.

As regards the second point which, I understand, Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh wanted to bring to my notice, namely, there are some people who are treated rather roughly. I am very much afraid that drill sergeants everywhere are a little bit rough. I recollect an incident in my youth when I was taught riding by a military riding instructor. I can only say he was very rude to me indeed. He was very rude to every body else, but I think it a necessary incident of a sort of discipline, necessary to the attainment of a certain excellence and I did not protest against it.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Sir, I do not wish to press my motion. I therefore beg leave to withdraw it.

The motion 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. 1 with respect to the items of (1) Rs. 1,62,500—Border Military Police, (2) Rs. 71,310—Baluch Levy.”

The reason for my moving this reduction is on a question of principle, namely that this expenditure should be borne by the Central Government and not by the Provincial Government. The very expression ‘Military Police’ would go to show that it should be borne by the military department of the Government of India. Moreover looking at the detailed budget, it is observed that the force consists of military people such as risaldar, jamadar, etc. I fail to understand why this payment should be made by the Provincial Government. Guarding the frontier is the duty of the Government of India and not of each Provincial Government and as such no expenditure in connection therewith must be borne by the Local Government but by the Government of India. Even as it is all the frontier is guarded by the military the expenditure of which is borne by the Central Government and I therefore cannot understand why this expenditure alone should be borne by the Local Government. This military police is employed in order to quell tribal disturbances on the borders of the Dera Ghazi Khan district. That tribal rising is on the borders between the Punjab and Baluchistan. So, I think it should be borne by the Central Government. After all, if the amount had been very small, I might not have minded it. The total amount comes to Rs. 2,83,810. This is a very heavy item, Sir, and I feel that the Government should make representations to the Government of India to take over the expenditure and save the poor taxpayers of this province from this burden.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, reduction moved—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1 with respect to the items of (1) Rs. 1,62,500—Border Military Police; (2) Rs. 71,310—Baluch Levy.”

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. H. D. Craik (Chief Secretary) : Sir, I am in complete sympathy with the honourable member's view, that the cost of this special force should be borne by the Central Government (hear, hear). So long ago as 1921 a representation to that effect was made to the Government of India by the Punjab Government very much on the grounds that the honourable member has urged. But I am sorry to say that representation was not successful. The Government of India, who are just as careful of their own purse as the Local Government, refused to accept the principle that the force should be a charge on central revenues. They stated that the prime function of the corps was not defence in the sense of armed resistance to organised attacks but only the handling of raids as small bodies. They considered that that function was a police duty closely akin to the ordinary task of protecting the civil population against dacoits and other criminals. I am, however, prepared to make a further representation to the Government of India on the subject, but I cannot of course promise that it will be successful. I will, however, do my best.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Sir, in view of the promise made by the Chief Secretary, I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

Mr. President : Has the honourable member the leave of the House to withdraw the motion?

Mr. V. F. Gray : Sir, would it not strengthen the hands of the Government in its appeal to the Central Government if the Council passes the motion for the reduction?

Mr. President : I have put to the House the question whether the honourable member may be given leave to withdraw or whether the House has any objection to it. That is the question that has to be decided now.

Mr. V. F. Gray : I object to leave being given and I do so on the ground that if this motion for reduction is passed by the Council it will strengthen the hands of the Government in its representation to the Government of India. For this reason the motion should not be allowed to be withdrawn but should be put to the House for vote.

Mr. H. D. Craik : Then the best course will be pass to the motion for reduction.

Mr. President : Those who object to leave being granted will rise in their places.

More than ten members having stood up objecting to leave being granted, leave was accordingly refused.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1 with respect to the items of (1) Rs. 1,62,500—Border Military Police; (2) Rs. 71,310—Baluch Levy."

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. 100 with respect to the item of Rs. 7,24,200—Total North-Western Railway Police."

In doing so, I again want to represent a grievance of the railway police constables. The police constables and other persons who are employed on the railway police duty are made to go about from place to place and they are not given any quarters anywhere by the Government. These poor constables who are paid such a low salary are made to provide for themselves in such costly cities. The headquarters of a railway police station is always a big and important city and these constables are made to hire houses in the city at high rates of rent which they cannot pay from their meagre salaries. I had a talk with these constables and every one of them complained that they were tossed about from place to place and they did not know where to find shelter.

The second point that I want to bring to the notice of the Honourable the Finance Member is that rather heavy duties are taken from these constables. They are made to do duty the whole night and frequently the next day also they are made to work. For several days and nights they are made to work continuously without any rest whatsoever. In certain cases the duty which is taken from these constables is very heavy and I therefore urge that the cadre of the railway constables should be strengthened so that their duty might be lightened.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 100 with respect to the item of Rs. 7,24,200—Total North-Western Railway Police."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I find myself in a rather unusual position in dealing with this subject. As far as I am able to understand the position, I am urged to do two things, one is to spend more money on providing quarters and the other is to spend more money in increasing the number of police constables so that their duties may be lightened. I confess I have some difficulty in expressing any opinion now. I am divided as it were, I am torn as it were into two; the administrative side of me says: "Spend money," the financial side of me says: "Do not spend more money." In these circumstances, I am rather in a difficult position to decide and I should like to get some light on this subject from the honourable members of this House.

Dr. Gekul Chand, Narang : The best thing under the circumstances is to have nothing to do with the railway police by accepting the amendment which my honourable friend Lala Mohan Lal is going to move.

Lala Mohan Lal : My amendment is quite for a different purpose.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : My purpose has been served by raising this debate and so I beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Lala Mohan Lal [North-east Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 7,24,200—Railway Police."

Sir, by moving this amendment, I beg to raise a question of principle. The principle that I want to discuss is whether this expenditure of maintaining railway police should be borne by the Provincial

[Lala Mohan Lal.]

Government or by the Government of India. Railways are an Imperial subject and the people who travel in the railways pay the fares and the railways are common carriers. Is it not the duty of the Government of India to give protection to the travelling public against crime? Is it for the Provincial Government to pay for this? I have read very carefully the speech made by the Honourable Sir John Maynard on the subject at the last occasion in which he referred to the instance of my honourable friend Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram being robbed and who was going to protect him. I agree that protection should be given, but the question is who is to pay. I do not say for a moment that there should not be police; I do not say they should be taken away. All that I want to discuss is, who is to pay the piper. My submission to the House is that it is the Government of India that should pay. If the honourable members agree with me and pass this amendment, I think the hands of the Punjab Government will be strengthened in putting up the case of the province before the Government of India. I submit that the contribution which the Punjab Government makes towards the maintenance of the railway police is a very large sum of Rs. 7,40,000. But I submit respectfully that this expenditure should be borne by the Government of India. I was talking to my honourable friend Mr. Dunnett about this and he assured me that this Government approached the Government of India with the request that they should contribute to this expenditure but that they refused. That is an additional ground why we should pass this amendment. If this amendment is passed by the House, the Government of India will be apprised of the sense of this House in this matter, namely that the expenditure should be borne by the Government of India. I understand that when the discussion on the subject took place last time, the Government opposed it and the result was that the motion was lost. It is just possible that as a result of that motion being lost, the Government of India thought that the members of this House did not very seriously feel that the expenditure should be borne by the Government of India. I do not think there can be any two opinions on the subject now. The only ground, so far as I remember from the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member on the last occasion, is that the railway passes through the Punjab and as the stations and other places belonging to the railway are situated in the Punjab, it is the duty of the Punjab Government to contribute towards the expenditure of the police. My contention is that there are two Governments, one is the Government of India and the other, the Provincial Government and it is as much the duty of the Government of India to protect the life and property of the people as it is of the Provincial Government. If the revenue that is realised by the railways goes to the Government of India, then it does not seem proper that the Provincial Government should bear the expenditure. This is the main ground on which I move this amendment and I trust the House will agree with me that the expenditure for maintaining the railway police should be borne by the Government of India and not by the Provincial Government.

Mr. President: Grant under discussion, reduction moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 7,24,200—
Railway Police."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban]: Sir, the main ground in support of the amendment has been given by my honourable friend Lala Mohan Lal. Under the ordinary rule, whoever gets the benefit should pay for the establishment thereof and it is because the Central Government takes all the profits from the railways, they should pay for the railway police. I do not think any portion of the profits goes to the provincial revenues and if there is any contribution made by the Central Government under the head "Miscellaneous adjustment" between the Central and the Provincial Governments, that is different thing. By way of reply to such a motion the illustration of an ordinary *ekka* driver is given and it is urged that it is the duty of the Provincial Government to maintain police for the protection of persons travelling in the *ekka*, although the Government does not share in the earnings of *ekka* driver.

I beg to say that the ordinary *ekka* driver pays tax indirectly to the Provincial Government, while in the case of railways no share of the accrued income is contributed to the provincial exchequer. I think this is a sufficient ground why we should press upon the Central Government to contribute something towards the provincial revenues; else we should refuse to pay anything on account of this expenditure.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): Sir, this is one of those cases which come up like the tune of a barrel-organ or musical box with absolute regularity. I think that during every budget from the time I began to deal with this sort of work I have heard this note. I hope later on for the first time to add a new note to this old tune, one new idea which I shall shortly proceed to mention to this House. If honourable members will try to analyse the functions of the railway police, they will see that there are roughly speaking three classes of functions which they exercise. The first of these is the watch and ward of property, the sort of function which is discharged for a private person by a *chaukidar*. That is one function. The second is the duty of maintaining order and the third is the duty of dealing with crime. Now let us take in turn each of these three groups of functions and let us see to what extent any distribution of costs which is at present in force is unreasonable or inequitable. In the first group of functions, that is to say, the watch and ward, what I would call the *chaukidari* function, it is obviously reasonable that the person who owns the property shall look after it. If that is so, then it is right that the watch and ward function shall be paid for by the railway which is responsible for the property. That is an equitable position and that is the actual position. At present the railways pay for all the functions of watch and ward. Then I come to the next function, that is the function of maintaining order. Here the case is not always so perfectly clear because one cannot always say with certainty to what extent the function of maintaining order should belong to one party or other but for the most part it is perfectly plain who ought to do it. You have the questions of who is to maintain order in the areas of stations, who is to maintain order on the platform, who is to take charge of the property which is found lying about in the station and so forth? That is what may be called the function of maintaining order. As to that there was a certain amount of doubt in our minds whether the Government of India as representing the railways or the Government of the Punjab ought properly to pay for the discharge of this particular group of functions. We referred the matter to the Government of India and endeavoured to make

[Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.]

them accept our view. They argued that properly speaking the Provincial Government ought to pay for it. To that I was not able to find any answer. I now come to the third group of functions. That is the function of preventing crime, investigating and prosecuting crimes and offenders. It seems to be imagined by some people that this is a matter for which the railways themselves might appropriately be asked to pay because they are common carriers. Now the illustration which I think is most apt in this connection is the illustration of an *ekka* driver. One honourable member opposite seems to have a dim recollection of what I said on a former occasion on this subject and he quoted the same, but he did not make clear the idea that I wanted to convey by that illustration. The illustration is this. Let us suppose that a murder is committed in an *ekka*. Does anybody say that the *ekka* driver is the person who ought to have paid for the police to prevent murder or that he should pay for the prosecution, for the investigation and the rest of it. The *ekka* driver is simply a common carrier in exactly the same way as the railway company. The railway department is merely a common carrier. The crime which is committed is a matter for the provincial authorities to deal with. It is therefore not reasonable to say that the railway people should pay for the prevention or the prosecution or the investigation of crime committed on railway premises because that is obviously the function of the Provincial Government.

It is not a good thing to ask the Government of India to do things which one sees oneself to be not altogether reasonable. One loses one's reputation for making reasonable applications when one makes an application which cannot be supported by strong arguments. For this reason I personally feel unwilling to represent again to the Government of India this matter of payment for the maintenance of order and for the prevention of crime. But as I informed the House at the beginning there is in this old tune from this old barrel-organ one new note and I should like to say what that note is. There are certain strips of railway line (in some cases fairly long) which pass through the limits of Native States which are not in political relation with the Punjab Government, but with the Government of India. Now I think there is a case for going to the Government of India and saying that so long as the States through which these strips of railway pass were in political relation with the Punjab Government it was perhaps quite reasonable for the Punjab Government to pay for the railway police but after those States have been transferred to direct relationship with the Government of India, there is a case for the Government of India to begin to pay for the railway police. On those lines I propose to address the Government of India.

Lala Mohan Lal : Sir, I should like to put the amendment to the vote in order to strengthen the hands of the Local Government.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, reduction moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 7,24,200—
Railway Police."

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. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 31,100—Total Pay of Officers—Criminal Investigation Department."

Sir, in moving this amendment my object is to ask Government to remove the grievances that are generally felt by the people. There are two kinds of people that live in this province, the rulers and the ruled. My contention is that this whole force of the Criminal Investigation Department is engaged against the ruled only and not against the rulers. My contention is that the whole of this force is engaged in the detection of political crime. They are generally engaged in detecting political crime and launching prosecutions against those who differ from Government in their political convictions. But what do we find as regards the courts and police and other departments? They do not touch them at all. You will see, if you take the case of the Akali leaders, the whole of the Punjab force even the ordinary force is up against that set of accused but nobody seems to take notice of the corruption in officers themselves. Supposing I make a complaint against a police officer or a magistrate who is corrupt. A report will be made that I am an Akali, that I wear a black turban. The case is dismissed straight away. So I submit, Sir, that it is the foremost duty of the Criminal Investigation Department that they should reserve some force for unearthing cases of corruption in officers that is going on every day. I hope Sir John Maynard will kindly take note of the fact that the man whose house is burgled is not allowed even to enter the police compound unless he pays a *nastrana*. People are under the impression that Government does not wish to eradicate this evil because it does not take any action against the officials who are corrupt. I would like to know how many officers have been brought to book by the Criminal Investigation Department. I remember having put a question in this Council last year and the answer was probably none. When the Criminal Investigation Department can search out and watch the movements of the Khilafatists or political leaders or Akali workers in the furthestmost corner of the Muzaffargarh district can they not watch the movements of corrupt officers? This means that Government should not rest content with issuing circulars but it should take action against corrupt officers. If I am given one C. I. D. man, I will give him sufficient material to work upon against several officers who are corrupt.

Pandit Nanak Chand : I hope you will get him.

Sardar Tara Singh : There is a Punjabi proverb which runs as follows :—*Dai kolon patnahin gujha honda*, which means that lawyers know who is corrupt and who is not. My request is that a certain portion of the C. I. D. staff should be reserved for this purpose, that is to say, their work should be to discover cases of corrupt officers. Their duty should be to do nothing but discover cases of corruption and if Government can satisfy and remove this grievance the Finance Member will be doing a great service to the province (hear, hear). I therefore say with all the emphasis at my command that Government should appoint some staff whose duty it should be to go about and find out cases of corruption. Sir Michael O'Dwyer did start some prosecutions against certain officers and it had a very good effect for two or three years, but the state of affairs has again gone bad. I hope the sufferings of the public will be removed in this respect. With these words I resume my seat.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 31,100—
Total Pay of Officers—Criminal Investigation Department".

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir I spoke recently of the tunes coming from the old barrel-organ and I think this is one of the old tunes from the musical box. I want in the first place to try and make this House understand the desire of Government to stop the corruption of which the honourable member has spoken and in the second place to inform it of the actual measures which Government has taken and is taking for that purpose. The honourable mover who seemed to be rather speaking on police in general and not the particular section of it to which this amendment refers told us that the staff of the Criminal Investigation Department are always engaged in political cases. That, Sir, is a great misunderstanding of the true position. If the honourable mover of the amendment will look at the actual figures of the number of officials of this department he will find that there are 49 Inspectors, 40 Sub-Inspectors, 35 Head Constables and 58 Constables. This is a very small number of men, but those who suppose that these men are engaged in dealing with political offences are entirely mistaken in their facts. One-half or very nearly one-half of this force is engaged on one particular task, a task which has nothing to do with political offences, and that is the highly important charge of the finger-print bureau in the Phillaur School. Prior to the introduction of this system of record of finger-prints, errors were occurring in regard to the identification of criminals. Some innocent men may have been identified as guilty and guilty persons who had committed a particular offence may have escaped punishment. One of the great achievements in recent times in the detection of crime has been the introduction of this system of the record of the finger-prints of criminals. It is a method which makes errors of identification impossible and it is one of the two or three scientific achievements which have been attained in the art of police working. It would be reasonable for honourable members to bear in mind the fact that very nearly one half of the whole strength of the Criminal Investigation Department is engaged in one single task and that this task is the most beneficent and admirable system of identification by means of finger-prints.

In the second place it is a mistake to suppose that the Criminal Investigation Department is exclusively busy with political offences. Last year I had occasion to give some account of the cases in which the Criminal Investigation Department had been concerned and I shall again tell the Council this year of some of the cases with which this Department has been dealing. In the first place there is one very important case of defrauding an insurance company. I am quite sure there must be many honourable members present here who realise how very important it is for the advance of wealth and prosperity of this province that people should understand the true value of the system of insurance. It is a method by which the people can protect themselves against certain risks and so far as we are able to spread the habit of insurance we are in a position to remove the burden of certain calamities from the people. Therefore anything which makes the great insurance companies liable to serious losses by reason of fraud and thereby increases the premium which they have to demand from those who insure, gives a check to the growth of a beneficent institution. It was therefore of the utmost importance and is always of the utmost importance to detect and punish all cases of fraud upon the insurance companies. In this instance there was a great case of deliberate burning down of a mill by very highly placed personages and as usual it fell to the Criminal Investigation Department, the cleverest of our detectives to be employed for the purpose of bringing home the guilt of the accused persons. That is one case during

the past year with which the Criminal Investigation Department has dealt. Another case also deeply concerns the welfare of the people and their economic prosperity. There was a certain great gang of forgers, which habitually altered ten rupee notes into fifty rupee notes. There may, of course, be some people who do not understand to what extent a practice of this kind is an injury to the public at large. If there are any such persons, I trust they will reflect and they will see that anything which destroys their confidence in the notes which pass from hand to hand or which subjects them to losses in consequence of the notes being fictitious is not merely an injury to Government, but to a greater extent an injury to the public. This case also was a very difficult one. The ordinary Police could not unravel it. The officers of the Criminal Investigation Department, I repeat again the cleverest detectives at our disposal, were engaged for the purpose of detecting these offences and successfully too. Then there was a case of a special form of dacoity imported from the west, something rather more sophisticated than our Punjabi criminals have hitherto been able to undertake. These dacoits made use of motor cars for the purpose of committing offences and then immediately and rapidly removed themselves elsewhere so as to make it very difficult for the local Police to deal with them. This case also has been taken up by officers of the Criminal Investigation Department and they—again I am not ashamed to repeat it the cleverest and most capable of our detectives—took this case up and they have been able to run the criminals to earth. I could cite other cases also, but I must not take up the time of the House by expatiating any further on this subject. I will only say that not only is one-half of this branch of the Police department perpetually dealing with the matter of finger-prints which has no relation to political offences at all, but the principal cases with which they have been dealing during the years past have been cases which were not of a political character and without the detection of which the public of this province would suffer very greatly.

Now, Sir, I am aware that when the honourable member moved this amendment and complained of corruption, he was thinking of the police as a whole. But as he has made his speech and made a reference to corruption I feel I am justified in replying to this point immediately. We are all perfectly well aware that corruption exists. We know that it exists not only in the police but in every Government service and I regret to say it exists in many private employments also and it is one of the curses of this province. But in addition to the duty which the Government owes to the people of the province in dealing with this evil the public also owes us a duty too. The public can help to deal with this evil in the first place by bringing specific cases to the notice of the Government without regard to the dangers which they themselves incur by doing so and quite apart from that the public can also help us by inflicting social ostracism on the man whatever may be his wealth or position who is known to have attained his wealth and position by methods which are not approved. (Hear, hear). I know more than one who, I suspect, have risen up by corrupt practices in the past, but I have not yet found the public of this province showing their disapproval as they should show it. I have seen those people being flattered and fawned upon because of their wealth and of their position. I have not seen people showing by their conduct how deeply and profoundly they disapprove of the wickedness to which he owed his wealth.

Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni : That is too general an accusation.

Dr. Gukul Chand, Narang : Names.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No names. In saying this I do not for one moment question the duty of Government and the department to deal with this horrible cancer which is eating into the life of the province. But I do say this that the efforts which have been made and are being made in particular by the Inspector-General of Police are apparently ignored or not known to the honourable members who talked on this subject of corruption. In order that we may be able to deal with corruption we have departed in a most important particular from our old system which was that no cognisance was taken of any misconduct unless specific cases could be proved. We have given orders that if a person is on successive occasions recorded in his character roll to be corrupt, he is to be brought to a species of trial by a commission and if that commission is satisfied that he is a person with a reputation for corruption, the Inspector-General of Police or the head of the department will then proceed to inflict a suitable punishment upon him. So far as the Inspector-General of Police is concerned he has taken action since the above orders were issued in 88 cases and there is at the present moment I understand another case with which the Inspector-General is dealing. Every other possible measure which can be taken to repress this evil will be taken by Government. Within the last two or three days, after a discussion which took place in the Police Standing Committee, the Inspector-General of Police has arrived at two other fresh decisions in order to put down this evil. One is that no Sub-Inspector will be stationed in his own home district unless there are very special reasons which make this inevitable. The other is that no Sub-Inspector shall be left for more than three years in the same district unless for some special reasons, which do occasionally exist. Particularly in cities, it proves impossible to remove him. These, Sir, are the things which the Government has done and what it will do. But there is one thing which the Government will not do. It will not join in any indiscriminate condemnation of the police which has done admirable service to the province and to the Government. It will insist that there should be a distinction between the guilty and the innocent, it will not in its eager desire to punish the guilty run into the opposite error of punishing the innocent also. (Cheers).

Sardar Tara Singh : Sir, In the light of the remarks made by the honourable member, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

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

“ That the grant be reduced by Rs. 35,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 3,30,900—Total Criminal Investigation Department.”

Sir, my reason for moving this reduction is that the expenditure under this department is increasing every year. In the memorandum accompanying the budget it is said that there are unimportant increases in the criminal administration, etc. The increase is admitted by the Government but I do not see why they call it unimportant. In the budget of 1922-23 the total expenditure was Rs. 2,77,860 and it rose to Rs. 3,31,900 in 1924-25. We thought that it may be only for one or two years when this expenditure might have risen for some reason or other. But it appears to me that the

increased expenditure continues in the usual way so much so that the present increase is about Rs. 48,000 over the expenditure of 1922-23. I should have moved for a reduction of Rs. 48,000 but I have reduced it only by a modest sum of Rs. 35,000 simply for the sake of impressing on the Government the fact that they should not go on increasing the expenditure every year.

I therefore request that this modest item of Rs. 35,000 may be cut so as to bring the expenditure to very much near what it was in 1922-23 and to show the department that they should not get into the habit of increasing their expenditure every year and they should restrict their expenditure to the amount they spent a few years ago. If possible they should try to reduce the expenditure year after year. Instead of this they are increasing the expenditure.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 35,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 3,30,900—
Total Criminal Investigation Department."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then adjourned till 2 P.M. on Tuesday, the 17th March 1925.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

6TH SESSION OF THE 2ND PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 17th March 1925.

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

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar [East and West Central Towns (Muhammadan, Urban)] : Sir, I beg to move that the business of the House do adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the unsatisfactory and retrograde nature of the majority report of the Reforms Inquiry Committee.

Mr. President : The honourable member has moved that the business of the House do adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the unsatisfactory and retrograde nature of the majority report of the Reforms Inquiry Committee. Is there any objection to leave being granted ?

(NONE objected.)

Mr. President : Leave is granted to discuss that matter and, according to the understanding that was arrived at the other day, it will be done tomorrow at 2 P.M.

GOVERNMENT'S DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (CONTINUED).

POLICE GRANTS (concluded).

Mr. President : The Council will now proceed with the discussion on the motion* made yesterday by the honourable member Lala Sewak Ram, that was left unfinished.

Mr. H. D. Craik (Chief Secretary) : Sir, the honourable member has raised the point that the general cost of the Criminal Investigation Department has increased since the year 1922-23. I would, however, observe that the total cost of the department is less this year than it was last—less by Rs. 1,000, that is, the estimated cost of the next financial year is less by Rs. 1,000 than the revised estimate of the present financial year, and I hope to be able to show that the increases since 1922-23 are largely illusory. In the budget for the year 1925-26, the special allowance given to officers

*That the grant be reduced by Rs. 35,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 3,30,000—Total Criminal Investigation Department.

[Mr. H. D. Craik.]

serving in the department is shown under the head " Pay of Establishment ", whereas it used to be shown under the minor head " Other Allowances ". There has been a certain increase in the office establishment of the Deputy Inspector-General as two new appointments of stenographers were created recently, with the approval of this Council. I cannot give the exact date, but it was some time during the last financial year. The honourable mover compared the accounts of the forthcoming financial year with those of the year 1922-23. There was under-budgetting to the extent of Rs. 10,000 under the head " Leave Salary " in 1922-23, so the accounts do not really represent the true amount of expenditure. Under the head " Travelling Allowances " the honourable member will observe that there is an actual decrease in the expenditure in 1925-26 as compared with 1922-23 of no less than Rs. 15,000. It is true that there is also an increase, a small increase, under the head " Hill Journeys and Hill Allowances " and an increase of some Rs. 5,000 under the head " Lahore Allowances ". That expenditure was due to under-budgetting in the year 1922-23.

I hope I have said enough to convince the honourable members that the increase is apparent rather than real and I can say that the expenditure in this, as in every other department, is most carefully watched by the Finance Department and no proposal for an increase is agreed to until after the most thorough scrutiny. If the honourable member will look at the foot of page 201 of the Budget, he will see, as I said before, that there is an actual decrease in the total estimate of expenditure for the new year as compared with the actual expenditure in the revised estimate for the present year.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban]: Sir, may I just ask a question in connection with this amendment? What sort of persons are entered on the general list of the Criminal Investigation Department whose movements are required to be watched by them?

Mr. H. D. Craik: I do not think there is any class; certainly there are individuals, but there is no class of persons. Does the honourable member mean persons belonging to any community?

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: On what grounds is the selection made before the names of certain individuals are entered in the general list?

Mr. H. D. Craik: I do not know what the honourable member means by the general list. There is no list.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: Is there any list called general list? The names of certain individuals are entered in that list and their movements are watched. What I want to know is on what grounds are the names of such persons selected?

Mr. H. D. Craik: The honourable member is under a misapprehension. There is no such list.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: Sir, in supporting this amendment which is of course of a general nature and as to which I am not sure whether the honourable mover will press it to a division, I do not for a moment mean to say that the Criminal Investigation Department is an unnecessary burden on the national exchequer. I recognise the necessity and importance

of this department and I know that some of the members of this department are very honourable and honest men and very sensible to their duty. I know of one man whose name I need not mention here who did wonderful detective work in an important train murder case which took place somewhere near Multan. It was really a work deserving of a Sherlock Holmes and I hope that his services have been fully appreciated by the department. Now that I have said this, still I should like to say a few words as to the methods of the Criminal Investigation Department. So far as the detection of crime is concerned, it is a most laudable object, but sometimes I find that people who are apparently very innocent people (are annoyed by the over-attentiveness of the police. I know several persons whose tickets are specially looked at when they are travelling by train and about whose movements telegrams are sent from the stations of departure to the stations of destination.

They put up at a hotel and the detectives are stationed outside that hotel. A good deal of public money is in this way wasted in watching the movements of persons whose movements are not needed to be watched. I have as much knowledge of this as one can have of oneself, as exact and as close a knowledge as one can have of oneself. Telegrams are sent: "Punjab Government list No. so and so, travelling by such and such train watch his movements."

Mr. H. D. Craik: The activities described by the honourable member if they exist are not part of the duties of the Criminal Investigation Department. Telegrams like those suggested by the honourable member are sent by the Railway Police. That is not the work of the Criminal Investigation Department.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: I am glad to know that the Criminal Investigation Department has nothing to do with watching the movements of private individuals travelling by railway train. If that is so, I need not take the time of the Council at all.

Mr. President: Does the honourable member press his motion to vote?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, reduction moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 35,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 3,30,900—
Total Criminal Investigation Department."

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. 100 with respect to the item of Rs. 10,000—
Total Miscellaneous."

Sir, at the very outset I want to make it clear that I want to avail myself of this particular opportunity for raising one distinct question before the House. This motion is meant to attack the Government in its administration of the Police Department, but I may assure the House that I will not detain it for a great length of time by referring to various aspects of police administration which have already been discussed here. I do not propose to say

[Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.]

anything about corruption which of course is rampant, but for some honourable exceptions, in this department. I also do not propose to take the time of the House in saying that there has been no improvement in the. . .

Mr. C. M. King : Sir, on a point of order, is the honourable member in order in making charges of a general character ?

Mr. President : I think the point of order is well taken. No general charges against any department should be made by the honourable member.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : There is another point which I wish to raise. I do not understand how this question of general administration of police arises on the question of this miscellaneous head. Under this head we include the charges for the maintenance of police lines.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : I am sorry I was under the impression that I was moving the next motion for reduction. I do not propose to move the motion which I read at the commencement of my speech.

Mr. President : But you have already moved it.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Then I ask for leave to withdraw it.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : I beg to move—

“ That the total grant be reduced by Rs. 100. ”

I submitted, Sir, that I do not aim at a general charge against the administration of the Department. I said that there are some honourable exceptions in the Police department as in other departments. I do not propose to take the time of the House in discussing that there has been no marked improvement in the form of investigation of crime in this province on the old methods of harassing, beating and abusing and doing several other things of that type which are still in vogue. Most of the crimes are investigated through the help of these measures. But, Sir, at this time I wish with your permission to take the time of the House with respect to one item, namely, the Akali Jathas. We have been hearing in this House and outside in the press and on the platform for the last four years as to what is happening with respect to the Gurdwara movement. At this time I want to draw the attention of the House to the method by which the various Jathas which start from Amritsar and which intend to reach Jaito are being treated in this province for the last 18 months or so and the miseries and the harrowing tales which have followed in their wake to the general population. You know, Sir, that ever since the Gurdwara movement was started, unbearable troubles have fallen on the Sikhs. Those troubles have been discussed in this House. Since October 1923 when the Shiromani Akali Dal and the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee were declared unlawful assemblies so far as their political working was concerned.

Mr. President : Order, order. Will the honourable member try to connect these remarks with the question before the House ?

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Certainly, Sir. I am coming to that. Since that time and since the Shahidi Jathas began to be organised from Amritsar to Jaito untold miseries have followed the Sikhs. We know

the notifications on the subject. It has been asserted all along by the Sikhs that these Jathas sent out from Akal Takht are not unlawful assemblies and do not fall within the four corners of the notification, but the view has always been contended by the Government and said that they are unlawful associations. Admitting for the sake of argument for a minute that the Government version is correct, these Jathas should have been dealt with according to law. But what do we see? In spite of the fact that we have been repeating that our movement is a religious movement, the Government gives a political colour to it and insists upon giving that colour to it. But then, it should remain consistent and these Jathas which are according to it unlawful under the notification should not be allowed to go on unmolested, and then there seems to be no justification that persons who entertain these Jathas as part of their religious duty and from the humanitarian point of view and who offer food and drink to them should be arrested and harassed and put to a lot of troubles. Even recently, Sir.....

Mr. President : Order, order, I have to call the attention of the honourable member to the point which I mentioned a moment ago. He should connect these remarks in some way or other if he can with the police. General remarks as to what the Government is notifying or what the Government is ordering are hardly relevant to this discussion.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : The connection of my remarks with the police is this : Why is it that the police of this province does not arrest the Jathas which are according to the executive unlawful assemblies, but arrest, only those persons who give them food and shelter and other necessities of life? From this point of view I want to show that the police in this province is not doing its duty and does not arrest the persons whom it should arrest but arrests innocent persons whom it should not arrest. (Hear, hear.) That is how I connect my remarks with the present question.

Mr. President : Does the honourable member mean to say that the police, if it receives orders from Government to arrest certain persons, it should not arrest them but should exercise its own discretion irrespective of the orders of the Government?

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Of course the police is to act according to the law in force and must not recognise the orders which go against the law, its duty being only to observe the law in force. It should arrest people who commit certain offences under the law which for the time being is in force. Instructions of the executive which override the law are not to be obeyed and should not be carried out by the police. Sir, the function of the police is to see the law being carried out and bring those offenders to book who apparently break the law which exists in the country. We have been shouting, and shouting from housetops, that our efforts are designed merely to bring the *gurdwaras* under our control and bring religious reform in them, but the Government has been insisting that ours is a political movement and have been issuing instructions to the police against its own laws and asking the innocent to be arrested and the guilty according to its lights, to be let off scott-free. Persons who do not break the law and who do not break the notifications of Government are being harassed from day to day by the police in this province. On that point I just want to take a few more minutes to show that obviously there seems to be a clear reason for that. As I understand from the remarks from the chair, there are instructions from the Government not to arrest those *jathas*, I say

Mr. President : Order, order. The honourable member seems to have misunderstood my remarks. I did not refer to any confidential instructions. I simply assumed that if the police acted in the manner in which the honourable member alleged they were acting, they must be doing so under orders received from their officers or from Government.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Sir, I submit that I have to take your ruling in the sense that you meant. Does the Government deny having issued instructions that persons going to Jaito should not be arrested but only those persons who give them food, drink and shelter and do not in any way break the law should be arrested? I just put that question to the honourable member in charge of the Police Department. Let him deny having issued such instructions if he wishes to. (After a pause.) No answer is forthcoming and I presume that there are these instructions on the subject, and that these *jathas* are not to be arrested but the innocent public of the province are to be harassed. Now, Sir, there is a clear reason for these instructions, and that I wish to state as distinctly as I can and it is that these *jathas* are allowed to go about and arrive at their destination in Jaito. This is with a certain set purpose, and that set purpose clearly seems to be that while the doings in this province can be criticised in this House, the arrests which are being perpetrated in some other province when raised for discussion can be disallowed on the general plea that these matters do not relate to this province and are not therefore liable to be discussed in this House. The persons, Sir, who are arrested have not committed any crime whatsoever. It is our duty, it is our religious duty, it is a duty ordained on us by religion that we have to feed the *jathas*, we have to give them food and shelter and water to drink. I do not see under what law or under what notifications or orders of Government the persons are at all amenable to the clutches of law. Under several pretences these persons are held up under section 107 or section 17 (1) or 17 (b) or some other similar sections. What I want to bring to the notice of this House is that on this point we ought to pass this motion against the police administration of this province which has become an instrument for harassing a majority of the public of this province without any apparent committal of any offence or crime on their part. The atrocities which are being committed and perpetrated on these *jathas* outside are unbearable...

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, I rise to a point of order. Is that not a reference to something which is being done in a native state?

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : I have not yet named any native state. I am very cautious in not naming any native state. These instructions, if there are any, are designed to meet an ultimate object, and that object is not praiseworthy. It is designed to see those persons who, according to the Government, break a law within its jurisdiction being brutally and cruelly treated outside and to see unprecedented severities and barbarities committed on them outside the province, so that they may avoid all criticism on the subject on the floor of this House.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved :—

* That the total grant be reduced by Rs. 100.

The question is that that reduction be made.

Sardar Jodh Singh (Sikh, Urban) : Sir, this peculiar attitude which the department of law and order has adopted in their treatment of those

persons who supply food and shelter to these *jathas* reminds me of an old story. There was a pupil and a teacher. Once the pupil enquired of the teacher how to catch a crane; the teacher said: "Well, my boy, get up in the morning when it is very cool. Go to the neighbouring tank where the crane is sitting and put some wax on its back. When the sun gets hot the wax will melt and it will stick to its feathers and will thus make it unable to fly. Then you can catch it". The pupil replied: "If I can approach the crane to put wax on its back, why cannot I catch it then." The teacher said: "No, because that is not the *ustadi* way of doing it."

Now, Sir, this is exactly the procedure that is being adopted by the department of law and order for the suppression of disorder in this province. A *jatha* starts from Amritsar not secretly, not privately, but with hands beating, conches blowing and banners flowing and as soon as it starts, a magistrate and a body guard start with it to see that it is not molested in the way and they go from village to village and the poor villagers not knowing the subtle policy of the Government, seeing that the *jatha* is accompanied by a magistrate and sub-inspector of police with a posse of constables who do not molest the *jatha* in any way just go there to see them. According to the notions of hospitality that are current in every village of the Punjab and according to the notions of the Sikh religion that whenever a traveller comes to a village, be he a Sikh, or a Muhammadan or a Hindu, he ought to be supplied with food and shelter. The villagers, consistently with the dictates of their religion, supply the *jathas* with food and shelter. What happens? Of course the *jathas* enjoy the hospitality of the village, but the next morning when they depart, a posse of police constables are posted there to make enquiries as to which of the people in the village gave food and shelter and these constables too for a time feast on the hospitality of the villagers; if the village is fortunate enough, it is not burdened with the expenditure of feasting the extra police for a certain time. Methinks the villagers in the Punjab, especially the Sikh villagers, may complain to the cities that are deciding their fate as Maulana Roomi complained of his own fate to the diety in the famous lines:

"*Darmiyaan-i-gaar-i darya takhta bandum kar da ai, baz mi goi ke daman tar makan hoshiaar bash.*"

When translated this would mean: "Thou hast thrown me tied to a plank into the deep waters and then sayest thou, don't wet thy clothes, be careful."

The Government have declared these *jathas* unlawful. But they are allowed to parade their unlawfulness from village to village. Thus the temptation of breaking the law is thrown into the way of villagers, but they are expected not to fall a prey to this temptation. My submission is that had these *jathas* been arrested to begin with not half the arrests of the Sikh villagers that have now taken place would have occurred. Those people who are now being arrested for giving food and shelter to these *jathas* would not have been arrested. Not half of them would have come to the headquarters to join the *jatha* to show as the Government puts it that they are offering civil disobedience to the law. Well, Sir, is it fair to put the villagers to this test? Is it fair that temptations should be thrown in their way? What is the Government doing? Methinks that the head of the department has entered into a conspiracy with the *Akali jathas*. His own secretary has perhaps come to join it. Why should they not arrest these *Akali jathas* at the time of their starting? Why should the Government lay this trap

[Sardar Jodh Singh.]

for the poor villagers? Why should the poor villagers who unwittingly fall into this trap be arrested and harassed like this? I do not understand the policy of Government in this case, excepting that it is somehow or other afraid of arresting so many people in its own territory. Is it because as one honourable member has suggested already that if these *jathas* are maltreated in prison, the people may talk of it in the Council and it is in order to avoid this contingency that the Government allows these *jathas* to proceed out of its own boundaries so that, as so many people are suggesting now-a-days, no voice may be raised against the treatment that is alleged to have been meted out to them in that territory? I am half persuaded to accept that explanation because I see no other explanation given by those who are responsible for the maintenance of law and order. I would, therefore, urge upon the Council the necessity of impressing upon the Government that this policy of theirs is condemnable. It is wrong from the outset. Why should not these people who are alleged to be offering civil disobedience to the authorities be arrested at once? Why should they be allowed to parade their lawlessness from village to village? Why should those poor innocent villagers who might not have even the remotest idea of offering civil disobedience be harassed in this way? I will just narrate to the Council what is actually happening now-a-days in the villages and how disorder is being spread? A *jatha* was passing through the Gujranwala district and a meeting was held there. A Sikh got up and said: "We thank the police very heartily, because had they not come to our village 10 days previous to the *jatha* we might not have known that a *jatha* was passing through this village at all. The police have asked us not to give either food or shelter to these *jathas*; they have asked us not to give *roti* and *pani*. This is the *hukum* of the police given to us. So, *jathawalas*, we cannot give you *roti* or *pani*. But we have plenty of milk and sweets which you can take." This is one incident which occurred in that village.

The other incident was related to me by my honourable friend Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh which he has experienced in a village in his own district. A *jatha* was passing through the village in the Ambala district, a member of the Sikh Sudhar Committee perhaps locked the village *dharmshala*, so that people might break open the lock and thereby give an opportunity to the members of the Sudhar Committee to run in the persons who broke open the lock for theft. The villagers, on the other hand collected some provisions and stored them in a house outside the village and sent the key to the *jathadar* so that when the *jatha* came they could unlock the house and help themselves to the provisions stored in that house. The villagers some time after sent the women of the village with pails of milk on their heads for supplying it to the members of this *jatha* who had assembled there in a *deewan*. When everybody began singing hymns the men of the village also joined. This is actually teaching the villagers a lesson in civil disobedience. Is it not spreading disorder if these *jathas*, which according to the Government are unlawful assemblies, are permitted to wander from village to village? Are not the Government assisting them and helping them in the spread of disorder in the Punjab? Instead of doing the work of preservation of law and order, the Government are just conspiring with these *Akali jathas* in spreading disorder and a contempt for law. This is the charge that I bring against this department by supporting the reduction which has been just moved.

Mr. H. D. Craik (Chief Secretary): This has been an interesting discussion, but I do not quite see what it has got to do with the vote now under consideration before the House. If it is a fact that the police deliberately refrain from arresting or prosecuting persons who break the law then it is equally a fact that they do so under instructions from the Government and I submit, Sir, that this is not the proper vote on which such questions should be discussed. If again, as the honourable member has alleged, the police deliberately harass and take legal proceedings against the people who have not broken the law—the honourable member admitted that this was done under instructions from superior authorities—there again it is not on a vote such as this that such proceedings should be discussed. As, however, the discussion has taken place I should like to ask the honourable members who have spoken on the amendment in support thereof, what precisely it is they want the Government to do.

Sardar Jodh Singh: Arrest the *jathas* as they start in Amritsar.

Mr. H. D. Craik: To give you an opportunity for a first class *marcha* on an enormous scale with all your reserves and all your supplies close at hand with every possible disadvantage to the Government! No, thank you very much Government will not accept that offer. Apart from that consideration Amritsar is a city with a considerable number of residents who are not at all interested in the *Akali* movement. I have myself been a humble inhabitant of Amritsar for good many years in the course of my service and I have formed the impression—perhaps it may be erroneous and I hope my Sikh friends will correct me if I am wrong—there are considerable sections of the community in Amritsar, which do not even belong to the Sikh faith. There is a considerable section of some slight importance in the business world, in the industrial world and in the commercial world. Their peaceful avocations are somewhat seriously disturbed by the activities of the *Akalis* and the excitement arising out of their doings causes a great disturbance to their trade. Would these communities welcome a *march* of first class dimensions at their very door with arrests possibly by thousands daily in the Hall bazaar?

Sardar Jodh Singh: Taken the arrest can be done outside Amritsar.

Mr. H. D. Craik: My honourable friend not only chooses the district but also the exact spot! I think it is not unfair that the Government should be left to choose on what grounds it will meet these people who deliberately flout its authority and who prefer to all constitutional methods what may be called methods of direct action. But if the Government had since the very commencement acted on the advice now given by these honourable members, cannot the House picture the indignation with which the honourable members, who have just spoken in support of the amendment, would have attacked the Government for its brutal treatment of peaceful bands of religious pilgrims? "You do not even let us start. You arrest us even before we start", that would have been their outcry. I would ask the House if that would not be the picture that would have been presented to it if we had arrested these *jathas* as they were starting. There are also various subsidiary questions which arise. I have not heard, for instance, exactly for what offence these *jathas* would have been arrested.

We are told that they break the law. That is perhaps rather a nice question, though I am not going to discuss it now. It is a question which

[Mr. H. D. Craik.]

has been considered, but it is not quite as simple a question as honourable members seem to imagine. And after all, is not the pilgrimage to Jaito now one of the recognised forms of recreation in which idle people engage? They peregrinate the province for periods varying from ten days to six months. They are fed on the way at the expense of these peaceful and hospitable villagers who, we are told, are bound under the dictates of their religion to supply food to all strangers who enter their borders. I am afraid sometimes they eat even to excess. I have heard stories of enthusiastic Akalis whose religious fervour has moved them to such an extent that they suffered most seriously from the effects of over-eating. In fact there have been cases where considerable portions of *jathas* have been so replete that they had to be carried during the last stages of their journey before reaching their destination in bullock carts. They simply could not walk. If it is to prevent that sort of thing that the honourable member wishes us to arrest these *jathas*, then I am quite ready to consider his suggestion. Perhaps he would think it over and let me know of a suitable place a few marches from Jaito where we can arrest these *jathas*, and let them undergo a short course of training so that they may arrive in proper style at the conclusion of their pilgrimage. I hardly think it reasonable to ask us to arrest them on a spot which the honourable members here would choose, just outside Amritsar.

Sardar Jodh Singh: Then do not arrest those who feed them.

Mr. H. D. Craik: That is a point which I am glad the honourable member has brought to my notice. Instructions have been issued that people who merely feed *jathas* are not to be arrested. The mere feeding of a *jatha* is not, so far as I am aware, an offence. I fancy the number of prosecutions of those who have been charged with entertaining *jathas* alone is extremely small, much smaller than has been represented. I cannot recall exact figures, but I think that the number of persons who have been prosecuted for merely entertaining *jathas* is not more than half a dozen, and it is not the policy of Government at present to prosecute people only for that offence. But when we know that certain persons have not only entertained *jathas*, but have organised or recruited for *athas*, their cases are on a different footing.

Sardar Tara Singh [Ferozepore (Sikh), Rural]: Sir, I remember having put a question to Sir John Maynard on this very point as to why Government does not arrest the *jathas* which have been declared unlawful associations

Mr. President: I would ask the honourable member to say something new which has not been put forward by the two honourable members who have discussed this point before. He should not traverse the same ground.

Sardar Tara Singh: Yes, Sir, I was saying that I asked a question to which Sir John Maynard gave an evasive reply. But I could not be brow-beaten like that, so I asked a supplementary question, to which the honourable member replied that it was a mixed question of law and policy. Sir, he did not commit himself either way, whether the *jathas* were unlawful associations or not, but the fact remains, as it has been admitted by several courts not only in one case but in thousands of cases that these *jathas* are unlawful associations, otherwise how could they be convicted. Their conviction was based on this main ground that they provided food and shelter for the *jathas* which had been declared unlawful by Government.

by its notification. I remember having conducted one case, I mean the case of our worthy Deputy President Sardar Mahinder Singh. He was convicted for this very offence and the main charge alleged against him was that he had offered shelter for a *jatha* which had been declared an unlawful association. I mean to say, Sir, that the courts have adjudicated on the point that they are unlawful associations. On these grounds persons have been convicted, not one but thousands and for no other reason than that they have entertained them.

The law should be enforced at every stage and under all circumstances disregarding any other thing. If it is inconvenient for Government to arrest *jathas* at Amritsar, this means that Government does not take into consideration the law that the offenders must be brought to book whether the offence is small or whether it is big. Supposing some dacoits come to Amritsar and commit dacoities, would not Government arrest them? Similarly the *Akalis* who form a *jatha* should be arrested as soon as they have broken the law. If according to the Government it is unfair to arrest those *jathas* at Amritsar, it is also unfair on the part of the police to arrest those who feed the *jathas* on their way to Jaito. My friend has said that Government has entered into a conspiracy with the *jathas*. I should say that they are guilty of abetment. If, Sir, these feeders are to be convicted, I would be the first man to convict Government officials because they abet the crime, they abet the breach of the law. Therefore I am quite prepared to say that Government should arrest the *athas* at Amritsar, but if Government does not arrest them, it should not arrest those who entertain those *jathas* on their way to Jaito. Mr. Craik said that Government has issued instructions that those who merely feed *jathas* are not to be arrested. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh has just handed me a note saying that recently within the last five days about 12 arrests have been made in Ambala district simply because the men gave food and shelter to a *jatha*. If, Sir, the instructions were issued some time ago, then they are not being acted upon, but if they were issued recently, then it is yet to be seen what effect they will have.

But, Sir, there is one more important point. Much humiliation is being inflicted upon the people and especially on the female sex. I can say from my personal observation that police run from door to door and search the baskets of *roti* of the women to see whether they have kept extra *chapatis* for the *jathawalas*. It is rather shameful for these officials who by their conduct create such feelings in the tender sex and their children. I have seen extreme cases of women coming into struggle with the police. They tell the policemen—I am a woman, and the *Akalis* are my brothers, I will go to them you cannot stop me, you cannot touch me. Yet in spite of these insults people keep calm and non-violent under all these circumstances. So I submit, Sir, in order to avoid all these results it is better to nip the evil in the bud, if that is an evil. Otherwise if it is declared that it is not an evil, nobody should be harassed. That is the object underlying the amendment.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): Sir, I have only to say that there is an interesting ceremony known as letting the cat out of the bag. I think, Sir, we have witnessed this afternoon a most interesting example of that ceremony of letting the cat out of the bag. The gentlemen opposite who have spoken on this subject have made it quite plain that they realise that Government has not fallen into the trap which they or their friends or their associates had laid for Government. It would have been disastrous for Government if it had fallen into that trap, but we

[Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.]

had gained by experience a knowledge of their tactics and so avoided falling into it. Now we find, I suppose very naturally, a certain amount of indignation expressed because on this particular occasion having profited by experience we decline to fall into the trap. "Will you walk into my parlour?" said the spider to the fly.

Mr. President : Does the honourable member want to press his motion?

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Yes, Sir.

Mr. President : I thought the honourable member only wanted to raise a discussion through this motion.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : I want to press it. I do not want to withdraw.

Mr. President : When such motions are made it seems to be understood that they are not for the purpose of censure but for the purpose of raising a debate.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : This is a motion meant for censure so far as the policy of Government is concerned.

Mr. President . The speech made when moving the reduction did not lead one to understand that it was for the purpose of censure. If the honourable member wants to press this to a vote on the understanding that he meant it as a vote of censure, then it will be put to the vote on that basis.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Of course I meant it as a censure so far as the policy of Government was concerned. In the Legislative Assembly these cuts for Rs. 100 are being made for the purpose of recording censure. The system in the Legislative Assembly is to propose a reduction of Rs. 100 for censure as well as for raising a discussion. I moved for this reduction, keeping in mind the procedure in the Assembly.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, reduction moved :—

"That the total grant be reduced by Rs. 100".

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council divided : Ayes 18 ; Noes 36.

AYES 18.

Sardar Jodh Singh.
Sardar Tara Singh.
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.
Maulvi Mazhar Ali, Azhar.
Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Sardar Partap Singh.
Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.
Pandit Nanak Chand.
Professor Ruchi Ram, Sahni.

Lala Bodh Raj.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Lala Banke Rai.
Dr. Nihal Chand, Sikri.
Lala Diwan Chand.
Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.
Mr. Labh Singh.
Lala Mohan Lal.
Chaudhri Ram Singh.

NOES 36.

Mr. W. P. Sangster.
Colonel C. R. Bakhle.
Mr. C. A. Barron.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. W. Mayes.
K. B. Nawab Muzaffar Khan.
Sir George Anderson.
Lieut.-Col. B. C. Batty.
The Honourable Rai Sahib Chaudhri
Chhotu Ram.
The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-
Husain.
The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sar-
dar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
The Honourable Sir John Maynard.
Mr. J. G. Beazley.
Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. J. M. Dunnett.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
Dr. C. A. Owen.
Mr. Owen Roberts.
Mr. J. Coldstream.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
Nawab Sayad Muhammad Mehr
Shah.
Sardar Bahadur Sardar Jowahir
Singh.
Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Lieut. Malik Muzaffar Khan.
Rai Shahadat Khan.
Khan Bahadur Nawab Muhammad
Jamal Khan.
Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan.
Lieut. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.
Malik Khan Muhammad Khan.
Khan Haibat Khan Daba.
Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
Chaudhri Nur Din.
Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhan-
dari.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Mr. E. Maya Das.
Chaudhri Kesar Singh.

The motion was lost.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq (Hoshiarpur-cum-Ludhiana, Rural) : Sir, I beg to move—

“ That the total grant be reduced by Rs. 1.”

Mr. President : I hope the honourable member proposes this reduction on some grounds other than those which have already been discussed.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Yes, Sir. (Continued in Urdu.)

Sir, in moving this amendment I might say at the very outset that I do not mean by this amendment that a vote of censure be passed on the administration of the Police Department. I will avail of this opportunity to proffer some suggestions which, if accepted, will, I am sure, go a long way in improving the working of the police.

In the first place it is an admitted fact that there is still sufficient room for improvement in the working of the police. Whatever the views of the officials may be in this respect the public as a whole has expressed in more than one way here as well as outside the Council that there are improvements required in the manner in which the police carry on their duties. That a vote of censure was passed on the floor of this very House last year on the administration of the police is also an indication of the fact that reform is badly needed in the working of the police. The Honourable Finance Member was pleased to remark yesterday that unless the public co-operate with the Government the Government alone cannot effect the much-needed reform in its different departments. I admit the truth of the remark but with the reservation that it is not wholly true. It is primarily the duty of the Government and in fact of every government to run its department in a most satisfactory manner and if any government expresses its inability to do so, I think it can-

[Ch. Afzal Haq.]

not claim to be a fit ruler. In this connection I am reminded of the story of the old woman who approached Emperor Mahmud with a request that he should take steps to punish the offenders who were instrumental in the homicide of her only son. On the Emperor replying that it was impossible for him to trace the offenders in the far off corners of his empire, the woman remarked why he had taken over the reigns of such a vast empire when he was unable to satisfactorily keep control over it. If I may say so, the same remark applies here as well. Certainly if the Government expresses its inability to reform its officers, I think it would do well to retire in favour of some other government.

It can be said that the present government means well and also wishes well, but I am sorry to point out that full efforts have not been made to realise that wish. The Government has not paid so much attention to bring about improvements in the Police Department as it ought to have done. It is perhaps afraid lest by bringing about the much-needed improvement, the people should get time to think of their political subjection and think of bettering their position. And if such a fear is not present in the minds of the officials, I would like to proffer some suggestions, as I said in the very beginning of my speech, and I hope that due consideration will be given to them by the Government.

I might bring to the notice of the Government if it is not already aware of it that there is fear always present in the minds of the public that if any of them would dare to bring any charge against any officer he is sure to be involved in a case of defamation or some other case of the kind. No official is prepared to believe the statement made by any of the public unless it is corroborated by witnesses who in their turn are also afraid of the officers and would not dare to come forward to state the truth. To remove this fear I can suggest a remedy and that is that the Government should require the district boards and municipal Committees which are representatives of the people to constitute a standing committee of members amongst them whose duties it should be to report cases of corruption in the Police Department. I might in passing say that similar institutions have already been formed by the Honourable the Minister for Education who go by the name of panchayats whose duties are, amongst others, the reporting of corruption cases. These standing committees should send in their reports from time to time and such reports must be given sufficient weight. If the suggestion is adopted much of the corruption rife at present will be uprooted.

My second suggestion is that honesty should be made the standard of promotion of the officers from one rank to another. I know that there are registers such as A, B and C maintained for classifying the officers in different groups, but I may say that this sort of classification has not proved effective in achieving the end in view. I will presently tell how this is so. The officers recommending entry or entering names in different registers pay more regard to the number of cases investigated, challaned and brought to a successful termination. The honesty of the officers does not count very much in the matter of their promotion.

The best way to encourage police officers to be honest is, as I have said before, to make the promotion of the officers dependent on their honesty first and everything else afterwards. There are very few police officers who can be called honest. I have myself served the department for

some years and during that period I came across only with one person named Shaikh Abdur Rahim whom I found to be honest. He is a head constable and although he has put in 25 years service he has not so far been confirmed as sub-inspector. This goes to show that the authorities do not very much care whether a person is honest or not. To ignore such persons who starve their children and suffer hardships to remain honest and to promote those who feed fat by recourse to accepting bribery means nothing else but encouraging corruption.

Next I would talk in a few words about the European officers who are posted as superintendents of police in different districts. I admit that whatever their political views may be, they are most of them honest and good at heart but I may point out that all of them are not free from corruptive habits and that is proved by the fact that their subordinates are with few exceptions corrupt. If all of them had been honest they could have easily put a check on their subordinates. It is because they overlook or connive at the fault of their subordinates that the corruption is so rampant amongst these police officers. In order that these officers should be more careful some restrictions should be placed on them. They should also be instructed to recommend only those persons for promotion who to the best of their knowledge are thoroughly honest. They should be asked to classify their subordinates in three groups, *viz.*, honest, fairly honest and dishonest. The men who come under the third category should be degraded after 2 years and be removed from service after a period of three years.

It would not be out of place to mention that I once happened to talk to Sir John Maynard as a Member of the Standing Committee and on my throwing out a suggestion I think I was told that the district boards and the Committees were not yet competent to be entrusted with such a responsible work as the reporting of corruption cases. I ask of him how these bodies are going to be competent as he wants them to be. I think the best way to train a person for any task is to entrust him with that task for a man cannot learn swimming unless he goes in the deep water. I again request that the district and the municipal committees be required to have, each of them, a standing committee formed for the purpose of reporting corruption cases in their respective jurisdiction. If this suggestion fails to seek the approval of the authorities, I would suggest as an alternative that this task be entrusted to the Bar Associations which are admittedly far advanced in education and which can be safely entrusted with such work. These associations should be asked to report against the dishonest officers and in order that this may be effectively done, these associations should not be required to prove the allegations made by them to be true as is required by law. I do not think that we can introduce any change on this point in the substantive law, but a change can be introduced in the Police Act.

Then there is another suggestion which I would request the Government to consider and that is about the Police Training School. In a question asked by me the Honourable Sir John Maynard replied that the persons under training in that School are not subjected to maltreatment but the same gentleman was pleased to remark yesterday, perhaps unwittingly, that for the sake of discipline the rude and harsh treatment by the instructors can not be avoided. I have been myself under training in the above-mentioned school and I can say from my personal experience that the conditions in which I found the School at that time and which I believe exist even to-day

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were worse than the conditions prevailing in the jails. I know that we could not pass our days there peacefully without paying *Makari* to the *dhangis*. Such conditions combined with the maltreatment cannot produce self-respecting persons and I remember to have heard from a sub-inspector under training that as soon as he is out of the school he will make himself forget these things by beating the persons who come across him. I might inform the House that this is the determination with which police officers come out of the school. They do not come out of the school with the resolution that they would serve their country. In order that the best men should come out of the school I would suggest that the authorities should take immediate steps to appoint teachers in the school whose duty it should be to give religious and moral training to the men under training. I am aware that a teacher was appointed when I was in the school apparently to give a moral training to the students under training, but he was a man who had neither received western education nor did he possess any national feelings. I again say that in order that the Training School may produce best men, provision should be made to give moral education to the men under training in the school.

Before I finish my speech I think it my duty to give expression to the view that whatever our political tendencies may be, we fully know Mr. Tomkins and Sir John Maynard to be perfect gentlemen and when I was only a school boy I used to be told that when these two gentlemen took over charge of the Police Department they would bring about a good deal of reform in the department. I am sorry to learn that Mr. Tomkins is about to leave us because he intends returning home, but Sir John Maynard is still with us and if we can not have self-government, I would request him to give us at least good government.

Mr. President: Grant under consideration, reduction moved:—

"That the total grant be reduced by Rs. 1."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq [Amritsar (Muhammadan), Urban]: Sir, two days ago, if I remember aright, or I think it was only yesterday that there was some breeze about the police in this House. I am afraid the police question is so delicate that a breath over the police usually makes the honourable members of Government suspicious and sometimes angry. Sir, if we take complaints against the police to the Government officials, they usually say: "Why are you talking here, why do you not say all that in the Council?" If we go to Sir John Maynard, he would say: "You have no courage of conviction, why not speak in the Council?" Sir, we must discuss the whole policy or the conduct of the police, not with the idea of attacking the police, because we know that corruption exists not only in this department, but it exists in every department in this country. I do not say that my own profession is not included. Now when I am going to speak about the police, let not the Finance Member who is looking at me, run away with the idea that I am going to attack this department simply because it is the Police Department. Police is absolutely necessary for the safety of a country. I was reading only yesterday a book and I found that even in ancient India corruption was rife.

Even Manu admits that. Even in those days corruption was rife, but

Mann had the courage of conviction and he effected reforms, but in these days the difficulty in the way of reform is this that at the very name of police, Government becomes aggressive following the German maxim that aggression is best form of defence and this was the idea which led Mr. Dunnott to have a breeze yesterday

Mr. J. M. Dunnott : Sir, may I just make one personal explanation. The only thing that made me say what I did say was the charge of cowardice that was levelled against Government, and that charge I rebutted. Otherwise that the police are capable of reform I agree with the honourable member.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : I would never level a charge of cowardice against Government. We all know the police methods. Right down from the honourable members who occupy the first benches to the other end of the hall everybody knows, though he may not express it here, that most of the police is corrupt, and that more than any other department. Before speaking about corruption let me say something good about the police, and the improvements that have been made. I am very glad to say that I have been watching the police department for some time and I find that the standard of quality and honesty of a police constable has risen. At the same time the new deputy superintendents are also absolutely much more honest than they used to be once. I have seen them, I have mixed with them and I see that there is no doubt about it that that section of the police department is acquitting itself very honourably. But when you come to that section of the police, the sub-inspectors and the head constables, I do not want to say anything, the less said the better. Sir, but I do think that the whole system is simply prehistoric. The system is such that the whole power is concentrated in the hands of the police sub-inspector. That system is so very old—it has not been changed since the days of Ranjit Singh—that I can say, Sir, that this system should go. I remember the story of an old woman saying to a barrister friend of mine who had come back from England after taking so many degrees: *Khuda ap ko derogha banae*. Her great desire was that he should be a sub-inspector. The difficulty is that Government says: why do you not bring cases against the sub-inspectors? To bring cases against the sub-inspectors means bringing cases against the whole force of sub-inspectors, which would mean the stopping of the whole machinery of justice. You will have to bring cases against men from north to south and from east to west. Where is the justice of bringing the law against one person when the whole force is corrupt? To ask us to bring cases against the sub-inspectors is absolutely useless; so is the case with the head-constables, they are the ones, so far as I know, who spoil the sub-inspectors. We must reform the whole system. I do not say that Government tries to defend or help them in corruption or that Government is unwilling to stop corruption, but what I mean is that Government does not much care. It does know that this is an old disease, and that this is not the only department suffering from the disease, so thinking it hopeless it shoves the responsibility of reforming it on to others. But the question is, how are we going to check the disease? It is no use prosecuting all of them. The only thing is that Government should appoint in each district an advisory committee which should investigate the public grievances.

Now, Sir, how are you going to stop this? There is one way, and that is the Government should order the superintendents of police that they should mix up with the public, hear complaints from them orally and then

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if necessary rebuke the officer concerned if he is guilty. Then there is the system known as *zimni*. I think it is a very old system, but it has its advantages. But we find that the police inspectors and sub-inspectors under the stress of work find it impossible to make their notes then and there. They record these notes two or three days after writing at thana; but in such a way that the reader may think that the writer is writing it on the spot in the presence of witnesses, when it is possible that one of the witnesses may have died. They must be asked to record them then and there and they must be asked to take copies with the aid of carbon paper and the *zimnis* should have serial numbers. If this is done, there will be no complaint from the lawyers and the accused that these *zimnis* have been altered in the meanwhile. Now there is a suspicion that these *zimnis* are altered by the police and it is a right suspicion too. But if my suggestion is adopted, there will be no opportunity for tampering with the *zimnis* and there will no longer be any complaint on that score. It may be said that my suggestion is very crude, because just at present better methods have been invented in Europe, but what I want to urge is that something should be done in connection with these *zimnis*.

Another thing which I want to press is that in Germany no police officer is allowed to go in public except in his uniform. I think it should be made a rule here that whenever a police officer goes out of his district or thana he should appear in his uniform. Otherwise he has a chance of doing a lot of mischief. If he is in his uniform, his movements will be watched. As soon as he is off his uniform he becomes an independent person. He loiters in towns and when asked the reason of his presence he says he has come to see the deputy commissioner and says he went to salam him or the superintendent. I make this humble suggestion not as a punishment to the police sub-inspector or head constable, but to control them in their conduct.

Now, Sir, the present is a system by which a police sub-inspector after he has joined service considers himself as equal to an extra assistant commissioner or a sub-judge. The position really is this. The Police sub-inspector is a higher officer on account of his power in the Indian life. It is rather hard or rather it is impossible for a sub-inspector to live on Rs. 80 a month. You must either bring him down to the level of a head constable or raise his status and correspondingly his pay and area under his jurisdiction. If you raise his pay you can expect more honesty in him than at present. There is no use asking a man coming from a very good family to be content with Rs. 80 only or with perhaps a horse allowance of Rs. 30 in addition. The whole police establishment requires a thorough review. It is impossible for the sub-inspector of police who is the scion of a big family or is related to a big family to be content with Rs. 80 a month unless he has something which in Panjabi they call *malai*, that is, unless he has his eye on something else. So either bring down the status of sub-inspector and reduce his area of jurisdiction or raise his pay and area of jurisdiction. It is rather unfortunate that up to this time the British Government have not yet found some method by which to regulate the conduct of the police officers. Now what happens is that the sub-inspector goes to a village in connection with a theft case, and at once summons 20 or 30 people, sits on a charpai with a *hugga* in his mouth and nobody dare go against his wishes. For, if anybody does so, he may write one word against some unfortunate person and the whole life of that person may be ruined. If the Government orders that the

police officer should not issue summons orally and that he should issue summons in writing. . . .

Mr. J. M. Dunnett: That is the law.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: Then it is honoured more in the breach.

Mr. President: I thought the honourable member asks what is the law.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett: No Sir, I say the police officer investigating a matter may by order in writing summon any person for the purposes of the enquiry.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: I say the police officer not only may but should send the summons in writing asking him also to remain for such and such a period so that the person concerned may be in a position to ask with the authority of the summons in his hand the reasons why he is summoned. As it is, now, the police officer does not issue the summons in writing and after he assembles some 50 persons in the village he gets from each of them some Rs. 10 or 5 and then walks off. Of course the villagers think they are lucky when they escape with a loss of few rupees only. If the Home Secretary issues instructions and orders that no police officer should summon a suspect unless he sends an order in writing "You are ordered to come at such and such a place and at such and such a time and so on" no police officer will be careless or cheeky enough to send such summons and a good deal of mischief that he is doing at present will cease. I am not speaking, Sir, in a spirit of destructive criticism.

Another word in regard to the police system. In the courts now, Sir, it has become a custom that in bailable cases accused are not bailed unless the party gives some Rs. 20 or Rs. 30 to police. The party may not have money and so those helpless persons remain in jail. This bad system will stop if the Government issued instructions to the Superintendents of Police to see at least once in three months some members of the bar, say the Secretary or the President and talk to him about the system of working of the police in courts.

It is absolutely necessary to have police reforms. Too many prosecutions under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code, was the cause of 1919 troubles in Amritsar District. The people hold *Sircar* as responsible for all the actions of the police. Government may not feel the immediate effect of discontent, but there is no doubt of its cumulative effect. The rural population who enjoy hardly any benefits—they have no good roads, no postal and telegraph facilities, no good schools or hospitals—should at least get protection from police corruption. They are the people who feed the honourable members of Government benches and us on this side, so it is only fair that the hand that feeds should not be struck.

I am afraid I have taken more time of the Council than I really wanted but I could not have helped it because the question is so important and the complaints are so many. Still I have any number of complaints which I have not touched upon. I hope that Government will take my remarks in the spirit in which they are offered and I trust that the Government will take all possible steps to remove this system of corruption. I hope the Home Secretary will not turn round and say: "Who is this man who dare to speak about my depart-

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ment." I can assure the Council that my sincere and honest aim is that this reform should be effected in the department. Innocent people are now suffering untold wrongs at the hands of the police and I demand that those grievances should be immediately redressed. I do not for a moment suggest that the police are incorrigible. I say that the system should be changed; we should have a perfect system which will be proof against all these faults so that the people of the country may remain happy and contented.

Mr. V. F. Gray (Punjab Chamber of Commerce and Trades Association, Commerce): Sir, it is not my intention to criticise the police, but I think this is the best opportunity for me to mention a small or rather I should say a big matter in my opinion, that is working against the interest of this province. I am referring to the forged currency notes. That is a matter which the police themselves have to tackle and I presume they are tackling. In Delhi these forged hundred rupee currency notes have been so tremendously put into circulation that the whole bazar has become quite suspicious. The currency note is no longer taken in the Delhi bazar and I hear that these forged notes are also appearing in Amritsar though not anything like the same extent as in Delhi. I also understand there are some of them put into circulation in Lahore. They are extraordinarily good forgeries, in fact a forged note is really better than a Government note to look at. It sounds rather a foolish remark to make, but I think if I show you, Sir, a forged note and a genuine note, you would select the forged note to be the genuine one. We have tried this experiment of these forged notes and the genuine notes with one bank manager in Delhi and 2 others and they all mistook the forged note for the genuine one. There is one way of discovering whether a note is genuine or forged. If we put a note into water, if it is a forged one, it will absorb the water and the water mark would disappear from the corner dipped whereas the genuine Government note will not absorb water nor will the water mark disappear. That is the only means of telling which is a forged note and which is a genuine one. I want to bring this to the notice of the Government from the police point of view because it is very serious danger to the credit of the Government in this country. I have the serial numbers of these forged notes for there are quite a good number which are forged, but I do not think that would be much help because as one number gets advertised others are produced. There is a large number of these notes in existence and they have been foisted on to the various markets. I merely wish to bring this to the notice of the Government.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban]: Sir, it has been admitted that there is much room for reform in this department as in several other departments of Government. Last year a similar motion was moved and all these facts were brought to the notice of the Government. We have to see whether during the last twelve months the Government benches have made serious efforts in the direction of bringing about reforms as desired by the House. The police department is the custodian of law and order and it is the very department that is mostly to blame for the breaking of law and order. We have to spend more than 10 per cent. of our revenues to maintain this department. Should I understand that this spending department is the favourite department of the Government simply because it is controlled or is in charge of the Honourable the Finance Member who has got the control of the purse? Various suggestions have been made this afternoon, especially by my

honourable friend Chandhri Afzal Haq. He has suggested several ways and means of effecting reforms in the department. If the Government are really sincere and anxious to introduce reforms in the working of this department, I will also make one feasible suggestion which if carried into practice is calculated to bring about the reform that is so much desired by all. A senior member of the department should be spared and asked to go round the important districts on a tour. Before he goes to a station, he should send information to men of status and position of the locality, to men who are in charge of public bodies and who are running public institutions so that he may have an opportunity of meeting them and availing of their help in the matter. He should take those men into his confidence and should get from them the complaints or grievances against the police department in that particular station. The present source of information for the Government members at the headquarters is, the department itself. If any complaint is made, that complaint is sent direct to the officers concerned. This practice is to a great extent defective. The police official in the lower rank cannot have the courage to accept illegal gratification unless and until his movements are connived at by the officials in the higher rank in the district headquarters. I wish to bring to your notice, Sir, how these police officials are carrying out the law into effect. The law gives the accused a right to produce witnesses for his defence. Whenever an accused puts in his list of defence witnesses in court, the responsible police officials take care to send a constable to the houses of those witnesses in order to coerce them, to strike awe and terror in their minds so that they may not come to court to give evidence in favour of the accused. In cases challaned under section 110 the law requires that the person against whom the charge is brought should give security of good conduct for a certain period. That is what the law requires of him. The magistrate passes the order that he should give security or he should go to jail. Security is demanded so that he may reform himself. He produces a surety, but to the misfortune of the man who comes to court to stand surety for the accused he is challaned under the same section a day or two after and also the witnesses who take courage to come to court to give evidence for the defence are also challaned under the same section. This is how, in some districts the law is being carried into effect by these police officials. I do not like to make any vague allegations of corruption against the police officials. From my own knowledge, I can quote several instances of corruption in my own district. There was a police sub-inspector who was busy investigating several theft cases which were connected with one another. Thus he had a golden opportunity to lay his hands on whosoever was considered by him a man of a suspicious character or who was reported rightly or wrongly to be such a man. I would have no quarrel with this sub-inspector if he had really put his hands on persons of really suspicious character. The difficulty lies in the fact that if any man tips the sub-inspector, he after being confined for a few days is allowed to go scot-free without being produced before the court. There is kept no entry whatsoever in the police record whether he was kept in police custody or not, or whether any evidence was recorded against him or not or why he was let off. If I mistake not, that sub-inspector within a period of a month or two came into possession of thousands of rupees. I can say with certainty that no action was taken against that sub-inspector. I think in one form or another complaints were brought against that sub-inspector. The natural impression in the minds of the citizens was that because the higher officials were overlooking

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the mistakes of police officials of lower rank, the latter could have the courage to be so corrupt. My submission is that early steps should be taken to stop this corruption among the officials of the police. The Government should take into their confidence at least men of position and men of status and those who are in charge of public institutions. These men can very well lay all the facts before the Government without fear or favour. I would also urge another thing in this connection. It is this. If their statements are recorded in writing against the police officials, these statements should be kept confidential up to the time when the Government is prepared to take steps against those who are in fault. Immediate steps should be taken to transfer those against whom charges are brought from the station where enquiry has been held. Government should also give sufficient protection to those who offer to give evidence to substantiate the charges. My submission is that in this way culprits can be brought to light easily and they can be punished very severely. If the Government members intend to adopt such a procedure, it would be better for them to make a public announcement of their policy so that people outside may know that the Government members are really earnest in putting down corruption.

I think I need not dwell at length on the barbarities and the illegalities committed by these police officials. In a tahsil, the thanadar is the master of the tahsil. The tahsildar, or the deputy commissioner or any other higher official cannot command half as much influence and respect as the thanadar. If the Government really want to put down corruption with a firm hand, I would suggest that the following procedure also should be adopted. I do not know whether the Government is already adopting such a method. When an officer enters the police department or for the matter of that when an officer enters any other department of Government, the Government should take a list or inventory of all the property that he possesses at the time when he first enters the service. From time to time the Government should keep a strict watch of the property that the Government officer acquires. They should call in evidence the accounts which an officer keeps with banks so that the Government may be in a position to judge whether from his earnings which he had been conscientiously and honestly getting, he could have laid by such an enormous sum as his bank account would show. If any suspicion arises against the officer, the Government should be prepared to take serious steps against him.

With these words, I beg to support the amendment.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett (Home Secretary): Sir, if I get up so early to-day it is not in any contentious spirit but only because the general question of improvements in the police is involved. I get up with the feeling that members of every shade of opinion have shown an honest and sincere desire to effect an improvement in the department and with the feeling too that the honourable member for whom I have the honour to work will welcome these suggestions very heartily and will be ready, when his turn comes to speak, to extend a warm welcome to every honest suggestion for the improvement of the department. No man really denies that in the police department as in all other departments of the Government there is room for improvement. Even the keenest police officer, I think, admits that. The actual fact is that there has been no head of any department more keen to root out corruption out of his department and to effect radical improvements in his department than Mr. Tomkins and the officers working under him. If I

answer some suggestions that were made, it must not be understood that I have taken anything in a hostile spirit or that I wish to indulge in anything but reasonable and charitable discussion. The Honourable the Finance Member explained yesterday what general measures had been taken for the suppression of corruption in the police department and he dealt particularly with police rules 17, 31 and the sections following which prescribed the employment of a commission of three officers of which two shall not belong to the police department and before that commission is brought up every police officer whose character roll shows that his honesty has been suspected on three occasions. Thereupon without any prosecution evidence the statement of the accused is called for and if it is not satisfactory, he is dealt with.

I do not want to dwell too much on that but I wish to point out that it is a most effective weapon which covers a great number of the suggestions that have been made. I wish very rapidly just to mention that there are two kinds of action that can be taken, two kinds of expedients that may be devised. There are the general expedients that are applicable to all departments and of those Sir John Maynard mentioned yesterday a considerable number. There are, however, besides that, technical expedients those that deal particularly with the powers and working of the police and I think it was chiefly in connection with them that my honourable friend Mr. Sadiq had some suggestions to make. As for the general suggestions the last speaker I think suggested that if there were more open and more familiar working and intimacy between the senior officers of the department and the people of position in each district who supply information, the higher officers would be in a better position to suppress corruption. I think it was suggested that a senior officer of the police should periodically visit districts and should consult people of position in the district and people in-charge of various private and even political associations. Sir, I do not think that the Honourable Member for Finance will have any difficulty in accepting that suggestion. Obviously the officer who goes or whose business it is to visit all districts is the Deputy Inspector-General and I do not think there will be any departmental objection to the Deputy Inspectors-General being instructed on their visits to districts to put themselves in touch with all those gentlemen to whom Lala Bodh Raj referred, and to consult them freely as to the methods of suppressing corruption. That seems to be very much better method which I think the Honourable Finance Member will probably accept. That seems to be a much better method than the method which has been suggested of having standing district corruption committees. Now, Sir, honourable members, who referred to that suggestion had perhaps forgotten the King Commission report and if honourable members will turn to that report they will find that Government considers that district corruption committees are not an effective method of checking corruption. The method that Lala Bodh Raj suggested goes some distance towards effecting that object and is a suitable method ; but to set up district corruption committees with a few or many members whose stereotyped function it is to be merely informers giving secret information to the deputy commissioner or the superintendent of police, will neither check corruption nor contribute to the sweetness and purity of district life.

Lala Bodh Raj : Is there any such committee at Multan ?

Mr. J. M. Dunnett : I had left Multan before the King Commission report issued. Anyhow Government has definitely discountenanced the

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formation of district corruption committees which in my own opinion do not lead either to the suppression of corruption or to the purity of district life.

I now go on to the other suggestions. The subject of the adoption of closer technical methods in order to check corruption has never been lost sight of in the Secretariat and has recently engaged the close attention of Sir John Maynard. What has been done very roughly is that the old practice whereby most of the investigations were left to the havildar—that practice has been checked. The havildar and others will not be left to conduct the investigation if it can be arranged. All investigations will be taken up by the station house officer. It has also been arranged that there shall be no delay in beginning the investigation and also that investigation should not be unduly prolonged. These delays are a very fruitful source of corruption. It is hoped that final reports will be submitted to the magistrate either in the shape of challan or report as the case may be with a reasonable degree of alacrity. Then also there is greater attention being paid to the carrying out of the orders of the High Court that remands should not be given in police custody.

Several other technical steps have been taken and the general purport of these technical provisions is that the opportunity for corruption shall be reduced. General methods have also been adopted that if still police officers are corrupt, it shall be dangerous for them to continue their nefarious practices.

There are one or two other technical matters to which references have been made the big criticism was this that we have never devised a suitable system for the checking of corruption. Well, my friend who made that criticism is a lawyer, but perhaps he is not practising. I do not think he recalled what a very effective weapon the Criminal Procedure Code is for controlling investigations and for preventing corruption. I think nearly all the objections that have been taken against police work are practically every one of them evasions of the court. We have got a good system, we have a first rate system. We are told that suspects are called and are kept hanging about. Any lawyer will tell you that an investigation officer's order of *shami tafish* takes has no law behind it. He may call up a suspect, but he must send him a written order. If the suspect is called verbally and does not appear, the law gives no power to the police whatever. No man can be sent for and kept in custody indefinitely. The system, Sir, is excellent. The real practical difficulty is to work it. That, Sir, is a matter of selecting your officers and taking the greatest care to see that they carry out the law as it is enforced.

Then as for general suggestions. One suggestion was that the superintendents of police should mix with people and go about and so on. There is really no difficulty about that. As regards the use of uniform and so on, that is a departmental matter of not a very great importance, but I imagine there too it would be possible to meet objectors. But, Sir, the honourable member who suggested that we should either reduce the *daqas* of sub-inspectors or increase their pay is attempting to dispose of Rs. 61 lakhs before it comes to the Council. You must consider that you are dealing with big figures. I think the establishment is about 18,000 or 20,000.

Now if you are going to stop nation building (I dislike the use of the word 'beneficent,' because that would mean that other departments are something else), if you are going to do that at the expense of

nation building and beneficent departments, by all means do it, but recognise that by raising the pay from Rs. 80 to Rs. 120 in the department of police you will be going into lakhs and crores. The establishment charges already amount to 59 lakhs, and if you increase the pay by 50 per cent., you will be adding about 30 lakhs to your expenditure.

Well, Sir, I do not want to speak at any great length because my object is merely this, not to prove that any particular suggestion is bad or wrong, but simply to prove this to the House that there is no one more anxious to check corruption in the police than the Government. There is, I imagine no head of a department who is stricter and is more severe with a dishonest officer than Mr. Tomkins (hear, hear). Therefore if on the mere ground of corruption you pass a vote of censure on the police department, I think you will do an injustice to an officer who has this object more closely at heart than the House itself.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural] : Sir, I just want to take a few minutes of the House for suggesting a remedy for checking this evil under discussion. Speaker after speaker here has said that it is the rural population which suffers most at the hands of the police by way of corruption. Persons living in cities are too clever to come under the clutches of the police officers. It is said that it is the rural population that is made to give bribes by a number of different methods. The root cause of this, as I have been able to interpret, is that there is no one in the rural population of this province who is the keeper or the guardian of the liberties of these dumb and mute people. In the cities public opinion has sufficiently been developed and formed. The sub-inspector of a station will not dare to commit those things which he is prone to commit in a village, because he is afraid that other officers besides his own immediate officers, merchants, traders and members of the bar living there will at once expose the whole thing and see the offender brought to book. But if he goes to a village he finds himself there monarch of all he surveys. There is nobody to check him or daring enough to say even a word against him. The nominal heads of the village, the lambardars, sufedposhs and zaildars are of no help in checking the atrocities of the police. The system of appointment of these village officers is so rotten that these village officials are all under the clutches of those police inspectors. Instead of guarding the liberties of the people whose representatives they claim themselves to be, they fall a prey to the machinations of the police sub-inspectors and thus help them in their nefarious designs. There is hardly a zaildar, there is hardly a sufedposh, there is hardly a lambardar in this province who does not at one time or another in his life help the police officer in getting his desires fulfilled. That is the root cause of all this evil. Change the system of village organisation. Let a person who has courage enough and who has the conviction to put his face against a police sub-inspector or any other official inclined to these evil ways become the guardian of the liberties of these people, and let all facilities be given to them to cope with the situation as it arises and see what splendid results you achieve by the experiment. The only way to do this is not to appoint a lambardar on the recommendations of the police sub-inspector. The system as it at present exists is that when the revenue assistant or tahsildar or any other revenue officer has to make an appointment of lambardar, sufedposh or zaildar he at once sends his *parwan* to the police. You can well imagine the consequences. The police officer will naturally recommend a man who

[Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.]

might have been an accomplice in his doings from before. So he at once on some pretext or other says this man has been very useful to the police, he has been helpful in investigating crime and so on and so forth and recommends him for appointment. The officers above simply endorse the remarks of the police officer and so at last it reaches the collector who in his turn appoints the nominee of the police officer as the *sufedposh* or *zaildar*. The remedy therefore lies in the fact that instead of appointing the *zaildar*, etc., by this method, instead of appointing them on the recommendation of the police officials or even the revenue officials, if the system of election of these officials by the villagers is introduced, that will solve all the difficulties. Let the villagers elect of their own accord the best man out of themselves to be *sufedposh* or *zaildar*. If the village officer knows that he owes his office not to the police official but to his own constituency then he will not care to be an accomplice in all the evil ways of the police officer. So, Sir, I think this is one of the best remedies which can with advantage be applied in checking corruption which is rampant among the police officers in this province.

There is another evil which has been demoralising the life not only of individuals but the whole life of the nation. The other day I put a question to the Government asking for information as to the number of cases in which *zaildars* and *sufedposhes* have appeared as witnesses in the *Atali* and political cases. The Government did not propose to give a reply and so I am not in a position to say with authority, but I may say that in 99 out of 100 cases launched during the last 3 or 4 years against the workers of this province, the *zaildars* and *sufedposhes* were put in as witnesses. Believe me, Sir, most of them were put in as witnesses against their wishes and they were forced to go into the witness box on more occasions than one and make statements against their beliefs and convictions. This is the sort of training which the police officers are giving in asking the *lambardars*, *sufedposhes* and *zaildars* to go to the witness box and depose there against their convictions. He says in court "I know everything about this man," although in his heart of hearts he knows very little about him. Does he not by this means bring down the moral standard of this country when he being from the cream of village society gives evidence like that? What will be the respect for such a man in the minds of the villagers? His authority will not be respected and the net result will be that the moral life of the country will be lowered day to day because of the working of the police department on these lines. Certainly, Sir, a reform is required in the working of the police administration and it is time, as my honourable friend Chaudhri Afzal Haq suggested a short while ago that the honourable member in charge who is leaving us shortly leaves behind some marks in the police administration which will make us remember him always as the real benefactor of this province.

Another point I wish to bring to the notice of this House is with respect to the prosecuting agency of the police department. It has perhaps been mentioned in this House and outside that there are different methods of taking bribes. One method is to take bribes from persons who are not even suspects by simply calling them and threatening them. Another method is "challan you I must, but you will be acquitted by the court" and the third method is "you will be acquitted on appeal." These are two other forms of getting bribe. When the last two tactics are employed the prosecuting agency is also concerned. It is not the executive force alone,

the person in charge of the station that is concerned in this form of extracting bribes but in certain cases and probably in a large number of them the prosecuting agency also becomes a party and his share automatically goes to the court-inspector or other officer who is in charge of the prosecution. The best way to remedy this evil is to improve the tone of the prosecuting agency. At present the prosecuting agency is recruited from matriculates who are trained in the Phillaur school for about 9 months. These people know very little of law and being exactly of the same status and educational qualification as the ordinary police sub-inspector, he generally falls under their influence. That officer being of the same status and position cannot go out of the control of the executive sub-inspector of the district. He runs along the same line as the executive sub-inspector and falls into the same ditch of corruption. The only way in which this state of affairs can be improved is this. No doubt it will mean greater expenditure, but justice should at all costs be kept free from any taint. Even if it means that we have to spend more to get pure justice, we shall not shirk and grudge that expenditure. The only way to do it is to raise the level of these prosecuting sub-inspectors. Although I recognise that B.A.'s and LL.B.'s are going to be recruited as sub-inspectors and deputy superintendents of police, yet I suggest that it should be made a rule that these court sub-inspectors and inspectors should not be recruited from among the ranks of police officers. My submission is they should be recruited directly from the junior lawyers, with 2 or 3 years' experience at the bar. When such lawyers are taken, then they will not rest content with such a low initial salary as Rs. 80. Besides in order to keep them out of temptation, they should be given a higher salary. Another suggestion that I wish to make is this, that their designation should also be changed. They should not be given a name in any way connected with the police administration, such as deputy superintendents of police for prosecution as is proposed to be given. They should be designated either as public prosecutors or legal advisers to the police or any other name akin to this. My suggestion is that these gentlemen should have less of attachment to the police department. If they are given higher pay and if they are recruited direct from the bar instead of from the ranks of the police, we will have completely eradicated the evil which at present exists in the prosecuting agency of the police.

I wanted to bring these two points to the notice of the Government and I trust that due consideration will be given to my suggestions and that in time they will be accepted by the Government and acted upon by them.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandhari (Nominated, Non-Official) : Sir, I must candidly admit that I rise with the greatest shame and I have to lower my neck down with shame. We have heard a good deal of corruption in the police and so it is quite reasonable to be ashamed of the fact that we, Punjabis, are providing the Government with bad stuff. Really we ought to be blamed for this state of affairs. We should certainly give to the Government for employment in service men who would be honest. We must show that the Punjab is really populated to a greater extent with a population which is not liable to temptation. This in itself might not be liked by a good many members of this House. The next suggestion that I wish to make is

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : May I ask my honourable friend whether he thinks that non-Punjabis are absolutely honest ?

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandhari : I am not talking of other nationalities ; I am merely talking of the Punjabis, because the question under discussion is about corruption in the Punjab. Even if my honourable friend wants to hear from me with regard to other matters, that will be irrelevant to the discussion now proceeding. I am sure my honourable friend agrees in his heart of hearts that we really ought to be blamed for the corruption prevailing in the Punjab. Is it not a matter of shame that we are really criticising the people whom we give to Government to be employed in their service. We do not give proper men to the Government. Some of my honourable friends may differ from me but that is a different matter.

The next thing we have to consider is the remedy that is to be applied for this state of affairs. There is a well-known passage which runs :—

maraz dharta gaya jun jun dawa ki.

‘ The ailment increased in proportion as the medicine was administered.’ In the same way unless proper measures are taken the methods of corruption, high-handedness and oppression will increase. This House must be aware how people are tormented. I do not suppose the House will think for a moment that I am drawing a black picture of the police ; but it is an admitted fact that it is so. I am not ignorant of the fact how bribes are taken and what high-handed things are done by the police. Many untold wrongs are committed by the police and they must all be within the knowledge of the officers who are in charge of the department. They must be aware of these things. But at the same time I must admit that the superior officers in the police department are trying their level best to stamp out this evil and if there is failure it is really not due to less exertions on their part.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : The honourable member is very well pleading the cause of Government.

Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das, Bhandari : No, I am not pleading the cause of Government. I am speaking on behalf of my own conscience. I have many suggestions to make to eradicate this evil of corruption. One is that in making selection for appointments not only in the police department but in every other department, the Government should take into consideration the breeding and character of the individual selected. The person chosen must possess good character and good breeding. People should not be indiscriminately selected and enlisted in the service. Sometimes candidates are selected even without knowing to what sect they belong, or to what nationality they belong. The antecedents of the candidate must be taken into consideration, not only his own antecedents, but the antecedents of the family. I beg to say that unless and until this system is adopted, corruption cannot be put down. Among Indians, even in making marriage alliances, it is not wealth that is taken into consideration, but it is good breeding and good antecedents of the family that are the primary concern of the contracting parties. My submission is that superior officers in charge of the department should draw up a list carefully of well bred selected candidates and publish them and appointments should be strictly confined to that list. In my opinion good breeding goes a long way in the matter of resisting temptation. This point has not been touched upon by any of the speakers who have preceded me and so I have stood up to make this suggestion to the Government.

Then, Sir, my honourable friend Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq had to say something about the summoning of witnesses. My submission is that he as a lawyer should not have forgotten that the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code should not be discussed here. There is the police investigation chapter, a chapter which gives power to the police in the matter of investigations. It is useless for us to argue in the way my honourable friend did seeing that the police are only doing what they are empowered by the Criminal Procedure Code. If my honourable friend wants that a different procedure should be adopted by the police in the matter of investigation then the best thing for him is to move in the proper place for an amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code. There is not the slightest suggestion to that effect. If the police officer is making investigations quite in strict conformity with the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, there is no reason for us to complain that he is not doing his work properly. So the complaint that the police officer is not doing his work properly falls to the ground.

Another thing which I want to mention is this. There is a gentleman in this House in whom I have the greatest confidence and my words cannot adequately express my regard which I have for that gentleman. He is my honourable friend, Mr. King. He was the chairman of the corruption committee. Several witnesses were examined before the committee and an elaborate report was drawn up. I ask the members of the Government and the members of the House also whether they have read the report of that committee. Have the suggestions made by that committee been adopted in their entirety? If the Government have adopted all those recommendations and if in spite of that there is still corruption, then all I can say is that we have reached the limit. To show to the House that the Government are honestly endeavouring to root out this evil, I shall recite from my memory, the memorable words uttered by His Excellency on the day of the police parade. His Excellency said that the police department was the one department which could bring a good name or a bad name to the Government. As head of the administration of the province, His Excellency is conscious of the fact about which we are all complaining. Can it still be said that the Government are not taking all possible steps to root out this evil? In spite of all that has been done, still I do not say that there is no corruption.

Another thing that was said was about the appointment of lambardars. Honourable members forget the fact that the post is hereditary. It was said that reference should not be made to the inspector in the matter of appointment. What I beg to say is that the inspector should be consulted in the appointment; he may be a corrupt man, it is absolutely necessary to know the work of a man at the time of appointment and the inspector is the one man who can give information on this point.

Then there was another suggestion with regard to advisory committees and it was said that the committee should compose of lawyers. I am never against the advisory committee, but wherefrom are we to bring the men who are to constitute the advisory committee? What guarantee is there that they would not be amenable to outside influence? I should not be taken to task for "calling a spade a spade". What sort of men have we? What is the sort of influence that they will command? What importance shall be attached to the opinions of the members of the advisory committee? If

[Rai Bahadur Sir Gopal Das Bhandari.]

best men are available I shall be the last man not to advise the Government to constitute that committee. That should be formed after a good deal of care and consideration.

Then coming to the members of the bar. Well, I, as a member of the bar can certainly say that the majority of the members of the bar carry out the highest traditions of the profession. But I am sure there is no reason for any one to demur if I say that there are still among the lower ranks of the bar some who can be influenced. Therefore I submit that in making selection for the prosecuting agency, the right method should be adopted. The Government should make the best and the happiest choice. I cannot subscribe to the suggestion that all at once there should be an advisory committee composed mainly of lawyers. Let there be lawyers by all means, but they should be men of ripe experience whose honesty has been proved and who are reputed to be beyond reproach. If proper men are not taken in the advisory committee then after some time, you will hear the complaint that members of the advisory committee get into the closest touch with sub-inspectors of police. I am only anxious that the members of the bar who have such a glorious tradition behind them and who pursue such a noble calling should not get a bad name. There is chance of a whisper passing around with regard to the members of the bar and I want to avoid that.

The other suggestion that was made was that a list should be prepared of all the property that police official possesses when he entered service. Is that a good suggestion? When a list is prepared at the time a man enters the service, what is the value at which the property is to be assessed? Will there not be fluctuation in the value of the property from time to time? All I can say is that an officer who is endowed with fertile brains will probably invent a hundred and one ways of getting round this trap. A man in whom corruption is inborn will never leave that tendency. If an enquiry is to be set on foot. He will say that he got property from *Nani*, a *mama* or such like other sources. I am sure the whole system has to be condemned. Then again the police officer will say: Are we the only officers who should be subjected to the indignity of having a list prepared of all our properties when we enter service? The police officer may urge with some show of reason that a list should be prepared of the property which an excise officer, or a subordinate judge possesses. My submission is that such suggestions ought not to have been made in the House. We should only make suggestions which are feasible and practicable.

I again return to the report of the corruption committee. Here I would make a suggestion and it is this. When a subordinate police officer comes to see his superior officer, the superior officer should say 'No salaam' if he has reason to be dissatisfied with the conduct of the subordinate officer. If an officer who is corrupt is ear-marked in this way and if he is successively refused 'salaams' whenever he comes to see the superior officer, this will set him a thinking and he will mend his ways. It should be publicly made known that when a subordinate police officer is given the reply of 'No salaam', it means that the officer is corrupt and that he is of a suspicious character. My submission is that this will have a very wholesome effect on the police officer. When he comes to the door of the superior officer and if he is treated like this in the presence of the police men and others, then he will reform himself.

In conclusion I have to say that the matter has been very thoroughly discussed, but I sit down with a very heavy heart because up to this time not one practical scheme has been found out to put down this evil which is tarring the fair name of this province. It may be that the mere fact that we agitate and we discuss this subject in this House may have a salubrious effect on the police officers. I do not for a moment say that we should leave off this agitation, but I submit that better methods should be devised which would uproot the evil of corruption not only from this police department but also from every other department where corruption is prevalent or likely to come into existence.

5 P.M.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood [Amritsar (Muhammadian) Rural] : Sir, we have listened to a long list of grievances of the police department. With most of them I am in perfect accord and sympathy but I feel that those charges that have been made against the department do not warrant a vote of censure on that department. A vote of censure to my mind would be justified only in one of two circumstances. If we can prove that these charges could be levelled against all the members of the police force or if we could prove that the charges that we have been making could be made against those who are directing the policy of the administration

Mr. President : The honourable member who moved the amendment made it clear that he did not intend to pass a vote of censure on the department. He only wanted to raise a debate.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : I am sorry, I was not here. In view of that I would submit that we have all ventilated our grievances against the department whatever they were. In doing that we have suggested some constructive proposals to improve the department. One of them which appeared constructive and practical has been practically accepted by Government. That shows the *bona fides* of Government as much as ourselves in order to improve the lot of the police department so far as corruption is concerned. In view of that I think the two positions are clear. Two issues are clear out of the whole debate. One, and all of us are practically unanimous on it that there is need for improving the police department. We are all of us agreed and I dare say that most of us are agreed that the officer who is in charge of the department, Mr. Tomkins, is very anxious to root out corruption as soon as possible.

In view of the fact that the Home Secretary is willing to accept all practical suggestions, we should not put any further suggestions that are impracticable and I hope that the honourable mover will be satisfied with the assurance given by Home Secretary and would see his way not to press the amendment to a division.

Mr. President : There is going to be no division.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I should like just to say that to one who like myself has the reputation of this Council very much at heart it is a great satisfaction to notice the immense improvement in the tone and character of this debate over the similar debate which took place last year. The reason why I say there is an immense improvement is this, that instead of having this afternoon a number of charges against the police without very much in the way of constructive suggestions, we have here this afternoon and to the great profit, I may say, of myself and of the Government a considerable amount

[Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.]

of advice for specific measures which may bring about an improvement. We have had that advice given to us in a manner which inspires confidence because in many cases it has appeared to indicate a real knowledge of the facts and a genuine conviction of the necessity of what is recommended. I myself have listened, I may say, with a very great deal of interest indeed to some of the remarks and the two dozen suggestions. I have recorded something like 26 specific suggestions which have been made—but I am not going to burden the House by dealing with every one of them and I shall also be perhaps committing myself and the Government too deeply if I go now into each one of the separate suggestions which have been made. But it is my intention to take them into account with the exception of perhaps three or four of them, such as the suggestion that the police officers,—poor creatures—should always be in uniform. With the exception of suggestions like this, I intend on behalf of Government to take into very careful consideration the bulk of the other suggestions which have been made. I think when one says a thing like that, one wants to indicate a practicable way in which to give effect to the intention suggested. I am inclined to think that the best way is probably this. A member of the House said to me yesterday that he thought it would be a very good thing if a sort of committee were appointed which would investigate the public grievances against the police. I told him that I did not very much believe in a sort of roving commission which would go about listening to the complaints of anybody and everybody and that that would not give reasonable satisfaction to the public. Later on in the evening, I reflected on this matter again and I remember that some little time ago Government did actually appoint a committee including a certain number of members of this House and a certain number of experts who were to investigate certain questions in connection with the police administration. They did actually go into many of these matters and they did report on three out of the four questions which were referred to them. The fourth question that was put to them was this, "to make all such proposals as may appear likely to conduce to the efficiency and integrity of the police." That is the fourth item on which they have not yet reported. Knowing how difficult it is to make specific recommendations which are likely to be in the least bit of value, the probable reason why the committee took a very long time and yet have not reported on this particular point is that it has not got any specific proposal before it and was at a loss to make concrete recommendations which would improve the integrity and the efficiency of the police. That is the probable reason why it was long in reporting. You see, Sir, we are very apt to have a sort of general proposals put before us, suggesting that, if we can only find some sort of angels to replace the men whom we meet in ordinary life, we shall succeed in improving matters; but so long as these proposals remain merely general we feel ourselves unable to create the necessary instruments for the purpose and they are apt to be put aside as totally impracticable. When we have, as I think we now have, a body of recommendations fully one-half of which are probably quite reasonable and possibly likely to be effective, then we have good reasons for going on with that proposal of the committee and of obtaining from that committee now the answer to the fourth question with special reference to these particular specific recommendations which have been laid before us this afternoon. That, if I find my colleagues and the Government agree with me, is the course which I now propose to follow.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Sir, I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,02,10,998 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 Police."

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. 31,49,000 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 1926 in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,49,000 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 1926 in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements."

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

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 50,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,00,000—Uniform and Equipment of Warders and other miscellaneous Services and Supplies—Central Jails."

My object in moving this amendment is that the sum of Rs. 1,00,000 is too much. I cannot understand why uniforms to the value of Rs. 1,00,000 are required, specially in view of the fact that a similar amount was spent last year. It is for this reason that I want to reduce this amount to one-half. I suppose that would be sufficient for uniforms this year. If more grant is needed, it can be sanctioned next year. I fail to see why so much is spent every year on uniforms.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, reduction moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 50,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,00,000—Uniform and Equipment of Warders and other miscellaneous Services and Supplies—Central Jails."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, with reference to this amendment, I should like to ask the honourable gentleman whether because he bought a new coat last year he does not find occasion to buy a pair of new pyjamas this year also. That is the position in regard to the equipment of warders. The clothes do not last for ever; they have to be renewed, and the result is that this kind of cost is a recurring cost. You do not clothe the man once for all and for ever.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, reduction moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 50,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,00,000—Uniform and Equipment of Warders and other miscellaneous Services and Supplies—Central Jails."

[Mr. President.]

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Gurbaksh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural]: Sir, I beg to move—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 100 with respect to the item of Rs. 8,03,300—
Total Supplies and Services—Central Jails.”

Sir, the long-standing complaint of the bad condition of diet of prisoner in jails has not improved to any distinct degree and it is time that the honourable member in charge of jails diverts his attention towards raising the standard of food that is given to these prisoners. We still go on hearing the complaints of bad cooking, dirt and sand mixed corn, leaves in place of vegetables and the selling of and gambling with chapaties in order to meet the demands of jailors and others. I, therefore, request through you Sir, that the matter should be paid due consideration and this long-standing complaint removed as soon as possible.

Mr. President: Grant under discussion, reduction moved :—

“That the grant be reduced by Rs. 100 with respect to the item of Rs. 8,03,300—
Total Supplies and Services—Central Jails.”

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): Sir, there are two sides to a complaint of this kind, one as regards the scale of diet and the articles which enter into the diet, and the other the working of the system and the occasional neglect of proper precautions or proper measures by those who are actually engaged in preparing the food. As regards the question of diet in the sense of the amount of articles and character and quality of the articles which are purchased I can only say this that it has been a matter of very careful scientific investigation. The dietary of our jails has been calculated in the most careful way by bodies of experts who have satisfied themselves that the various elements that go into the composition of the diet are such as will keep the prisoner in good health. Of course it may be said that the diet does not keep the men in good health, but the answer to that is ‘Look at our statistics of the health of the prisoners, look at the statistics of mortality in jails, look at the tables which show the weights of prisoners both when they entered the jail and when they came out of them’. If honourable members will carefully examine the tables appended to the annual Jail Report they will see that the jail mortality is about one-half of what it is among the free population. In the same volume is appended a table of weights of prisoners from which it will be observed that the weight of the majority of prisoners has increased during their stay in jail. In the face of this evidence, is it reasonable to conclude that the dietary is not satisfactory?

As regards the occasional complaints of bad cooking they are common enough even in our own households. Sometimes the meals are badly cooked or too much cooked and we have occasion to quarrel with our cooks and say many unpleasant things about them. It is quite possible that in some jails and on certain occasions things of this sort may occur just as in private houses. The remedy for this is inspection. We have provided a system of inspection which I think is a very effective one. We have not only our

official machinery for inspection, but we have also non-official visitors who visit the jails at frequent intervals. They have been instructed to notice the quality of diet which is provided for prisoners. There is a recent change, in this system of inspection, that is to say, we have systematised it. The visitors now pay their visits at regular intervals. The non-official visitors are told off to visit the jails once a week. In addition to this there is a regular board of visitors who accompanied by the district magistrate go to the jails and make exhaustive enquiry at regular intervals, I believe it is once a quarter. That is a method by which we can deal with these occasional failures which of course must occur in every institution just as they occur in every private household.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh: Sir, in the light of the remarks of the honourable member, 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. 12,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 36,000—Charges for moving prisoners—District Jails."

Sir, in support of this motion I have got three reasons. The first is the legal disabilities which are placed in the way of those persons who are convicted and sent away to distant jails. I mean to say, if a person is convicted in Ferozepore District and is sent to Multan, he feels a lot of trouble in putting an appeal in the Sessions Court or in the High Court. I will, by way of example, quote the case of the second batch of the Shromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee. In that case the sentence was announced at 4 p.m. and the prisoners were entrained at 5 and sent to Multan. They had to wait for a long time to put in an appeal in the High Court. This sort of thing causes unnecessary harassment.

The second ground is one of climate. Supposing a man is transferred from the Ferozepore District to some place with a different climate, he feels some trouble and falls ill. This causes expense to Government by way of supplying medicine in hospital. My suggestion is that he should be kept in Jail in the same place where he is convicted so that he may not have any trouble on account of climatic conditions.

The third is that these prisoners are transferred to such far off places that it is difficult for their relatives to spend money and time to pay visits to them. On these three main grounds, I move the reduction.

There are other considerations also which I wish to urge at the present moment. Whenever a prisoner is taken in a train he is handcuffed generally and is also given bar fetters. I have got reliable information about this sort of treatment and it is a humiliation to us to see them treated like that. I am reminded in this connection of an incident which took place a few days back. Bawa Harkishan Singh who is respected by the whole Sikh community was brought as a witness in the District Court, Lahore, with handcuffs. He may not have taken it as an insult rather he might have been cheerful, but I say it is an insult offered to the Sikh community. Simply because he differs from the Government in his views, should he be treated like this? For these reasons, Sir, I propose the reduction.

Mr. President: Grant under discussion, reduction moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 12,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 36,000—Charges for moving prisoners—District Jails."

[Mr. President.]

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, It would have been extremely convenient if the honourable member who has moved this reduction had given some sort of idea as to the object with which he was moving the reduction, because then I should probably have been able to give an assurance which would remove the difficulties which he feels on the subject of the manner in which prisoners are treated during transfer. As it is I am not in a position to deal with the reports which have been made, because I was not aware beforehand of what he was grounding his case on. I understand the first objection which he raises in this matter is that prisoners in certain circumstances find it difficult to prepare their appeals. I am not able to tell him how this occurs or what can be done. But I will say this much that the matter will have my attention. I shall see that in making transfers care is taken that the prisoners have all facilities which they ought to enjoy in preparing their appeals. For the remainder of the criticism, I think what the honourable member probably had in view was the particular case of the Amritsar district where the jail is extremely small and where it is quite impossible to keep a very large number of persons and it is often necessary to send the prisoners very rapidly to some larger centre. He said that it was the practice to send Akalis to distant places when they ought to be confined near their homes. The reply to that is that it is not always possible to do so. It is not possible to keep them near their homes and it is frequently necessary for reasons of hygiene or some other reasons to move the prisoners to other places where accommodation is available. There are only four or five centres for Akalis where they can have their own cooks and so forth and it is absolutely essential that we should take them all to those places where we have got arrangements for them.

Next I come to the point that in certain cases handcuffs have been imposed upon persons in circumstances in which it was unnecessary to impose them. I think he referred to two cases. One of them has nothing to do with prisons because it was the police that imposed the handcuffs. This was done prior to conviction and so that case is irrelevant to the present vote. The other case was the one in which handcuffs were imposed upon a prisoner, I think a special class prisoner. If he was a special class prisoner and he was removed from one jail to another, under the jail rules he should not have been handcuffed. If my recollection is correct this fact was pointed out to the officer concerned and the matter was put right. The officers were also instructed to obey the rules in future.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 12,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 36,000—
Charges for moving prisoner—District Jails."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Gubakhsh Singh [Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,100 with respect to the item of Rs. 2,100—
Charges payable to Central Provinces Government for maintenance of Punjab prisoners."

Sir, although the Honourable Sir John Maynard has explained to us that under certain hygienic circumstances and other necessary requirements, he may have to transfer prisoners from one jail to another in the province, there is no reason why prisoners should be transferred from one province to another. If the prisoners are transferred to a different province, they suffer under very serious disabilities. They will not be able to understand the language, they will not understand the customs and manners of the different surroundings and the most important of all, they will not be able to eat the same food which is cooked in those jails. There is no reason whatsoever why the prisoners should be subjected to such great hardships by being transferred to different provinces. As a matter of fact, certain number of prisoners were sent out from this province to the Central Provinces and Madras and we have been hearing from time to time through the Press and otherwise very serious complaints about their mal-treatment in those jails. I also interpellated the Government on that point and I received a reply for the same. I will urge upon the Government the extreme inadvisability of sending henceforward prisoners from this province to other provinces. I further urge that those prisoners who are now serving their period of imprisonment in other provinces and who were originally sent out from this province should be brought back to this province. I trust the House will see the reasonableness of my demand and accept the reduction that I propose in the grant.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,100 with respect to the item of Rs. 2,100—Charges payable to the Central Provinces Government for maintenance of Punjab prisoners."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, there are certain prisoners so dangerous to peace and order in this province and so likely to corrupt by evil communication those with whom they are brought into contact that it is absolutely essential to send them away to places where they may not have any opportunity of doing mischief. That is the reason why a few of the prisoners who are convicted in the Punjab are sent to jails outside the province.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,100 with respect to the item of Rs. 2,100—Charges payable to Central Provinces Government for maintenance of Punjab prisoners."

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. 100 with respect to the item of Rs. 28,67,700—Jails."

In moving this reduction, I want to make clear at the very outset that I intend to raise a discussion on the general policy of jail administration and not in any way to pass a vote of censure. I will not take up the time of the House in repeating all those allegations which everybody hears in the Press and outside on the platform of the mal-treatment of prisoners in jails and I will not also repeat the various assertions we make from time to time by

[Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.]

means of questions and also by raising discussions in this House as to the inquiry into the alleged ill-treatment of the Akali prisoners in the various jails. These things do need discussion but they require a good deal of time. Though I do not discuss those grievances at length now, yet I want to remind the honourable member in charge of the department of jails that that demand of ours still holds good and that demand of ours has not yet been satisfied. Repeated assertions have been made from time to time about the severe treatment meted out to Akali prisoners in the various jails. That treatment might be called inhuman. Giving dips into tanks full of water, spitting into the mouths of the Akalis and a thousand and one most inhuman treatments meted out to the Akalis are being narrated every day. We have been demanding an immediate impartial inquiry into these allegations. We have from time to time tabled resolutions for the appointment of a committee to enquire into these inhuman wrongs, but unfortunately they could not come into the ballot. Nor was the Government magnanimous enough to accept the suggestion of ours independently of any discussion being raised in this House. They should enquire into these allegations and thereby make the whole thing clear. One of the demands made in a very mild form was that the members of the standing jail committee of this House should be allowed to go about and see the working of the jails for themselves. I will not deal at length as to the actual happenings in these jails but will leave that to be narrated by gentlemen of this House who have seen with their own eyes during the time of their inspection what happened in the various jails. But I wish to draw attention to a small point. The little reform that was conceded to the members of the House was practically taken away by the rigorous way in which the rules are sought to be applied. No one with any sense of honour will accept the insult offered by the Government. The members of the jails committee who visit the jails of the province are allowed travelling allowance not as members of the Legislature but as fourth class Government officers. My submission is that the members of the standing jail committee visit the jails as members of the House. The committee itself is a committee of the House and as such they are entitled under the rules to travelling allowance admissible to the members of the House. This method of insulting the members of the standing jail committee by saying that they are only fourth class Government officers for the purpose of travelling allowance is, to say the least adding insult to injury. This is merely equivalent to the Government saying that they will not meet the demand of the House to empower the members of the standing jail committee to visit the jails. The Government is evidently under the impression that if these members are offered such an insult as they are offered now, namely by being classed as fourth class officers, they will stop inspecting the jails and recording their experience of jail administration.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Is not the honourable member imputing motives?

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh: I wish to make clear that I do not impute any motives at all. This is one of the explanations I give. I take it as an insult to those honourable members of the House who visit the jails if they are classed as fourth class Government officers for the purpose of travelling allowance whenever they visit jails. There is no reason under heaven to treat these honourable gentlemen who are members of the standing jail committee as fourth class Government officers. So, Sir, I think I am justified in saying that the little demand that was met has been thwarted in this round-about way. Here I will draw the attention of the Government to

another demand which has been repeatedly made by the members of this House. I also sent in a resolution recommending to the Government that all non-official members of the House should be made *ex-officio* visitors to jails which are situate within their own constituencies. But still if the Government wants to go on appointing persons who might be comfortable for their purpose, to be non-official visitors of these jails, they might continue to do so and nobody is to prevent them. It is because complaints against these jails have been coming up so frequently before this House and also in the Press and in the platform, it is necessary that more independent element should be brought into the non-official visitors to jails. A very easy way of meeting this demand is to issue notification in the Gazette to the effect that all non-official members of this House shall be non official visitors of jails within the constituencies which they represent. There might be some practical difficulties in one way or another. For instance in the case of the honourable member Sardar Jodh Singh who represents the whole urban population of the Sikhs, he might become the non-official visitor of the whole of the Punjab. But this does not take away from the really progressive step that we are suggesting. What is the harm if Sardar Jodh Singh becomes a non-official visitor of jails for the whole of the Punjab? If he has got time to do, let him visit all the jails. This is not a difficulty which is insurmountable.

Another point which I wish to submit respectfully is this. There are certain prisoners who are now rotting in jails. I would appeal to the honourable members in charge of the department to give due consideration to this matter and to see whether it is not high time to let these persons out of the jail so that they may breathe a little fresher air of the universe outside the jail.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett: Remissions come under section 401, Code of Criminal Procedure and as such it is a matter of criminal administration and not of jail administration. Is the honourable member in order?

Mr. President: The honourable member will avoid referring to matters which come under the Criminal Procedure Code.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh: Because those persons are in jail, I am speaking of the jail administration. My submission is that these persons who are being detained in jail should not be detained there any longer. That I suppose naturally falls within the jail administration. I just want to refer in passing to some of the martial law prisoners. Their case should be gone into by the Government with a view to see whether these prisoners could not be released. I specially refer to Chaudhri Bugga and Ratan, martial law prisoners.

Another matter which I wish to bring to the notice of the House and to the notice of responsible officials in charge of the department is the case of the second batch of Shromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee. My honourable friend Sardar Tara Singh just now raised the point namely, that among the second batch of prisoners of Shromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee four of them filed an application for revision to the Lahore High Court, and that their application was accepted by the High Court. The High Court has held in their case that the guilt has not been proved. I just request my honourable friend Sir John Maynard and other responsible officials in charge of the administration to read the judgment of the High Court in case No. 1039 of 1924 in which the Honourable the Judges of the High Court

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have clearly held that the oral evidence adduced in the case was not worth anything and that the guilt of the accused has not been proved. The High Court has also held that the documentary evidence which has been produced in the case is inadmissible and even if admissible, it is of no value whatsoever and it does not prove the guilt of the accused.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett : This again is a matter of criminal administration and not of jail administration. Is the honourable member in order?

Mr. President : I understand the honourable member to maintain that certain prisoners who have been pronounced as guilty by the lower court were acquitted by the High Court.

Mr. J. M. Dunnett : It is only four of the co-accused that successfully appealed to the High Court; the other accused have not appealed and they are still in jail.

Mr. President : If only some of the co-accused have successfully appealed to the High Court this case would not come under jail administration. There are others who have never appealed and the sentence against them still remains. Therefore this is not a matter for jail administration.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : What I wanted to submit was.....

Mr. President : The honourable member need not touch upon that point at all.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : I just wanted to finish with the remark that the judgment of the High Court in that case is worthy of perusal by the honourable members of Government. With these remarks I will leave the amendment to be dealt with by those honourable members of this House who have had personal experiences of jails either by being inside them or by visiting them.

Mr. President : Grant under discussion, reduction moved—

That the grant be reduced by Rs. 100 with respect to the item of Rs. 28,67,700—Jails.

The question is that that reduction be made.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq (Hoshiarpur—Ludhiana, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, some of the honourable members of this House keenly desire that I should state before the House whatever I have seen during my visits to different jails of the province. I know that there is very short time at my disposal but I would try to give an idea to the House how and in what respect some reform may be effected in the jail administration. I admit that the rules and regulations observed in the jail now-a-days are undoubtedly satisfactory to some extent, but the chief objection that can be raised in connection with them is this that they are so old and *ante-diluvian* that they do not suit the circumstances of the present day. Had the jail department been under my charge I would have asked the Government to redraft the whole of the Jail Manual. So long as this Jail Manual is in force nothing of the reform that is effected in western countries can be brought about in the jail administration here in this province. Still much reform is needed in the jail administration. I was asked by some of the honourable members of this House to visit the Rawalpindi jail. Accordingly I visited it. I heard there some of the grievances of the prisoners, but the one which grieved me most is this that although prisoners have been admitted to the hospitals yet they are not

provided with *charpais*. I have given the facts and figures in my report submitted to the Government showing therein that most of the prisoners have died of pneumonia. They have to live in tents. There is more possibility of attacks of pneumonia in tents as they are more exposed to cold than they may be if kept in the hospital buildings. As a rule, an ordinary prisoner is provided with three blankets. Prisoners of Rawalpindi jail were provided with four blankets which are in my opinion quite rotten and useless for protection purposes. Two new blankets are far better than these four old ones. A loaf provided to the prisoners weighed only one *chhatak* after it had been properly baked and dried. Grains of good quality were provided in all other jails but the Rawalpindi jail where I found them of a very low quality. I was told that according to a paragraph of the Jail Manual the jail authorities are required to buy the cheapest grain. Moreover, the Akali prisoners were made to grind grains and this was a hard labour that was awarded to the Akali prisoners. There were some complaints about the treatment of the late jailor and assistant jailor, but I heard no complaint in this respect. I have the experience of the life of a prisoner and I can say that even a prisoner having great pluck and courage cannot dare to speak against the jail authority. Frankly speaking, there can be no reform in the jail administration until and unless the non-official visitors are allowed to criticise honestly the jail administration. Seth Prabh Dayal, owing to this honest criticism of the jail administration was not admitted to enter the Multan central jail by its superintendent. He protested against this but the Government paid no heed to this but on the other hand he was dismissed next year...

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No Sir, I must deny that. It is untrue.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Well Sir, I do not use the word dismiss, but he was not nominated as non-official visitor to the jail next year. By such treatment one can doubt the honesty of the Government that they do not allow a man of independent views to visit the jails. During my visit to other jails I was not informed on what rate I would be permitted to draw my travelling allowance, but on the 28th February I received a letter from the Government that I was only entitled to draw my travelling allowance on the rate of a fourth class officer. Under such circumstances I could not decide whether or not I should visit the jails. I cannot understand on what principle the Government have sent that letter to me, reducing my travelling allowance to that of a fourth class officer. May it be on any principle but I would request the Government to be prepared to hear honest criticism in connection with jail administration provided they are after making some reform in the jail. Some days ago in the meeting of the Standing Jail Committee I suggested that for every sub-jail a committee consisting of three visitors should be appointed. One of them should be nominated by the Government, the other by the District Board and the third by the Municipality of the place where the jail exists. The District Magistrate of the place should be appointed as a president of this committee. I am sorry that the Government have not considered this proposal of mine. I know such suggestions cannot bring total reform in the jail administration but I am sure they would to a large extent reform it. I would simply submit that the Government should give full consideration to the proposals put forward by a man who has got the experience of the jail administration both in the capacity of a prisoner and a non-official visitor.

Mr. President: Order, order : I do not want to stop the honourable member, but I just want to ask him whether he or the honourable mover wishes to hear something on the Government side? There is very little time left.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq: I further suggest that as *Gur* is one of the necessary items of our daily food, the prisoners may be provided with it. It would stop the prisoners to break the law which prohibits them to have sugar. I know for certain that the prisoners in the jail somehow or other do manage to get cigarette and sugar. Somebody here might say that it is mere whimsical. Let him carefully inquire into the matter and he will find it to be true. In the end, I hope Government would consider my proposal carefully and if they have any doubt in connection with them they would satisfy themselves by consulting the honourable members of this House at the present moment.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): May I ask Sir, whether it is the ruling of the chair that at 6 o'clock the vote should be taken on the amendments even when the member-in-charge has not been able to speak on the subject?

Mr. President: I am afraid that is the case to-day.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: May I just say one word, Sir, I obey the ruling of the chair and I recognise that it is a perfectly proper ruling. But at the same time I wish to record my respectful protest against the possibility of taking a vote on a question of censure when the Government has not had an opportunity of giving its own version of the matter.

Sardar Jodh Singh: Sir, in view of the fact that the Government has not been able to reply to the remarks made on this motion, I think it would be better that no votes are taken on this motion.

Mr. President: The honourable mover made it almost clear that he did not want to press his motion to vote. If that is the position, I hope he will withdraw the motion.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh: Sir, in view of the statement of the Honourable Sir John Maynard that no occasion has been given to Government to offer a reply to this debate I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,48,000 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 1923 in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements."

The motion was carried.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE GRANT.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 46,61,000 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 Administration of Justice."

The motion was carried.

The Council then adjourned till 2 P.M. on Wednesday, the 18th March 1925.