SECRETARY TO THE
4 - NOV 1921

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 1/1 a.m. on Tuesday the 29th day of March 1921, the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No.* 15—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in alphabetical order, specify the serial numbers of his questions, and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Building-sites in British Cochin.

528 *Q.*—Mr. M. D. DEVADAS: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government—

(*a*) whether he is aware that building-sites in British Cochin are very valuable;

(*b*) whether he is aware of the recent decision of the Madras High Court in the case of Brunton *versus* Brunton in which land fit for building purposes and situated not far from the abandoned hospital-site was valued at Rs. 1,000 a cent; and

(*c*) whether it is proposed to sell the abandoned hospital-site by private treaty or public auction.

A.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

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

(*c*) The question of the disposal of the land is under consideration.

Communal representation in service.

529 *Q.*—Rai Sahib E. C. M. MASCARENHAS: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance whether the Government propose to take steps to see that Anglo-Indians and Brahmans are not recruited to the service if they are over-represented in it until such time that men from the other communities are employed to restore proper representation of all communities.

A.—The Government cannot answer a hypothetical question.

Government Diplomates in Accountancy.

530 *Q.*—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education and Registration—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a copy of the resolution passed at a meeting of Government Diplomates in Accountancy, apprentices and students of the Audit Class of the Government Institute of Commerce, Madras;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that seventeen auditors holding temporary certificates have been granted fresh auditors' certificates in cancellation of the temporary certificates held by them; and

(*c*) whether it is the intention of the Government to make them permanent certificate holders and, if so, whether they have the necessary qualification.

A.—(*a*) Yes.
(*b*) Yes.
(*c*) The fresh auditors' certificates already issued are practically permanent and the holders have the necessary qualifications.

Training of health visitors.

531 Q.—Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state what the arrangements made to train health visitors are, and why only three are undergoing training.

A.—The Government have no information beyond that contained on pages 36 and 37 of the report of the Health Officer of the Madras City for 1919 and paragraphs 29 and 30 of the triennial report on civil hospitals and dispensaries in the Presidency for 1917–19.

State prisoners.

532 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member for a list of the State prisoners detained in custody, the dates from which they have been so detained, the causes for their detention, the allowances granted to them and the other means of livelihood possessed by them.

A.—There are no State prisoners at present detained in custody.

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"May I ask the Hon'ble the Home Member whether the words 'State prisoners' are used in any technical sense and whether there are any political prisoners detained under the Agency Regulations or under Act III of 1818?"

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"I do not think, Sir, that phraseology is an issue in this answer, but I may explain to the Honourable Member that the really significant words are 'in custody' which I take to mean detention in jail. That is the only meaning that I can apply to the expression 'in custody.' As a matter of fact recently there was one State prisoner detained in custody at the Coimbatore jail, but not very long ago he made a murderous assault upon a member of the staff of the Coimbatore jail as a consequence of which he is, I believe, at the present moment under trial. I treat that particular case therefore as outside the purview of this question, since the custody which at the moment concerns him is custody for an offence against the ordinary criminal law and is irrespective of the circumstances under which he was placed in custody as State prisoner."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"May I know, Sir, whether all these agency prisoners are detained in custody or whether they are asked to confine themselves to a particular locality when they are in custody."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"I think all their cases come under the second category, but, I am afraid, I cannot say that off-hand. I took pains to satisfy myself that the only case of detention in jail was the one which I mentioned."

Correspondence between Government of India and Provincial Government in regard to non-co-operation

533 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member with reference to the answer given by Mr. O'Donnell, Home Secretary to the Government of India in the Legislative Assembly on the 1st

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March last, that the Government of India were in correspondence with Local Governments in regard to arresting the spread of the non-co-operation movement—

(*a*) to make a statement as to whether the Government would publish the correspondence between themselves and the Government of India on the subject; and

(*b*) whether any general policy has been laid down by the Government of India in this matter and whether the Local Government have agreed to adopt such policy.

A.—(*a*) The correspondence cannot be published.

(*b*) The Government are not prepared to make any statement on the subject.

Andhra Province.

534 *Q.*—Mr. P. VENKATASUBBA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member whether the Government propose to take any action for the constitution of the Telugu districts of this Presidency into a separate province during the term of the present Council.

A.—No such proposal is at present under consideration.

Construction of drain for Romparu.

535 *Q.*—Mr. P. VENKATASUBBA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(*a*) whether the estimates for the construction of Romparu drain in Bapatla taluk, Guntur district, have been sanctioned; if so, whether the work will be undertaken this year;

(*b*) whether the Government are aware of the bad state of the Kommamur canal, Guntur district, and if any repairs are proposed to be undertaken; and

(*c*) whether any drain channel is projected for Bapatla and adjoining swamps.

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) The Government are aware that the last reach of the canal is liable to troubles from silting; experimental measures have been taken and are under observation.

(*c*) No.

II

DEMAND XXI—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, I beg to move

that a sum not exceeding 7·25 lakhs be granted to the Ministry of Development for expenditure under Co-operative Societies for the year ending 31st March 1922."

Mr. C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, I move—

'1. *That under 34-C. Argiculture—Co-operative Credit the item of Rs.* 12,000 *for one Joint Registrar be omitted* (*Budget, page* 169).'

"Sir, I believe that if this appointment is created it will serve only as a fifth wheel to a carriage. I do not think the work of the department has become so unwieldy as to be divided between two responsible officers. Rarely there is a department with two official heads. Recently Government have been creating many Honorary Assistant Registrars and I think there are many gentlemen

who are ready to accept such honorary posts. I think such appointments will relieve the congestion of work. So I move that this grant be omitted for this appointment which in my opinion is superfluous."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR moved—

'2. *That under* 34-*C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit the item of Rs.* 12,000 *for one Joint Registrar be omitted* (*Budget, page* 169).'

In doing so he said :—" Sir, I propose the elimination of the office of Joint Registrar. This department is intended to be augmented by a very much larger staff than formerly existed. For in the year coming to a close the amount granted was 1·71 lakhs, whereas the amount actually spent as per revised estimate is 2·84 lakhs. Now it is proposed to spend 4·35 lakhs. In fact last year there has been a Registrar and a Personal Assistant to assist him to be working as from the 1st June 1920. I find from the administration report of the Co-operative Societies that Mr. John Mathai who was the Personal Assistant to the Registrar was appointed a Professor of the Presidency College. The question of appointing a Personal Assistant is under the consideration of the Government. I see also in the budget that there is already a Personal Assistant provided, but the salary is stated as Rs. 400—50—550. Formerly there were nine Assistant Registrars, but now there are to be 22 Assistant Registrars. In these circumstances, I do think that we are not going about the right direction of retrenchment by creating one more appointment of a Joint Registrar on a salary of Rs. 1,000 per mensem. As was remarked by the Rev. E. M. Macphail the other day, we are having too many officers for doing a certain amount of work which can be managed by a smaller staff. It is not like the department of the Publicity Board where we considered it necessary that a very responsible officer should be there. There is a responsible officer drawing a salary of Rs. 2,500 in the person of the Registrar and there being a number of Assistant Registrars, as many as 22, an army of Inspectors from 116 to 317, I submit, Sir, that it is not necessary to create this appointment. I think that the Committee of which His Excellency is going to be the President in curtailing expenditure would find additional work thrown upon it by this appointment being now created. For these reasons, I do object to the appointment of a Joint Registrar being created by this budget."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU moved—

'3. *That under* 34-*C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit the item of Rs.* 12,000 *for one Joint Registrar be omitted* (*Budget, page* 169).'

In doing so he said :—" I also ask for the deletion of the provision for a Joint Registrar. I do not really know how long the proposals for the appointment of a Joint Registrar have been under contemplation. We find that, in view of the good work that has been done by the Co-operative Department, there has been an addition made to the strength of the Assistant Registrars from time to time and also of Inspectors. We have also taken advantage of the honorary services of various gentlemen who had considerable experience and interest in the working of this department. But I really think, Sir, that it is superfluous to add another post at the top when the whole department can be successfully managed by the Registrar of Societies. I also think that when we are contemplating a time when the working will be entrusted to non-official hands as early as possible—that has been the policy which has been placed before the country for several years—and when we are really looking forward to that period when the improvement of this department will very largely be entrusted to non-official members, to add one more to the already existing high paid appointments is, I think, highly unnecessary."

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR moved—

'4. *That under* 34-*C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit the item of Rs.* 12,000 *for one Joint Registrar be omitted* (*Budget, page* 169).'

In doing so he said :—"I do not think, Sir, that it is necessary to say much. Anyhow, I may say that many people are under the impression that more attempts should be made to regulate the work of the existing societies rather than going on adding legions to these societies. This is one of the appointments, I suppose, that were created just before the last Government came to an end. If there is no objection to this appointment being cancelled now, I request that the Honourable the Minister may be pleased to do that. By that the department will not in any way suffer. With these remarks, I beg to support the motion."

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar was not made and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'5. *That under* 34-*C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit the item of Rs.* 12,000 *for one Joint Registrar be omitted* (*Budget, page* 169).'

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. P. Siva Rao was owing to the absence of the Honourable Member not made and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'6. *That under* 34-*C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit the item of Rs.* 12,000 *for one Joint Registrar be omitted* (*Budget, page* 169).'

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR formally moved—

'7. *That under* 34-*C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit the item of Rs.* 12,000 *for one Joint Registrar be omitted* (*Budget, page* 169).'

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu was not made owing to the absence of the Honourable Member and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'8. *That under* 34-*C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit the item of Rs.* 12,000 *for one Joint Registrar be omitted* (*Budget, page* 169).'

11-15 a.m.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"Mr. President, I see there are as many as eight motions tabled and as many as six of my Honourable friends have spoken and I should think, taking all in all, I have got to meet them at least half way. But before I do so and before I make a statement on behalf of Government as to what can be done in the matter I think I have to place certain facts before the Council which will show under what circumstances this appointment has been created. My Honourable friend opposite was telling us that this was one of those appointments which were made just before the dawn of the new regime. But certainly Honourable Members did not expect that Government could be sitting in their place without doing anything especially when matters were before them for a considerable time. And if they found that during the previous months the Government had done nothing, probably they would have come forward with a criticism of delays and inaction. There is therefore no point in saying that this appointment was made just before the Ministry took charge. Sir, the problems of co-operation that are just now engaging the attention of the Registrar, among other things, may be stated as follows : firstly, the question of the utilization of the Co-operative Department for the purpose of spreading improved methods of agriculture advocated by the Agricultural Department by the organization of societies for the joint purchase and sale of good seeds and manure and implements and other

agricultural products; secondly, the extension of co-operative methods among weavers and industrial classes; thirdly, there is the organization of co-operative building societies among the poorer classes in congested towns and villages; fourthly, the organization of supervising unions and the devolution of primary organization and supervision by un-official agency to which importance has been rightly given by my friend opposite. Next, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the duties that are at present performed by the Registrar and how it was not possible for him to do the work all alone without any assistance. The Registrar is to be in touch with several branches of the Departments of Development: Agriculture, Industries, Fisheries. Then there is the outdoor work of the Registrar which is given as follows:—

(1) attending the various conferences in the several districts which are useful as propaganda activity;

(2) inspection and supervision of unions in which non-officials take a leading part;

(3) inspection of trade unions which have to be carefully regulated as speculation in trade will lead to financial disaster—regulation is a very important function of the Registrar;

(4) inspection of district banks; the Madras Central Urban Bank having become a federation of district banks and most financial operations are getting centralised, the Registrar has to regulate the work of the district banks as regards finance; and

(5) attending inter-departmental conferences and setting schemes as regards the part to be played by the Co-operative Department in the activities of the other allied departments.

"Then, Sir, my Hon'ble friend Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar was mentioning that there was a Personal Assistant to the Registrar until June last and that place was occupied by an eminent citizen who unfortunately for us had to take service in another department. Certainly with the great work that is before the Co-operative Department, with the vast expansion of the help which they have been rendering to the public, to the people at large, it will be conceded on all sides that some help to the Registrar would be necessary. Such being the case I think the only way to meet half way as I said is to reduce this amount to Rs. 6,000, to abolish this post of a Joint Registrar and to replace it by an Assistant Registrar on Rs. 500 a month. I hope this will satisfy the House and if they are prepared the resolution may be taken in the altered form."

Mr. A. T. Palmer:—"Mr. President, I am a great believer in these co-operative societies. I happen to be the President of one of these societies in my country and the future development of the poor people at least of this land depends entirely on the advance of these co-operative societies. I deprecate very much any idea of reducing the grant under the head of co-operative societies. There are co-operative societies started at present, but the spirit of co-operation is not at all understood by the people. Most people think that these co-operative societies are intended only to take loans. The idea of helping one another has not entered into the minds of people. So this is the time when men should be very busy in teaching the people the idea of co-operation. I am certainly against employing honorary helpers in this branch of work because they can do very little in this direction at present. I believe the day will come when honorary members will help us in the matter of co-operative societies; but, in the present state of things, we need more and more helpers, paid workers, in co-operative work."

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Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, in view of what the Hon'ble the Minister for Development has said that he is prepared to meet half way in doing away with the Joint Registrar I beg leave to withdraw the motion."

Motion No. 2 was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"I beg leave to withdraw my motion also."

Motion No. 1 was by leave withdrawn.

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, I would request permission to have the motion put in this form, viz., that instead of 'Rs. 12,000' 'Rs. 6,000' be substituted and instead of 'Joint Registrar,' 'Personal Assistant' be inserted. I do not propose to withdraw my resolution because the Honourable the Minister himself admitted that the provision of Rs. 12,000 was not necessary. If permitted I shall move a formal amendment on the above lines."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"I must rule the amendment out of order. It is entirely a proposal for expenditure which no Honourable Member is entitled to make."

Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu then pressed his motion to a division.

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"I rise to a point of order. When a motion has been discussed and withdrawn by leave of the House, I wish to raise this point that has occurred very often before, whether another resolution on the same subject can be put to a division at all."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"I really cannot help it. These members have all given independent motions. Of course, if any motion has gone to that stage, it is a well understood thing that all the Honourable Members who have notified it should withdraw it simultaneously But now, if any Honourable Member insists upon his motion, I cannot prevent it."

The motion of Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu (No. 3) was then put to the vote and lost.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I do not know whether I shall be in order if I say that the words 'Joint Registrar' may be there, but instead of 'Rs. 12,000', 'Rs. 6,000' may be substituted."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"There is really no difference so far as I can see. I do not want to interfere in the debate more than I could help. The Minister has made a statement and so far as I can see Honourable Members are agreed and have accepted. Why press the motion to a division when the Minister himself agrees to abolish the appointment of a Joint Registrar and to put in another man? The real difficulty is that I do not want to permit any motion to come before the House which is against the standing orders."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"May I point out, Sir, that if the Minister wishes to withdraw this item, he ought to withdraw it from the budget and bring a new demand for grant? He should bring a supplemental demand for a grant of Rs. 6,000 for a Personal Assistant It is not that the resolution should be withdrawn. For so long as the amount is in the budget it would be open to the Minister to appoint a Joint Registrar."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"Of course, it is entirely a matter whether the House could trust the Minister. It is not for me to tell him what to do. Since the resolution is not withdrawn, I am bound to put it to the vote. I cannot

accept any amendment which is not in accordance with the standing orders and which may involve the idea that the Council at this stage sanctions an expenditure which it is not competent to do."

The motion (No. 4) was then by leave withdrawn.

11-30 a.m.

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, I do not quite understand the position. The Honourable the Minister said that he does not want the provision, but still the Government is voting against the motion and the motion is being withdrawn. What the Honourable the Minister said was that he does not want to provide Rs. 12,000 for the Joint Registrar and so it ought to go. It means that the Honourable the Minister accepts the motion before the House. But all the same Honourable Members are withdrawing it and the Government itself is voting against it which I do not quite understand."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—" The position is simply this, Sir, Honourable Members are under the impression that the pay for the month of March has been paid. That will be paid only in April, and I can assure the House, if they have confidence in the Government and if my word carries any weight with them that I will keep my word, and when this officer goes out after the 31st March, a supplemental grant will be applied for and the vote of the House will be taken for the pay of the Personal Assistant. I do not, therefore, see where the difficulty comes in."

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" I should like to see what the Council thinks about it. From the view I take, I cannot understand the position at all."

Mr. C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao's motion having been put to the House, can a similar motion be put again ? "

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" I hardly think it can be, but under the theory I have explained I have to allow it."

The motion (No. 7 of Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar) was put to the vote and declared lost.

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, the motion that stands against my name reads as follows :—

'9. *That under* 34-*C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit the provision of Rupees* 1,29,720 *for Assistant Registrars be reduced by Rs.* 100 (*Budget, page* 169).'

" Sir, my object in moving this resolution is to draw the attention of the House to the fact that whereas in the current year coming to a close there were only 9 Assistant Registrars, which I remember the Honourable the Minister corrected into 17 Assistant Registrars, it is intended to raise that number to 22 and the amount that will be incurred in connexion with that establishment is Rupees 1,29,000. Having regard to the fact that according to the Co-operative Societies' report there are as many as 44 or 45 Honorary Assistant Registrars, it is as well that the department utilizes the services of Honorary Registrars rather than engage a costly staff of Assistant Registrars. Moreover the salary which is paid to them ranges from Rs. 300 to Rs. 850 as regards 17 of them and 5 of them are only on Rs. 300. Besides these, there is a Deputy Assistant Registrar, a Special Deputy Collector and one Assistant Registrar. This again, as I pointed out previously, is not going in the right direction towards retrenchment. While the department feels that Honorary Registrars could be very well utilized with their amount of experience, surely Deputy Tahsildars and Tahsildars who have been already doing work in the department could very well be pressed into the service and their salaries will be considerably less than what is proposed to spend on the

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22 Assistant Registrars. Moreover, if I can judge the future from the past, as to 10 of these or 9 of these gentlemen they are mostly Deputy Collectors who apparently find this an occasion for getting some rest and training and judging also from the classes from which these officers are drawn, it looks as if it would be a further comfortable berth for one class of officers only, that is, the Brahman gentlemen. Therefore I want an assurance that before further appointments are made, the Ministers will do as much as they could to distribute these appointments amongst all communities so as to eliminate that objection about one community predominating in the holding of these appointments. With these observations, I formally move this resolution."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—" On the question of honorary appointments, Sir, on the last occasion I mentioned to the House that it was impossible to expect non-officials to do the work of paid men. They were no doubt good in their own way, but they can only be supplementary. They cannot do the regular work of paid officers. Honorary officers cannot be expected to give that time and attention which only paid men can give, and to be at a given place and at a given hour is not an easy task. It requires a man for the purpose and certainly in the beginning of this department, at a time when we are spreading, as it were, a regular net-work of these societies all over the country to help the needy ryots, to supply them with money by these Co-operative Societies just at the time when they want it to purchase their seeds and to pay their kist and the like, I should think, Sir, that that kind of initiative work cannot be entrusted to non-officials to any large extent.

" Then, Sir, my Honourable friend said that this was given to officers who needed training and rest. As for training, Sir, every one who is drafted into the service requires it, young or old. As for the implied idleness, I am not quite sure if my Honourable friend was in any way justified in making that statement regarding a hard working set of officers. If, on the other hand, his intention is that young men full of vigour and full of energy in them should do this work and go about from village to village and invite people to become members of these societies, I would certainly agree with him and say what can be done in the direction of appointing younger men. Sir, it has always been the declared policy of Government—it may be it has been unfortunately departed from in some instances —to make no difference between one community and another, and when one community dominates over the rest, the Government will see their best to set right matters, provided efficiency does not suffer and provided competent men are available, and to secure that due representation is given to all communities, Brahmans or Non-Brahmans, Muhammadans or Christians. With this assurance I hope my Honourable friend will withdraw his resolution."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—" I beg leave to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. W. VIJAYARAGHAVA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, I have given notice of a similar motion to the one just now moved by my Honourable friend Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar which is as follows :—

'10. *That under* 34-*C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit, the item of Rs.* 1,29,720 *for Assistant Registrars be reduced by Rs.* 50,000 (*Budget page* 169).'

" My objection is not so much to appointing official agency in this matter, nor do I want the utilisation to a larger extent of non-official agencies in place of these Assistant Registrars. I do quite agree with the Honourable the Minister in charge of this department in thinking that in a progressing and developing department

like this we must not depend very much on non-official agency alone and that there must be a separate class of officials detailed for this work. But it seems to me, Sir, that the class of officers that are now detailed for this purpose are moree expensive than the class required. I am of opinion that persons of the grade of Deputy Tahsildars and Tahsildars who have seen some service and who have had some experience in their districts and who have youth, energy and health to their credit will be found to be more useful in spreading co-operation, in organizing Co-operative Societies, in going about the villages and speaking to the people and opening such societies than Deputy Collectors who must, in the nature of things, be presumed to be more or less older men looking forward to the day when they will be asked to retire and enjoy their well-earned rest. In this view, Sir, I have sent in this motion and if my motion is accepted, it will result in a reduction in expenditure also. But of course reduction in expenditure is not my main idea, but my idea is that a class of men less expensive than that of Deputy Collectors might be utilized for this purpose, and I think that the Honourable the Minister will agree with me and try the experiment of appointing a few Deputy Tahsildars and Tahsildars for this work. With these few remarks, I move my resolution."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, I believe that if the remarks of the Honourable mover of this resolution are given effect to, the efficiency of the work is likely to suffer. Certainly it is desirable that younger men should be made to do this kind of work instead of older men, but I also believe that something—not only something but a great deal—depends upon the status of officers who are doing this kind of work. If the officers who are made to do this work be called Deputy Tahsildars or even Tahsildars, I don't think they will be able to carry out that work so efficiently as if they have the status of Deputy Collectors. So I think it is desirable in the interest of the progress of work in this department that the class of officers that should be appointed as Assistant Registrars should be Deputy Collectors. But at the same time I think it is also essential that senior Deputy Collectors should not be put on for this kind of work for more reasons than one. In the first place, senior Deputy Collectors will be elderly men and will not have that physical capacity which younger officers will naturally have. Secondly, senior Deputy Collectors will be more expensive than junior Deputy Collectors, so that the lowest class of Deputy Collectors may be appointed to do this work, because they will be less costly and also they will be younger and therefore more efficient."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, I have given notice of a similar resolution and I would rather say what I have to say now. Sir, there is a feeling in certain quarters that it will not be wise on our part to reduce expenditure under any of these transferred heads. I am afraid I cannot subscribe to that view."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—" May I say, Sir, that such a view has not been expressed in this House ? "

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I said only, Sir, that there was a feeling in certain quarters, and I did not say this House was of that opinion. My idea is that waste is waste, never mind who indulges in that. The ordinary ryot is not concerned with the fact whether the burden that is pressing heavily on him is due either to the action of the officers in charge of the reserved departments or of those in charge of the transferred subjects. I think the costly agency which is now employed in this department may well be displaced by an equally and even more efficient but more economical agency. I dwelt on these topics in the few observations I made at the time when the budget was introduced. The Honourable the Minister for Development then said that the Co-operative Department is in its infancy and is as it were a baby, and that the officers employed must be men of

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tact and influence. I take exception to both those statements. To say that this department is in its infancy, Sir, is to deny the noble work done by the distinguished officers who managed this department in the early days. I think this department started 17 years ago, is young and vigorous and is able to stand on its own feet and make headway. To say that the Deputy Collectors have more tact or command greater influence than the Tahsildars is, I think, not acting fairly to the class of Tahsildars. It is a well-known fact that the tahsildars really bear the brunt of the administration of the district. In my opinion, a senior Tahsildar is equal to an average Deputy Collector and I think it will be more to the efficient discharge of work in this department if the Tahsildars who are comparatively young, who have got ambitions, who have a career to look to, are employed rather than the elder officials who have reached the goal of their ambitions, and who have not much incentive to throw themselves entirely into their work. The change proposed by me will not make the administration less efficient. It will also conduce to great economy. Each one of these Deputy Collectors has got a duty allowance of Rs. 100 per mensem. I emphatically deny the need for giving duty allowance to these officers. Their work is not such as requires compensation. For example, as I said the other day, a Settlement Deputy Collector may be given this allowance. His work is really difficult. But this department provides a comfortable berth for these Deputy Collectors; not only have they comparatively easy work to do but get in addition to their pay Rs. 100 each per mensem. This does not seem to be good administration. The batta and other allowances of these officers have also been recently increased. Hitherto they were given double second-class fare; but now they are given double first-class fare. I say, Sir, that the department will be as efficient, and even more, if these officers are removed and their places taken up by young and energetic officers from the grade of Tahsildars. I, therefore, strongly commend the motion for the acceptance of this House."

11-45 a.m.

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar:—"I have a motion in my name that travelling allowance (Budget page 170) be reduced by Rs. 25,000. I have put this motion for the reduction of the travelling allowance with a view to say a few words on the whole department. I think it will serve the whole purpose if we generally deal with that matter now. There is in this department a large increase in the number of Assistant Registrars and Inspectors. The first question will be, however desirable it may be to increase the work of these Co-operative Societies, what are these societies to do if the number is to be increased? The first necessity for these societies is money. I think all possible attempts have been more or less made to get as much available money as possible towards fixed deposits and shares. Therefore, unless the Government take some interest in the matter and arrange to give loans and divert at least for a certain time of the year the money that is kept in the Madras Bank or some other place or act up to one suggestion that has been made on several occasions by the co-operative conferences and Co-operative Societies, namely, to have the operations under the Land Improvements Loans Act through these Co-operative Societies, I am afraid there will be no work for more societies in this Presidency. My own impression is that there is a sufficiently large number of societies and very often many of them are acting as defaulters. Therefore there is no use in inducing defaults instead of teaching co-operation. One other thing has been said as to whether Deputy Collectors are to be preferred or Tahsildars. I am certainly of opinion that Tahsildars are quite enough. I appeal to the Honourable the Minister to create another class of Assistant Registrars on Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 per month. As a result of the resolution of the Council to cut short

the whole Land Records Department which has been accepted by the Government, practically, except some establishments, a large number of Tahsildars will be liberated. As these Tahsildars have been accustomed to travel throughout their districts and have got experience of the whole district they will be able to do real and substantial work if put in charge of the co-operative work. As regards the question of prestige, I do not agree with Mr. Krishnan Nayar in his point that the mere name of the Deputy Collector and high pay will add to the prestige of the position. I will rather say that we want people who are of a lower cadre and who are prepared to move more freely with the people as Tahsildars and Land Records Tahsildars than the Deputy Collectors. The Deputy Collectors go and camp only in certain places where there are big bungalows. Co-operative societies want only people who deal with the public at large on equal position. Therefore, I think the increase in the number of Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors is too much to be able to do anything in any particular department however useful that department may be or may be expected to be. I think we must feel our position and have a small increase rather than a big jump as seems to have been provided in the budget. Both, therefore, in the case of these Assistant Registrars and Inspectors my point and request to the Minister will be not to create all the appointments all on a sudden. Secondly, whatever appointments are made, unless it is necessary to appoint Deputy Collectors, as many Tahsildars, especially Tahsildars from the Land Records Department who have got experience of the districts, may be appointed. Familiarity with the district and familiarity with the leading men of the district are necessary for the Assistant Registrars, and Deputy Collectors may not be so useful as Tahsildars who will generally be natives of the district and who may have been doing work in those districts. As has been pointed out there will be then also a large reduction in the item of travelling allowance. Travelling allowance for these three years has gone on by jumps. This year it is practically double of what it was last year which was in itself double that of previous years. If these Tahsildars are appointed to tour in their own districts, a large sum may be saved by way of travelling allowance. I am one of those who think that, unless it is absolutely necessary, no curtailment should be made in the transferred subject. But there should be money and more useful work should be done with that money. We need not necessarily cut short the money that has been given to this grant and it may be in the department itself but may be utilized in other ways as granting loans, if necessary, for those societies which are not able to get deposits. In these circumstances, Sir, as a matter of principle I support this motion."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—"So far as the mover of the resolution is concerned, he was good enough to tell us that reduction is not his main point; but he would like to have officers of a lower class. That has been sufficiently met by my esteemed friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar. It has been suggested that Tahsildars of the senior grade may be appointed instead of Deputy Collectors. A complete answer to that is found, Sir, in the fact that a senior grade Tahsildar will be getting Rs. 250 and a Deputy Collector of the lowest grade will be getting Rs. 300 and the difference between the two is only Rs. 50. How long such a Tahsildar can be expected to remain as our Assistant Registrar on Rs. 250 without hoping to become a Deputy Collector is a question which I must leave to the Council to consider."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR (*interrupting*):—"The pay of the Tahsildars has been raised, the scale beginning with Rs. 300."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU (*continuing*):—"That only supports my case."

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR (*interrupting*) :—" Senior Tahsildar does not mean Tahsildar of the highest grade."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU (*continuing*) :—" It does not alter my point at all. A first-grade Tahsildar under the new organization gets Rs. 300 and an officer whom my friend calls a senior officer may be getting Rs. 250 or Rs. 275. With this thin margin in pay between the two, it is impossible to expect that a Tahsildar will continue for any reasonable period in this service. Without a continuity of service for at least a decent period, it is impossible to expect any good work or achieve any satisfactory results."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR (*interrupting*):—" I never said that these Tahsildars should be Tahsildars throughout. Tahsildars may be appointed and their grade may be increased."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU (*continuing*) :—" That does not take away my point at all. On the other hand there is much force in the point raised by my friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar that a good deal depends upon the status and the pay of these officers. One Honourable Member suggested that there was nothing in pay and in the name of Deputy Collectors. These arguments which had already been advanced in this House did not find acceptance in connexion with other matters. I do not see why they should prevail now. It has also been said, Sir, that these officers who are appointed, finding a comfortable berth here, are not doing anything at all. I think I have given on the last occasion a sufficient account of the work that is being done and perhaps, in connexion with another resolution that will follow, I may have to repeat it, but suffice it to say for the present that within the space of a year and a half they have been able to double the number of the existing co-operative societies. My honourable friend from Bellary was suggesting that the department was not in its infancy and that by saying that it was in its infancy I was not doing justice to that noble band of officers who had brought this department to its present state. I may at once tell him, Sir, that I do not yield to him in my admiration and esteem for that noble band of officers who have really done excellent service to the people of this country to whom, excluding agriculture alone, this department is of direct benefit. Then, Sir, as regards appointing the officers on the lowest grade, I think I must yield to the opinion of my Hon'ble friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar that the Deputy Collectors of the last grade should be appointed as they will be young and generally vigorous. I shall be very glad indeed to see that that recommendation is given effect to. I think that will satisfy my honourable friend, the mover."

Mr. W. VIJAYARAGHAVA MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, at the outset I said that it was not my object in bringing forward this resolution to curtail the expenditure alone at the expense of efficiency. I fully agree with the remarks of my Hon'ble friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar in thinking that in the matter of spreading the knowledge of co-operation and organizing societies, the status of the officer should also be considered. On the assurance given by the Hon'ble the Minister that young men full of energy and enthusiasm in the grade of Deputy Collectors will only be posted to this department, I withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

12 noon. Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" I beg to move—

'11. *That the provision of twenty-two Assistant Registrars made in Detailed Account No.* 34-*C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit be reduced by five posts on Rs.* 300 *each* (*Budget page* 169).'

[Mr. T. M. Narasimhacharlu] [29th March 1921

"Mr. President, on page 169 you will find that for the budget year twenty-two Assistant Registrars are proposed to be entertained, of whom five on Rs. 300 each are proposed. The reason why I propose this reduction is this. During the current year and last year several co-operative credit societies have been formed and the ryots in the villages are in daily expectation of receiving loans so as to relieve themselves of their necessities. But I find that during the current year money has been very tight and there is nobody who is willing to lend or to deposit his money, so that it may be useful for these villagers and for these co-operative credit societies. So that many of these societies have got themselves registered and they are without any work. In this state of affairs I would ask whether it would be desirable, whether it would be advisable, to increase the number of staff, especially in the higher grades. If the societies are lying idle, if there are no funds available which could be advanced to these societies as loans, I ask what those Assistant Registrars have got to supervise. The Government have proposed to increase the number of inspectors who have to go about the villages, organize these societies, who will have to check these societies and audit and in general supervise them, so that these societies may be in good working order. I can see the necessity for increasing the number of inspectors, because at present their charge is rather too much. But after all, these inspectors are only entertained as temporary inspectors. They have not the status of the permanent ones, nor are they entitled to any pension or such other privileges which the permanent employees obtain in Government service, so that the Government will be better advised if they do something more substantial to improve the status and condition of these inspectors, because it is they that have to go about the villages and do the real work. If, instead of making the department top-heavy by creating more appointments, this money is to be diverted to the improvement of these inspectors, I think the money would be well spent. And to that extent, the ryots will certainly be benefited, because the inspectors will take greater interest in the work that they do. So on these two grounds, firstly on the ground that the proposed increase in the number of Assistant Registrars will not be necessary at all for the budget year, because they will have very little work to do on the account of stringency of the money market, and also on the ground that that money may be utilized to improve the status of the inspectors, I propose that these five new appointments may not be sanctioned at all.

"Yet one other point. It has been said that it is not rather expedient to employ honorary agency of Assistant Registrars for this work. I demur to that statement."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu (*interrupting*) :—"I did not say that the honorary Registrar is for supplementing the work; in fact we are indebted to them for their work."

Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhacharlu (*continuing*) :—"What I suggest is that the method of supplementing the work of the Assistant Registrars by employing the agency of honorary Assistant Registrars may more largely be adopted. If that is so done, if there are more honorary Assistant Registrars in the field who will help and supplement the work of the paid agency, I think there will be no necessity at all to employ these five additional Registrars on Rs. 300 each.

"For these reasons, Sir, I propose that these five posts may not at all be sanctioned for the budget year."

Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—"Mr. President, I rise to oppose the motion. The Co-operative department which has been in existence only for the past seven years has been doing a lot of useful work, and its activities are being

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widely appreciated by the public at large. If the Co-operative department is to play a real part in the building up of the nation and in the diffusion of knowledge of agriculture and other cognate matters, it is essential that it should be properly and efficiently staffed. I found it rather difficult to follow the line of reasoning of the honourable mover. He wants to reduce the 22 Assistant Registrars provided for in the budget of the current year 1921-22 by five. While it is possible to appreciate the reason which weighed with the Government in fixing the figure at 22, I find it rather difficult to follow the honourable mover. As I understand, the idea on the part of the Government seems to be to have one Assistant Registrar for each district, and I think the administration report for the year 1920–21 gives a complete, logical and convincing answer to the motion that has just been made.

"Paragraph 3 says: 'Nine new officers have been appointed to undergo training to be eventually placed in charge of the new section sanctioned. The scheme when fully carried out in the next two years (and it is hoped that it will be carried out) will secure an Assistant Registrar for each district with the exception of The Nilgiris and Ramnad. . . The Assistant Registrars with a smaller area of a district and the large inspectorate staff sanctioned by the scheme will be better able to secure the consolidation of the working of the existing co-operative activities and the expansion of the movement throughout the Presidency.'

"If the thing is worth doing at all, there is no use in grudging the department a proper staff. It is much better that the staff is sanctioned as proposed in the budget."

Mr. A. T. Palmer:—"Mr. President, Sir, continuing what I have said on the subject I should like to point out that there are three disagreeable features in the co-operative societies as they are existing at present. One of them is the tendency of the money-borrower to dodge the society; the second is the partiality shown by certain societies in lending money; the third is the want of the sense of co-operation amongst those who form themselves into a co-operative society. There seems to be a great deal of difficulty in bringing these members together and to think out plans and methods for working the society. Sir, these require not only men but men with certain status. There is no doubt whatever that co-operative societies need men whom the people will respect. I believe, for the sake of discipline, these men should be men of position. I do not at all believe in the work of honorary workers in the case of co-operative credit. I say it once more. Also in giving the devil its due I prefer the Brahmans to take the work of these co-operative societies who can command greater discipline."

Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar:—"I am against this resolution. Of all the departments of Government that have recently come into existence the Co-operative department is doing the best work. I agree whole-heartedly with the Hon'ble the Minister. In fact, as my friend Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar said, there ought to be one Assistant Registrar for every district. In that, I am sorry, Ramnad has been excluded, and it is only on account of the absence of the Assistant Registrar specially for this district that the increase in the number of societies has not been very patent. I hope more provision will be made, so that the beneficial work of this department may not in any way suffer. But in the matter of recruitment to the ranks of the Assistant Registrars, I do not feel that there is much difference between a Tahsildar and a Deputy Collector. There is not much in name. We want vigorous men, whether Tahsildars or Deputy Collectors. I think even among the ranks of non-officials there will be many who will be willing to accept appointments as Assistant Registrars on a starting salary

of Rs. 300 which rises to Rs. 850. There are very many young men, more especially in Madura and the South, who are very great believers in co-operation, and such people, if offered good appointments, will do very useful work.

"I believe that during the time of Mr. Vedachala Ayyar many poor classes who were supposed to have criminal tendencies have been reclaimed by the benefits of co-operation extended to them. I think it will be bad economy to cut down the grant that is required under this head."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—"I must thank the Honourable Members of this House for the support they have been pleased to give me in this matter. I see that Honourable Members recognize the needs of the agriculturists. This is the department which directly helps the tax-payer. The agriculturists and the ryots are the real people that form the backbone of this nation.

"One suggestion has been thrown out just now and that is that we might as well try non-officials as Assistant Registrars. I can assure my honourable friend that in the next appointments that are to be made an attempt will be made to see whether we cannot find fit persons from among those non-officials who might have had experience on these lines and who could discharge their duties without detriment to efficiency.

"Sir, as there has not been much opposition, it is not necessary for me to go into anything like a detailed defence of the proposal to increase the number of the Assistant Registrars. However, I feel bound to bring to the notice of this House certain facts which will convince it of the need for them. At present, Sir, we have as many as 5,600 societies, 138 unions, 641 urban banks and 30 (including the provincial bank) central banks. The total number of the members comes to 329,886 and the total amount of share capital is 50¼ lakhs, while the total amount of loans advanced to various societies and members reaches the decent figure of Rs. 1,37,11,031. That ought to be a sufficient excuse for a demand for so many officers and that ought also to be a sufficient proof to show that we are laying our axe at the root of that being who is known as the Indian Shylock, the village sowcar. In this connexion, I may bring to the notice of the House that until 31st December 1920 something like Rs. 19,30,000 has been taken from the Bank of Madras and that an undrawn sum of Rs. 9,39,000 in the same bank was also at our disposal which makes up a total of about Rs. 28,70,000. That will be sufficient answer to the point raised by the honourable mover of this resolution as regards the tightness of the money market. Our desire is that there should be a net work of co-operative societies in every district and in every taluk so that people may not go to the village sowcar. With this information and with the support given to me in this House, I feel that the resolution will be withdrawn or voted against."

12-15 p.m.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I still maintain that there is no necessity to entertain five Assistant Registars for the budget year. It is not my point that this Co-operative department is not doing good work. It is doing immensely good work. I said about the stringency in the money market, but the Hon'ble the Minister has said that the Madras Bank has got 9 lakhs with it for distribution."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU (*interrupting*):—"Twenty-eight lakhs, Sir, of which 19 lakhs are already distributed and there is yet a sum of Rs. 9 lakhs undrawn."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"But what is this 9 lakhs of rupees for the whole Presidency? Rupees 9 lakhs is nothing. Let the Hon'ble the

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Minister only ascertain how many societies are really in need of money. Let him calculate the amount that is needed for it. Let him find out whether there is any other source except the Rs. 9 lakhs by which the demand of the several co-operative societies may be met. Then the House will understand that what I say will be correct, viz., that there is at present no need at all of the present proposal. On the other hand, there is a great deal of necessity for strengthening the work that we have started. Instead of finding out whether the work that we are doing is sound, the Government, Sir, go on multiplying the officers at the top and want to have an Assistant Registrar for each district. It may be good, but let us pause and find whether what we have been doing is on a sound basis and that is what I am suggesting. Therefore I submit that the entertainment of five Assistant Registrars may be postponed for the present. For the coming year they are not at all necessary. It was said that the present honorary Assistant Registrars will not be sufficient or may not be expected to do as much work as paid agency. I do not think, Sir, it can be a correct fact and so I am sorry I cannot withdraw the motion.

"Another point has not been answered at all. Why should not the Government make more stable the position of these inspectors who are going about the villages in the sun as well as in the rain and do the spade work, why should they be not made permanent and the posts be made pensionable and more attractive? You want money for this purpose, but you go on adding men to the cadre of the deputy collectors more and more. I suggest that this kind of top-heavy administration is not at all conducive to the better working of this department."

The motion No. 11 was then put to the vote and declared lost.

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu was not moved and was deemed to have been withdrawn :--

'12. *To reduce by Rs.* 47,000 *the provision of Rs.* 1,29,720 *for Assistant Registrars* (*Budget page* 169).'

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. P. Siva Rao was not moved owing to the absence of the member and was deemed to have been withdrawn :--

'13. *To reduce to* 12 *the number of Assistant Registrars for whom Rs.* 1,29,720 *is provided* (*Budget page* 169).'

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu was not moved and was deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'14. *To reduce by Rs.* 98,261 *provision of Rs.* 1,96,521 *for salaries of inspectors* (*Budget page* 169).'

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. P. Siva Rao was not moved owing to the absence of the member and was deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'15. *To reduce to* 150 *the number of inspectors for whose salaries provision of Rs.* 1,96,521 *has been made* (*Budget page* 169).'

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar was not moved and was deemed to have been withdrawn :--

'16. *That under* 34-*C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit the item of Rs.* 1,96,521 *for inspectors be reduced by Rs.* 75,000 (*Budget page* 169).'

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar was not moved and was deemed to have been withdrawn :--

'17. *Travelling allowance to be reduced by Rs.* 25,000 (*Budget page* 170).'

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Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI :—" Sir, I beg to move—

'18. *That the grant of Rs.* 7,24,859 *in* 34-*C. Co-operative Credit be reduced by a sum of Rs.* 1,08,000 (*Budget page* 170.)'

" I move this resolution, not with a view to cut down the amount of Rs. 1·08 lakhs from the demand under the Co-operative department, but to mention certain things which I hope the Hon'ble the Minister will examine and if possible adopt, if they are worth adopting. Much has been said, and we have only a few minutes back heard about the dispute as to whether Deputy Collectors or Tahsildars should be appointed as Assistant Registrars and I believe the Hon'ble the Minister has also paid some tribute to the work done by the honorary Assistant Registrars. In this connexion, Sir, may I not bring to the notice of the department and its head that there are very capable young men, very well educated and with broad ideas and imagination and a wide outlook who move with the people and know very well their conditions. I would put it to him whether it is not possible to draft such men into the service and utilize their services. I mean, Sir, that many of our young men have taken to independent professions but on account of the prevailing tendency in the Indian atmosphere they have also taken to practical politics. I put it to the Minister, Sir, whether it would not be possible for him to entertain these young men on, say, Rs. 200 or Rs. 250 and introduce new blood and new ideas into this department. The success of this department will depend on the tact and sympathy and also the broad-mindedness of those who carry on its work, and I do not believe, Sir, it could be suggested of our young men now that their views are very narrow or that they are unprogressive. These young men ought to be drafted into the service even at the risk of the prestige, which is supposed to attach to the rank of a Deputy Collector or a Tahsildar. I do not want to fight, Sir, about whether it should be a Deputy Collector or a Tahsildar. They may be good in their own way. But I believe they have both certain faults in common. It is admitted that this department is quite a new one. It is still in its infancy and its existing officers have been brought up in a certain groove and we all know that when certain persons have been brought up in a certain groove it is very difficult for them to get out of it. I do not wish in any way to dogmatise, but I believe that a Deputy Collector or a Tahsildar with his official powers and his magisterial powers rather considers himself a sort of big man in his own district and in his own division and it is not possible for him perhaps to think otherwise and come down to the level of the ordinary poor village ryots whose needs he is expected to care for. On the other hand, the young democrats, who live and move with the people, understand their difficulties and are ready to do whatever they can for them. Some of them have taken up social service and they have done it very creditably too. Then why should it not be possible for us to introduce these young men into the service?

" Then, Sir, some years back I had the pleasure of listening to a lecture on co-operation by our present Council Secretary when he was Registrar of Co-operative Societies and it gave us an insight into the methods of co-operation. A few days back when this budget was put into my hands I was curious to see whether all the principles there laid down as the guiding principles of the department were still observed. I took the case of my own district, Chingleput, and it was only yesterday, Sir, that I was told to my surprise that when people want to become members of the co-operative credit societies, one of the first instructions given to the managers of the societies is to ascertain whether any man who wants to become a member of a co-operative credit society has got property. I am only putting it to you, Sir, for information and inquiry, but not as a matter of complaint. I believe, Sir, that the success of a co-operative credit society ought to depend on

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the honesty and co-operation of its members. It is simply because each member ought to know the other members who form a society that village societies are encouraged rather than town societies where such mutual knowledge is not expected. We expect that the villagers know one another and we expect that each villager knows the honesty of his neighbour and whether he will be able to fulfil his obligation or not. If that purpose is lost sight of, then I submit, Sir, that a loop society is nothing but a joint stock company. We do not want to start joint stock companies, but we want co-operative societies to help the poor people. So far as poor people are concerned, as also the depressed classes—and there are poor people in all classes—if the possession of property is made a condition precedent for admission to a society, then I would impress it upon the Minister that the purpose for which the department was created has not been served at all. Therefore I would suggest Sir, that the Honourable the Minister would kindly undertake to look into the matter and see that these societies are not turned into joint stock companies.

"One thing more, Sir. We have heard a good deal about co-operative credit societies. When we look into the budget for the object of these societies, we find that Agriculture and Co-operation are put together side by side, and this department is intended to help the agricultural people as well. We have heard much about co-operative credit societies and we have heard a great deal about co-operative house building societies. But, Sir, have we the number of co-operative credit agricultural societies in which the poor people are helped?"

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu (*interrupting*):—"May I mention, Sir, for the information of the Honourable Member that the number of agricultural co-operative societies is far larger than that of any other kind of co-operative societies?"

Mr. T. Arumainatha Pillai (*continuing*):—"Thank you, Sir, but so far as my district is concerned, I can very well say that such societies as have been started there do not at all carry on agricultural work. For instance, we know that in every village there are lots of people who cannot buy their own ploughing implements and seed. I will put it to you, Sir, why should not these co-operative credit societies do these things, as the urban society here in Triplicane does? Why should not the co-operative societies stock the seed and distribute it to the members for their use and get back its value? For instance a poor man in a village has to go to the sowcar in the village to borrow his seed and he has to pay a heavy rate of interest when he returns it in the shape of paddy. Co-operative societies ought to be able to remedy these evils. These are some of the points which I wanted to raise. As I already told the Honourable the Minister, I do not want to cut short any amount in his department."

12-30 p.m.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu:—"May I acknowledge, Sir, that it is a very reasonable attitude which my Honourable friend has taken, saying that he does not want any reduction at all by this motion, but that he wanted to bring to the notice of this House and myself certain defects believed to be existing in the department. He has himself admitted that the department is new, in the sense that most of the societies, in fact, 2,000 societies, were started within the last year. Certainly 'to err is human' and in the beginning of this association mistakes are apt to be committed. But I may tell you that at the head of this department is one who really loves the people of this land and who with his knowledge of Tamil goes and sits on pials of the ryots, freely mixes with them and tries to induce them to join the societies and who can be stated to be a true friend of the ryots. I will communicate these observations to him and I will see that

these defects, if existing, are remedied. Two or three instances are mentioned. One is that we might select and draw into the service capable young men from the non-officials, who have been doing good work in the country. I have already stated, Sir, that many such young men have not come to my notice. If a person is found to have knowledge of co-operation and if he is found to be capable of discharging his duties well, then certainly the Government will be very pleased to encourage such young men. Such cases, however, have not yet come before me. If they do come, we would be certainly glad. But at the same time, it must not be forgotten that the claims of those who have been serving Government faithfully, loyally and efficiently should not be overlooked.

"The other point that was raised was that certain limitations of property qualifications are standing in the way of people becoming members. I will bring to the notice of my Honourable friend that in the recent societies that have been formed by the Labour Assistant Commissioner in the Gōdāvari district, no such limitations are obtaining. In fact the evidence shows that these poor people who could not claim any property as their own have yet got virtues, such as honesty, thrift, etc., and these societies are getting on well. It will be the duty of this department to increase these societies.

"As for agricultural societies, I have already mentioned that these classes of societies are already very numerous indeed. Probably my Honourable friend is thinking of trading societies. These too are at present coming into existence though their number is not large at present. It is only after the benefits accruing from these agricultural societies have been fully recognised that they are coming into existence. As a matter of fact, there is a society somewhere in the south which has started a factory on co-operative lines. There is one at Kallakurichi to be started. All these are being considered by the Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies, and I am certain that as far as funds permit and as far as the exigencies permit, due attention will be paid to all that has been said by my Honourable friend."

Mr. T. Arumainatha Pillai:—"I am really thankful to the Honourable the Minister for his kind assurance."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur:—"Mr. President, I had not the least intention of interposing in this debate. But after listening to the remarks which have fallen from the lips of the Honourable mover in regard to that class of public servants whom I have the honour to represent in this Council, I feel it my bounden duty to protest against them. If I understood the Honourable Member aright, I think he was trying to show that Deputy Collectors and Tahsildars are not fitted to carry out the purpose of co-operative movement, in that they put on airs about themselves, they do not mix freely with the people, they do not deign to go and ascertain the real wants of the people and that, therefore, it was absolutely necessary, in the interest of the development of co-operation, to supplant them by young men who possess modern political ideas. I will merely answer that charge by one single statement. I believe from the time co-operative movement was set on foot in this province up to this day when we are congratulating ourselves so whole-heartedly on the results that department has been able to achieve so far, it was the deputy collector, who was indented upon, to organize the department and who brought it to the successful level in which we find it to-day. I would, therefore, say, Sir, that the deputy collector is really not as bad as he has been depicted before this House as being one who lacks the interest of the people or who does not move with the people and does not know their wants. On the other hand, he is one of the people, he knows the

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people, he lives with the people and deems it an honour to do what he can for the elevation of the people If really the time has come when the official class should make room for the non-official, I, for one, have not the least objection ; but to say that the official class which had until now given its best energies, its talents and interest for the development of this department should go because it does not possess that angle of vision which is necessary for the successful conduct of that department is what I strongly deprecate."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI :—" I must congratulate the class of Deputy Collectors and Tahsildars in having such a warm advocate in the Hon'ble Mr. Habib-ul-lah to protect and to applaud all this work that has been done by them."

The motion was by leave of the Council withdrawn.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR moved—

'19. *This Council resolves that the provision of Rs.* 7,58,500 *under* 34-*C. Co-operative Credit—Agriculture—be reduced by Rs.* 1,00,000 (*Budget page* 170).'

'20. *That the grant of Rs.* 31,13,000 *under* 34. *Agriculture, be reduced by Rs.* 1,00,000 (*Budget page* 159).'

In doing so, he said :—" I find from the budget that five new appointments are going to be made. I would respectfully suggest to the Hon'ble the Minister that the experiment be made as regards these five appointments at least, by recruiting the officers from the cadre of Tahsildars. I think that Tahsildars on Rs. 200 and Rs. 240 might be appointed from that class and the results watched for a year. If at the end of the year the Hon'ble the Minister finds that the experiment has been really a success and if the people whom he has recommended are able to do as well and even better than the old class of officials then, I think he may consider the question of further extending the experiment. With that idea I move this resolution."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—" I am afraid, Sir, I cannot accept the suggestion. I am very sorry for it, but I can assure him that these five appointments will be given to the last grade of deputy collectors."

The motions were then by leave of Council withdrawn.

Demand XXI, namely, that a sum not exceeding Rs. 7·25 lakhs be granted under Co-operative Societies was then put to the Council and granted *nem. con.* subject to such reductions as the Honourable the Minister had undertaken to make.

DEMAND XXII—CINCHONA.

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—" I doubt whether any person other than he who is responsible for this Cinchona department ought to make this demand, and I hope I am not divulging domestic secrets when I say that the exact responsibility for that department is perhaps not yet finally settled. But as I am put down on the agenda paper to move for the grant on the subject, I do so. I move—

'*that a sum not exceeding* 3·95 *lakhs be granted under the head* 'Cinchona'."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" May I know whether it is a transferred subject ?"

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—" It is in the reserved list and for all practical purposes, I believe, a central subject."

Demand XXII, namely that a sum not exceeding 3·95 lakhs be granted under 'in Cinchona' was put to the Council and carried *nem. con.*

[The Hon'ble Mr. K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu] [29th March 1921

DEMAND XXIII—INDUSTRIES.

12-45 p.m. The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"I beg leave to move—

'*for a grant of Rs.* 19,62,721 *for the Department of Industries and Fisheries for the year ending* 31*st March* 1922.'"

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU moved—

'1. *That in the demand under* 35-*B. Industries—Fishery Bureau, the grant of Rs.* 3,000 *proposed under contingencies—stocking of tanks, be reduced by Rs.* 100 (*Budget page* 173).'

In doing so, he said :—"Sir, my object in moving this resolution is to draw the attention of this House to some correspondence which Honourable Members might have noticed in the public press as to the proposal to meddle with the Mahanandi tank in the Kurnool district. There have been various protests raised in that part of the country and various representations made urging that the Fisheries department ought not to extend their operations to that tank. Those of the Honourable Members who had the privilege of witnessing that tank which is at a distance of about ten miles from Nandyal and three miles from Gazulapalli railway station, would have found that it is one of the most picturesque tanks and one of the best bathing places in the Presidency. There is a spacious temple and a spacious compound round that tank, and it is only during recent years that it was repaired and improved at considerable cost. I happened to go there last year for the Andhra Conference presided over by Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar and thousands of people were always bathing in the tank. It was remarkable to find that, notwithstanding that fact, the water was always clean and transparent and unrivalled. The water is said to possess some mineral properties. From time immemorial it has maintained its reputation for purity and it will be a misfortune now if any attempts are made to meddle with such tanks which are really national assets and which ought to be improved rather than affected by such operations. There was some correspondence about it in the Press, and I do not think the Hon'ble the Minister has given a final decision regarding that point. It is with the object of drawing the attention of the House to that fact and to request the Honourable the Minister to give instructions to his departments not to meddle with that tank that I have thought it necessary to move the resolution."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I beg to associate myself, Sir, with the remarks of the Hon'ble Mr. Krishna Rao. Mahanandi is a place of pilgrimage and it is held in high reverence and esteem by the people not only of the district but of the surrounding districts as well. I therefore appeal to the Hon'ble the Minister to see that nothing is done to make the place less sacred in the eyes of the people, or to make it appear that the Government do not attach the same regard to that place as the people have a right to expect the Government to do."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"Mr. President, besides the information that is now given to the House, I am in possession of other information which I think I must place before it. My Hon'ble friend Mr. Krishna Rao was thinking that we are going to pollute the sacred tank of Mahanandi. Nothing of the kind at all. This Government, for the matter of that, all the Governments in India regard the Proclamation of Queen Victoria as the great charter of this country, and that has ordained that there shall be no religious interference in this land by the authorities in power. That will always be kept in view by every officer and Government, and to say that this Government is now

trying to spoil that tank or to make it less sacred, as my friend has put it, is unjustifiable. The point is this. There is some apprehension. I know there were public meetings, and resolutions were passed and communicated to me. The temple has a tank inside it and has two tanks outside. These three tanks are supplied with water from a perennial source or a fountain. But the Government are not in any way interfering with any of these tanks at all. What they propose to do is to construct ponds at a place which will be three-quarters of a mile from this place and there will be no market, no curing of the fish or anything of the kind. The work in the ponds will be purely what they call piscicultural merely and the fry will be taken and introduced in the big canal near by—the Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal. This is done mainly as an anti-malarial measure—and malaria is believed to have been caused by a certain kind of larvæ and these fishes are known to be capable of destroying the larvæ and of improving the health. So, in the interest of health and in the interest of the fishing industry, it was found that this place has got a sufficient supply of water and the scheme was undertaken. But the water-supply will not in the least be interfered with. As a matter of fact, negotiations were entered into with the Dharmakartas of the place, and I have got in my hands a letter written by the Tahsildar in which he gives the conditions that were insisted up on by the temple trustees, whose main object seems to be to see that the water-supply to the temple, its tanks inside and outside, shall in no way be affected. They also want that no killing of fish should be allowed there. Such or nearly such are the conditions insisted upon by the temple authorities, and I can assure my Honourable friend that if we are not able to come to a definite and satisfactory arrangement with them, it will not be done at all and we shall have to seek other places. On the other hand, if the authorities are prepared to accept the terms proposed by Government, the work will be undertaken. In any case I can assure my Honourable friends that the religious susceptibilities of any place or community will not be offended by this Government."

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu :—"May I know, Sir, from the Hon'ble the Minister whether there is any objection for carrying on these experiments somewhere near the Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal? I have been to Mahanandi, and I do not know whether there would be sufficient quantity of water for the three existing tanks and for the new tanks which are proposed to be constructed. If there is no objection, I do not see why the experiment should not be transferred somewhere near the canal itself, as the fishes have again to be carried to the canal itself."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu :—"Sir, it was originally tried in a place called Sunkesula which is near the canal and at another place called Podur also near the canal. It has been found that the kind of water that is required for the culture of these fishes was not available there. The soil was not good and the water was not good and sufficient. The water at Mahanandi is supposed to be good for this purpose. I myself do not know how far this place is from the canal itself. It will probably be about three or four miles from the canal. As I have said, the Government are not particular in any way except that a good work will suffer if it is to be taken to any other place where there is no sufficient and good water."

Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu :—"I am glad to have that assurance from the Hon'ble the Minister. I would further inform him that he will do well to wait and examine the matter himself more closely before taking the question of meddling with the tank. It has been pointed out that the water is good. We have also been told that there was a letter from the Dharmakartha

communicated through the Collector accepting certain conditions. I had the opportunity of seeing him and I would rather hesitate before I ask this House to accept the communication sent by the Dharmakartha and the Tahsildar himself. Therefore I would suggest that the Hon'ble the Minister himself will examine the matter more closely and the fact that in the interest of the Fisheries Department he should do something ought not to form any criterion in this connexion."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"My Honourable friend has asked me to go and see the place myself. I am prepared to pay my pilgrimage to Mahanandi and decide the matter myself."

The resolution was then by leave withdrawn.

The following resolution standing in the name of Mr. Devadoss was deemed to have been withdrawn as the Honourable Member was absent :—

'2. *To omit Rs.* 60,000, *Contingencies, for* '*Other Schemes*' (*Budget page* 173).'

The following resolution standing in the name of Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar was deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

'3. *That the following item be deleted* :—

Duty allowance of Rs. 1,320 *to the Principal, Soap Institute* —35. *B* (*Budget page* 175).'

The following resolution standing in the name of Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu was not moved and was, therefore, deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'4. *That the following duty allowance be omitted* :—

25-*B. Industries—Oil and Soap Industry—Duty allowance to Principal, Rs.* 1,320 (*Budget page* 175).'

The following resolution standing in the name of Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar was deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

'5. *That the following item be deleted* :—

Rupees 2,400 *of two Supervisors under* 35-*D. Establishment* (*Budget page* 176).'

The following resolution standing in the name of Mr. M. D. Devadoss was deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

'6. *To reduce by Rs.* 23,600 *provision of Rs.* 43,600, *for* '*Other Contingencies*' (*Budget page* 177).'

The following resolution standing in the name of Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar was deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

'7. *That Rs.* 9,600 *under travelling allowance—Madura Industrial Institute—be reduced to Rs.* 3,000, 35-*B. Industries* (*Budget page* 178).'

The following resolution standing in the name of Mr. M. D. Devadoss was deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

'8. *To reduce by Rs.* 10,000 *lump provision of Rs.* 30,000 *for purchase of Tanning Machinery* (*Budget page* 179).'

Demand No. XXIII for a sum not exceeding Rs. 19·98 lakhs was then put to the Council and granted *nem. con.*

29th March 1921] [The Hon'ble Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar]

DEMAND XXIV—LABOUR AND ALLIED DEPARTMENTS.

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Mr. President, I move for the vote of the House :—

'*For a grant not exceeding* 6·47 *lakhs under the head of* '*Labour and allied Departments.*' '

" The amount is made up on page 12 of the printed notice. At the end in the remarks column you will find printed reference to the details in the budget."

The following resolution standing in the name of Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar was deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

'1. *That the following item be deleted :—Duty allowances of Rs.* 2,400, *Rs.* 6,720 *under Salaries, Rs.* 4,800 *under Establishment, under* 37-*C. Commissioner of Labour* (*Budget page* 182).'

The following resolution standing in the name of Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu was not moved and therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'2. *To omit duty allowance to Assistant Commissioners of Labour, Rs.* 6,720 (*Budget page* 182).'

The following resolution standing in the name of Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar was deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

'3. *That the sum of Rs.* 13,200 *made up of Rs.* 11,400 *and Rs.* 1,800 *for six Tahsildars in No.* 37-*C. be deleted* (*Budget page* 182).'

The following resolution standing in the name of Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju was deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

'4. *That the following items of duty allowances be omitted* :—
To clerks (*Budget page* 182) *Rs.* 120.
To peons (*Budget page* 182) *Rs.* 480.'

The following resolution standing in the name of Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu was not moved and therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'5. *That the following items of duty allowances be omitted* :—
To two clerks (*Budget page* 182) *Rs.* 120.
To eight peons (*Budget page* 182) *Rs.* 480.'

The following resolutions standing in the name of Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar were deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

'6. *That travelling allowance of Rs.* 27,900 *under* 37-*C. Commissioner of Labour be reduced to Rs.* 10,000 (*Budget page* 182).

7. *That conveyance allowance to Personal Assistant Rs.* 900 *be deleted* (*Budget page* 182).'

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Mr. President, I beg to move :—

'8. *That in* 37-*C. Miscellaneous Departments, the voted items in the provision for Commissioner of Labour and his assistants and subordinates, establishment and allowances and contingencies, amounting in all to Rs.* 1,98,520 (4,08,300—300—30—1,50,000—59,750), *be omitted* (*Budget page* 18).'

[Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar] [29th March 1921

"As a matter of fact I sent a notice for the abolition of this department altogether. It is only because two items were considered non-votable that the resolution stands as it is now. This department of the Commissioner of Labour is a new department. I believe the original idea in creating the department was to look after the interests of the depressed classes which were not receiving due attention. Originally there was one Commissioner for the purpose of seeing whether especially the question of house-sites for the depressed classes and allied matters could not be forwarded by special attention being paid to these. Then, Sir, two Deputy Collectors were added to help this Commissioner and they were appointed for a year or two. So far as we can gather, the work of this Commissioner and his assistants was very little indeed. And that was due to the fact that sufficient provision was not made for actual expenditure in the department entrusted to this Commissioner. What the depressed classes wanted was acquisition of sites on which their *cheris* stood and sale to them of sites, either for money or gratis. They also wanted better provision for water-supply and also more schools.

"Now instead of providing more money for these purposes, what the Government did was they gave them one or two officers. These officers, especially in Tanjore and other places, having been in their posts—I don't exactly know how long ago these officers were appointed—but ever since these officers were appointed, they were only making proposals for the acquisition of sites and doing such things. No real advancement has been made so far. Probably the Government recognized that it would be very hard to justify the existence of this department from the way in which they have been getting on. So a device was thought of and at once the name of the officer was changed and he was called the Commissioner of Labour. Just then labour was asserting itself and there were organizations in Madras and elsewhere in the form of trade unions and things like that. Government evidently wanted to give this work to this department and the department was created. But it had practically no work to do and there were no funds to pay for expenditure by the department. Some work had to be found and they found it in this way. In the Labour Department also the public are not aware whether much has been done by this department or the Commissioner of Labour. There have been strikes, there have been all sorts of agitation for better pay and better prospects on the part of the labourers. There is the outstanding question of the recognition of the trade unions and there is also the loud cry on the part of the labourers and the employers that there should be some sort of legislation in these matters. The public are not aware that anything has been done by this department of labour for meeting the difficulties that have been felt and have found expression in the press and on the platform regarding these matters. Well, Sir, it did not stop there. The provision for this department has been going on increasing. I believe last year this department had a Commissioner and two assistants. That is my impression. Now we find provision made in the budget for the next year for a Commissioner, a Deputy Commissioner, two personal assistants, six Assistant Commissioners, six Tahsildars, forty revenue inspectors and 45 clerks and so on. It is going to be a very big establishment indeed. I cannot for one moment see, Sir, the necessity for such a big establishment like this. As I have already said, the Government is not able to find money really to help the depressed classes and the labourers. What is the provision that is made for the depressed classes? We find a lakh and a half of rupees provided for this year for the betterment of this class. Now this newly-created establishment is going to cost Rs. 3,48,000. I beg to submit, Sir, that such a

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disparity between the provision made for the actual betterment of the class for whose benefit this department was created and the actual charges of the department itself, is something which, I think, the Council cannot swallow easily.

"Then, Sir, we do not know what other work this Labour Department has to do. As I said, it was started for the benefit of the depressed classes and is now doing some labour work and I don't know what other works are going to be entrusted to this department. As it is, this huge establishment seems unnecessary. Probably it is going to be saddled with the work of other departments. The Council only a few days back said that a department like the Land Records Department was quite unnecessary as they thought that some other department could do the work. Here also I submit, Sir, that for the betterment of the depressed classes we have got the Collector and the local boards. The local boards can very easily look after the water-supply and elementary education of these depressed classes. All that the local boards require is money. It is not that the local boards are not prepared to help the depressed classes; they will be very glad to do so; only they have not got sufficient funds. If the Government will give them funds, the local boards will be very glad to look after the water-supply and education of these people. The money may be earmarked for the use by the local boards and they may be asked to do the work.

"Then with regard to the acquisition of sites and other things, the Collector can very well look after that; and I don't think, Sir, that a department like this is necessary for that purpose. I beg to submit, Sir, that hitherto we have been getting on without this department and if any further work has to be done, for instance, the Co-operative Department which is going to be expanded—we are going to have 22 assistant registrars and additional inspectors—certainly these will be available to do work like this. If there is work to be done in the villages, certainly they are there. In addition to all these, I beg to submit, Sir, I don't see any necessity whatever for a department like this. It is for that reason that I gave notice that the whole cost of this department should be deleted. Since two of the items in that are non-votable, I have not been allowed to move the resolution in the terms in which it stood."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar:—"Mr. President, within the very short space of time allowed to me it would be absolutely impossible to tell the House the genesis or the origin of this department, or to tell the House the various activities in which it has been engaged. I am now dealing only with the Assistant Labour Commissioners under the Labour Commissioner. They and their establishment are concerned almost solely with the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes. Sporadic attempts have been made by this Government for the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes, but without very much result. In Kistna, after consideration, a special officer was appointed for the purpose of acquiring house-sites for the Panchamas. Then, Sir, a special officer, Mr. Grey, who is now the Deputy Commissioner of Labour, was appointed to make a special enquiry as regards the economic condition of the depressed classes in selected districts. While this work was going on, a special officer again was deputed to enquire into the conditions of the Panchamas in the mirasi district of Tanjore and in consequence of a report which we received, a special officer was again appointed to Tanjore for acquiring house-sites and he made certain proposals. In the meantime a resolution was moved in the Imperial Legislative Council in which my honourable friend Mr. Ramarayaningar took part and my Hon'ble Colleague Sir Lionel Davidson (who was not then 'Sir') sponsored the Madras Government and acted as its representative. The proceedings were sent to the Madras Government. We invited the opinion of all officers, of all persons and of

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all bodies who had anything to say with regard to this subject. The whole of it was carefully reviewed by very experienced and able officers in the Board of Revenue, if I may say so without impertinence, and the conclusion the Board of Revenue came to was this : 'After a careful consideration of the problem of the depressed classes, the Board (i.e., the Board of Revenue) has come to the conclusion that however liberal or generous may be the attitude of Government towards them and whatsoever may be the facilities accorded for the improvement of their condition, the effect desired is not likely to be produced so long as there is no separate agency to carry out the policy of Government in this respect. Proposals for improving the conditions of these classes have in the past from time to time received the approval of the Government, but owing to the lack of special organization and effort, they have failed in effect'. Then they go on. 'It is, therefore, essential that a special officer with a suitable officer under him should be appointed as protector of the depressed classes'; there is something said as regards the energy either of the Collectors or of the local bodies in connexion with this matter, which I need not read. The Government entirely agreed with the view taken by the Board of Revenue and they appointed a special officer to supervise and co-ordinate the work of the Assistant Commissioners or of the Deputy Collectors who were specially employed in these various districts. At that time Chingleput had also come in under the scheme. The work which was continued has proved very successful. I shall only read to you the administration report sent by Mr. Paddison, the first Labour Commissioner, which unfortunately covers only the period up to June 1920. I am not going to trouble the House with reading the whole. Here is the paper which I am ready to place in the hands of the Honourable Members if they desire to read it. One portion of it, I think I ought to draw the attention of the House to. In consequence of this co-ordination, in consequence of the special Deputy Collectors who were appointed for the purpose of the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes in the various districts, this result followed. This was within the course of about six months. He says, 'There is a marked improvement in the general demeanour of the Panchamas. There are visible signs of growing self-respect, thrift, self-reliance and hopefulness in the community. Most of the Panchamas in about 20 villages (here he is speaking of the Panchamas in the Tanjore district) have given up drink. Not only some Panchamas have applied for house-sites, but also other Panchamas are anxious to become members of co-operative societies started in their villages. That, I think, is sufficient justification for a special agency for improving the condition of the depressed classes. This report, I understand, has been placed on the editors' table.

"I am concerned now with the Assistant Commissioners of Labour and their staff. The primary duties of the Assistant Commissioners of Labour will be these : of organizing co-operative credit societies for the depressed classes with a view to financing the acquisition of house-sites and building of houses where additional houses are required ; of organizing co-operative credit societies for the depressed classes for general purposes ; of organizing co-operative buying and selling societies wherever possible ; of investigating the necessity for the improvement of the water-supply of the depressed classes and of making recommendations to the presidents of local boards in cases in which action is required ; of providing communications for paracheris in cases in which these are shut off from the high-roads by private lands over which the Panchamas can only pass on sufferance ; of preparing schemes of improvement for the depressed classes where it is possible ; of assisting the members of the depressed classes in obtaining lands ; of promoting education by starting schools for the depressed classes ; and generally of promoting the interests

of the depressed classes in any other way that suggests itself. It was found, Sir, that when some of these functions were put upon either the Collectors or the Divisional Officers or the local boards, those officers or bodies considered these to be mere odd jobs to be taken up in leisure moments, in fact this was extra work and, as a matter of fact, no real progress was made and therefore it is that we are obliged to have a special agency and that special agency we must have if there is to be any improvement in the condition of our fellow citizens who are fellow-citizens only before the law but who in fact are not far removed from agrarian serfdom. After all the Labour Commissioner was appointed only in February or March 1919. Work in the three districts which I mentioned has been going on for some time. We want an organizing agency for the purpose of supervising the work that is being done. As a matter of fact a considerable number of co-operative societies intended for the Panchama population, more especially to enable them to acquire the house-sites in which they and their forefathers have been for generations living, have been formed. Educational institutions specially intended for the Panchama population in the villages have been started. There is a special provision made this year for an additional one lakh of rupees under the head of Education for the depressed classes in the villages. Besides these, we have provided for about three lakhs of rupees for the acquisition of sites for Panchamas on loan account or loan basis. All this work requires a special agency to take care of, and to raise the depressed classes to a realization of their rights. That is the chief function of these Assistant Commissioners of Labour and they are doing their duty excellently because they are picked officers —picked on account of their enthusiasm and sympathy for these classes. They are, as my friend reminds me, Deputy Collectors; but we are paying them a special allowance for the purpose of doing this particular duty."

1-15 p.m.

Mr. M. D. Devadas:—"I oppose this motion. It is a standing disgrace to our Presidency that we have been neglecting the depressed classes."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar:—"Hear, hear."

Mr. M. D. Devadas:—"I do not wish to use the term depressed classes, because they are really our labouring classes. They are the real labour of this country. We have been neglecting their condition so long. We have been treating them in some cases as slaves and in many cases as untouchables. We have never given them the rights of citizenship though in law all are said to be equal. Sir, it is a year ago that the Government took up this matter seriously and a special department was organized. My complaint is that sufficient funds have not been placed at the disposal of this department for the purpose of acquiring the cheris and house-sites for the Panchamas. That is really my complaint against Government. More funds ought to have been placed at the disposal of this department for the purpose of really doing good as soon as possible, because the funds at the disposal of this department, I find, are so small. Even in places like Madras we want several lakhs of rupees in order to relieve the real grievances of the cheri people. Sir, it may be known to the members of this House that recently the civil courts have been passing decrees for the eviction of these cheri people. People who have been in occupation for 20, 30 and sometimes over 100 years have been asked to quit after a few days' notice. If anybody goes round these cheris he will be struck by the fact that there are houses worth Rs. 2,000, Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 10,000 and more. It is really a hard thing that these people should be asked to pull down these houses and remove the debris within fifteen days after notice. No doubt the law must take its own course. The law is very stringent and we cannot complain against the action of the judiciary. But it is

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the duty of the Government to come to the relief of these poor people. Therefore, my complaint is that sufficient funds have not been placed at the disposal of this department. With these remarks, I strongly oppose the motion."

Mr. C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I strongly oppose this motion. In fact, I am of opinion that the money allotted to this department is not enough. I am glad to learn that this department is the outcome of the labours of our Minister the Hon'ble Mr. P. Ramarayaningar, who anticipated this democratic movement about a decade ago. Only I request the Government not to spend money upon officers who are unsympathetic to the depressed classes. I rather like that the members of the depressed classes themselves are appointed as officers. In this connexion, I request the Government not to use that official word 'efficiency' against these poor classes. The official word 'efficiency' is always a red rag to the tax-paying public of this Presidency. The official word 'efficiency' always means 'we are not going to act according to the wishes of the people'; so much so that when our Honourable the Minister for Co-operative Societies used that word this morning, I was very much afraid. But fortunately he qualified it by saying that no particular community will be allowed to domineer. Sir, efficient men are available in every community and also in these depressed classes. The hallmark of the University should not be the standard of efficiency. Sir, it is by making that the standard of efficiency that our British Government made about half the genius of the land run to waste. Sir Salar Jung of Hyderabad was not a graduate of the Madras University. I therefore request the Government to appoint, as much as possible, from the members of the depressed classes officers of this Labour Commission Department, especially in this land of castes and communities, where we imbibe all prejudices from our childhood and where these prejudices in our ancestors are the cause of the condition of these depressed classes to-day. So I once more request the Government to appoint, as much as possible, members of the depressed classes as officers of the Labour Commission Department."

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAIYAR :—" Sir, the Hon'ble the Member for Law enumerated the duties that fall to the lot of special officers appointed for purchasing house-sites. On the other hand, my friend the mover said that in the Tanjore district nothing more substantial was done than making a survey of house-sites."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR (*interrupting*) :—" That is not accurate. House-sites to the extent of about Rs. 1,20,000 had already been acquired. Now Rs. 50,000 have already been paid by the Panchama population and very much more land will be acquired. Before I could say all this, the closure was applied."

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAIYAR (*continuing*) :—" I wanted to correct those remarks. I have many opportunities, Sir, of coming in contact with the ryots of the Tanjore taluk. Almost every week I see the benefits of this movement in very many villages. So I may assure the House that the work done in the Tanjore district is work done on right lines. We have also the right type of man in that place. Not satisfied merely with purchasing house-sites for the members of the depressed classes, I find him going to villages, convening meetings and impressing upon the poorer classes the importance of thrift and economy and advising members to be temperate in their habits, with the result that I know there are many villages where not merely temperance but even teetotalism is the rule and no longer the exception. I can assure the House that there are villages in which members of the depressed classes will regard it as an insult to be asked to supply their relatives with liquor. There is a story, Sir, of a member of the depressed class in a village who happened to give a feast. Many relatives came to his house and some of them

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thought that without liquor the feast was no feast at all. But then the man assured those relatives that if they insisted upon being supplied with liquor they would not only disgrace themselves but disgrace him in the eyes of his brethren in the village. Again, I know that as a result of the labours of this officer in Tanjore, many of the depressed classes in very many villages have become very thrifty and have put by some money. Co-operative societies started for their benefit on right lines have done a great deal of good. What is more, I find that the members of the depressed classes are showing greater zeal for the education of their sons and also over matters relating to sanitation. It is a matter of common ordinary knowledge to find very many members of this class going in for better houses. They are trying to set an example to others in matters of dress and other things. Therefore, Sir, to make a statement like that, that no real good has been done, especially in the Tanjore district, where we have a right type of man, is to create a wrong impression which it is my duty to correct."

Mr. S. SOMASUNDARAM PILLAI:—"I have some knowledge of these so-called depressed classes. How are they treated? It is unnecessary for me to repeat the difficulties they are labouring under. They are treated worse than animals. They are not allowed to enter into the law courts. In Tanjore, Sir, in three courts, there were three sets of suits for the purpose of ejecting the Panchamas from the houses which they were occupying. I purposely used to take vakalats for these Panchamas and appear before the munsifs. The munsifs and the vakils are all high-class people. My clients were not allowed to enter into the courts. When I was asked whether I was ready with the case, I replied that unless my clients were allowed to come into the court, I could not go on with the case. I said that those who did not like this might go out and it was sufficient for me if the munsif was there. This was in Tiruvadi. In another place, at Tirutturaipundi, the munsif was a Brahman reformer. He at once asked all the fellows to enter into the court. As soon as they came in many of the vakils went out. That was very good for us. Thus they are not allowed to enter and when the case is called and there is no answer, the munsifs at once pass ex-parte decrees against them. In one of such cases I had to appeal against an ex-parte decree to the District Judge of Tanjore, who is now a High Court Judge. In the tanks, Sir, buffaloes and cows are seen bathing always; but these Panchamas cannot take water from them. Why? Because our traditions and our superstitions say that God was pleased to create a set of people to be always our slaves. My friend says that they can expect better treatment if the matter is left to the district and the taluk boards. This is just like the circus trainer taming the beasts—lions, tigers, goats, etc. As long as they are in his presence they keep quiet and when he goes away leaving them to themselves, they fall upon each other."

1-30 p.m.

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"I think the Honourable Member is out of order."

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"I am afraid the Honourable Member is out of order. He is decrying the municipal bodies and local boards."

Mr. S. SOMASUNDARAM PILLAI:—"Unless we have a special department we cannot do anything in the way of promoting the cause of the depressed classes. The Labour Commissioner once came to one of these paracheris. There were about 500 in it. He saw that there was cleanliness in certain houses and asked what sort of things they wanted. It is on account of education and not by passing the act their condition can be ameliorated I myself have visited some of the places. I am only a self-appointed and paymentless commissioner for these people. Government should show sympathy by appointing a special officer called Labour

Commissioner and see that he takes a special interest towards these classes. Of course Tanjore is the worst place and wonderful work is being done there for improving the condition of the depressed classes."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I wish to say a few words with regard to the general question raised by this resolution. The Honourable Members opposite are quite willing to get up every time and defend the officials of the various departments whenever they are attacked in this Council. We had had a protest on behalf of the deputy collectors. We had a protest on behalf of the medical profession the other day and here is an honourable member who states that the work of district boards and municipalities is wanting in sympathy for the depressed classes."

Mr. S. SOMASUNDARAM PILLAI *(interrupting)* :—"My point is that those who are elected are prevented from doing any good to the depressed classes."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU *(continuing)* :—"My honourable friend cannot be unaware of the fact that during the last one year the district boards, municipalities and taluk boards have been trying to put in representatives of the depressed classes on these bodies. All the district boards and taluk boards are trying to find representation for these classes. It is altogether wrong to say that the district boards are not in sympathy with the claims and aspirations of these classes. At the same time I should like to bring to the notice of this Council that it is absolutely necessary to secure the goodwill and co-operation of all the classes of people in the villages. Difficulties are arising in regard to admission of children of the depressed classes to schools. It is a delicate position which can only be solved by first securing the sympathy of the classes and educating them of their duties. Whatever may be the fate of this resolution, I should impress upon the members that it is their duty to do their best, to promote the material, moral and educational well-being of these unfortunate classes. But let us not at the same time minimize the difficulties in regard to this matter.

"Taking the question of house-sites for these depressed classes, I was one of those who moved years ago for the appointment of a special officer in the district of Kistna. I was fully alive to the unfortunate position of these depressed classes in the hamlets of the villages and the work that has been done has been successful. And this year a few months ago I applied for the appointment of another special officer to continue that work. But there are difficulties in regard to the location of their dwellings and the acquisition of the sites and in pushing this work through successfully.

"In regard to admission into schools also, I can say from my experience that seven or eight schools were closed and boys belonging to higher castes were withdrawn from these schools. Rival schools were started by villagers who did not want their children associated with the children of the depressed classes. The district authorities had to appear on the scene to appeal to the people, and to satisfy their sentiments and to find out ways and means of carrying out the orders of the Government in the spirit in which they were intended without giving up the principle. Therefore there is no good of minimising the difficulties and, while I appreciate the efforts of Government, I will ask the Members of this House to have a little more sympathy with the authorities who are charged with the carrying out of the new policy of the Government. I heartily support the proposal for the appointment of special officers for the acquisition of the village-sites."

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—"I am rather surprised that there should be any one in this House so uncharitable as to bring in any resolution against the grants for this Labour Commissioner business. Sir, the lot of the Panchama is a very sad one

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and everybody knows about it. It is not enough to sympathize with him on the platform and public places but something must be done for his amelioration. And the only way of doing that is by putting into practice what is preached in various places. Some cases are being instanced regarding the position of the Panchama and the ill-treatment to which he is put. I have one case which came to my notice as Bench Magistrate.

"There is a village which fortunately is not under the British Dominions, I mean it is a zamindari village, where the Panchama is not allowed to walk through the public streets. He is given a by-lane by which he should bring water for domestic purposes. Now that lane becomes filled with water up to the waist in the rainy season and the womenfolk are forced to carry water pots on their heads and wade through this water. A certain Panchama was bold enough to bring this matter to the notice of the village munsif with the result that he was belaboured for the trouble he took on behalf of his caste. There are many many cases which will go to prove that the lot of the Panchama is a very sad one. Under such circumstances, I think the Government did a very nice thing in starting this appointment and all the people of the Panchama caste, and I suppose all of us, should thank the Government. For if one of the limbs is diseased, the whole body will be diseased. But I should warn the Government against employing men in this department without first ascertaining their views and their sympathies in regard to the Panchamas. I have seen many cases where a man who is not fit for that department has been entertained with the result he does not carry out the purpose for which he is employed. I would suggest that every one should be on probation for a few number of months and if he is not found fit he should immediately be removed and other men placed in his place."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB :—"I beg to oppose the motion. As Mr. Devadas said there is one danger namely that this department is providing a number of offices for various persons. More funds should be devoted for doing some specific work. I may suggest that this department should work for the improvement of the dwellings of these poor labourers. I find that many municipalities and corporations are not able to devote their attention to this problem. As my honourable friend Mr. Habib-ul-lah Sahib knows he himself visited several paracheries and tried to ameliorate their condition, but there was the difficulty of funds.

"This department might get more grants from Government and see that these are spent by the respective municipalities. This department should take up the work of improving the condition of the depressed classes. In fact, this department can co-operate with the municipalities and see that the grants given to them are properly utilized in carrying out the duties for the purposes for which they are given."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"I am very sorry at the turn that this discussion has taken. One would imagine from the speech or the speeches that followed the mover's resolution that he was opposing the steps taken for the amelioration of the depressed classes. If I was able to follow Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, I believe he tried to make his position as clear as possible, that he is anxious as any one in this House to do all that is possible to improve their condition, though he questioned the necessity for a separate agency for the purpose. That is the only aspect he has placed before us. I believe there is no one in this House who will not co-operate in all efforts that are being made to improve the condition of the depressed classes. I would join with all those who spoke before me that the provision made in the budget for the year to come to improve the

condition is certainly very inadequate, if we consider what it is possible to be done. The provision made in the budget relates to expenditure on relief for a large number of depressed classes.

"The only point which has been raised is whether we can rely upon the old machinery of the Collectors for working out these measures or we require for that purpose a separate agency like the one which has been suggested. I am afraid we have missed the real issue by misconstruing, I fear, the attitude taken by the honourable mover of this resolution. If my memory does not fail me, I believe that even at the time of the general discussion on the budget my honourable friends Mr. M. C. Raja and Mr. O. Tanikachalam Chettiyar did not feel enamoured of the provision made in the budget under the head of 'department of labour'—I am speaking subject to correction because I am speaking from memory. While we are anxious to achieve that object we have to bear in mind that the old agency of getting this work done through the Collectors has been, I think, on the whole not found wanting. Even as it is, the answers furnished to us during the course of this session regarding the lands reserved for the depressed classes and regarding the lands assigned to them, must convince anyone that the Collectors of those districts through their Divisional officers have been very earnest in that matter and they have been very enthusiastic in doing that work." 1-45 p.m.

"Again, Sir, in the matter of providing educational facilities for Panchamas, whatever might be stated as to the view of those who are not intimately acquainted with the work of local bodies, I think I would be failing in my duty if I do not repudiate the suggestion that local bodies have neglected this aspect of the question. In most cases to the extent to which they have been placed in possession of funds —I will challenge any statement made to the contrary and ask you to examine their budgets and administration reports—they have been providing schools for Panchama boys and girls and taking interest in that matter.

"Again, coming into the question of drinking water-supply, to the extent to which funds are available they have not neglected their duty in that respect. It will be found that in the whole Presidency, I must say at least so far as my district is concerned, there is no one taluk which has not got a fairly intelligent Panchama member on its Board. Even in the new boards which are going to be formed day after to-morrow, we have taken particular care to have Panchama members. I may inform this House that there was a suggestion made by a member of the District Board of Nellore who came and asked me that some provision should be made in the budget for sinking drinking wells for the Panchamas. If there was any suggestion which was taken up more readily than anything else, it was his suggestion to make a limited provision in the budget for sinking wells for drinking water in almost all the rural areas. I am only mentioning this fact not as a matter of explanation, but to enable this House to realize that by this time local bodies have duly realized their responsibility in doing all that is possible in the way of helping them in that respect. So far as the Collectors of the districts are concerned they have been co-operating in that respect. Having said that, though I am not going to object to the provision for the department of labour, though I am not going to object to a trial being given to the new department, I am afraid, Sir, that the increase of machinery won't stop there. You may require several more assistants and several more inspectors; and yet the work done may not be as satisfactory as it was in the past. I know that when the work was distributed among the various Collectors they were in a position to render redress more speedily than it might be possibly done by the Commissioner of Labour. I will mention one instance. I had to visit a place where the Panchamas all came to me and

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presented a petition that they should be provided with village-site. I at once took the Taluk Board President into confidence and was prepared to make necessary provision for that purpose. I then sent it to the Collector who was generally liberal in making provisions from discretionary grants and asked for provision in that respect. Honourable Members may know what happened. One who would have himself readily given the grant and one who would have helped us in finishing the work by providing village-site for Panchamas, he made a reference to the Commissioner of Labour and said that redress was to be had from him. The correspondence on the subject has not yet been finished or has ended only recently. I say that if you give real power to these Collectors themselves and place them in possession of more funds, it will be possible for the persons concerned to get at the Collector immediately and ask him for immediate redress and get the money required. But if we are to go to the head of the Department of Labour and his Assistant, there will be considerable delay."

Mr. K. P. GOPAL MENON :—" Sir, from what we have heard, I do not think there are two opinions about the fact that the condition of the depressed classes ought to be bettered. I think some of us have misunderstood the object with which Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar has brought forward this resolution. When he thinks that the whole item of Rs. 4 lakhs and odd provided in the budget is to be distributed for the betterment of the depressed classes, he is perfectly right in bringing forward his resolution. Out of the sum of Rs. 4 lakhs and odd under this department, only a lakh and odd is provided for the betterment of the depressed classes, whereas the balance of about three-fourths of the total amount is to be spent for the purpose of paying the highly-paid officers. I certainly quite agree with my honourable friend Mr. Devadas when he said that more grants ought to be given for the betterment of the condition of the depressed classes, but not for paying the highly-paid officers—a lot of Assistant Commissioners and others. The Honourable Member for Government says that the Labour Commissioner wants assistants. Well and good. Is it not possible to see that these Assistant Commissioners are started on lower pay? Where is the necessity for paying them Rs. 900 each? Is it not possible to start them on Rs. 400 or Rs. 500 and utilize the balance for the real purpose of the grant, namely, the betterment of the depressed classes? It is in that view that I support the motion of my friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar.

" The betterment of the condition of the depressed classes requires more money. They have to be improved in many ways, and with this amount the depressed classes are not going to be satisfied. They want something more substantial to be given to them. Give them better education, give them better house-sites and give them drinking wells, etc., and in the long run bring them up on a par with us. It is the duty of everyone who is interested in the cause of our country to see that the condition of the depressed classes is bettered by giving them more grants. I do not think these people will feel satisfied by witnessing the dramatic performances of the sort given them by our friend Mr. Somasundaram Pillai. I take the resolution of Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar in that view, and if that view is accepted, it is desirable that the Honourable Member in charge should see that if possible expenditure is cut down."

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Mr. President, I am sorry to see the turn that the discussion has taken. The question was not whether we are going to help the depressed classes and render them more help. That is not the question at all. The object with which I brought this motion before this Council was to show the disparity between the grant actually given for their betterment and the cost of the establishment that was going to be appointed for the purpose of utilizing

this grant. I certainly wanted to say that when the grant was one lakh and odd the cost of the establishment should be reduced. That is the thing to which I wanted to draw the attention of the House. It is unnecessary for me to say here that I am as much interested in the depressed classes and I have done as much work for them hitherto as anybody else in this House. The only question now is whether it is proper when only a sum of one and half lakhs is provided for the actual betterment of the depressed classes, we should spend Rs. 3·50 lakhs for the establishment to spend that grant. That is the one question we have to tackle here—and in this resolution. I expected the member in charge to give me a catalogue of other works that the department is doing and show that the establishment is justifying itself. But he has done nothing of the sort. He has only said that this establishment has only to do what hitherto has been done by the local boards, by the Collectors and other people. He has not shown any reason for bringing into existence this new department. I said, Sir, that the local boards have been doing much work. So far as I know, in my district I have been always particular that preference ought to be given for demands on the part of the Panchamas for water-supply and for institutions like educational institutions. I have also insisted that wherever there are local board schools the Panchamas should be admitted into those schools. In regard to a particular school I received a mahazar asking me to see that the practice is put a stop to. I declined. The school is going on as well as it did before in spite of the Panchamas being admitted, and I think the school has even a larger number of students. Well, Sir, the local boards cannot be said to be forgetful about the matter at all. If they have not been able to do more, it is because they have not got more money. If money is available, if a portion of the three and odd lakhs now proposed for establishment is handed over to them in the form of grants, certainly they will look after the interests of the Panchamas in a better way. I also know that several of the taluk boards in my district have got schemes for the extension of village-sites for the special benefit of these depressed classes. I had to stop these schemes for want of funds. It is not attention that is wanting, nor is it willingness on the part of the local boards, but only funds are wanting and nothing else.

"So, Sir, it is that aspect of the matter that I wanted specially to bring to the notice of the Council and I am sorry that sufficient attention has not been paid by the Council to that matter at all. As a matter of fact, I have been pleading from the beginning for more funds being made available for their special use. Having seen the direction which the discussion has taken on my motion, I do not want to press it."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2 p.m. and re-assembled after lunch at 2-45 p.m.

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar was not made by the honourable member and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

9. *That under* 37-*C. Miscellaneous Departments, the item of Rs.* 4,08,300 *for Commissioner of Labour be reduced by one lakh* (*Budget, page* 182).

Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar moved the following resolution :—

'10. *That under* 37. *Miscellaneous Departments, the provision of Rs.* 4,08,300 *for Commissioner of Labour be reduced by one lakh of rupees* (*Budget, page* 182).'

In doing so, he said :—"I may at once promise by saying that I am not one of those who feel that much money should not be spent for the amelioration of the

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condition of the labourers and the depressed classes. Far from that. But I may be asked why is it that you move a resolution to reduce the grant by one lakh. It is by way of pointing out that what ought to go really for the amelioration of the labourers is being diverted to those who are made to live comfortably in the name of labourers. For while Rs. 4,08,000 is sought to be given to this department, Rs. 1,50,000 only goes for the real benefit of the labourers. Rs. 2,58,000 goes for an over-officialised establishment While in the year coming to a close we were only content with an establishment costing Rs. 83,000, now it is sought to spend upon establishment Rs. 2,58,000. It is by way of protest against this extravagant expenditure in the name of labourers and the depressed classes that I move this resolution. The money that is allotted for this department is not used for the elevation of the labourers but for the elevation of some other class. Therefore I object to and ask for the elimination of this large sum by at least one lakh. My object is that, if this amount is eliminated, though it is not open to me to move a resolution that the amount so eliminated might be re-appropriated for the real benefit of the labourers, at least the Government would bring in a suggestion for re-appropriation. I believe that this department is being made very much of and large amounts of money are being wasted upon it. If the Honourable Member in charge of this department says that it is by reason of the general resources of this department that the Panchamas have realized the advantages of the activities of the Government on their behalf and are eagerly coming forward to profit thereby, that there is a marked improvement in the general demeanour of the Panchama and that there are visible signs of growing self-respect, thrift, self-reliance and hopefulness in the community, I say that they are not as much due to the efforts of the Government officers as to the general awakening which has come upon all communities. It is due to the voluntary efforts of persons like Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar headed by the Hon'ble Mr. Ramarayaningar, like Mr. M C. Raja and Mr. S. Somasundaram Pillai that these Panchamas have come to the forefront. If it would not be improper, I may mention the name of my brother Rao Bahadur O. Kandaswami Chetty who has started night schools in the Christian College for the benefit of the poor boys and which work has been carried on for several years, silently, unostentatiously without any payment from anybody, by requesting various persons to teach the boys at the end of the day's labour. It is not, I say, to the credit of this department that all this has been done. It is stated that at one stage that nothing has been done prior to April 1920 by way of starting schools for the Panchamas in the district as no funds were available for the purpose. During the months of April to June 1920, twenty elementary Panchama schools were started, the average attendance in each of these schools being 26 to 28 except in the case of three schools where the attendance was nearly 50. I do not consider it a very great record, Sir, for a department which has spent last year Rs. 88,000. If you will go to the various wards in the city of Madras you will find a larger number of Panchama day and night schools for the education of the Panchama boys and girls and of the working classes. There are various things upon which the money can be very well utilized. In the Administration report for the period ending 30th June 1920 various things which require attention are enumerated : working-men's canteen at Parthasarathi-kuppam in Triplicane. This is a scheme to open a working-men's club in the Parthasarathi-kuppam, Triplicane, for the benefit of fishermen as a counter-attraction to the toddy shops in the locality. I remember this scheme was referred to the Corporation for its opinion and the Corporation has set its seal of approval. This scheme has just been referred to the Commissioner of Labour and is engaging his attention. I dare say it will continue to engage his attention so long as he continues to draw his salary. If

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funds are not put into the hands of the Labour Commissioner for doing these things, he cannot do anything more than merely consider. Again regarding cheris in the city of Madras the position of Panchamas is becoming very acute. It is said that the problem of housing the Panchamas who were evicted from the Mottu cheri was engaging the attention of the Commissioner. The Corporation was addressed in the matter and they have undertaken to apply to the Government for a loan of Rs. 30,000 being the approximate cost for the construction of 100 tenements for the evicted Panchamas.

"Similarly the Pulianthope cheri, Halls Garden cheri, Thousand Lights cheri, Katpadi cheri are all engaging his attention. He could do nothing more, for no funds have been provided. I know a number of Panchamas were evicted near the Flowers Road cheri. I applied to the Court on their behalf for stay of execution on the ground that the Commissioner of Labour has written to these people that it is intended to acquire these lands. The Judge before whom I read the letter shrewdly asked how many years would Government take to complete the acquisition. Now when the acquisition proceedings are started by the Government, it will take several years. I do not see any provision in this budget for the acquisition of the site from which people are sought to be evicted and which the Government told they were going to acquire. I therefore strongly appeal to the House that there are urgent needs for the housing of the Panchamas and the depressed classes for which this money could be well utilized. I therefore ask the House to support the motion for retrenchment so that the Government may be driven to the necessity of bringing in a Bill for re-appropriating the amount for the legitimate purpose of providing the depressed classes with houses."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I am afraid that a mistake is made by concentrating attention upon the lakh and fifty thousand which is provided for. My honourable friend who has just spoken has really confined his attention solely to the Panchama population of the city of Madras. So far as the acquisition of house-sites is concerned it would be in the nature of things impossible to acquire all the house-sites in Madras. If at all a well-conceived development scheme is possible, the Corporation must do its duty. The newly constituted town-planning trust must do its duty. So far as the Government are concerned they are through their Labour Commissioner trying to avoid eviction by negotiations with the landlords by obtaining either a quasi-permanent tenure or better conditions under which they can live. The Honourable Member for the University of Madras in presiding over a meeting suggested that there should be legislation against eviction, at least against eviction without compensation. That of course is a question which is bristling with difficulties which will have to be faced if necessary. Not merely have we provided for this lakh and fifty thousand, we have provided for three lakhs of rupees for the acquisition of sites and whenever it is deemed necessary to prevent hardships to the Panchama tenants in the city of Madras, such proceedings as are possible legally for the Government will be taken for preventing undue hardships to these persons. The establishment and the larger establishment we want is for the purpose of undertaking work in three more additional districts. Out of the two personal assistants to the Labour Commissioner, one is practically doing that kind of work in the city of Madras which the Assistant Labour Commissioners are doing in the districts. Another of them is doing some work at Chingleput. But the work of the Labour Commissioner has so much increased that it is impossible for him to do his duty in the shape of supervision or organization without real assistance in the matter. As everybody knows he is now supervising the criminal settlements, a very important portion of his work.

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Besides that he has to look after emigration, he has to look after the proper supervision of the inspection of the factories by the staff below him. Besides these, oftentimes references are made to him in connexion with requests for information or proposals emanating from the Government of India due to the proposals of the Washington Conference. Besides that we are organizing something like a wages census; we are organizing the department for the purpose of procuring accurate information with regard to the increase of prices and with regard to the increase of wages, so that such accurate information will be in the hands of both employers and employees when any trouble arises as regards the question of wages.

"It is not correct, Sir, that the Labour Commissioner and his establishment are merely drawing a salary for the purpose of doing nothing. They are to the best of their ability doing the best they can on behalf of the labour population. It is not merely by acquisition of sites that we can solve the problem; it is not possible for any Government to give the sites which anybody wants for the purpose of building; but we will do the best we can and without the support and co-ordination of the Corporation of Madras—of which I believe the Honourable Member who spoke just now is a member—and without a fully developed town-planning scheme the problem of housing of the poor classes could not be solved. It is not correct to say that we are not budgeting for any provision for the acquisition of house-sites whether here or elsewhere. I may say that I have been fighting as hard as I can for much more money in the shape of provision for special educational facilities for Panchamas and for the acquisition of sites

3 p.m. But unfortunately we have to face a financial situation which leaves very little money for ameliorative work and my department came in for an amount of curtailment along with other departments. The expenditure which is proposed to make is absolutely necessary, if we have really to improve the lot of the Panchama population. I recognize with great pleasure the work which has been done by non-official bodies and we look to their help in a larger and larger measure. But at the same time the Government cannot depend upon merely non-official agency in regard to this matter. They have got a duty to perform and they are ready to do it to the best of their ability, if they are not hampered."

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu:—"Sir, if I intervene in this debate just for a little while, it is just to place before the Council one fact and that is, the effort that is now being made for the amelioration of the depressed classes should not be exclusively confined to Madras. I know, Sir, that the Honourable Member in charge does not intend doing so; but the remarks of the Hon'ble Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar leave the impression that if anything has to be done it is only for the city of Madras. I do not say he said so but he never mentioned the existence of these conditions in the mufassal. While I cordially agree with him that the conditions . . . . ."

Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar (*interrupting*):—"I was dealing with the report of the administration of the Labour Commissioner which mentioned all these various cheris on which attention is being given. So it is in connexion with that report that I made reference to these cheris."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar:—"May I say, Sir, we are looking into that also and as I said there is provision and these cheris also will share along with those in the districts?"

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu (*continuing*):—"Sir, with some experience of the distribution of funds by the Government I can say that

whenever there is work to be started or some funds to be distributed for purpose such as this Madras always receives preferential treatment. I protest against the tendency on behalf of all the districts and so far as this Council is concerned we who come from the mufassal would try to secure equitable distribution of funds If there is to be a child-welfare scheme, the first steps should be in Madras if there is to be a scheme for the improvement of milk supply funds must be devoted for that purpose in Madras. Again if there is a question of improvemen of the condition of the depressed classes my honourable friends are very eloquen over things being done here as if Madras is the only place to be considered. I should like to point out that in the distribution of funds—whatever funds are available for the purpose—we must try to equalize and to distribute them fairly to all the districts and this aspect of the case I will ask my Honourable friend Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar to bear in mind in making proposals of this nature I know that Madras has been very generously treated in the matter of water supply and drainage schemes, whereas many mufassal towns are starving for want of funds. Therefore if we are to act fairly in this Council in the distribution of funds, I would ask my friends who represent Madras to understand that we cannot allow an undue proportion of the funds to be diverted into their hands."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, I am one of those who have drawn the attention of the Government to the pitiable plight in which the members of the depressed classes were living in Madras. I asked the Government whether they will be good enough to allot the money required by the Municipal Corporation of Madras and take any steps to acquire sites in which the depressed classes are now living in Madras. For that I received the answer that the Corporation might raise a loan in the open market. The Corporation has already tried to do so and the Government should be aware that their attempts were not successful. The Government know that several memorials have been received from the people living in the cheris and that their grievances are real and need urgent attention. Still the Government in answer to my question could say nothing more than that the Commissioner of Labour has been directed to take the necessary steps for acquisition. But where is the proof that the Government will do anything useful and that quickly in the matter ? It will take perhaps years before anything is initiated. I ask, therefore, along with the Honourable Mover of the resolution that some amount be earmarked for this purpose, as a proof of the intention of the Government to do something good for these people. I think, therefore, it is eminently desirable that the Government should set apart some amount for the acquisition of the sites on which the people of the depressed classes are living in Madras."

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—" Mr. President, Sir, I am very sorry to oppose the resolution which has been tabled with good intentions. It is said that the money spent on the establishment is much more than the money that is set apart for the amelioration of these backward classes. The Panchama, Sir, is indeed in need of much help. But I believe he is more in need of moral support. I know there are places where the Panchamas have money enough to acquire land for building houses ; but nobody is forthcoming to give them the land. I welcome this labour department because of the moral support which it will give to the Panchama. This department will set free the Panchama from his slave mentality."

Mr. M. C. RAJA :—" Mr. President, Sir, I am sure that the House would like to have my view on the subject. Before I proceed to say anything, I wish to make my position very very clear. In the year 1919 when the Government

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started this department with Mr Paddison as the protector of the interests of the depressed classes they never anticipated, I believe, that he would be given the additional work of labour, emigration, factories, etc. . . . ."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR (*interrupting*):—"It was Mr. Paddison who suggested the addition of these activities before he was confirmed as the Labour Commissioner."

Mr. M. C. RAJA (*continuing*):—"That may be, Sir. But I said, that at the time when Mr. Paddison was appointed, the Madras Government probably did not anticipate all these. Mr. Paddison may have suggested to the Government to add all these activities. Just as Mr. Paddison was getting a view of the problem which he had to solve in the interests of the depressed classes, multifarious duties were imposed on him; so much so the attention that he bestowed on his duties as protector of the depressed classes was necessarily limited. It speaks volumes for Mr. Paddison's interest in the depressed classes that in spite of calls upon his time from labour and from criminal settlements he was able to do some reconnoitering work on behalf of the community. But I may observe that as time went on the Labour Commissioner did more and more extraneous work and the protector of the depressed classes sank into insignificance. I have before this asked in this very Council that the Labour Commissioner should be separated from the depressed classes work. If that is done there is no need for such a large staff as we now have in the Victoria buildings. But, Sir, I should like to say that unless there is a separate department to look after our interests, our interests will not progress. Therefore, Sir, as the Hon'ble the Law Member has pointed out, a separate agency is quite essential. For we have enough work for a whole-timed officer with a small staff devoted to our purposes. Last year only a portion of the money that was allotted to the depressed classes was actually spent. And there were so many and incessant calls for relief of various kinds. This shows that in spite of a large staff at his disposal the Labour Commissioner devoted very little attention to the depressed classes. In this connexion I should like to suggest that in appointing officers to look after the work of the depressed classes, persons with real sympathy and sincerity should be chosen. I say this for I have been receiving lots of complaints against the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Chingleput, and these reports have been forwarded to the Commissioner of Labour. I believe Mr. Moir, who is taking a genuine interest in the amelioration of the depressed classes will look into this. He is unable to spare time whenever he is called to see the cheris, as he has to look into the matter and settle the labour disputes. As regards house-sites I can assure my Hon'ble friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao that very little work has been done in Madras by this department towards the amelioration of the depressed classes and he need not be afraid that the Labour Commissioner has spent all his money for the welfare of the depressed classes in Madras. As a matter of fact the Labour department started work for the amelioration of the depressed classes not in Madras but in the Tanjore district and there the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Mr. Arulanandam, has been doing splendid work. Here I should like to thank him for the able work he has been doing to improve the condition of the people. Coming to Madras, Sir, the Assistant Commissioner Mr. Sundaracharlu has been of great help to the community. Mr. Sundaracharlu has never stinted time or energy, whenever his services were wanted; he was always at our disposal and he has done the best work for the people. And Mr. Moir has been a most sympathetic Commissioner and he has been often accompanied by me to see the deplorable, the miserable, the most disgraceful condition of the site of the cheris of Madras."

3-15 p.m.

Mr. T. C. TANGAVELU PILLAI:—"Mr. President, the motion before the House is for the reduction of the total grant for the Commissioner of Labour by one lakh. The question before the House is whether this amount can be easily adjusted by such a reduction. Turning to budget, page 182, you will see that last year we had only a Commissioner, a Deputy Commissioner and two Personal Assistants. Now we find six new Assistant Commissioners appointed, one on Rs. 900, three on Rs. 550, one on Rs. 420 and one on Rs. 300. These new appointments are found not to be necessary. The whole scheme now is new and we want more money for this. But to my honourable friends on the opposite benches who are always for retrenchment I say that this is a place where we can find a way for retrenchment. Now, instead of a Commissioner of Labour being given both the functions of Commissioner of Labour and also Protector of Depressed Classes, I would suggest, as pointed out by the last speaker, Mr. M. C. Raja, that these two functions should be separated. As regards the Commissioner of Labour, if he is also asked to take up the work connected with the depressed classes, he cannot find proper time and cannot devote proper thought for it. I have personal experience of their grievances, because reference was made to the Commissioner of Labour regarding the Panchamas in the Nannimangalam village in the Lalgudi taluk where the Panchamas were not allowed to come out even for a pot of water, and this was brought to the notice of the Commissioner of Labour and to the Collector, but nothing was done.

"Now, turning to the provision of Rs. 1,50,000 for the depressed classes, I want to know how much of this amount is meant for education. Education being a transferred subject . . ."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR (*interrupting*):—"No portion of this is intended for education. There is a special provision of a lakh of rupees specially for Panchama education, under the budget head 'Education'."

Mr. T. C. TANGAVELU PILLAI (*continuing*):—"As the Honourable Member has pointed out that a lakh of rupees is provided for Panchama education, why not that be entrusted with the Minister in charge of Education?"

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR (*interrupting*):—"It is in the Educational budget."

Mr. T. C. TANGAVELU PILLAI (*continuing*):—"Then coming to the other establishment, the number of appointments of tahsildars and deputy tahsildars can very well be reduced from five to three and of the revenue inspectors twenty men can be easily done away with, and thus we can save a lakh of rupees over the department."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR:—"Mr. President, the Honourable Member who has preceded me attributed to us a desire to bring about retrenchment. I think he is perfectly right in that, and I propose, notwithstanding that this is a motion for retrenchment, to oppose this, and my reasons are these. In the discussion that has been made so far on this resolution you will have noticed that the desirability of separating the function of the Commissioner of Labour from the Protector of the Depressed Classes has been much discussed. Now, Sir, it looks to me that Mr. Paddison was very well advised in having asked that these other departments which were put under his control on his request should be so done. Rightly or wrongly, Sir, there is this fact that the conditions and the circumstances of the depressed classes have largely to be taken into consideration in discussing questions of labour, and to them fortunately the principle of the dignity of labour need not be preached. There are, therefore, a number of

points in which questions relating to labour will also relate to the condition of the depressed classes and it is therefore desirable that the directing head is the same so that he may co-ordinate what might be required in the interest of one department with what might be required in the interest of the other department. The objection that so far has been taken to having the same officer to do both the functions is that he finds that his hands are too full of work to be able to do the work satisfactorily. I take it, Sir, that the grant which it is now sought to be reduced is intended for the purpose of mainly meeting this difficulty. You will have noticed the large disproportion there is between the amount of the revised estimate for this year and the budget estimate for the year to come and that is for the purpose of supplying the Commissioner of Labour with extra hands and extra staff so that he might be able to discharge the various onerous duties that devolve upon him. The objection, therefore, that hitherto the work of department has not been found satisfactory is more a ground for allowing the grant than for reducing it. I think, Sir, that now when we have not had sufficient experience of the working of this Labour department, when it has not been given a fair trial so that we might be confident in the conclusions that we might arrive at from its work, much the better course is to trust the department and vote the grant that has been asked for and see what it is they are able to effect, when fortunately, in this particular, there is absolutely no difference of opinion as to the end that is to be reached, whether we belong to the party which is supposed to be identified with the Government or what is called the opposition. In these circumstances, Sir, I think the Honourable Member will be well advised having drawn attention to what he considers to be the difficulties in the situation, in withdrawing this resolution. I do not think that the Government or those who are responsible for this department of work have had enough of time to either consolidate their experience or to indicate the directions in which the funds could be more usefully used than in the directions that have been suggested. We recognize that the grant which is a lump provision for the use of the depressed classes is somewhat less than what is to go for the establishment. But when you start a business, when you start a department, it is ordinary experience that it is the establishment that eats more than what the legitimate work of the department might cost. And after all, if experience shows that a larger amount is needed I have not the slightest doubt that the Government will make no hesitation in applying for such additional grants nor have I any the slightest doubt that this House will only be willing to make that grant. In these circumstances, Sir, I do not think that this is an objection why this grant should not be voted."

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI:—"Sir, I want to say a few words about the principle underlying the policy adopted in this respect. There is no question about the allotment made. The work for which it is intended is also good, and the grievances of the depressed classes are admitted, and the sooner they are redressed the better. Last year, the provision made under this head was only Rs. 88,000, and now it is increased to Rs. 4,08,300. That means 200 per cent larger. The money provided for the work that is required to be done is put down at Rs. 1,50,000, and all the rest goes to cover the cost of the establishment which is twice as much. There must be strong reasons for increasing the grant by 200 per cent, and the main portion of it is expended on establishment and not on the work for which it is intended. The Member in charge will, I hope, be able to explain it."

Rao Bahadur T. NAMBERUMAL CHETTI:—"I rise to oppose the motion, Sir. The department is in its infancy and unless there is an organizer no details

can be settled and no policy can be formulated, and for the person who has to exercise control over the depressed classes of the whole Presidency such an establishment as recommended and provided for seems to be absolutely necessary. Finally I may say that there can be no Construction without Direction. Therefore, Direction must be first provided for."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"I take it to be, Sir, to elicit rather to inform the Council of the prevailing opinion as regards Labour department. Of course, I have known Mr. Paddison for a long time and I have very great admiration for him almost amounting to personal affection from my connexion with him in the Forest Committee, and I have known Mr. Moir and he is such a sympathetic and able officer. But I have reasons to believe that recently this Labour department has lost the confidence of the public. Of course, it is in charge of the criminal settlement and in charge of many other useful departments and it is also supposed to settle the differences between the labourers and the employers in the City of Madras. But, somehow or other, the performance of this department, from what we the outside public know of it, and I do not know whom to blame, has not been very commendable. There have been strikes and we used to see the Labour department not very active in settling the differences. Somehow or other, I fear, rightly or wrongly, some of these unions and some of these people who have gone on strike and who wanted to get some kind of redress have not fared well and I am afraid that the Government has been indifferent in the matter. At the same time, I am afraid that the Labour department has not taken proper care to step in in time and stop the thing. I am giving expression to a feeling which is more or less universally held in Madras that the Labour department has been sleeping over these occurrences and has not done properly on the side of the poor people. No doubt, I am fully aware of the indiscretions committed by some of the leaders connected with the labour movement. At the same time, I must say that the Government might have been more liberal and the Labour department more sympathetic in dealing with this question. Of course several questions have arisen on account of the misunderstanding between the labourers and the employers. My friend, Mr. Devadas, gave notice of a resolution, but that was withdrawn because some of the cases are *sub judice*. If this department which is very highly paid is to be of any use to the public, I think I may reasonably state that an Indian should be put in charge of this department. With all their ability, with all their interest and with all their sympathy, I am afraid the men who are now at the top of the department cannot enter into the feeling of the poorer classes of the people. And I appeal to the Member in charge not to depend on the idea that the department as such is going on well at present, but to see that the department is more useful and more trusted by the people. With these few words, I do not say I either support or oppose the motion."

3-30 p.m.

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I feel bound to support the motion for reduction. I do not agree with all the reasons that have been put forward in supporting it. I certainly feel that very little has been done by this separate department, as regards either the settlement of labour disputes or the amelioration of the condition of the labouring classes. So far as the depressed class work is concerned, I do admit that something has been done by this department. It ought to be made as a small department charged only with the protection of the labouring classes and the depressed classes. It ought not to have other functions like criminal settlement, emigration and other things which are at present dealt with by it. So far as the work of education and co-operation amongst depressed classes is concerned, they may very well be administered by the respective

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departments of education and co-operation. When we want money for very many purposes, I should certainly think that this department ought to be kept on the minimum basis. For these reasons and especially to draw the attention of the House to the feeling which I share with Mr. Kesava Pillai, viz., that we have not received as great a benefit as we expected from this department, I felt bound to bring in a motion on this subject. At the same time I do not agree with the view that the protection of the depressed classes is the monopoly of any section of the community; nor do I agree with the view that any one section is not as keen as any other section in depressed classes work; nor do I agree with the view that the condition of the depressed classes is the same as it was years ago. The attitude of the general community towards the depressed classes is nothing like what it used to be before. I was listening to what my friend Mr. S. Somasundaram Pillai was saying. What he said might be true in the days when it occurred. That charge is no longer true. It may even now happen anywhere in exceptional cases. There is no use imagining that all sections of the community do not co-operate for the purpose of the betterment of the depressed classes. In fact, as far as my experience goes—and I have had some experience in this line of work—I can say that everybody and every section of the community vies with one another for the purpose of looking after the welfare of the depressed classes. The trouble is not that so much money is sought to be spent. The trouble is that more money is not spent. This department should not be run with establishment costing Rupees 2,58,000 for the purpose of administering the magnificent sum of Rs. 1,50,000. In administering criminal settlement work the department can only operate as a post office, because the whole correspondence has to go back to the Collector. Then I think the best way in which this department can really do its work is by allowing the Collectors to take care of the depressed classes of their districts. So far as Madras is concerned, the labour problem is so difficult and the depressed class problem so complicated that there ought to be a Commissioner of Labour on a reduced salary who ought to engage himself completely in that work. So far as the mufassal is concerned, it ought to be left to the Collectors of the districts."

Diwan Bahadur R. Venkataratnam Nayudu:—"Mr. President, Sir, having been a teacher all my days, I am rather new to the ways and methods of the Legislative Council, and trust I will not violate any of the formalities that are considered to be essential here. This morning when this subject of labour was brought up for consideration, I was not at all aware that the whole question of the depressed classes was going to be squeezed in. Perhaps, those who have introduced the subject are right, and I was wrong in my own ignorance. Now, Sir, with your permission and with the permission of the House, I shall submit just a few observations for their kind consideration. So far as I can gather from the speeches on this subject, there are four or five points that seem to demand attention. Exception, for instance, has been taken to the fact that the budget for this department, if I may use a somewhat homely but none the less, I believe, effective simile, seems to be a tadpole budget. The complaint seems to be that the head is out of all proportion to the body. I believe, Sir, there is some justification in that complaint; and I hope that the Hon'ble the Member in charge will be pleased to devote his best attention to this representation.

"Secondly, Sir, it has been pointed out that in making appointments to these departments, one vital principle should be borne in mind. This is, as an aged and experienced member of this Council remarked the other day, a country of communities and classes; and in making appointments to departments like co-operation or labour or agriculture, in my humble opinion, attention should be given to

the fact that between those who work the department and those for whose benefit the department is worked, there should not be a wide social gulf. In other words, between those that are benefited by the intentions of the Government and those who carry out those intentions, there must be a close relationship ; if I may use again a figure, they must be members of the same household, at any rate, members of the next door.

"Another question, Sir, that seems to demand attention is this. We are warned not to minimise the difficulties. Certainly that is wise counsel. But in actual life it so happens, Sir, that these fears, lest we should lose sight of these difficulties, come to magnify the difficulties ; and we steal away when we ought to be firm. And here as a schoolmaster I am reminded about the nettle. We are told that if we handle the nettle only in a trembling manner it pricks us to our pain. But if we handle it firmly as men of mettle, it shall 'soft as silk remain.' It is this firm handling of the situation that is very often required.

"Again, Sir, we have been told that the local bodies have everywhere been generous in their treatment of the depressed classes. I dare say this is the general rule ; but there are also unfortunate exceptions. And the district from which I come is, I believe, an exception of that kind. Only three months back a resolution was passed by our District Board to the effect that it would be against public interest, and that it would perhaps be placing a premium upon non-co-operation, if permission was granted to the members of the depressed classes to enter the general schools maintained by that Board. Sir, in that connexion another Honourable Member has said that no opportunity was ever missed to make liberal grants for the opening of schools for the benefit of the depressed classes. We are thankful for all that. But there is one principle that ought to underlie these educational activities for the benefit of the depressed classes, to which I very respectfully draw the attention of the House. I believe, the day of the redemption of the depressed classes will be almost indefinitely postponed if the present system of establishing separate schools for the depressed classes apart from the general schools should be continued. What I feel, Sir, as essential to the amelioration of this community is to give its members absolute freedom, to enforce the rights in the matter of obtaining admission into the general schools. It may be there will be troubles, it may be that some schools will have to be closed down. Let them go for a while. What we have observed in the neighbouring State of Mysore will come to pass here. Eventually, if not the good sense, at least the personal interest of others, will prevail ; and these schools will once again be opened and become popular.

"I have another point, Sir, to which I very respectfully invite the attention of this House. Everywhere there is a demand, it is said, for the amelioration of the condition of these classes on the part of all communities. I believe it is true, if we take into account only individual members of a community ; but viewing in the aggregate, there are certain communities which are yet very far backward as compared with the other communities, in their eagerness to further the interests of the depressed classes. These are the few observations, Sir, which I venture to offer."

Diwan Bahadur D. Seshagiri Rao Pantulu :—"Mr. President, Sir, I did not at all want to speak on this matter, and I would not have got up but for the remarks made by Mr. Venkataratnam Nayudu that the district from which he comes is an exception to the rule that the depressed classes are liberally treated. I am afraid that this remark is due to the fact that he is not connected with the local boards there, and secondly to the fact that he has never taken the trouble of moving about the district in which he lives. I think I may say, without contradiction, that our Board has done very much for the amelioration of the condition of these classes."

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Diwan Bahadur R. VENKATARATNAM NAYUDU (*interrupting*) :—" May I, Sir, submit whatever may be the benevolent work done by that Board in other directions, as regards the particular point to which I made reference, I have almost quoted the very words of the resolution expressing the intentions of that Board ? "

Diwan Bahadur D. SESHAGIRI RAO PANTULU (*continuing*) :—" I say we have done everything for the amelioration of these Panchamas. If my honourable friend only takes into consideration the amount of money which we have spent for water-supply for these Panchamas, if my honourable friend would only consult the Assistant Commissioner in charge of this work as to what additional grants we have made voluntarily for their amelioraton, if my honourable friend would only consult statistics as to the improvement that has been made in their condition, I submit he will see his way to reconnder his remark With regard to the education of Panchamas, there is a very honest difference of opinion as to what should be done for improving their education. Some think that the Panchamas should be allowed into the schools resorted to by other caste Hindus. Of course my greatest wonder is that it is not the Brahmans who object to it, but it is the high class Kapus and Kammas. In my tours in the district when certain Kapus and Kammas very strongly objected to their admission, I remarked ' why should the Kapus and Kammas object when the Brahmans are agreeable to their admission '; and the retort which these Kapus made was, ' The Brahmans are ready to do anything but we Kapus do not condescend to admit these people into our midst. Under these conditions and taking into consideration that these Panchamas are' in the employ of the Kapus and are dependent on them for their livelihood we have naturally come to the conclusion that in the interests of the Panchamas themselves it would be better to have separate schools—separate elementary schools—in their villages, so that by the time they came up to the secondary stage there might be no objection to their being admitted into secondary schools. That is all we have done and we have done so not from a spirit of exclusiveness or Brahman jealousy but with a view to their own benefit and to their own improvement."

3-45 p.m.

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS :—" My object in intervening at this stage in the debate is for the purpose of drawing the attention of the House to the fact that more money should be spent by the department itself, that is, not upon the appointment of officers but upon the real object with which the department has been created. The rules of the House do not permit us to ask the House to increase the amount. We can only do this by drawing the attention of the Government and the House to the fact that this administration is top-heavy. If we want more money to achieve our real object, I ask that the reduction asked for, namely, one lakh of rupees, be passed with the request to the Government that the amount be reappropriated for the purpose of being spent for the real benefit of the depressed classes. That is the object with which I rise to support this motion."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Mr. President, an Honourable Member said that I supported my department with some warmth. I do confess that I did not know it. I was only feeling the warmth of the atmosphere. But if any justification was required for this department, Mr. Raja by his personal experience has given that justification. A complaint has been made that the expenditure over this department was top-heavy. I want the members of this House to analyse the figures of the budget for a minute. The six Assistant Commissioners are picked officers, who have been picked on account of their sympathy, their ability and their optimism in carrying on the work which is taking place in the districts. I may say, Sir, to quote the words of the Labour Commissioner ' that it is essential that the special character of the work of the

Assistant Commissioners should be recognized. It requires great perseverance, tact and personal sympathy on the part of the officers selected' It is on that footing that we have been selecting our officers. One of the persons selected has done exceedingly good work, elsewhere. We wanted to secure his services as we are undertaking this work newly in Guntūr. The other officers have been for some time in our service, have learnt the work, and known the ways of the classes among whom they have to work. Somebody remarked that some of the tahsildars and some of the revenue inspectors may do the work, thus knocking out a few of the clerks and reducing the top-heaviness, by reducing the number of peons. All this is not for the establishment at the head office. It is for the purpose of carrying on the work in the districts. The nature of it I dilated upon some time ago in connexion with some other motion in the discussion. So far as Madras is concerned, we have two Personal Assistants and I have the pleasure of having the testimony of Mr. Raja as regards the energy displayed by one of them and who practically does the work of Assistant Labour Commissioner in Madras. The other gentleman is for the purpose of going out to other districts where we are not starting operations immediately, but where there may be cases to which attention has to be given. One instance to which my attention was drawn in this House related to an incident which is said to have occurred in Trichinopoly. We are investigating into that matter. The Collector has been asked to make a report. As soon as we find there is a case with regard to that, one of the Personal Assistants will go there for the purpose of taking the necessary proceedings for the acquisition, and this 1·50 lakhs of rupees would be utilized for that purpose also. If, for instance, in the course of our operations, we find that the money which is provided for for any of these purposes is not sufficient, I assure the House (I hope they will be generous) I will ask for more money.

"I shall not go through every one of the arguments that has been advanced. Mr. Raja wanted to have practically the whole of this department for the purpose of work among the depressed classes. One member says: 'let us have a small establishment.' As I pointed out, the bulk of the expenditure is incurred in the districts for the purpose of ameliorating the conditions of the Panchama population in those districts. We have started work in districts where there are the largest number of such population. So far as the head office is concerned, there is no doubt the Labour Commissioner is doing the very considerable quantity of work thrown upon him, including the supervision of criminal settlements. One Honourable Member said that it ought to be the function of the District Magistrate. We want to investigate the position and co-ordinate the work of all the officers, and we want an officer to visit the settlements and to bring them into some organization. And we wanted to have special supervision over all these settlements which individual Collectors may not be able to do. That, I submit, is the justification for the establishment we want. As was pointed out by Mr. Raja, what we want at present is direction and organization."

Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar:—"By way of reply I again wish to emphasize what I said at the beginning, namely, I do not really want the Labour department, which is intended for the benefit of the labourers and depressed classes, should be deprived of the proper amount of money. But as I cannot in this House move a resolution to transfer some portion of the money intended for the establishment for the actual needs of the labourers, I can only ask for retrenchment, so that when that money is released it can be added to the 150 thousand rupees which is properly appropriated for their benefit. It is with that object I am asking this House to support my motion

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"My friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao referred to the fact that I was only thinking of Madras. I was not thinking only of Madras. I was dealing with the various problems referred to by the Labour Commissioner in his administration report and I only mentioned them by way of illustrating the very proper objects for which that money should be released by reducing the establishment and not for claiming that all should be given to Madras. Some of the Honourable Members said that it is the duty of the Corporation to do work of this nature. The whole of last year, the Corporation was considering how to do these things. Government asked the Corporation what loans they required for carrying on the various works. The Corporation wanted 19 lakhs, of which 10 lakhs had been promised to them already. They then forwarded a resolution to the Government. Government turned round and said, 'we are sorry we cannot assist you; you will raise the money in the money market.' The Corporation said: 'we have attempted to raise a loan of 5 lakhs at 6 per cent but without success.' In this state of things, to spend all the money that is available for organizing officers who will look into the condition of the depressed classes instead of diverting it for the benefit of the people, is, I think, an improper thing. One of my friends from Gōdāvari referred to the conditions there. Apparently it seems to be a peculiar district, where amongst all people the non-Brahman alone is considered not entitled to butter-milk and milk and he in his turn considers that the Panchama should not sit alongside of him in school. Leaving all the eccentricities of the district, there should be a fair distribution of money available for the purpose of the depressed classes in all the other districts."

The motion was put to the vote and carried, 51 voting *for* and 19 *against*.

The following motions standing in the name of Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar, not having been made, were deemed to have been withdrawn:—

'11. *That the grant of Rs.* 3,48,550 (*Commissioner of Labour under* 37-*C be reduced by a sum of Rs.* 75,000 (*Budget page* 182.)'

'12. *That the grant of Rs* 3,48,550 (*Commissioner of Labour* (*under* 37-*C. be reduced by a sum of Rs.* 1,98,550 (*Budget page* 182).'

Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai:—"The motion standing in my name is as follows:—

'13. *That Rs.* 33,000 *being the recurring monthly grant to missions* (2,750) *under settlement at Kavali, Nellore district, be omitted* (*Budget page* 184).'

"I asked for an explanation the other day. On page 183 it is stated 'Settlement at Kavali Rs. 33,470.' The Honourable Member asked me to refer to the other side and it is stated there 'Recurring monthly grant 2,750' and so on. I asked that the sum of Rs. 33,000 be omitted. But from the answer given to one of my interpellations, I find it was given to an American Baptist Mission. I draw the attention of the Government and also the attention of the Honourable Member in charge of the department to the state of things in which the Settlement at Kavali, as disclosed by the papers published by the Government itself. The Honourable Member was kind enough to furnish me with a copy of the report of the management as well as of the Magistrate. And so far as the remarks of the Labour Commissioner are concerned, it seems to be very encouraging. I would draw the attention of the House to the report where they state there are three settlements, and the origin of these is given in this report. The original figure of 100 of criminals at Kavali has grown to 160 and at Vellore from 480 to a total of 920. They have lost, the report says, about 200 persons and another 200 are intending to run away. This settlement is administered under the Criminal

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Tribes Act. Money is given to a Mission body to keep these people, to take work from them, and give them wages, and—I would not say, convert them—to give them a moral tuition. The administration report of the management tells us that the members of the staff, except one head constable, are Christian men and women, and that many of them are earnestly striving by work and example to lead these people to a knowledge of their truth. The work of the settlement would be impossible without a great deal of co-operation of the staff. The object is to reclaim them. But so far as I can see; there has been very little reclamation in this settlement, because we find a continuous stream of people running away from the settlement and they are being punished by the Magistrate. The manager of the settlement has got the power of placing them in jail. They are put into the prison house. If the Honourable Member says 'No', I should like to have some more information if possible. You will find in this report, Sir, that the magisstrates, before whom second and third offenders were brought, accepted their excuse too often and failed to administer preventive punishment with the result that others were led to run away in expectation of a like leniency in their own cases. It does not refer to the first punishment at all. My information was that the manager in charge of the settlement, as I find at the reformatory, has got the power to punish the people."

4 p.m.

The Hon'ble Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar (*interrupting*) :—" Sir, I do not think he is right because we send these people for punishment before the Magistrate. Sometimes they are detained before they are sent to the Magistrate."

Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai (*continuing*) :—"I accept the statement from the Honourable Member, Sir. The difficulty is, as a consequence, it would appear that these are not improving in any way. It is stated that no Police officer below the Deputy Superintendent is permitted by the manager to enter any of the settlements without being accompanied by the manager or his representative. Why? He suspects that the Police officers may enter into negotiations with any of the men to commit depredations elsewhere. It is stated in the report that the work is hard and that the members of the staff have been chosen with as much care as possible to secure faithful and honest men who may have to reclaim these criminals. The report says further: 'The work is hard and requires constant association with thieves and there have been cases where they have given way to temptation.' You will also find it stated that the management suspect the Police and the Police suspect the maistri. There are passages which would be very interesting for the House to hear. Before I go to them, one other main cause why these people run away may be mentioned. It is Paul's dictum, which is quoted with so much approbation in this report. And that dictum is, 'If any will not work, neither let him eat', and 'this has been the motto of the settlement from the beginning since it is our profound belief that habits of industry are essential for the reformation of the habitual thief and therefore the title of the settlement.' I would also draw attention to paragraph 6 of the District Magistrate's letter, page 24. He says 'the non-official visitors also make remarks on the insufficiency of the wages earned at the settlement.' No one, who compares other rates with the wages paid in the settlement, can avoid being surprised at the low wages that have been earned at the settlement. It is doubtless their own fault, as the manager reports, but the question which we visitors often ask ourselves is 'how an adult man or woman can exist on 6 or 7 annas a week.' That is exactly the complaint, I heard also from some people in jail at Vellore who were convicted for running away from this settlement. They said: 'How can you expect us to live on 6 or 7 annas a week? So we are running away, leaving our wives and

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children. Then we are convicted and sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment which we suffer; and we are sent back to the same settlement'. They were further telling me that Mr. Bawden was a very good officer and a very good missionary gentleman and it was the maistries that were doing all the mischief complained of. Whatever it is, the District Magistrate has no doubt about it. He seems to think that the settlers who earn this amount are obviously not starving. For he says, 'they are well fed and the vital statistics table shows that the death-rate among the settlers is much lower than that of the outside population. I am sure that they do not eat too little but I am sure also that they must supplement their wages.' That is the way reclamation goes on!

"Then the non-official visitors complain of the maistris being Christians, and suggest that they are not above suspicion. The Police are also of the same opinion. Mr. Bawden objects to any insinuations against his maistris and considers that it is very regrettable that such statements should be made without definite facts being given to justify them. At the same time Mr. Bawden makes similar statements about the subordinate police to which the District Superintendent of Police objects. In paragraph 3 of his report, the manager remarks that 'it is part of the policy of the Government, that so far as possible the subordinate police should have nothing to do with members of the settlement, since too often there has been association with the thieves in the disposal of the stolen property.' I make a present of it to the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson, who is in charge of the Police department! I have asked Mr. Bawden for specific instances but he has not given me any. 'My own belief', continues the District Magistrate of Nellore, 'is that both the subordinate police and the maistris are likely to be tempted to assist in the disposal of stolen property'".

The Hon'ble Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar:—"Mr. President, it afforded me some amusing reading to go through the file while my honourable friend was making his speech. If he will try his hand at reclamation on persons of this sort, he would find what amount of difficulty he is likely to meet with. The question is not one of details, for I am not personally acquainted with details, though I dare say I shall rectify the mistakes as soon as possible. The question is whether the person who is now in management is doing it on proper lines; that in certain instances he has not been able to reclaim the lot is not a matter which goes against the soundness of his administration or the sympathy of the administrator. I want to draw attention to one or two passages as to the general lines on which this work is being conducted. I am reading now not from Mr. Bawden's report but from the report of the non-official visitors to this settlement. The report of the non-official visitors starts with this: 'We visited the settlement in company with Mr. Bawden and also made independent enquiries about the condition of settlers. We appreciate the earnestness and enthusiasm with which Rev. Mr. Bawden and his assistant have been managing the affairs of this settlement.' In another place where they note that some of these settlers do not have sufficient wages, they themselves point to the cause of it as follows: 'In some cases the settlers who have been accustomed to live by thefts and burglaries find it difficult to adapt themselves to a new condition of things and earn their livelihood by honest labour'. They also proceed further to say that sufficient work, sufficiently interesting work, is not found for all these persons. After all we are limited by conditions of the settlers, the conditions of work which is available near by and we have to recognize our limitations in regard to other matters. Then Sir, there is the opinion of the District Magistrate, to which I want to draw attention. 'No doubt there may be trouble between the subordinate police and the subordinate officers of the settlement sometimes. That

could not in the very nature of things be helped.' This is what the District Magistrate says in paragraph 2; 'I was not in charge during a portion of the year but I have since camped for some days at Nellore and some days at Kavali. No inhabitants of these towns made any complaint whatever to me about this settlement in their memorials. This is good negative evidence that they are operating successfully.' It is the same District Magistrate who has made some remarks which were read by the mover. Finally he winds up by saying 'these settlements are, I should say, successful and the large sum of money the Government is spending on them is well employed, particularly the money that is spent on education and boarding of the children. Forty per cent of the settlers are children and they appear to be most admirably dealt with. We have got to depend on younger generation for reclamation and not on confirmed thieves.' Then, Sir, we have got the endorsement of Mr. Paddison. He says: 'I have inspected the settlement thoroughly and every one who sees it himself does appreciate strongly the strenuous and earnest labours of Mr. Bawden.'

"After all, we go by general ideas which people possess as to the way in which the settlement is conducted. Regarding details, I will bestow my anxious consideration and make correction, if possible. The Government Order says the same thing. I will add that my colleague Sir, Lionel Davidson, has inspected the Kavali settlement himself and has gone into the details of this matter as carefully as he can. Though he and others were not satisfied with the manner in which the accounts were kept, on which we are taking action, they found that nothing could be said substantially against the way in which the management is carried on. I do admit there are criticisms on details as on certain other matters but in due course, investigation will be made and the irregularities will be rectified. But you cannot expect the whole thing to adjust itself in a day or two, especially seeing the nature of the work in which we are embarking or have already embarked. So, I submit to the House that there is no point in asking for reduction of the grant which is made for the settlements. I want to appeal to this House to consider what the effect of accepting this resolution will be. Because we are not satisfied with some details of the management, is the settlement to be closed? That will be the result of your knocking out the Rs. 33,000 which we are spending. It is impossible again to reorganize this. It is impossible for the Government to take up action immediately, because there will be no budget provision. You will agree that the work must go on.

"One thing has been said as regards the Christian staff. They belong to the Baptist Mission and they are there as missionaries. So far as the Government is concerned, as was remarked by Mr. Bawden himself, if there is any agency which will come there to impart religious instruction to the Hindu population there, neither the Rev. Bawden nor anybody else would have any objection whatsoever. There is no good in complaining that this mission calls for prayers in the morning or evening. Apart from any question of sentiment, the Government have absolutely no objection, if any of our Hindu brethren will take over charge, so far as religious instruction is concerned, and Mr. Bawden agrees to that also. Treating the matter broadly in all its aspects, I would submit to the House that the mission has worked it successfully with a very irrefractory material and they have succeeded in the experiment, far beyond their expectations. If in any details they have failed, they will be corrected as soon as possible."

Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu:—"Sir, as one of the non-official visitors, whose report has been referred to by the Hon'ble the mover of the resolution and by the Hon'ble the Member for the Government, I think it is my duty to place certain views before this council. I

think the mover has done well in bringing up this resolution, if it be with the object of bringing to the notice of the Government certain defects in the existing system of management and with the object of suggesting improvements in the methods of management. If it is for the purpose of deleting the provision altogether, it will be difficult to subscribe to his view. Unless we find a suitable machinery for the purpose of taking up the management and the control of several of these prisoners of the criminal tribes, we cannot do away with it altogether. We the non-official visitors, myself and Mr. Adinarayana Reddi and another went to the settlement and had an idea as to the conditions under which they were living. Before we pronounce whether it is a failure or a success I think we will have to wait further. I do not think that the Hon'ble the Law Member should be gratified with the official reports which have been sent and come to a definite conclusion that it is a success leading to the reclamation of the prisoners who have settled there. But one thing I may say and that is that substantial good is being done to the children of the criminal tribes who are being educated. There are boarding houses provided there and these young children are having the benefit of education. How far the older criminals are being benefitted or whether they are being reclaimed, it is not possible for anyone to state. Rather one must feel doubtful before pronouncing his judgment, because several have absconded from it and several are undergoing imprisonment in jail. I know the manager of the settlement, who is a very hard taskmaster. He did not himself deny that he paid their wages according to certain strict standards and according to their wage-earning capacity. As was pointed out in the report itself, several could only earn about 6 or 7 annas a week, which is nothing but starvation wages. It is also clear that the wages allowed are much less than the rations allowed to prisoners in the jails. There are a fairly good number of persons who do not earn their proper wages. When they find that they cannot eke out their livelihood by the wages they earn and when they find that they are better fed in the jails, it is no wonder that they should try to abscond, so that they might eventually go to jail. That is the economic question which requires very careful consideration.

"The second point which struck us was this: it was a mission body and it made its own arrangements about the teaching of religion. The manager stated that there was no objection to any body of Hindus making the necessary arrangements for imparting Hindu religion. We put it to him whether it was possible to allow in the settlement an admixture of maistries and other persons belonging to other religions. He stated that there were difficulties in the way of carrying out these proposals. He also stated that he would not trust others in the settlement. The result is that it will not ordinarily be possible to make any satisfactory arrangements for the imparting of Hindu religion in the settlement. Another point which requires consideration is that unless these settlements are improved at a much greater cost and unless lands are given to them to show them a permanent means of livelihood, it is not possible to expect any definite improvement. I know something has been done in that direction and some lands have been reclaimed and some persons have been able to get some lands. But what has been done is very little compared with the large problem that lies before the Government. If these criminals are to be reclaimed, it will not do if they are put on some road work to earn some wages and it will not do if they are kept on such precarious means of livelihood. Their tendencies will not be altered, if they are not permanently trained in some industrial pursuit or if they are not given some lands permanently."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI:—"Sir, I rise to oppose the reduction of this grant. The question resolves itself into two heads. The first is whether there is

any necessity for a settlement of this sort and the second is what is the most economical method by which these settlements can be run. So far as the existence and the necessity of these settlements, I do not believe that the honourable mover would say that they are not necessary. Conceding the necessity of this establishment then, may I ask him how he would run this establishment in the most economical method? For the last few days, Sir, we have been having proposals for retrenchments and retrenchments alone, but to-day for running an establishment, a sum of Rs. 30,000 is opposed. Suppose the Government undertakes to run this establishment. What would it cost? I cannot positively say. Putting it at a very wide margin, I would say that it would at least cost as much as one lakh a year. If the Government are going to pay a lakh of rupees for running this establishment, Honourable Members will again get up and say what is the fun of this Government spending one lakh of rupees when money is wanting. The work has been criticised in one or two directions. The Hon'ble Mr. Krishna Rao has been saying that the manager has been asked to take in some Hindu maistries and that he found it impossible to do so. Sir, the management of this institution is given to a private man who is in charge of the whole thing, the success or failure would depend upon him. Persons whom he employs, he must be able to select and it is only such persons upon whom he can safely depend to carry out his instructions that he must choose. It is impossible for a man who has been entrusted with a work, if he really wants to carry it out with any amount of success, to take in outsiders whom he does not know and on whose work he does not place much reliance. To suggest that, Sir, I believe is quite inconsistent with the ordinary method of carrying on work.

"Then again, Sir, the question has been raised about the preaching of a particular religion. The Hon'ble the Law Member has been good enough to give an assurance from the Government and also from the manager of the institution that if there is any society, or if there is any organized body elsewhere willing to undertake the preaching of Hindu religion or the religion of these criminals that are settled there, the Government will not object to it, but, on the other hand, the Government will encourage it and also the manager will not object to it. But has the Honourable the mover or Mr. Krishna Rao or any one of these people been able to state that they have got an organized body who would go and teach Hindu religion or anything of that sort. Nothing has been stated of that stamp. Simply because the whole thing is entrusted to a Christian missionary who runs the machinery at a lot of self-sacrifice and for a pittance of Rs. 30,000 and odd which this Government is willing to give him, simply because that the agent is a Christian missionary, is it fair, Sir, in this democratic House to come forward and say that this amount ought not to be given? I put it to my honourable friends once more whether they are able to run this institution. These criminals have been here and the Government have been trying to reclaim them. Nothing has been done on the other side to reclaim these criminals and yet the cry is raised 'why do you waste these 30,000 rupees.' I retort the cry 'would these Honourable Members be prepared to spend one lakh of rupees for the same, would they be satisfied and would they be responsible to their electors and would they satisfy the tax-payer by now coming forward and saying the Government was willing to pay Rs. 30,000 and run the establishment but we as representatives of the people were willing to spend one lakh for the very same purpose? I believe, Sir, that is not a very sound policy to follow.'"

Mr. S. SOMASUNDARAM PILLAI:—"Objection was raised on the basis that the settlement is managed by a Christian body. I protest against this statement.

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What does it matter whether he is a Christian or a Muhammadan, whoever he is, he is bent upon doing good to humanity. My fear seems to be that these people may be converted to Christianity. I will be extremely glad if these people become Christians instead of being Hindus and criminals. There is no attempt on our part to organize societies to reclaim criminals to teach morality and religion among ourselves, like the missionaries. Why should we grudge that when they are undertaking to do these things? Of course, they believe that conversion is doing good to so many persons. They cannot help it. Everybody who has true faith in the religion must believe that conversion does ultimate good for the man to whom they teach Christianity. It is absent in the Hindu religion: we do not know which man belongs to which religion. We have amongst us atheists, agnostics; but it is not the case with their religion. They have got a systematic way of teaching their principles. When such is the case, I see no reason why these people should object to their teaching religion. I welcome more missionaries for the purpose of reclaiming criminal tribes to the right path. So I am not at one with the mover in this particular respect."

4-30 p.m.

Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai:—"I wanted to draw the attention of the House to the conditions of the settlement. Sir, as I have pointed out, I can quote many more passages. I stated already that Mr. Bawden is a very estimable Christian missionary and he seems to have done a good deal for young children also. Their school is good and I believe the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson has also referred to it in one of his reports. I wanted to point out 'you might under the Criminal Tribes Act try to protect societies, but you have not tried to treat these people as human beings.' That I want to point out to the Government. Many of our members are telling that the criminals are being reclaimed. So far as I can see, there have been attempts made by this mission to whom the public money is being given to reclaim the criminals. They have not succeeded. There are passages in which—I am afraid I may lose my time if I go on quoting passages—these failures are clearly shown. If wives are left and husbands run away, they, the wives and children, are driven to starvation. This is absolute cruelty which the Government should not be a party to. No doubt they say these criminals are paid for reclamation under the management of the mission. What they do is this: they employ them on contract work. They are given certain piecework to do. If they are not able to do this, it is stated they are fined. It is mentioned that one was fined 4 annas and another 1 anna for indifference or laziness. It is all very well; but taking into consideration the wage of 7 annas and 8 annas a week given to a man, do you expect him to do any work? Of course official people like ourselves, are given good travelling allowances for touring, and yet some of them prey upon the villages. Do you expect these poor fellows paid so low, not to run away? They were forced to leave their children and run away. I have come in contact with many of these people and have defended some of them who were unjustly charged. I have known that the family affection existing between husband and wife among them is as strong as among other classes of people, and yet they are obliged to leave their family and run away. Mr. Bawden wants to see that young men in the settlement might not contaminate such women. There are so many other instances. I would rather suggest that Government itself tries to reclaim them out of the money of the tax-payer rather than give money to a mission which is trying rather unsuccessfully to do so. According to their own admission, I make bold to say that Government money should be spent if necessary to reclaim these people and to keep them under proper management. Give them, as our friend says, living wages and not starve

them or hand them over to a mission body and then say 'they are ready to take them and reclaim them and so we shall give them the money'. The mass of the people would not like to have such a thing done. We want to reclaim them. Do what all you can for providing safeguards, but do not hand them over to a mission body. No doubt Mr. Bawden is very good. But the whole management is heartless. The district magistrate bears testimony to it. I am willing to wait for sometime, and go to the settlement myself, make a closer examination and bring the resolution again. For the present, I would withdraw the resolution."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—" Before the Honourable Member is allowed by you and by the House, Sir, to withdraw his motion I should like to say a few words. The Honourable Member has said that it was his intention to go to the settlement and visit it himself and then to bring another resolution on the subject. May I, Sir, through you suggest to him that before characterizing the work of Mr. Bawden as 'heartless' and 'cruel', it would have been wise if Mr. Kesava Pillai had gone to the settlement and seen a little personally what the work done there is. I have done that myself, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI (*interrupting*) :—" I am quoting from the report of the Honourable Member himself."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*continuing*) :—" The attributes used by Mr. Kesava Pillai are not there. I have seen the settlement myself. I have known Mr. Bawden and been in intimate touch with the management of the settlement for upwards of two years, and I venture to say that no one who knows him would call him heartless or cruel."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI (*interrupting*) :—" I do not do so, Sir. I said the management was heartless and cruel. I have never made any personal remark. I have said that Mr. Bawden is a very good man and the people in jails are also very good. I say nothing against him personally."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*continuing*) :—" The implication, I think, of Mr. Kesava Pillai's speech clearly was that while Mr. Bawden was good towards the children he was heartless and cruel towards the adults."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI (*interrupting*) :—" I said, Sir, that personally Mr. Bawden was very good. It is the maistries that are very cruel. I made the same statement before the Jails Commission."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*continuing*) :—" I am sorry to have been the cause of such repeated interruptions, Sir. I was merely speaking of the impressions left by Mr. Kesava Pillai's remarks. I may say here, Sir, that the issues raised in respect of this question are issues which have involved protracted controversy in the past. The notes of inspection of the visitors of the settlement including Mr. Krishna Rao have elicited from Mr. Bawden a detailed criticism extending over eight pages of small print. Now, in all that discussion there is much that is devoted to the question of the 'starvation' wage. Mr. Kesava Pillai and other speakers have assumed that 7 annas 6 pies a week is the general average wage. I should like, Sir, to point out that that is not the case at all. It is possible that it is all that individual adults in the settlement earn but it is certainly not the average wage. Undoubtedly, there is opportunity for those who work diligently to obtain a fair subsistence. I should like, Sir, with your leave, to read a very brief extract from Mr. Bawden's report on the subject of the class of people with whom he deals. And remember, Sir, that in these three settlements there are on the average something like 2,000 persons including a large number of people

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transferred from the settlement at Kalichedu without the request and rather against the will of Mr. Bawden. It is that inroad of refractory personages from Kalichedu which is one of the greatest defects of the settlement. That is a general proposition which I should like this House to bear in mind. This is what Mr. Bawden writes:—

"'It must be remembered that the people in the settlement at Kavali are all of them registered criminal tribes, that their mode of life before coming to the settlement was of theft and idleness, and that there are three items with regard to many of them that are true. First, they are unaccustomed to any work at all. Secondly, practically all of them are unskilled in any work that requires skill. Thirdly, very many of them are unwilling to work. I have been six years with these people and with the exception of a very few of them, there are none of them that I would engage, if I were an employer of labour, as an ordinary coolie.' That is a general statement about these people.

"Mr. Krishna Rao has admitted that this settlement is doing excellent work with regard to the children. Nobody who has seen the school in the management of Miss Bullard could possibly dispute that, for she is doing the most excellent work. I have been told by police officer after police officer that the reclamation of these criminal tribes, so far as the existing generation of adults is concerned, is almost beyond human power. The hope of reclamation to which we must look forward is in regard to the next generation, and I believe the work that is done in this direction at Kavali is beyond all praise.

"We have also been told, I think, by Mr. Krishna Rao that sufficient effort is not being made to settle the inmates of this colony on the land. As a non-official visitor of that settlement, he must be aware that Mr. Bawden's system is to send those men who have proved themselves to be *prima facie* satisfactory members of society, first of all, I think, to Bitragunta where they are given land to cultivate and a measure of independence, and afterwards if they make good, he sends them on to Allur where they enjoy more liberty. When I was at Bitragunta one of the subjects which engaged my special attention was the possibility of arranging with the Irrigation department of the Public Works Department for the draining of a large swamp there—a measure which I hope will find ample labour for these settlers—while ultimately the improved land will be handed over to them. I mention this, Sir, in order to make it clear that the question of settling the men on the land has not been neglected by Government but is a subject of constant attention. As to industrial pursuits, that is a far more difficult problem. If instead of referring to industrial pursuits in general terms, Mr. Krishna Rao, as a non-official visitor or as a member of this Council, could suggest any specific practical industry which could be pushed through with success in the settlement, no one would be more grateful than I or my honourable colleague or the managers of the settlement.

"I do not propose, Sir, to touch on the religious question. That is an issue, which, I may say, I have discussed on at least three occasions with Mr. Bawden. It is referred to at length in his rejoinder to the Committee's inspection notes printed in the paper of which a copy has been given to Mr. Kesava Pillai. I referred to the point in what I might describe, 'a dying bequest' to my successor in charge of the department of industrial settlements. This is what I wrote: 'With regard to the religious issue raised in these papers, I can only say that in my opinion Mr. Bawden has justified his policy and it would be a great mistake to risk losing his services by insistence upon any radical change. He has gone to the utmost limit, consistent with his own religious principles in offering to provide

facilities for instruction in the Hindu or Muhammadan religion, if particular settlers wish for it and Hindus or Muhammadans are willing to come forward with definite proposals, subject to his general supervision, for the conduct of special services and under conditions such as to ensure the same measure of discipline as his own arrangements in regard to the Christian religion entail.'

"Before I sit down, there is only one more word I wish to say and that is with regard to the particular issue of the insufficiency of wage. That is a matter to which in drafting the Government review I drew the particular attention of the Commissioner of Labour. There is no better way of ensuring thorough investigation of the question and I venture to think that this aspect is sufficiently dealt with, when I say that in December last I requested the Commissioner of Labour, when he next visited the settlement, to pay special attention to the alleged 'insufficiency of the wages earned by certain of the settlers, particularly, the District Magistrate's surmise that in such cases the wages earned must be supplemented from other and presumably illegitimate sources.'"

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—"Although I do not belong to Nellore I can say that I know the conditions of the Nellore district somewhat intimately. I know that before these settlements came into existence, the person and property in several parts of the Nellore district were very unsafe. The ryots of the district were constantly in dread of the criminal tribes and we used to hear of dacoities off and on. Apart from the fact that it is the duty of the State to reclaim the criminals, as a zamindar interested in the Nellore district I must say that these settlements have greatly minimized the depradations of the criminal tribes and that whoever stands between the criminal settlements and the Nellore people will be doing a great disservice to the district."

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI :—"I wish to say one word, Sir. After the speeches of my previous speakers, I think that the settlement is well conducted and the money well spent in a well directed charity, the expenditure incurred in this case being just as good as the money spent on the reformatory schools."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—"Since it has pleased the Hon'ble the Home Member to speak upon this resolution, even after Mr. Kesava Pillai, after trying to point out what he considered to be the defects in the settlement, had proposed to withdraw his resolution, and since I take it that the resolution is still under discussion I feel myself, compelled, Sir, on reading one portion of the report, to make the very few observations that I shall make now. As I understand, the object of Mr. Kesava Pillai was primarily to draw attention to the defects in the settlement and I do not think that the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson, in his reply, touched actually on the points to which he has drawn attention. But he has, if I may say so, Sir, made certain remarks which are irrelevant to the issue by pointing out the excellence of the arrangement. Now, Sir, we are not here to condemn the work of the settlement as a whole. But we are entitled to insist that if there are patent defects, defects that disfigure the management, that these defects shall be removed and the only means by which we can do that is by drawing attention to them and that can be done only by asking for the reduction or the deletion of the vote that is demanded by the Government. There is one aspect of this question which, I am afraid, has not been given the attention that it deserves.

"I find, Sir, from this report that it is not merely a criminal settlement that is asked to be managed, but that a Christian Mission is asked to manage it to which grants are made by us, so that facilities are directly given for the purpose of proselytising those who are in the settlement,

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facilities which are not equally granted to other religions on account of a certain difficulty that is said to exist in arranging for other persons than Christians to get in there who would have equal influence with the settlers. If Honourable Members will turn to page 10 of the Government Order relating to this question. . . ."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*interrupting*) :—" May I ask, Sir, what the Honourable Member is reading from, and whether it has been laid on the table ? "

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR (*continuing*) :—" I am now reading, Sir, from a copy which was accessible to the Hon'ble Mr. Kesava Pillai, a copy which, I take it, is accessible to every other member of this House, and which therefore I am entitled to quote from, and I am exceedingly sorry that on this question the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson should ask for a privilege to be maintained because on any information that I am giving to this House, the proper way to meet it is not by pleading such a privilege but by showing that the information is wrong."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*interrupting*) :—" I do not know how the Honourable Member can suggest that I am shutting out information from the House. I only wanted to know what the paper was that he was reading from."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR (*continuing*) :—" The Honourable Member knows the Government Order as well as I do."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*interrupting*) :—" I am sure that a copy of that document was not given to Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR (*continuing*) :—" As I have already said, I am now reading, Sir, from page 10 of the Government Order. The Honourable Member knows as well as myself what that Government Order is. It is not private information that has been given to me that I want to disclose to the House. I am only reading from a copy of the Government Order and that would go to show that proselytising is an active part of the work that this mission is doing, and I am sure that public money is not intended to help any particular mission, however laudable its general work might be, in its special work of proselytising persons. Now, Sir, that is a point which requires the consideration of this House and I simply put it to the Government, so that it might see that while it may be impossible for any particular mission to take up this work, except on the terms of being allowed to proselytise the settlers, whether some other method could not be devised whereby all religions could have an equal chance, and as a Hindu, I could not believe that it is only the Christian religion that is helpful to these persons. In these circumstances, Sir, particularly when you find that there is this mention made in connexion with the work of the mission, namely, that the people have begun to realize the benefit of this religion having been promised a life that is and that which is to come and it is a principle which, I venture to say, is not peculiar to any particular religion worth the name—I submit, Sir, that equal facilities should be thrown open to all religions and if these terms are not acceptable to this mission for carrying on the work, the management may be changed even if it happens to cost more. That is the point that I wish to press upon the attention of the House."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" The period of three hours prescribed by His Excellency for the disposal of this demand having expired, it is now my duty to proceed to put it to the Council."

Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai then withdrew his motion with the leave of the Council.

The following motions were considered to have lapsed as they could not be taken up for discussion :—

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu :—

'14. *That the following items of duty allowance be omitted* :—

'37-*C. Miscellaneous Department—Miscellaneous—Criminal Settlements*—

	Rs.
Duty allowance to medical officer (*Budget, page* 184) ..	120
Duty allowance to sub-assistant surgeon (*Budget, page* 184) ..	120
Duty allowance to sub-assistant surgeon (*Budget, page* 184) ..	180.'

Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju :—

'15. *That the following items of duty allowance be omitted* :—

	Rs.
To medical officer (*Budget, page* 184)	120
To sub-assistant suregon (*Budget, page* 184)	180'

Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai :—

'16. *That Rs.* 2,000, *being the provision made for barbed wire-fencing in Reformatory Settlement, Guntur, be omitted* (*Budget, page* 184).

'17. *That Rs.* 1,692, *being the lump provision asked for increased supervision grant at Sitanagaram Settlement, Guntur district, be omitted* (*Budget, page* 184).'

Demand XXIV as modified (i.e., Rs. 6·47 lakhs *minus* 1 lakh or Rs. 5·47 lakhs) for the administration of Labour and allied departments was then put to the Council and granted *nem con.*

DEMAND XXV—CIVIL WORKS—IN CHARGE OF CIVIL OFFICERS.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. Ramarayaningar :—"I beg to move—

'*For a grant exceeding* 35·73 *lakhs for Civil Works—In charge of Officers* (*mainly grants to local bodies*)'."

The demand was put to the Council and granted *nem con.*

DEMAND XXVI—CIVIL WORKS—IN CHARGE OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICERS (RESERVED PORTIONS).

The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson :—"I have the honour, Sir, to move for a grant of 11·09 lakhs under this head."

Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao :—"I beg to propose—

'1. *To omit Rs.* 1,47,500, *provided under* '*Original Works*' *for residences of the Governor* (*Public Works Budget, page* 1).'

"Sir, if you refer to page 1 of the Public Works budget under the head 'Residence of the Governor' for the year 1919–20 (Accounts) Rs. 1,60,617 has been budgeted. In the budget estimate for 1920–21, Rs. 1,72,500 has been budgeted and in the revised estimate Rs. 2,60,780. Then again in this year's budget, Rs. 1,47,500 has been provided. Sir, the amount is a big amount that has been provided for in this budget. In addition to this, under the head of repairs another Rs. 1,35,000 has been provided for the residence of the Governor.

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Then again, Sir, under the head 28, a lump sum for additions and improvements to the three Government Houses Rs. 1,25,000 has been provided. Altogether, Sir, about Rs. 4,07,500 is provided for expenses for the residence of the Governor. I do not want to make any speech on this matter. We all know we are trying to cut down expenditure. We want money for other many useful purposes. We want money to pay non-gazetted officers and also village munsifs and karnams. In these circumstances, Sir, I beg to move that this amount be omitted."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"Sir, the sum of Rs. 1,47,500 mentioned in resolution No. 40 is made up of the 1·25 lakhs mentioned in the succeeding resolutions *plus* an item of Rs. 22,500. The additional Rs. 22,500 represents an allotment provided for use at the discretion of the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor, who is allowed in respect of the three Government Houses at Madras, Guindy and Ootacamund to spend an aggregate sum not exceeding Rs. 22,500 per annum. He has authority to sanction minor estimates within the limit. Past experience has shown that this delegation of power is very essential and I venture to think, Sir, that this House is not likely to question a measure of decentralization of that description. If now, Sir, I proceed to deal with the remaining Rs. 1,25,000, I shall incidentally be answering the next series of resolutions and perhaps it will conduce to the expeditious disposal of the case, if I adopt that course. I will say then, Sir, that this Rs. 1,25,000 which remains, does not actually represent definite works, but is a lump provision much below the aggregate of the sanctioned estimates for specific works. Perhaps I had better mention what specific works are on hand, saying at the same time that the budget provision of a lakh and a quarter represents an arbitrary reduction of the sum which, if funds had been available in larger measure, might have been provided in order to carry out improvements in these Government Houses which have been fully investigated. In the first place, there is an excess liability of Rs. 12,663 incurred in the current year but not yet actually met. That is a liability which will have to be discharged at the beginning of the next financial year and I will remind the House, Sir, that this is the 29th of March. There is then an estimate of Rs. 15,585 for electrical works at Government House, Ootacamund, which are considered to be essential in order to place that residence of His Excellency the Governor in something approaching to the standard of upkeep which Mr. Arpudaswami Udaiyar told us the other day was so essential in regard to furniture. There is then, Sir, a series of estimates aggregating slightly over Rs. 1,06,000 which were sent up to the Government of India for sanction. I can give the exact particulars of this, if Honourable Members wish. But the following is a rough summary. Minor improvements and additions to the Government House at Ootacamund come up to Rs. 11,300. Then come other substantial items—constructing quarters for 35 servants, Rs. 47,600; then extending the rear wing of the Military Secretary's office, Rs. 29,000; constructing a Public Works store shed, Rs. 15,300. Then there was another minor item of some Rs. 3,000 which, I think, consisted of additions to the dhobykhana. These are items in regard to which estimates have been duly prepared and a letter requesting sanction was sent to the Government of India in December last; because it was thought desirable that these works should be carried out before His Excellency left for Ootacamund in April. The Government of India, however, declined to sanction execution before the close of the year and directed that provision should be made in the budget of the coming year. There are two or three other sets of estimates, one for fire protection and water-supply amounting

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to Rs. 39,880; and the other for drainage improvements aggregating to Rupees 8,760. I have now given particulars which including items within the Military Secretary's sanctioning power, aggregate to over two lakhs of rupees. The provision made in the budget is only 1·25 lakhs."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"As this sum of Rs. 1,47,500 is said to include the sum of Rs. 1,25,000, it will be convenient if Honourable Members who have tabled motions in regard to that also speak now."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I wish to say one thing, Sir. This item of Rs. 1,47,500 is item 28 in the Civil Works budget. Because it is discussed now, it should not be said hereafter that all the previous items, i.e., up to and including 27, cannot be discussed. That point of order is often raised in this House and naturally and very reasonably allowed by you, Sir. I have no complaint against it."

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS:—"May I ask for an explanation, Sir? On page 3 of this preliminary issue of the Public Works budget, under Original Works—Residence of the Governor—the amount provided is Rs. 1,47,500. Again under repairs, it is Rs. 1,35,000. I want an explanation with regard to this, Sir."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"I did not quite catch what the Honourable Member said. But I may say that page 1 gives an abstract and that the details are given from page 2 onwards."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU moved—

'2. *To omit Rs.* 1·25 *lakhs lump provision for additions and improvements to the three Government Houses (Public Works Budget, item* 28).'

In doing so, he said:—"The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson has given us information as to the preparation of estimates for the various works which make up this large expenditure. As this is the first motion we are discussing in connexion with Original Civil Works which are under Public Works Officers, it is but necessary that we should have a correct conception as to why all these motions are now coming before the House. We have felt that it is absolutely essential to effect substantial retrenchment in all possible directions and we have found from our experience that it has not been possible to effect any substantial retrenchment where the pay has been sanctioned or has been given effect to and in the matter of travelling allowances to individual members and contingencies. I think, Sir, that if we really want money for various purposes, the most reasonable place where we can apply the pruning knife is Original Works—Civil Buildings. No doubt buildings are necessary in several cases and they are good and useful in their own way. It is not necessary for us to discuss that aspect of the question. Nobody suggests for a moment that it will not be advantageous if we construct the various buildings included in the Public Works budget. Nobody will suggest that the Government House should not be in a much better fashion and in a more artistic manner than at present. But when we really feel that we ought to effect some retrenchment, I think that except in special cases where absolute necessity and urgency requires that we should vote for the provision, the policy of this House should be to vote against the grant. I do not suggest that we can apply this as a rule of thumb in every case. We have to discriminate between one case and another and see whether we have, not as a matter of additional convenience, not as a matter of additional accommodation but as a matter of necessity, to vote, for

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the provision of any building. I will urge upon this House to give effect to the policy of retrenchment It is for that reason that I think that this sum of Rupees 1·25 lakhs is not necessary."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" Mr. President, Sir, I also beg to move—

'3. *To omit Rs.* 1·25 *lakhs, lump provision for additions and improvements to the three Government Houses* (*Public Works Budget, item* 28).'

" The Hon'ble the Home Member has told us that this sum of 1·25 lakhs is necessary and some of the works have already been done and they ought to be paid for."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*interrupting*) :—" The work already done is only a matter of some Rs. 13,000."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU (*continuing*) :—" Yes. Quite so. If the supply of these papers is intended to give information to the members, we find on turning to page 3 about this item 28, the amount of estimate. There are two square brackets between which there is no amount mentioned. Again going further, we find that nothing was spent in 1919–1920 on this head. During 1920–1921 we find a blank. Under 1921–1922—works under progress—it is shown blank. For the new works, Rs. 1,25,000 is provided. These are to be commenced perhaps, according to the information given, after the 1st April 1921. Now, Sir, with this dearth of information, when it comes to questioning, the Hon'ble the Home Member has been pleased to tell us that a portion of the work has already been undertaken and it is awaiting payment."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*interrupting*) :—" May I with your leave, Sir, correct a misapprehension or possibly a careless statement of my own which may lead us into unprofitable channels. It is in my experience of the Public Works Department and also of other disbursing departments that it is not uncommon to incur expenditure somewhat larger than the sanctioned allotment. In such cases adjustments in the accounts are made after the 31st March out of the allotment for the next year. Unless the sums are very large, there is nothing very peculiar about this, for it is often impossible to restrict the actual expenditure to exact figures."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU (*continuing*) :—"I quite appreciate what the Honourable Member has said. In my own little experience I also find it occasionally like that. But the point is why was not that information given in the preliminary issue which was supplied to us only a few days ago ? That would have saved much of our trouble."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*interrupting*) :—" May I answer that question, Sir ? The reason is that Rs. 1,25,000 is a lump provision which does not represent any particular estimates. It is a lump provision for additions and improvements to Government Houses and may include a variety of items. We do not yet know which item His Excellency may consider to be the most imperative of the various items."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU (*interrupting*):—" May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that estimates are prepared before lump provisions are budgeted for ? "

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The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—"Estimates are in existence. But which particular estimates will actually be met from this lump provision is the matter in issue."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU (*continuing*) :—"So what I gather is this. There are some estimates and those estimates have to be selected and put in under this provision, so that we may have Rs. 1,25,000 to satisfy those estimates. I submit, Sir, in the first place, there seems to be some vagueness about this provision. Even the Government do not seem to have made up their minds as to what particular works should be done under this lump provision. In the present state of our finance, will it not be possible to postpone these additions and improvements for a more propitious season? No doubt His Excellency's residence must be of primary consideration to us. But at the same time, let the Government also consider the predicament in which the country is placed in the present stringent financial condition. I, therefore, submit that the question is whether we should find money for our necessaries or whether we should find money for our luxuries. The question reduces itself to that. If so, there can be only one answer to that, namely, let us postpone our luxuries and let us provide for our necessaries."

Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR :—"I beg to propose—

'4. *To omit* 1·25 *lakhs, lump provision for additions and improvements to the three Government Houses* (*Public Works Budget, item* 28).'

"It is not necessary for me to add anything to what was said by the previous speakers who have proposed similar motions. I want to say very few words in support of my motion. My object in proposing to omit this allotment of Rs. 1,25,000 from the budget estimate is to provide funds for more urgent and important purposes. This expenditure is intended for additions and improvements to the three Government Houses. The question is whether the additions and improvements proposed are very urgent and quite necessary. I suppose His Excellency with his usual kindness may give his consent to postpone the work, considering the fact that funds are insufficient for more pressing needs such as sanitation, etc., in the Presidency. For instance, the Salem municipality is badly in need of a drainage scheme. I propose that this amount of Rs. 1,25,000 be utilized this year for the acquisition of lands for the Salem drainage scheme."

Rao Bahadur T. NAMBERUMAL CHETTI moved—

'5. *To reduce by Rs.* 50,000, *lump provision of Rs.* 1·25 *lakhs for Government Houses* (*Public Works Budget, item* 28).'

In doing so, he said :—"It is not for the entire omission that I move this resolution. It is for establishing a principle, viz., a percentage of expenditure on improvements year after year with reference to the capital cost of the building. This will avoid frictions in the future. I calculate that the three Government Houses on an average cost 5 lakhs each, or 15 lakhs on the whole. A sum of Rs. 75,000 is quite ample to spend on improvements for the year 1921–1922. Unlike repairs and maintenance of works which cannot be put off improvements to buildings can be postponed to a future date."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"I should like to speak after hearing the other members on the subject."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"I called on the Member to speak because his motion was on the agenda. He may speak when he likes."

29th March 1921] [Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar]

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju's motion was as follows:—

'6. *To omit Rs.* 1·25 *lakhs* (*Public Works Budget, item* 28).'

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Mr. President, in a few words I should like to move this proposition for the acceptance of the House, viz.,

'7. *To omit Rs.* 1·25 *lakhs* (*Public Works Budget, item* 28).'

"It has been said many a time in this House, I may even say *ad nauseam*, that economy must go right through the machine. If I remember right, this item, referring as it does to the Government House, may be supposed to represent the top of the machine. This item of Rs. 1·25 lakhs comes under the head of lump provisions, which, if I am permitted to say, have an element of vagueness about them, and the dominant characteristic of a lump provision is the considerable amount of uncertainty investing it. As remarked by some of the previous speakers, the financial outlook of this Presidency does not appear to be very hopeful or promising. There are other pressing demands upon the public exchequer, and it is but reasonable to ask that this item may be allowed to stand over. I should like to be enlightened by the Honourable Member in charge of the department as to whether this work is of such an urgent character that unless the additions proposed and the improvements sought to be effected are peremptorily carried out, there will be any great danger of the Government House tumbling down or any great danger of the deterioration in point of appearance or practical utility. For my part, I am free to confess that the Government House may wait for a year or two until the financial conditions are more hopeful. There are more urgent claims on the public purse, for example, there is a regular army of non-gazetted officers whose cause we have promised to advocate. I venture to submit that this item can very well be ignored at present, so far as the coming year is concerned. I am for the deletion of this item, which does not savour of the parsimony which has been claimed to the credit, or rather to the absence of credit, of the Government of Madras, but which seems to err on the side of extravagance."

Rao Bahadur D. SESHAGIRI RAO PANTULU:—"On page 7, there is a similar motion; so I do not wish to move this now."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"I am glad to recognize that the Honourable Members who have pressed this motion have no wish to put a stop altogether to the making of necessary improvements to the Government Houses, but that all that they wish is that some of the works should be postponed, in pursuance of this year's policy of retrenchment. One speaker has urged that this retrenchment should go right through the machine, beginning at the top. With reference to this, I should like to assure him that the retrenchment has already begun at the top and that, although the demands of the Public Works Department for improvements and additions to the Government Houses amounted to over two lakhs of rupees, the amount has already been reduced by no less a sum than Rs. 75,000, so that the provision in the budget is not enough even to pay for the estimates that are now ready. Another Honourable Member has referred to the army of subordinates who are waiting to eat up any savings that we can make. In this connexion, I should like to mention that the provisions which are now under discussion are provisions for the comfort, not of His Excellency the Governor only, but of what is very nearly an army of servants and others. When

5-15 p.m.

a motion was tabled recently about the doctors engaged at the Government Houses, I asked the Surgeon to His Excellency the Governor what was the total number of the population to which these doctors had to minister. I don't remember his figure exactly, but I think it was something like 900. Another Member has urged that we should postpone luxuries to necessities like sanitation. On this point, I should like to say that a large part of the works provided for are not luxuries at all, but are works of sanitation. Others are works for the health of the Government House staff, as, for instance, a lying-in ward for the little hospital there. There has been a good deal of misconception arising out of the fact that the provision in the budget is put in the shape of a lump provision. I think this can be easily explained. The columns which have been referred to as being blank are columns under which the progress is shown of large estimates which go on from year to year. It is not possible for us in the case of the estimates now in question to fill up either the columns for the total estimate or those for the progress made in past years, for the reason that we are dealing not with one large estimate, but with a very large number of small ones and that the sum put down in the budget, which represents an arbitrary reduction from the total of the small estimates, has not yet been allocated to any particular items. That will have to be done when the order of urgency is settled. Finally, I should like to remind Honourable Members that some of these works are already in hand, while in regard to others commitments have already been made and that therefore it is not possible for them to cancel this provision outright without involving Government in a failure to fulfil their financial engagements."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"I move that the question be now put."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"Two Honourable Members have already spoken. If any other Honourable Member wishes to speak, he may do so."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"Mr. President, the Hon'ble the Finance Member stated that regarding the electrical installation, some of the things are to be replaced. The item now under discussion is about improvements to the Government House. I do not believe that this item which goes under the heading of additions and improvements also includes electrical installation."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*interrupting*) :—"It does. It is one of the items included in the catalogue. The Public Works Department has given me a series of estimates from which the one lakh and a quarter was taken."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU (*continuing*) :—"We have got two items. One is for repairs. That is covered by the motion of Mr. U. Rama Rao. The other item is 1·25 lakhs for additions and improvements."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"Is not 1·25 lakhs included in the 1·47 lakhs?"

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON : —"Yes."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju will see that the 1·25 lakhs is included in the 1·47 lakhs."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU (*continuing*) :—"I find two items here. On the first page, I find one item, and on the third, another item."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*interrupting*) :—"To cut matters a little bit short, I may tell Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju what the details of the electrical

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estimate are—improvements to overhead main. We are now dealing with additions and improvements. Item I, Improvements to overhead and underground Main; item II, providing additionl lines in the dining hall; Item III, laying in the front drain for the underground system; Item IV, additional lines; Item V, additional lines for hospital. Then follows the remark of the Military Secretary:—

'Additional works are absolutely necessary and cannot be postponed, as in most cases, the present posts are rotten and unserviceable.'

"I presume the existing arrangements in two or three cases are the overhead arrangement which is classified as an additional improvement. The total amount of the five items is Rs.15,585."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU (*continuing*):—"We need not quarrel about the headings. The point is whether this is an item which can be postponed for the time being. I know with what feelings of delicacy this House wishes to deal with items concerning the comforts of His Excellency the Governor. But at the same time, we owe a duty to the tax-payer. And this is the first time this item has to be budgeted for and is open for discussion in this Council, because in former budgets it never used to be discussed, and it is necessary that we shall have to scrutinize, item after item and see whether there is absolute necessity for any of these items for the time being. The question is whether the finances of the province will allow these items to be budgeted for or can safely be postponed. As long as we have got more pressing demands, I believe it is the duty of this House to see that other urgent necessities are satisfied and does not feel any delicacy regarding the requirements of His Excellency the Governor."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Here also is a case where we can appeal to the Government if they cannot reduce something. One of the two items we are dealing with is Rs. 1·25 lakhs for repairs. So far as repairs are concerned, we may not be able to reduce much. So far as additions are concerned, we were told that additional lines or improvements to lines will cost Rs. 15,000. We are not however told as to how much the maternity hospital would cost. Thanks to the Honourable Member for observing that in discussing this we are not dealing with the comforts of His Excellency, but the comforts of the staff of His Excellency, or as has been put, the wives of the staff of His Excellency. The question is when there is so much stringency of money whether a maternity hospital for a few wives of the staff of His Excellency the Governor is necessary."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*interrupting*):—"That matter refers to the syces, underlings and the menials at the Government House. There is no need to introduce His Excellency's personal staff in the matter."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR (*continuing*):—"That makes my position stronger. I say there are a few maternity hospitals in the Presidency and there is one big maternity hospital in Madras in the town. I do not see any reason why the wives of the menial staff cannot attend that maternity hospital and why there should be a maternity hospital and a doctor to serve the purpose of these inmates or the wives of the inmates of this menial staff. After all, we see that the requirements of the Public Works Department are sometimes very large. We were told that they wanted Rs. 75,000 more and it was due to the kindness of the Financial Department that a curtailment has been made. Therefore we appeal to the Hon'ble the Finance Member to see if this item cannot be postponed, the building of the maternity hospital, without which the Government menial staff

have been getting on till now. When there was plenty of money these things did not take place, and when there is stringency, I do not see why this should take place. We appeal to the Government to give us an assurance before to-morrow whether some amount could not be cut off in this item."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I should like to know whether any portion of this expenditure covered by this item has already been incurred. That is the first enquiry I should like to make."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—"I have already said that there is something like Rs. 12,000."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"The second point is which of these items of expenditure relate to the Government House at Ootacamund and which to the Government House at Madras. The Government and this House have come to an understanding that the stay of Government on the Hills should be limited to three months and if any portion of this expenditure is to be incurred under the head of Government House at Ootacamund or expenditure connected with the stay of His Excellency at Ootacamund, it is a question for consideration whether that expenditure is necessary. There is some feeling that expenditure on Government Houses this year or last year has not been on the same scale as in previous years."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—"Due to the war."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"It may be so."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"Are the figures correct?"

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—"They are quite correct. Nothing has been spent, and that was on account of the war."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"But I should like to know which of these relates to the item of expenditure on Government House at Madras and how much has to be spent on Government House at Ootacamund."

The Council then adjourned at 5-30 p.m. to meet at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, the 30th day of March 1921.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS