The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Saturday the 19th day of February 1921, the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" The Council will now resume discussion of resolutions on matters of general public interest."

I

Drainage and irrigation in the Tanjore district—cont.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—" Mr. President, I was trying to emphasize yesterday that so far as the improvement and development of irrigation resources are concerned, the angle of vision of the Government and of the landholders is identical. I was also trying to show that so far as the Tanjore district is concerned Government have always kept the importance of this question in their mind. I referred yesterday to the scheme prepared in the year 1903 by Colonel Smart in regard to the improvement of the Tanjore delta and, I think, that those Honourable Members who are conversant with the condition of the Tanjore district will give us credit that we have tried to carry it out as far as possible. The problem however is somewhat complex. The river there is not merely utilized for the purpose of irrigation alone, but it serves the purpose of drainage as well. The vested interests of the landholders have also to be kept sedulously in view. So therefore any attempt that we may make for the purpose of carrying out any scheme has to be carefully considered. Colonel Smart's scheme had to be divided into a number of instalments, so that as soon as one instalment of work was executed we took time to consider its general effect and whether by reason of the experience which we had gained by the execution of one instalment of work there was any necessity for revising the next instalment and, if so, whether any further investigation was necessary. And from time to time it was found that further investigations were necessary and some of the estimates which had been previously prepared had to undergo revision to suit the then existing conditions. I simply laboured this point for the purpose of convincing the House that the question of the irrigation resources of the Tanjore district is always present in our mind. We have got in our hands at the present moment volumes of information relating to the identical matters which are referred to in the resolution now before us. We have not only carried out in the past a number of schemes for which funds could be provided, but we have also in our hands at the present moment a large number of estimates for execution which we can assure the House we are ready to carry out, provided funds are forthcoming. It was only in May last, Sir, that the chairman of the Negapatam Taluk Landholders' Association brought this fact to our notice and we were quite willing to take advantage of any additional information which that association could put into our hands and we promptly wrote up to that association to be good enough to furnish us with details in regard to particular parts of the river where the levels had been considerably raised. And to this day, Sir, I am sorry to inform you that that information has not been furnished. We have been repeatedly urging the Superintending Engineer to secure the information from the association, but presumably they are labouring under some difficulty to furnish it to us accurately. The honourable mover who has brought up this resolution for our consideration was good enough to contribute an article to the Madras dailies in, I believe, November 1919. The heading of that article was 'the plight of the Tanjore landholders'. He was also good enough to send us a copy of that communication and we have sent him an answer in reference to that matter. The terms of reference

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which the honourable mover suggests to this committee, as the House will perceive, are, most of them of a very technical nature, particularly those enumerated under the sub-headings (*a*) to (*h*). I have already assured the House that so far as the matters comprised in those items go, Government are in possession of full information and I am ready to communicate to the honourable mover any information which he might wish to elicit from Government on any of those matters. As regards (*i*), Sir, it is a question which I think I could answer if my honourable friend would only send in either an interpellation or write to me demi-officially ; (*f*) again is a matter of technical nature and (*k*) is merely a summary of the results of the proposed investigation.

" Any committee that might be constituted on this matter would largely have to depend on the technical advice that it would receive from the experts on it. The experts of the committee as proposed will be officers of the Engineering Department of this Government. The officers of the Engineering Department of this Government have already investigated all the matters comprised in this reference and furnished us with information bearing on those matters.

" It is therefore a pure waste of time on their part to go over the same ground again and investigate a question which they have already investigated and place at the disposal of the committee information which is already available. I should therefore certainly think, Sir, that this committee will serve no useful purpose whatsoever.

" I am aware of the fact that in the Tanjore district there are numerous associations called, I believe, mirasidars' associations and landholders' associations. I welcome their existence, and I should indeed be too glad if any of these associations will be so good as to place in my possession any information which is within their knowledge in regard to particular tracts of which they are fully aware and in regard to matters which are of an essentially important nature and which ought to be further investigated. If I get any such representations from these associations, I can assure honourable members that those representations will receive our best consideration and that if we find that we do not really possess information on any of these matters, we shall certainly start an inquiry and secure those informations.

" Beyond that, however, it seems to me that it will be absolutely unnecessary to go into this question at the present moment. My friend complained that the district of Tanjore was not well treated in the matter of expenditure in the development of irrigation resources. He drew pointed attention to the fact that in the resettlement proposals which are now in the hands of Government, so much as 13 lakhs were proposed to be increased over and above the existing assessment. Well as to whether the Madras Government are going to realize this sum or not is a problamatic matter. In any case I may assure the honourable member that if at all there is any scheme which is now receiving the anxious attention of the Government, if I say, there is any scheme which the Madras Government are anxious to push through with the greatest expedition possible, if, again there is any scheme for which the Madras Government are anxious to secure funds, it is the Mettur project scheme of the Tanjore district. It would cost not less than six crores of rupees. So I think I have convinced the honourable mover that the Madras Government have always retained an affection for the Tanjore district and that they will do everything that they can for developing its resources. So far as this resolution is concerned, I for one could hardly see any necessity of constituting a committee and I think it is not profitable to go on multiplying committees where the object to be served is practically nothing. This will obviously be more or less

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a committee for determining local wants, as against general questions affecting the whole Province. If the local organizations that exist are so good as to communicate with me as to the exact difficulties, I shall only be too glad to take advantage of their assistance."

Mr. T. SOMASUNDARA MUDALIYAR :—"I own lands in five taluks of the district of Tanjore and all of them are in the lower reaches of the irrigation, some of them being at the tail end. There have been breaches and water spills almost every year in the rivers and the make-shift arrangements made to repair the breaches are of no good and the money spent on them is ill spent. What is wanted is a permanent improvement of the river banks so that they may stand at least for some years and there is no reason why they should not stand for ever if maintained properly. The whole problem should be tackled in a businesslike fashion and should be settled by a definite programme to be carried out in the course of a certain number of years. So I think there is no harm in appointing a committee to go into all these questions."

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI :—"Sir, I support this resolution (Resolution No. 31). The Tanjore district passes for a rich district and contributes largely to the Government revenues, chiefly on account of its vast wet area, and yet it is the Tanjore district that is most exposed to flood damages, and that almost every third or fifth year. During floods, miles and miles of the wet area with crops therein are submerged by floods for days together and the crops rot and are damaged and the ryots sustain serious loss. During the recent floods, I had occasion to notice the fact that the standing crops on both sides of the line of railway from Tanjore to Arantangi were, as it were, under one sheet of water. This state of things is due apparently to radical defects in the existing system of irrigation and drainage, especially the latter. Then there may arise a question as to what the engineering establishments employed for the purpose of maintaining the works in proper order are doing. They do not idle away their time. They seem to do their work in their own way, attending to what is immediately needed, closing breaches as they occur, and doing some such sort of patch work. Nothing substantial in the way of permanent improvement has hitherto been done. The river-beds get more and more silted up with the large volume of sand and mud which the floods annually bring in and deposit in the beds. The river therefore becomes shallow and the floods overflow the banks. I do not mean to suggest anything like spending money in removing the silt. That is impossible. What is most urgently required is the strengthening of the embankments and the opening of flood gates at convenient points to carry off the excess of water and the deposits of sand and mud."

Mr. S. SOMASUNDARAM PILLAI :—"As a native of Tanjore I have some interest in the district. So I beg to support this resolution. The chief cause which has given rise to breaches all over the Tanjore district is that the rivers in that district are not fast running and are unable to carry the silt. Every year they bring from the mountain some sand and mud and leave them in the Tanjore district. Therefore the level of the bed rises and the vents are unable to draw off the surplus water. There are two or three sluices, one at Vadugappatti and the other at the Grand Anicut. They are also unable to draw all the water; and so the Cauvery is silted. Even if there are no breaches, owing to the rise of the bed-level, it comes to the level of the fields and all the crops are submerged. There is no proper drainage. The mirasidars in the villages are obliged to dig channels at their own cost. If mirasidars get on well Government also will get on well. These questions must be considered somehow or other and something must be done."

[Mr. A. T. PALMER] [19th February 1921

Mr. A. T. PALMER:—"Mr. President, it has been made clear to the House that the rivers in the Tanjore district are silting up. The Hon'ble Member for Revenue has told us that investigations are being made in regard to the subject. In this connexion I may say that we are often reminded of the proverbial doctors who declare a patient to be dead when he is still alive and order his burial. I mean to say that technical opinion is not always the safest opinion. There are occasions when the opinions of men of experience, cultivators and landholders and of those who are living on the banks of rivers in the Tanjore district would be very useful. This is a very important question, because very often in this country we see that many projects are postponed or given up entirely on the verdict of experts and engineers, and so on. It is good that this committee should be formed as an example for other committees that may be formed in days to come. I do not see any objection to the proposal brought forward by the honourable member because it will not entail expenditure from the finances of the Government. It is very humble and modest proposal which should meet with the acceptance of this House."

Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"I wish to make a few observations. I refer to page 31 of the Tanjore Scheme report in which it is stated 'The subject of drainage is so important as to deserve separate mention. As a result, apparently, of the comments on the Cauvery delta irrigation made at the last settlement, Colonel Smart was placed on special duty in 1895 for investigating and preparing schemes for improving the irrigation and drainage in the delta.'

"Colonel Smart's proposals for improving drainage fell under nine main heads:—

'(1) Palavar, (2) Cauvery and Ayyavayyanar, (3) Nandodayar, (4) Nandalar, (5) Kattarkaduvayar, (6) Harichandranathi, (7) Adappar, (8) Mulliyar, (9) Embankments.'

"Of three items only two or three have been carried out. Later on, the report continues:—'Thus the general improvements falling under four items have been held in abeyance; in any case, progress in item (8) would not be possible pending the carrying out of the Cauvery-Mettur project and item (9) which related to leading certain rivers through the salt swamp has, I understand, been abandoned on the ground that the banks would not stand on account of the saline nature of the soil.' Though Colonel Smart had worked this up from 1895, nothing tangible seems to have been done. Before we wait to see what the result of the other schemes would be I do not know what the position of the mirasidars would be in another 30 years.

"I am concerned chiefly with the carrying off of rain water and if the honourable member would only take the necessary steps for the purpose of putting up those embankments in order, the question of the improvement of irrigation will only be a secondary consideration. With regard to the Mettur project we are least concerned with it. Government takes these projects as productive works. They calculate the amount of interest expected from those projects. We are mostly concerned with regard to the saving of our present condition. After putting our House in order we ought to go to extensions. We are not in the least concerned with the Mettur project or the Periyar project. I own 200 acres in one village. I would rather pay Rs. 2 more every year, i.e., Rs. 400 every year if Government could only insure that the river water is not let into my lands. Every mirasidar will pay Rs. 2 extra per acre if he is saved from the river water. With regard to the reference by the honourable member to the chairman of the Taluk Landholders' Association, I do not know if he refers to me; if so, I believe I did

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not receive any such communication. But I received a communication recently after I sent up questions from the Superintending Engineer about this matter. I therefore say that though this is a matter which concerns only one district still as it is a matter which will not entail much expenditure or waste of time or waste of energy or anything of the kind, and if the investigation is complete and Government are in possession of the information it is very easy. The Engineer whom the Government may appoint can convince this committee exactly where they are, what the Government proposals are. Then it will be a very easy task. That is all the more the reason why this committee should be formed."

The Hon'ble the President :—" Does the Hon'ble the Revenue Member wish to say anything ? "

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur :—" Nothing."

The resolution was then put and carried.

II

Discussion regarding the arrest of Yaqub Hasan and others in Calicut.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu :—" Before the House deals with the next resolution, may I with your leave Sir, under rule 10 of the rules, ask your permission to ask the Home Member for some information in regard to the situation in Malabar ? If you accord the permission, I will put the question."

Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" Mr. President, I rise to a point of order. Under rule 14 questions must be put before any other business is entered upon. No doubt there is discretion as regards the time and length of notice, but as regards the order in the agenda a question cannot be put after business is entered upon. Of course I should be glad to have the privilege of putting questions extended. But I raise this question in order to have a ruling for future guidance."

The Hon'ble the President :—" The matter is entirely in my discretion in the first instance and then in the discretion of the Council. No member can claim the right to interrupt the proceedings of the Council in order to put a question and elicit an answer, but in view of the interest taken in this matter yesterday evening, I should like to know if it is the desire of honourable members to permit the Hon'ble the Home Member to make a statement. If it is the wish of the Council that it should have the information, I will give the necessary permission."

Voices :—" Yes, yes."

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu :—" What about my question, Sir ? "

The Hon'ble the President :—" You may now put your question."

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu :—" Will the Hon'ble the Home Member make a statement in regard to any further information that has been received as to the situation in Malabar ? "

The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson :—" Sir, I am grateful to you and to the House for permitting me this opportunity, in breach of the ordinary procedure of the Council, to give further information, which I have received by telegram this morning. I propose, Sir, to read extracts from a telegram sent off by the District Magistrate a little before 8 last night and received early this morning—

' Rajagopalachariyar and Kesava Menon, barrister, arrived by mail. Shortly after, a procession with songs started. Decided to break this up with police as the trouble started this way yesterday and

procession beginning in small way became unmanageable. Procession dispersed without any trouble. I was present. Report arrived of crowd of 2,000 outside Madhavan Nayar's house where Rajagopalachari is staying. Went to disperse it with police. Found crowd dispersed. Explained situation to Rajagopalachari and Kesava Menon. Expect they will not create trouble.'

"May I interject for a moment, Sir, an expression of my own belief that Mr. Thomas's expectation is not at fault? For I observe that, as reported in the *Hindu* of last night and by implication in the leading article of the previous day in the same paper, Mr. Rajagopalachariyar dissociates himself completely from any idea of disobeying orders prohibiting meetings or encouraging others to do so (voices hear, hear), an attitude, I take leave to say, very different from that of Mr. Yaqub Hasan and the other three who have been committed to jail in default of finding security. Mr. Thomas's telegram continues—

'Paragraph in *Hindu* of Thursday entitled "Complete Hartal declared" incorrect. Not all shops were closed. Jutkas and rickshaws were plying. Shops opened to-day and business as usual. 19-30 hours [i.e., 7-30 last night] Hope trouble Calicut ended.'

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"I am sure this Council will receive this statement of the latest developments with great satisfaction.

"The Council will now resume its consideration of resolutions on matters of general public interest."

I—*cont.*

Acquisition of house-sites for Panchamas in the Tanjore district.

Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I move this resolution which runs as follows:—

'32. *That this Council recommends to the Government that further proceedings in regard to the acquisition of house-sites for Panchamas in rural areas in the Tanjore district may be stopped pending investigation and decision by a mixed committee of officials and non-official landholders as to the procedure and the course or action to be adopted by the special department.*'

"Before I move this resolution I wish to correct myself and to correct any impression that may have gained ground in the minds of members of the House that I am against the acquisition of house-sites for Panchamas. I am not at all against the acquisition of house-sites for Panchamas. I am only interested in seeing that these house-sites are acquired in a manner which is least inconvenient and in a manner which is least annoying both to the landholders and the Panchamas. I submitted my resolution in two clauses, but the Hon'ble the President disallowed a portion and therefore it is that my resolution is as it stands. When I say that the proceedings might be stopped, evidently some members thought—it was also the impression in the minds of some of those who have taken the trouble of writing an article on the subject—that I was against it and that I was reactionary. What I wish to say is that, so far as I was concerned, I have been equally a friend of the Panchamas. During my chairmanship I opened the first elementary Panchama school and as I could not get a teacher there, with considerable difficulty I got a teacher from Madras and that school is being run. If Dr. Verghese who was the Civil Surgeon at Negapatam could be asked, he would say how I took one of my own labourer boys who had an accident in my own pheaton and had him treated in the hospital although he was a Panchama. I am not one of these reactionary landlords whom Swami Advaitanada referred to in the *Justice* dated the 15th February."

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The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" Order, order. I must ask the honourable member to confine himself to his resolution."

Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—" Very well, thanks, I shall obey. I therefore say that there will be no apprehension in the minds of any members of this House that I am against it. For the information of the House, I have to say that Mr. Grey himself has admitted that the question of free house-sites for depressed classes is a difficult one. He says that the existing cheris are in most cases surrounded by wet lands. Mr. Grey also stated in his report how far the freedom of labourers, of Panchamas and other classes, is restrained by a system of man mortgage. He also shows how the house-sites are used by land-lords in order to force the labourers to work on a lower rate of wages. As I said, I am not concerned with that question. So far as my village is concerned, or within a radius of 5 miles, there has been no trouble. In some cases, specific instances have been brought to my notice as to how the acquisition is made without consulting the landholders who may be quite willing to point out a proper site that would satisfy the Special Deputy Collector. What is now happening is that the very site the labourer occupies, whether it is less than 5 or more than 5 cents that is wanted a notification is published in the gazette and the landholder is asked what price he would accept for it. The question is not one of price but one of convenience. Honourable members of this House know that, in the district of Tanjore in the olden days, the cheri sites were so located in the midst of about 100 acres or 50 acres of land so that the land might be easily accessible to the labourers and the labourers might also look after the crops and protect them from the depre-dation of cattle, sheep, etc. But if the labourer who is already there, whether rightly or wrongly, is made the ultimate owner thereof and if the landlord wants to put in another labourer in the midst of his lands, where is he to go for the site? So far as I am concerned, I am prepared to show hundred sites in my village better situated in dry lands, patta lands of mine, and I shall be quite willing to give them at a nominal cost to any labourer who wants it. I know there are other landlords who are quite willing to give similarly if the Special Deputy Collector will only go and consult the landlord or if his subordinates will not go out and create misunderstandings by misrepresenting things thus making them hot for both the landlords and the *padiyal*. That is my object.

" There are some labourers who have lived in the same place for a long time. Though, as stated in one of the resolutions brought by the Hon'ble Member Mr. Devadas, it is not a question of house-sites on which a superstructure has been constructed at a great cost; here however the superstructure is not of great value. But supposing in a big compound quarters are constructed for the servants of the owner of the estate and against his will; if he dismisses every one of the servants and if he is to be still surrounded by such dismissed servants, I do not know what his position would be. Sometimes the difficulty happens like this. If the labourer lets loose his cattle, the landholder does not excuse him but impounds the cattle. What will the poor labourer do if he has to pay eight or four annas for his buffalo or his cow? So, if some such misunderstanding or litigation arises, the result is that the labourer suffers. I have known instances in which the Special Deputy Collector has taken some such complaints about the cattle being impounded and forwarded it to the Sub-Magistrate for disposal. If the Sub-Magistrate dismisses these complaints on the ground that they ought to have been presented in person, an explanation is asked for from the Magistrate and I do not know whether the Special Deputy Collector was authorized to do so in these cases. And naturally even good people are emboldened and they become

recalcitrant. One instance I know in Kumbakonam taluk in Neelakuli village where one Panchama of the village owns some lands, a tiled house and some vacant sites also. Under the pretext that he has no sufficient backyard, 69 acres of land have now been acquired from the village private servants' inam lands. The wonder of it is that a field has been included in the acquisition. I do not know why such instances should happen or whether the Special Deputy Collector has been authorized to do all this simply because the person asking for interference is a Panchama. And in another case in which one Chidambaram Chettiyar of the above-mentioned village owns 30 acres of land besides a tiled house but has no backyard and also owns sites on both sides on which he has to tie his cattle and on which he has his hay stack, these portions have been marked for acquisition. I do not know whether such matters will not create discord. I am only concerned with laying out some method and procedure by Government or by a committee of officials and some leading landholders so that they may adopt some procedure before any acquisition is made or before any land is marked out for the purpose of selecting sites. I am for the acquisition of house-sites for Panchamas. I am for providing not only for Panchamas but for labourers of every place, even in big towns. I have myself been a municipal chairman and had large grants for the purpose of acquiring totis' lands and I have provided every toti in Negapatam . . . . "

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"Order, order. It is not relevant to this question to refer to what the honourable member has done in Negapatam in regard to totis' lands."

Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—"I only wanted to say that I am not against the acquisition. I am quite prepared to offer my services in case any procedure is to be adopted. It is for that purpose that I submitted the fact for the consideration of the House."

The resolution not having been seconded, fell through.

Land revenue collection in Coimbatore.

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Mr. President, the resolution that I now propose reads—

'33. *That this Council recommends to the Government that the land revenue collection be commenced in the Coimbatore district in March and that the four instalments be collected in March, April, May and June.*'

"It is not a resolution in which we ask the Government to give us further grants or to make any remissions in the taxes to be paid. It is a matter which very closely touches the ryot and without incurring any loss the Government can substantially help him. In the Coimbatore district, except the dry lands, all other crops are generally harvested after January, where as the kist collections begin in January itself. The industrial crops come in generally after February : they begin in the latter part of February, and in February, March and the early part of April, we get in the cotton and other crops. The poor ryot having spent all that he got out of the lands for his own personal purposes is expecting the new harvest just then. That is the time chosen by the Government for the collection of kist. That is the time when he has no money in his hands. Unfortunately, the ryot is just then asked to pay a portion of the kist in January itself. The result is he has first to pay the Government and for that he has to get money at a high rate of interest. Secondly, for the next kist in February he has to harvest the crops and sell them for what they will fetch. Only the

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other day the Registrar of Co-operative Societies issued a bulletin of the co-operative movement and in that he says that one of the main objects of the Co-operative Department is to enable the ryot to pay the kist. That is a sufficient comment on the system that now prevails. For the purpose of helping the ryot to pay the kist, societies have to be formed or some other means of financing the ryot for this purpose must be found instead of the Government itself waiting for a month or two more. Mr. President, the effect of the present system does not stop here. From the end of January the harvests go up to March. That is the time when the traders are busy and money is wanted very much Instead of the money being made available for traders, money has to be borrowed by the ryots and brought into the treasury. Thence it goes to the Madras Bank and through the Madras Bank to the sowcars and from the sowcars to the ryot and the trader. The result of this is the rate of interest is rarely below 24 or even 30 per cent at the time these kists are paid. All this has to be borne by the ryot. The poor ryot has to borrow at these high rates. And he has also to make up to the trader what he has to pay in the shape of interest for the money he has borrowed from him. So the result is the poor ryot is thrown into the hands of the sowcar. He has to sell his harvest at a very low price and he has to pay very high rates of interest. Money is not available when we want it in the market because a large portion of it has got to be remitted on to the treasury in the shape of kist. So, all round, the present system is causing a lot of inconvenience and trouble to all. If the Government would only agree to postpone the collection of kist by two months as I propose, namely, if instead of beginning it in January, they will begin collection in March, the ryot will be able to harvest his crop, not only to harvest it but to wait for getting the proper price and out of the price be able to get money himself and for his goods. These are two ways in which he can improve his position. The book I referred to, the bulletin of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, assumes that the difference between prices in the earlier part of February and later, after a month or two, is sometimes as high as 20 per cent; it pays normally not less than 10 per cent and sometimes as high as 30 per cent of the whole value. So the poor ryot for the sake of finding money to pay his kist has to lose a very substantial portion of the value of his goods. I beg to submit this is a very unfair arrangement. I do not know what objection the Government can possibly have except that the present arrangements have gone on so long and so far that they do not now want to go out of the way. The original arrangement really was for the payment of the kist before the crop was harvested, for the crop was the security. I believe in the olden days it was the rule that whenever the kist was not paid the harvest was attached and sold and the money recovered. That rule has now to be eschewed and the present rule is it is not the crop, but the land itself, is the security. So at present if the ryot does not pay the kist, his land is attached, and the security for the payment is not the crop and so the Government can have no ground for opposing this resolution.

"Sir, it is not a new matter. When Lord Ampthill came to Coimbatore the land-owners of Coimbatore presented an address to him on this matter. We were promised that the matter would be inquired into; but to our knowledge it has not been gone into and no orders have been passed. Some three or four years back, as Secretary of the District Association I made a representation to the late Collector Mr. A. R. Cumming. He was impressed with what I said and he made a reference to the Board of Revenue. We were expecting a reply to that reference but we have not yet received any communication in the matter. That is how it stands. So I beg to submit, Sir, that it is only a case in which

the Government should adjust their demand a bit. I may also say that it is one of the accepted canons of taxation that the tax ought to be collected at the time most convenient to the tax-payer; here it is being collected at the time which is most inconvenient to him. I beg to submit that this is a system which ought to be changed, and to be changed without any delay. So I will appeal to the Government and to the member representing the Government here that he will take into consideration these matters and agree to the proposals that have been made. I also appeal to my colleagues through you, Sir, that they will also take into consideration the difficulties of the poor ryots, and, as I said, it is not a proposal in which they ask the Government to remit any tax or give them any grants, but it is a matter in which they can be helped substantially by a small adjustment of the system that is now being followed. With these few words, Sir, I propose the resolution."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Mr. President, I am very glad that this resolution is so comprehensive in its character. But although it affects Coimbatore in particular, still as I have reason to believe that other districts also are entitled to the same consideration, so with the greatest pleasure I beg leave to support this resolution."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. President, I believe it is generally understood that the basic principle underlying the fixation of kistbandi is the ability of the ryot to pay the kist with due regard to his resources as also the administrative expediency. So far as the former condition goes, the only criterion to be applied is the fact as to when the crops are harvested and when they are sold. The first instalment of kist generally in every district begins soon after a crop is harvested and sold, but not certainly long after it has been sold; and so far as the latter contingency is concerned, practically the whole of the land revenue demand, in the interest of administration, is collected as far as possible before the close of the financial year.

"Now in the case of the Coimbatore district to which our attention has been drawn by this resolution, I find, Sir, that these two conditions have been thoroughly satisfied. The month in which the first instalment of the land revenue begins is the month of January. Coimbatore is a district where there is more of dry cultivation than wet cultivation. Statistics show that the percentage of wet cultivation in the whole district is no more than 3·36. It was, therefore, necessary to take into account the harvest of dry cultivation of the district for the purpose of determining the month in which the first instalment of land revenue should begin. We find that in this district dry crops, such as cumbu, cholam and ragi, are harvested in or before December of every year. January, therefore, is the most appropriate month for the purpose of beginning the collection of the first instalment of land revenue. Government have laid down these broad principles for the fixation of the kistbandi and instalments in which it ought to be collected. But at the same time Government are anxious to avoid, as far as possible, inconveniences in particular districts or portion of districts where possibly conditions might vary, and for the purpose of revising, if necessary, the kistbandies in particular districts, if such revision becomes necessary, they have laid down that whenever any district is under resettlement, the special officer engaged on the resettlement work should make this inquiry and make a special report to Government as regards the reasonableness or otherwise of the kistbandi in force in that particular district or part of the district, as the case may be. The House probably is aware that the district of Coimbatore was resettled in the year 1910. This question of the kistbandi was thoroughly investigated in that year and we

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have the assurance of the Special Settlement Officer as also of other officials above him, that he consulted public opinion as far as possible and that he would adhere to the kistbandi from January to April. Government accepted that recommendation which is now in force. As I said already, the fixation of the kistbandi is also a matter which concerns the administration of the country. Honourable members are aware that the land revenue which forms the bulk of the resources of this province is expected to be collected before the end of March. In the case of the Coimbatore district which we are now discussing and for which there is a total demand of 30 lakhs in the shape of land revenue, we have taken credit for the first three instalments of this demand as collectable during the current year and have carried forward the remaining fourth instalment which is collectable in the month of April to the figures of 1921–22. If a change of this kind is introduced, it would prolong the collection of land revenue to a period far beyond that covered by the current financial year. Therefore, instead of collecting the 23 lakhs of rupees from the Coimbatore district before the close of the financial year, we cannot hope to collect more than 7 lakhs. The balance will therefore remain a deficiency. Now it is obvious that the administrative needs of the country have also to be kept in view and the sudden paralysis which such an arrangement will produce in the financial equilibrium has to be averted. We are now obliged to find more money than what we can hope to secure, but if proposals are made for the purpose of denying to us before the close of the financial year even that money which we had hoped to secure, I am afraid, Sir, the financial position of the province, will be seriously affected. We have carefully considered whether the ryots will as a matter of fact appreciably gain by any change of the system as is now advocated, and we are assured on the best authority that this arrangement is by no means demanded by the ryots at all. The question of the kistbandi has come up before the Government from time to time. The Government made a complete survey of the whole question in the year 1888. They pursued those investigations in the year 1894 and then again in 1903 they resurveyed the whole position and what we now find in the shape of kistbandi in the various districts is the result of careful and detailed investigations which have thus been conducted from period to period and if any radical change is introduced into the system, it would, to my mind, render no kind of material assistance to the tax-payer but will merely embarrass the financial position of Government. I would therefore venture to think that this resolution may be reconsidered by my honourable friend who brought it forward, for, I take it, that he is as much interested in the financial solvency of this province as any of us are. As there is another resolution tabled immediately below this of more or less the same description, I shall not enter into some other details which I think I can do when the other question is taken up for consideration."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" Sir, I want to support this proposition. I do not know if the Hon'ble the Revenue Member expects me to move the proposition just below after this is disposed of. I do not think it will be necessary, because the whole proposition may be discussed in this resolution itself and it may be left to the Government to say whether they will change the first kist month to March or February.

" I have been carefully listening to the speech of the Hon'ble the Revenue Member and was surprised to see that he should have taken so much trouble to oppose this proposition. After all, as a friend here remarked, it is a question of expert opinion of the ryots and of the people who live there. I may say that I have lands in several places of the district and it is news to me that most of the

crops are harvested in December. Only nanja lands are harvested either in August or September. For dry lands there are three crops in Tai, Chittrai or Avani. It is a matter of great surprise to us to hear that cholam and cumbu are harvested in Tai. If we take the statistics of lands on which cumbu is grown in that district, it would appear that cumbu is a very subordinate crop, the chief crop used by the ryots being cholam. So far as we know, no crop, either paddy or cholam, or any other, is harvested before Tai. It is generally harvested at the end of Tai which means about the middle of February or so. One serious objection which is brought forward, I am sorry to say, for the purpose of statistics is whether we should include the kist collection of a particular year in the accounts of this year or the next year. This does not seem to me to be a great difficulty at all. It may be in the first year that there is a little change or a little deficit or a little difference. But in the next year following it there may be a large increase to make up for the deficiency of this year and in years to come all that difficulty would disappear. As matters stand, Sir, I can state on behalf of the poor ryot that he is put to serious and great difficulties by the kist collections being made in January. The practice is for merchants to go and advance money to the ryots on the understanding that they would be given about 50 or 75 per cent of the market price at the time when the harvest is made; or more often the price is stated at Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 and advances are made on condition that the grain should be delivered at a particular price of Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 whereas the market price at the time of the actual delivery of grain is probably Rs. 6 or Rs. 7. Therefore the ordinary ryot suffers a good deal of loss by this procedure.

"It is a well-known fact that in January and February the money market is very tight. Somebody has confidentially, I suppose, told the Hon'ble the Member in charge of Revenue that no great hardship will be caused to the ryot and that there is no demand from the ryot for postponement of the kist. I may say, Sir, that just before this Council meeting took place or a few days before the ryots of Palladam taluk assembled in conference and decided to appeal to the Government that this kist collection should be postponed. It is because myself and my hon'ble friend Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar got copies of this resolution that we happened to give notice of identically and practically the same resolutions."

Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar:—"It is not correct to say that I sent a resolution after I received notice. I had sent it earlier."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar:—"Anyhow, the fact remains that my friend has heard of the grievances before. I was about to say that before the conference was held, we had a number of meetings in which this question had been discussed and decided upon and two alternatives have been generally proposed that either eight instalments should be collected instead of four or the collection should begin later. It may be stated that an additional number of collections may lead to additional establishments and all that. It will be absolutely harmless from any point of view if the present number of kist collections is made to begin later.

"We have heard the objection stated that people have got money on hand. If the people have got money on hand, there is no reason why we should be pressing this over and over again. The Honourable Member for Government seems to think that there is some ulterior motive for us to bring this resolution but there is absolutely no doubt whatever that we have been pressed to do it for several years past. Therefore, as regards the question of the people having money, we can authoritatively say that the harvests in Coimbatore district are generally in Tai or

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Chittrai which is January or February and April or May. Those people who harvest in Tai as well as those who harvest in Chittrai are put to great difficulty in having to borrow large sums of money before the harvest really takes place. So far as the Government are concerned, I do not think any serious ground has been shown as to why this change should not be made.

"Of course one thing has been said, that probably we shall have to draw on the reserves in December for which we shall have to get the sanction of the Government of India. I do not know if that is a very great difficulty. We know that lakhs and lakhs of rupees are put into the Bank of Madras in the month of January or February or earlier without being utilized by the Government. If, on the other hand, there is any necessity to draw from the balance in December, I do not think there will be any great difficulty. It is only a formal matter. The Government of India will not refuse the grant if this Government wants it. On the other hand, the poor ryot will be saved all the interest he pays for the money locked up in the Bank of Madras for several months. In these circumstances, we respectfully request the Hon'ble the Revenue Member to consider whether it is not desirable for Government to change its opinion and do something in the way of affording some relief to these poor people. This relief would not cost a pie to the Government but at the same time it would bring immense relief to the people. It may mean a large amount so far as one district is concerned, but I would request all the members to vote."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"The last speaker says that this Government can easily get leave from the Government of India to draw on balances and that it is only a formal matter. I can assure him that it is not a formal matter at all. On the other hand, we have more than once asked for such leave during the past year when it has been refused. He further says that there is plenty of money lying in the Bank of Madras. I wish he would show me any means of drawing upon it. Our closing balance is something like 37 lakhs and he wants to take 21 out of this. Another draft or two of the same sort, and we should be bankrupt.

"I am ready, with my honourable colleagues, to examine the question and see what can be done. But we do want to take the resolutions of this House seriously, and if we are going to have resolutions passed that simply commit the Government to bankruptcy, it will be very difficult to give them the value which the resolutions of this House deserve."

Mr. C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"If I heard the Hon'ble the Revenue Member correctly, he stated that the month of December is the month for remittance of kist into Government treasuries. Now, Sir, the present motion is that the kist from January should be shifted to March. I do not find any connexion between the month of December and the month of January. We cannot understand clearly how the money that comes in in the month of January from the Coimbatore district kistbandi can effect the deficiencies of treasuries in the month of December. I hope the Revenue Member will try to make matters more clear.

"Sir, the next point is, I do admit that administrative interests should be taken into consideration, but we should also take into consideration the grievances of the ryots in fixing the kistbandi.

"Now, Sir, again it was stated that *cumbu* was being harvested as the first crop in Coimbatore district in the month of December. But it is to be remembered that it is a food crop and if I understand the principles that from time to time have governed the resettlements of various districts, it is clearly laid down that in fixing the kistbandi, food crops should not be taken into prominent consideration ;

the harvesting season of food crops has not to be taken into consideration. Besides, we are told that immediately after this in the month of February or March, some more food crops such as *cholam* and *ragi* are being harvested and when such is the case, I do not think the Government will be justified in asking a ryot to sell away his first food crop that is harvested in December in order to pay the Government kist. The Government can very well wait and collect their dues from the second crop if there are not important commercial crops to be harvested in the district. Sir, in this connexion, I have to submit that more prominence is generally given to commercial crops in fixing the kistbandi.

"I do not think the Hon'ble Member for Revenue has stated what are the important commercial crops of the district. As far as I can gather, cotton is a very important commercial crop of the district and I understand it is being harvested in the month of March. Of course I say it subject to correction, for I am not a native of the district and I am not conversant with its peculiar conditions. But I say with all respect to the Member for the district that March is the harvesting season for cotton. Sir, when cotton is the harvesting crop, I think Government can reasonably wait till March for the collection of kists instead of asking the ryot to borrow money and pay kists in January itself. It was mentioned in one or two reports. I think that Government could not get timely intimation to adjust the finances to the kistbandi, if the kist is collected in March. I am not well convinced by the arguments of the Hon'ble Member for Revenue on this point. I support the proposition."

Diwan Bahadur Sir P. Tyagaraya Chetti:—"I quite sympathize with the mover of this resolution. But I am not quite convinced of the arguments adduced by him. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Member for Revenue if sugarcane produce is raised in November or December. I believe in Coimbatore district sugarcane is produced in plenty. If that crop is harvested in December or November there is no need for the kist being put off in March or April. I do not suppose the Government should ask the ryot to sell the food crop such as *cholam* or cumbu, if it is so. But if sugarcane crop cannot be harvested early in December I think the Government may postpone collection of kist till March or April."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar asked permission of the President if he could give that information wanted by Sir P. Tyagaraya Chetti.

The Hon'ble the President said that the question was not intended for the Member but for the Hon'ble Member for Revenue.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur:—"As has been observed by my honourable colleague, the Finance Member, I am quite willing to investigate into all the matters that have been raised. My own attitude in the matter is that I am not willing to commit the Government to this resolution but I assure the House that I am quite willing to investigate all these matters and see if any real case has been made out in the case of the Coimbatore district."

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

The next resolution No. 34 was also withdrawn by Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar.

Kist collections in Coimbatore and neighbouring districts.

34. *That this Council recommends to the Government that kist collections in the Coimbatore and neighbouring districts be commenced from February or March instead of from January as at present.*

19th February 1921] [Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao]

Levy of a fee on lands to be included in ayacut registers in the Kistna district.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu :—

'35. *That this Council recommends to the Government that the Notification No.* 151, *dated 9th December* 1920, *published in the "Kistna District Gazette" for levying a fee on lands to be included in the ayacut registers should be cancelled.*'

"I wish to move that this subject may be adjourned to 5th March next under No. 34 of the Rules. I understand the Hon'ble the Revenue Member has called for further information."

The Hon'ble the President :—"The Standing Order does not say that it must be adjourned to a particular date. That is generally left to the framers of the agenda."

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu :—"I have no objection."

The Hon'ble the President :—"The Standing Order says 'A motion that any meeting or business be adjourned or postponed or that the Council pass to the business next in order in the statement of business may be moved at any time and without previous notice as a distinct question but not so as to interrupt a speech. If the motion is carried, the meeting or business shall be adjourned or postponed accordingly, or if the motion be carried that the Council pass to the business next in order in the statement of business, the business then under discussion shall be considered to be disposed of."

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu :—"If it is permissible I will bring the motion again in the March meeting after notice."

The Hon'ble the President :—"I have no objection to your bringing it up but I only want you to see that it may be adjourned to a date on or after the 5th March. Does the Honourable Member withdraw it? May it be taken as withdrawn."

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu :—"I withdraw it on condition that I may be permitted to bring it at the next meeting."

The Hon'ble the President :—"The Honourable Member asks me whether if it is withdrawn I will allow him to bring this motion again. I can only apply the Standing Order as it stands." (Reads S.O. No. 56.)

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu :—"I merely ask your ruling if it is permissible to bring it at the meeting in March. If you say that I am at liberty to do so, I have no objection to adopt any phraseology."

The Hon'ble the President :—"I am not going to answer hypothetical questions. You ask me what ruling I am likely to give if you adopt a particular course. Of course I will give my ruling at that time. I am sure the Honourable Member will recognize that I cannot answer that question on the spur of the moment. At present the Standing Order which governs the case is Standing Order No 56." (S.O. No. 56 was read.)

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu :—"I beg to move under Rule 34 that this item of the agenda be adjourned to 5th March."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. Govindaraghava Ayyar :—"I second it."

The Hon'ble the President :—"I do not want just now to commit myself definitely to the view that the Honourable Member's motion is out of order. The motion is that the consideration of resolution No. 35 be adjourned to 5th March.

Honourable Members are aware that 5th March has been reserved by His Excellency the Governor for the presentation of the budget. I think the Honourable Member will have to take his chance of his motion finding time or not."

Proposed and seconded that this matter be adjourned to 5th March.

The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson gave out for the information of the House that 5th, 8th, 9th and 10th March are reserved for the discussion of the general principles of the budget.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"We can only go into the private agenda after the Government business is finished and the member will take his chance of that."

Proposed and seconded that resolution No. 35 be adjourned to 5th March.

The motion for adjournment was put to the vote and carried.

The extension of assessment remission rules to dry lands.

"36. *That this Council recommends to the Government that the rules relating to remission of assessment on wet lands may be extended to dry lands as well.*"

Mr. P. Siva Rao withdrew the resolution No. 36 standing in his name. He then withdrew Resolution No. 37 also.

Remission to portions of entire fields.

"37. *That this Council recommends to the Government that remission may be granted to portions of entire fields also and also in cases of partial failure of crops.*"

After taking the sense of the Council the President declared that Resolutions Nos. 36 and 37 were by leave withdrawn.

Opening of an Agricultural school for Tanjore.

"38. *That this Council recommends to the Government that an agricultural school be opened in the district of Tanjore with a model farm attached to it—the farm to serve as a training ground for the students and also to serve as demonstration farm to the agriculturists.*"

Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"I do not wish to occupy the time of the House. This is an important subject and I bring it up so that the Finance Member may take this also into consideration in framing the budget. That an agricultural school is a very important institution everybody would admit. The Agricultural College at Coimbatore trains high-class students for sending them out either as demonstrators or as agricultural inspectors and, if found fit, for being taken into the service of the Agricultural Department. I want that education should be given to ordinary people in rural areas so that the agricultural labourers and other low class people may have some knowledge of practical agriculture. The school I propose is a rural school for every district which will enable boys who have studied up to the second or third form to have a similar course. When I advised so many parents to send their boys to agricultural schools instead of educating them up to the sixth or seventh form they said: Where is the agricultural school to which I can send my boys? Therefore I say that, instead of allowing parents to send their students to the overstocked markets of literary men, Government would accept this resolution and open at least one school in the Tanjore district. It cannot be said that there is want of instructors. Therefore I commend this to the House."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. S. Somasundaram Pillai.

19th February 1921.] [Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar]

The Hon'ble the President read out the resolution.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I beg to propose thefollowing amendment :—

In line 1 omit '*an*' *and* for '*school*' read '*schools*'.

In line 2 substitute '*select districts*', for '*the district of Tanjore*' and '*each*' for '*it*'.

" My object is this: I beg Honourable Members to remember that there are other districts which are far less progressive than Tanjore and where such schools are more urgently needed than in Tanjore. No doubt there are many interests represented in this Council. But I take it that member who represents a particular district represents the interests of the whole province as well. No doubt such a school is necessary and useful. Government should therefore take into consideration the needs of the other districts in the Presidency and open such schools wherever necessary."

Mr. K. SARABA REDDI :—" I second the amendment."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" The amendment should be first taken into consideration and afterwards the main proposition."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" I support the amendment. I believe this question of agricultural schools has been under the consideration of the Government for some years and on many occasions this was brought before the Council. I have been informed that this matter will be taken up and brought into force soon. This is an opportunity when I should like to hear from the Honourable Member what steps have been taken during the last ten years in this direction, what progress has been made and whether we can hope to have agricultural schools shortly in this Presidency. This is a general question not affecting any particular district. For these reasons I would impress upon this House that this general question may be taken up in the hope that something will be done in that direction in the near future."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—" Mr. President, now that the amendment alone is before House, I am afraid, or rather I am glad, that my task has been lessened and my honourable friend opposite is quite justified in asking what has been done during the last ten years. The agricultural department ever since its inception has undertaken the work of educating the agricultural classes. From the very beginning, that is, from 1864 when the Saidapet farm was opened, agricultural students were taken, and scholarships were given in the hope that they would go to their fields and use their knowledge for the purpose of improving their agriculture. But perhaps I had better confine myself to what has been done during recent years. In the year 1916–17 agricultural educational conferences were held at Pusa and Simla and recommendations were made to the Government of India for the opening of these schools. In 1917 the Agricultural Board met at Poona and also made similar recommendations to the effect that agricultural middle schools should be opened in select areas, preferably linguistic areas as experimental measures. The Government of India concurred with these conferences and approved of the resolutions of these conferences and asked this Government to see their way to take a broad view and have a definite programme. After that recommendation from the Government was received this Government instructed the agricultural department to open two middle schools in this Presidency and at the same time they appointed a committee consisting of educational and agricultural officers who may be said to be the experts concerned with agricultural education. This committee met and reported

that schools might be opened as experimental measures and in doing so they recommended Taliparamba in Malabar district as the first place in which the school should be opened. They could not recommend another school because they feared that necersary staff was not available. This Government at once ordered the opening of the school at Taliparamba. The necessary acquisition had been made and two teachers trained in the Saidapet Training College were kept in readiness to take charge of the school. But unfortunately owing to certain differences in estimates of the building, delay has been made. It is necessarily incidental to these institutions that when some differences of opinion as regards estimates arises they have to be revised. But so far as this Govrenment are concerned they were always ready to do their best to start a school at Taliparamba. This committee also recommended four other places. There were one in the Avanasi taluk in the Coimbatore district for the Goundan community, one in the Telugu area of Guntur and Vizagapatam, one in the South Kanara district for the Tulu speaking people and one in Tinnevelly for the Reddi and Naik communities in black soil tracts. While matters stood thus, my friends the honourable members of the house, as it was, were not silent. Resolution after resolution was moved in this House and at the time of the budget, proposals were made to allot some money for a school at Anakapalle in Vizagapatam district. Government then promised that they would start a school there, and provided my honourable friend the Member for Finance is able to find funds for us Government to this day keeps the promise and will start the school. As a matter of fact, as I told the House, the school at Taliparamba is almost ready. If it cannot be started at once it will be started in about a few months. Next year funds permitting, Government will be very glad to have a school at Anakapalle opened. After this statement I hope that my friend will not press this resolution and so far as Tanjore is concerned the Honourable Member will also see his way to withdraw his resolution having regard to the needs of other districts. But if he is to come to that I will answer that."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"In view of what has been stated by the Hon'ble the Minister for Development I take it as an indication that other unfortunate districts would also be taken into consideration. With that assurance I withdraw my amendment."

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar :—"In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble the Minister for Development I beg leave to withdraw this resolution."

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu :—"The next resolution might be taken some time later, Sir."

The Hon'ble the President :—"It is not open to me now to alter the agenda."

The motion was put and lost.

Opening of an industrial school for select districts.

Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar :—"I beg to move the following resolution standing in my name :—

'39. *That this Council recommends to the Government that an industrial hool for the select districts, including the district of Tanjore, with a workshop attached opened and maintained by the Government for the purpose of training mechanics*

of a lower standard such as fitters, oil and steam engine-drivers and motor mechanics and for the purpose of manufacturing agricultural implements for sale to bona fide agriculturists.'

"This is a request similar to the one in resolution No. 38 except that it refers to an industrial school. My object in moving for a school is this: we do not want very high technical institutions such as the Victoria Technical Institute at Bombay. We want an institution like the Chengalvaraya Naicker's Commercial Institute at Madras to be opened at some places in the mufassal so that we may train machanics of a lower standard, taking the students who have studied up to the second or third form and giving them a training in an elementary course, so that they may be fit to take up appointments in workshops; for example the South Indian Railway Workshops will be very glad to take men who hold a fitter's certificate or a mechanic's certificate. We may divert a large number of students to industrial pursuits, so that we may fit them for employment as higher mechanics such as foremen or assistant foremen in the several workshops. So many people want oil and steam engine-drivers. I know that in so many mills in the Tanjore district steam and oil engines are run by foremen who have no knowledge of the mechanism. They run the machine so long as it goes, and when it breaks they ask the owner of the mill to run up to Madras and get a highly paid mechanic to repair it. To avoid such things, I should like to train some students in both theoretical and practical knowledge. For this purpose an industrial school may be established in the Tanjore district as well as in some other selected districts. I do not wish that all these schools should be opened at once. But I should like, in view of the cry for elementary education which must find its vent in so many walks of life and I submit to the Hon'ble the Minister for Development, that he may take into consideration this reasonable request and at least provide one school or two or three schools, so that the Finance Member may be in a position to provide for them in the budget."

Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar:—"Mr. President,—As there is a necessity for the opening of industrial schools in many districts, I heartily second the resolution."

Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu:—"I beg to propose an amendment similar to what was proposed by my friend with regard to the previous resolution. I wish to delete 'an' occurring in the first line of the resolution and add 's' to 'school' in the same line, and also delete the words 'including the district of Tanjore' in the second line, so that we may leave it to the Government where the schools are to be opened."

Diwan Bahadur C. Arunachala Mudaliyar:—"I second it."

The Hon'ble the President:—"Probably it will be convenient to read the resolution as amended. The honourable members will understand it better. This is how Mr. Balaji Rao proposes to amend the resolution—

'That this Council recommends to the Government that an industrial school for select districts with workshops attached be opened and maintained by the Government for the purpose of training mechanics of a lower standard such as fitters, oil and stream engine-drivers and motor mechanics and for the purpose of manufacturing agricultural implements for sale to bona fide agriculturists.'

That is the amendment which the honourable member has proposed.

Diwan Bahadur C. Arunachala Mudaliyar:—"I second it."

The Hon'ble the President:—"The amendment will first be taken up."

Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—" The reason why I mentioned specifically the district of Tanjore was not that I am partial to Tanjore or that I do not want any school in any other district. But the reason is that wherever industrial schools are opened, people want them to be popular. In a district like Tanjore which has a large number of labourers, they want such a school for their children. They would not like to send their children all the way to Madras for industrial training. Therefore I mentioned Tanjore. I do not see therefore, why the mover of the amendment should be very particular about taking away 'the district of Tanjore'. I say in the resolution 'other districts, including the district of Tanjore,' leaving the discretion absolutely to Government."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" I now put the amendment for consideration. Probably it will be convenient if the amendment is adopted by the Council. We will then discuss the resolution as amended. May the amendment be adopted ? "

The amendment was assented to.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" The resolution as amended will now be considered."

Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL :—" Mr. President, I am against this proposal not because I am out of sympathy with it exactly, but I think it will involve unnecessary expenditure of Government money. To have a successful industrial school, one must have the articles to work upon, to teach the students who are learning mechanics. I wonder if the honourable the mover of the proposal intends the Government to enter into competition with private manufacturers in turning out the products of the school. That is one aspect. The second aspect is that it is not so easy as the proposer would like to make out to train a mechanic. My experience of the product of the industrial schools is they are not very promissing. I believe in this country a mechanic is born and not made. The traditions of this country are against industrial work. And the feeling among the student population of the country is that they do not wish to soil their hands with labour but would prefer to drive a pen rather than a steam engine. The class that we want for mechanics are those whose fathers and grand-fathers were in the line and to that extent they would have, what I call, mechanical blood in their veins. Then to assist them, a certain amount of general education is necessary. In all industrial schools, it will be much better if elementary education is given at nights. Let them pursue the usual vocation of learning a trade during the day and add to the knowledge in the evening by a certain amount of elementary education which will enable them to develop their brains and devote the development to intelligent work next day. As regards foremen, the honourable mover said that these industrial schools will be able to develop a class of foremen and supervisors who will be of great use to the employers of labour. I have had experience, Mr. President, of the class of people the honourable mover speaks of. My experience is they are absolutely useless as foremen in workshops. It requires a great deal more to be a foreman than to be able to tell the labourer how to do a thing. It also requires the ability of handling labour. And the only way he can get through to a foreman's position is by going through the ranks himself, learning what the work is, studying it himself and learning to handle the tools. For these reasons, Mr. President, I am against this resolution and trust the House would oppose it. To this Council I am a new member. During the past five days I have sat here listening to the demands for money and more money from the Government. My Honourable friends, Sir, I am afraid, forget to ask themselves the question where is the money to come from. I have heard impassioned

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appeals on behalf of certain officials for money, for more pay. But I have yet to hear one impassioned appeal on behalf of those poor people who have to find the money. This is another question however. The proposal may be a small expense; it may not cost very much, but in my opinion at the present state of things it will be useless expense. For these reasons, I oppose this resolution."

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, I am really surprised to hear the remarks from the previous speaker. I thought that stage in the development of industrial education in this country is long past when we could say that a member of any Indian family preferred to drive the quill to driving the stream engine. The cry from one end of the country to the other is that the system of education now imparted in our high schools, in the secondary schools and in the highest elementary schools is such that makes us quite idle and unfit for any regular work. The cry is for technical schools, to make the students from the higher elementary to secondary schools more useful to society to make them able to earn a living, themselves to turn their hands to work and to help in the material development of the country. I do not know whether the Honourable Member who spoke previous to me is aware of the agitation, not merely of the agitation but of the practical inauguration of industrial schools by voluntary help and voluntary aid in several parts of this presidency. I may here refer notably to one instance in our own Presidency, to what is known as the national school of Masulipatam which has been doing much useful and practical work. I have employed men turned out as mechanics from that school and I can give my strong testimony to the kind of work that has been turned out by these people. The two people I have been able to employ are persons belonging to respectable families, families who yield to none in respectability and education, but they have gone in voluntarily to seek industrial education to that place, Masulipatam, and they have come out of it with that kind of education. People that were turned out of the national school at Masulipatam known as the Andhra Jatiya Kalasala are now helping the agriculturist in making ploughs of improved nature and are also going about in the taluks of Kistna and Gōdāvari districts. I have known six such people and the report that I have had about them shows the popularity of the school. Contributions have been made to the school from various classes of people, officials and non-officials, and this is sufficient reason to show that the demand for such industrial education is not limited to any section of the people, but all classes of people are now beginning to realize that the kind of education that is now given, the mere training of the intellect, is not sufficient. Something more has to be done to make our educational course really useful. Again, Sir, I have seen the work turned out in the Sakchi works and Karagpur. There are a number of persons all of very respectable families from Madras working as factors and foremen, five foremen from our own Presidency. You see a graduate putting on the blue apron and working in the smithy like an ordinary gang coolie. The dignity of labour is being realised everywhere by Indians. Labour is not looked down upon as it was perhaps a century back or fifty years ago, when to get a Rs. 10 clerk's post was more honourable than turning the hand to the plough or to the machine. These ideas are fast disappearing from our midst, and it is to our good and benefit that such ideas are fast disappearing. Unless we are able to develop the material resources of our country and unless we are able to exploit the fields where the country has not yet been developed, we can in no way get the money that we have been now asking for. Sir, we are not contented with merely asking but we want that the resources which should provide us with money be developed, and developed through Indian agency, and that English agency should be turned out only by means of these educational or industrial

schools, where the people should learn how to develop and to work, not merely by putting on English clothes or English dresses, but work with swadesi clothes with that self-discipline that is most necessary for a career of industrial enterprise. It is that sort of self-discipline that we want. It is that stage in the material development of the country that we seek for and that we work for in starting this industrial school. We may not at once rise to the western standard where a young man has to work as an apprentice for five years to spend two years in practical workshops and again another year working as an assistant and after a severe training of about eight years make himself fit to earn a living. It is that kind of training, it is that kind of education that we want here in this country now, because the education that is already being given has been shown to be perfectly fruitless and useless and quite unsuited to the changed condition of the country. Therefore I would ask that this kind of education, this kind of schools, should be started not merely in every district, but in every taluk. We want not merely the Government support, but we want every member of this House to realize that, if the salvation of this country is to be achieved, it is by means of the training that we give to our young men and teaching them not to drive the quill but to drive the steam engines and the plough. It is for that we want money, that we are asking for finance. Therefore we have to turn our attention from these offices and send our children to the industrial schools which we are going to establish and by which we can effectually develop the material resources of our country. So let us make a beginning. Every member here is wealthy. A zamindar or a prosperous vakil can afford to lay by some thirty or forty thousand rupees for the purpose of starting an industrial school. We are going to set an example in Berhampur. Let that be done in every district. The Honourable Member is right in saying that you are asking the Government to do everything without doing anything yourselves. So let us begin by employing at least ten people in every district and let the work be done by means of voluntary agency. Let wealthy friends and wealthy landlords come forward with their money and let us not ask Government for it. Here is the means by which we can provide for the improvement of the condition of our people. What is the use of crying about the poverty of our country, the economic bondage of our country, unless we are prepared to help ourselves. When we begin to help ourselves, there is time enough to condemn others. Unless a beginning is made . . ."

Mr. A. Tangavelu Nayagar :—"My friend is not speaking on the resolution. He is not following the words of the resolution. He is going beyond the resolution."

Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro :—"If words have any meaning, Sir, it is this, that I am speaking about the starting of industrial schools for the benefit of the country. If my honourable friend is not able to follow the language, I am very sorry for him. I am only speaking the language of the resolution. Therefore it is absolutely necessary that we should develop such schools from small beginnings and therefore this resolution asks Government to provide the necessary schools. But let our efforts not stop with their merely asking the Government. Let us co-operate with the Government in the matter of starting these institutions ourselves and thereby showing that we are earnest in the matter of the development of industrial education in our country."

Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhacharlu :—"Mr. President, for my part I wanted to be very quiet because the subject-matter of this resolution did not require much recommendation. I have now risen to speak because one Honourable Member said that it would be a waste of money to start such schools. He

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put forward two grounds. One ground was that the Indian hand is not fit to work. Time was when the hand was wielding the sceptre. Time is when it is wielding a pen. But the field is overstocked, and the Indians don't work because by means of physical labour they cannot earn their living honourably or in a dignified way. I believe it is the duty of the State to provide facilities for the training for the hand. It is in that mood that this resolution has been moved. Without schools, without training for the hand, no achievement can be made in industrial progress. That is the aim of this resolution. Another reason is that we are not fitted by nature to be competent workmen. It was stated that a workman must be born, that the blood must be mechanical blood. I don't know whether God has . . . . "

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"Order, order. I think the Honourable Member is travelling beyond the words of the resolution. I think we have nothing to do with mechanical 'blood'."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"As such an expression was used, I wanted to criticise it."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"The proper course was for the Honourable Member to have drawn my attention immediately the expression was used, and then I would not have allowed it."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"Yes, Sir, I shall obey it hereafter. What I would submit is, that if only the proper training is given to the Indians, they will be fit not only for mechnical, but for any other kind of work. It is the want of training that is now complained of. It is to meet that that Industrial schools are required to be started. Therefore I submit that here it is not a question of money, it is not a question of expenditure, it is a question of necessity, and I require that the State will be guided by the principle of establishing certain schools in certain select districts so that the people of these districts might be enabled to train themselves to work in the mechanical arts. With these few remarks I support the resolution."

Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"Sir, the Government have very deep sympathy with the improvement of industrial education and have been doing their best to spread indusdrial education for some years past. I may perhaps briefly indicate the principal lines on which we work. The Government have established institutions of their own as proposed in this resolution. They also aid institutions run by private or local bodies, and in addition they grant scholarships. We have at present an industrial school at Madura and we have a Trades school at Madras managed by the Government. We have 35 aided industrial schools of which five are giving training for mechanics. Those five are situated in Madras, Trichinopoly, Coimbatore, Vizagapatam and Masulipatam, the last being the Andhra Jathiya Kalasala, which was mentioned by Mr. Patro. I understand from the resolution that it is proposed that the Government should now select some six or eight districts, and establish industrial institutes in them for training mechanics, fitters, etc. Mr. McDougall has foreshadowed the difficulty which the Government feel in accepting this resolution, viz., the financial one. The Madura Institute has cost in land, buildings, equipment and furniture a sum of over 3½ lakhs and it is not yet complete. The Institute includes a weaving section as well as provision for training mechanics and fitters ; the total cost with its hospital and full equipment will probably amount to nearly 5 lakhs. I mention that figure to show the magnitude of the proposition from a financial point of view, which the

acceptance of this resolution would involve. The Industrial Commission condemned the old system of training schools as far as they can be avoided and recommended the system which we find in force here in Madras, in the Madras Trades School. Here we take apprentices who are already working in mills and workshops, and we give them a technical training after working hours. We hope in time to be able to give the training during the working hours. The Industrial Commission has pointed out that after working several hours in mills or workshops, the employees are not in a fit condition to profit as much by technical teaching, as they would during the working hours, when they are not so weary. The Madras Trades School has been extremely successful, and last year some 370 pupils were on the rolls; the Government are preparing to place that school on a permanent basis by erecting buildings which are likely to cost about four lakhs of rupees. The Government of India have given us one lakh of rupees towards that object. The question of providing suitable training for mechanics in all parts of the Presidency has come before the Legislative Council more than once I believe. I have at present under consideration a proposal to provide workshops in Bezwada for that purpose, that place being regarded generally as the most important industrial centre in the northern part of the Presidency. That scheme is estimated to cost in buildings and equipment about 3½ lakhs. Well, Sir, I do not think in the present state of Government finances we can expect very much more expenditure within the next three or four years on industrial institutions than is already preshadowed for the Madras Trades school and the Institute in the north of the Presidency; it seems therefore hardly worth while now to accept this proposition which would entail an expenditure of a large sum of money. We do our best to take advantage of the private institutions by making advances towards buildings and furniture and also by recurring teaching grants. These private institutions have advantage of having at their disposal the guidance of experts who are willing to give their services on remuneration far below what they would expect to receive if they were in Government service. They can, therefore, be run much more economically than any similar institutions of our own. By means of grants we endeavour to see that they are run on right lines. we further grants scholarships to pupils in recognized industrial schools. We have recently extended the system so as to apply it in the case of apprentices working in workshops or mills, which will give them suitable education during working hours. Our reasons are that the Industrial Commission has pointed out that the best form of training is to allow the apprentice to work in workshops and to supplement the training in the workshops by elementary education or technical education during the working hours. I can support Mr. Patro's statement that the dignity of labour is being realised by Indians. If any gentleman comes to the Madras Trades school, he will find Brahmans working side by side with men of the artizan class. I think that the feeling, that labour is something which the higher classes should not have anything to do with, is fast dying out. I am glad to hear Mr. Patro suggest that free schools should be started by local bodies and by private gentlemen. I am sure the Government will do their best to find funds to give them assistance. While the Government cannot accept the resolution they will do what they can towards seeing that schools are provided in districts where they are needed. We accept the underlying principle of the resolution. I hope that the Honourable Member will accept this statement and withdraw the resolution.

Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju :—" Mr. President, Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell has stated that the new Local Boards Act does not permit local bodies to run

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industrial schools. I believe the provision exists in the present Act, but when it was revised, it was purposely omitted and I am sorry it is not there."

Mr. K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—" Sir, in view . . . "

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" Has not the Honourable Member already spoken on the subject? "

Mr. K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR : —" In view of the assurance given by the Director of Industries that he will consider all reasonable requests made by local bodies in the promotion of industrial schools, I beg to withdraw this resolution."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" Has the Honourable Member the leave of the Council to withdraw his resolution ? "

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

Supplemental reservoirs to the Rushikulya project.

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, I beg to move—

' 40. *That this Council recommends to the Government the immediate construction of a reservoir or reservoirs to supplement the supply to the Rushikulya project to save the district from periodical distress and famine, and to make adequate allotment of funds for the execution of projects, the investigation of which was completed, and the immediate commencement of the scheme for the increasing supply to the Surada reservoir by an anicut and supply channel in the Rushikulya river, three miles above the Surada town—a scheme that has been strongly pressed by local officer.*'

" Sir, the history of this reservoir project is the history of errors and failures. I wish to submit that this supplemental reservoir question has been or is being considered from the year 1872. From 1872 till now the matter was thoroughly discussed by five Superintending Engineers, three Chief Engineers and one Special Irrigation Party in the Ganjam district. The party itself cost several lakhs of rupees and worked in the district for nearly 2½ years. Projects were investigated, estimates were prepared, plans were submitted, the revenue forecast was approved, the Collector's recommendations were taken, the Board of Revenue approved of the revenue estimates and the result of it is that from 1872 till 1921 we are still awaiting the execution of the schemes which are to save the district from economic distress and famine. A severe famine visited the district in 1886 and was preceded by failure of crops during three successive years. In 1872 when the project of Rushikulya was finally approved and constructed, some relief was given to the poor on account of this supply. But later on in the same year there was general failure of crops. In 1878, paddy crops failed miserably and severe distress occurred. This was followed by a famine declared under the Famine Code in 1888 and 1889 when large remissions were given and relief works were started.

" Again, Sir, during 1896-97, there occurred another severe distress and the Government lost heavily by granting remissions and maintaining relief works. So, Major Beckles was deputed to investigate a supplementary project and his interesting remarks and the practical nature of his suggestions were embodied in a G.O. No. 2553 of 27th October 1870. It is a very interesting document in which the scheme was very thoroughly investigated with great earnestness, and suggestions were made that a supplementary reservoir was absolutely necessary in the interests of the people. The estimate was very modest one, considering the large amounts of remissions that were given by the Government since that date, considering the loss of revenue thereby incurred and also considering the amount of money spent in famine-relief works from that date,

Imagine the loss of revenue, imagine the distress of the country, imagine also the large amounts of people's money that were spent in the district. So from 1870, these periodical distresses have been occurring for want of water and for want of proper irrigation sources.

"The Rushikulya project has at present two storage tanks. The Surada and Russellkonda reservoirs both of them hold water enough to irrigate about one lakh of acres. It has since been found from experience that the storage is not sufficient even for the existing cultivation. A third reservoir has subsequently been proposed across the Gadag, a tiny stream, and this to make a fresh supplement of ten inches of water for the anicut and thereby strengthen the supplemental supply to the Russellkonda and Surada reservoirs. An elaborate report was prepared, a revenue forecast was also prepared and the Chief Engineer approved the whole scheme and it was embodied in a Government Order with the recommendations of the Executive Engineer on special duty Mr. P. T. Srinivasa Ayyangar that this scheme should be approved. This special duty officer recommended in addition that the Bahadur reservoir scheme which he stated would not be merely productive but would be a protective one. The Superintending Engineer on special duty Mr. Clerk in 1905 examined in detail the reservoir proposed and he found this as one of the reservoirs that could be taken up even as a productive one.

"The Chief Engineer for Irrigation forwarded his notes through the Superintending Engineer, I Circle, Mr. Mackenzie, who stated that both the Surada reservoirs should be made as soon as possible. These are the remarks of the Superintending Engineer. The Chief Engineer asked the officer on special duty to prepare plans and estimates for those supplementary reservoirs. Plans and estimates were ready in October 1906. It was stated that this matter might be delayed for a little while. The whole proceedings were recorded in G.O. No. 328, dated 22nd March 1906.

"The Chief Engineer notes that the Russellkonda reservoir was by far the most economic and Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar's recommendation was approved. So in November 1906, the Chief Engineer asked to have all the working tables prepared before recommending the scheme completely, the preparation was completed in 1909 and the Chief Engineer forwarded these to the Government for approval. His remarks were that the area thus obtained should, except in very worst years, receive such a supply as to constitute a first-class source of irrigation and it was hoped the scheme would work productively. As you will see the Chief Engineer who was the ultimate authority for passing this scheme approved of that. When it has passed through successive stages from 1870 to 1905, when the special officer who was appointed in 1906 had made a further scrutiny in 1910 and ultimately stated that it would receive such supply as would constitute it a first-class source of irrigation, and hoped that it would also be productive, when all these preliminaries had been completed, we had not the fortune of having this reservoir constructed, so that distress might be averted and the Government might also save the large amounts spent in famine works.

"What happened next is that the Superintending Engineer on 15th August 1910 made a further report and he said that the surplus discharge of Janubelli should also be diverted in order that this reservoir might be further supplemented and completed. At this stage the matter stood for about 2½ years. The work that was due in the course of 2½ years is this : that the Superintending Engineer was asked to prepare and send up a plan, because a plan had been originally prepared by Major Beckley but that plan was not to be found in the Chief

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Engineer's office. Therefore a new plan had to be prepared and for this purpose the whole file was kept pending from 22nd September 1910 to 10th May 1912. All this time he was preparing certain sketches which had been originally prepared by Major Beckley. The whole time was taken up for that. At the end of 10th May 1912 the Executive Engineer, Ganjām division, asked for a special staff of two overseers and three draughtsmen in order to prepare these plans and what happened next? When this reference was made by the Executive Engineer to the Superintending Engineer, the reference was kept pending there and in October 1912 orders were passed. On receipt of this, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation stated that the whole matter might be kept pending with a view to strengthen the bunds of the reservoir.

"Final orders were passed in 1914 regarding the whole thing. The whole thing went to the Government and was recorded. The last Government Order was in 1870. We have seen how from that time investigation projects have been going on and how special officers were appointed and how much money was spent and time taken up. We know how people suffered in the repeated famines. Thirty-five lakhs of rupees were spent last year under the Famine Code in the Ganjām district in addition to the revenue which the Government lost. If the resources of the Surada reservoir had been supplemented in time, this large expenditure would not have been caused and the people's money would not have been spent in one particular district. Now the reservoirs that were designed and approved by the Chief Engineer are estimated to cost from 8 lakhs to 18 lakhs of rupees. One of the reservoirs cost about 8 lakhs and the other the largest one costs 18 lakhs. Nevertheless Government were not able to find funds to carry out any one of these large schemes but they were able to find 35 lakhs to be spent in famine. Who is to blame for this waste of public money? It is a matter that should be seriously considered. While we have been repeatedly asking for the reservoirs to be taken up and completed, while we have been crying for water-supply, our voice has been a cry in the wilderness and the whole course of red tapeism was gone through for the preparation of plans and estimates, etc., and yet people were and are suffering for want of water. Ultimately the people pressed again in conferences and deputation and a less costly scheme was devised and submitted to the Government and the Superintending Engineer. I wonder how long it will take for Government to pass this irrigation scheme which costs only five lakhs of rupees and which, as I indicated, is to supplement the Surada reservoir, in order to economize the water that is going on to Jallipolli reservoir. If this is done, a large area will be irrigated by means of this supply and the people of this area will be for ever free from distress and repeated famine will not occur in Ganjām. This will cost only 5 lakhs of rupees and the B reservoir would give a revenue. I remind the House that the Rushikulya reservoir is intended to be a protective work and not a productive work. If this is carried out, it will be a productive work also. If the Government only gets 3 per cent from the existing protective work of the Rushikulya project, this scheme will make the income very productive. Therefore it is now at least time, after spending 35 lakhs last year and proposing to spend 5 lakhs more; I would respectfully urge the Government to consider the scheme to be very urgent and take it on hand in order to save people from economic distress and in order to save the wastage of public money on relief works."

Sriman Sasibhushana Rath:—"I rise to second the resolution so ably moved by Mr. Patro. It is said that in cases of typhoid fever you have no particular remedy and that you have to read the symptoms as they arise. So in the case of

the Ganjām district the Government don't seem to have got any particular remedy but to be treating the symptoms as they arise. Sir, from the year 1870 the subject of relieving the distress is being considered. We have had two reservoirs constructed. These two reservoirs are able to irrigate only 90,000 acres of land and they are not sufficient for that. We require a lot of rain besides. If there is a normal rainfall, one lakh of acres will be irrigated by the two reservoirs that we have got at present. It was sought to investigate the possibility of supplementing these two reservoirs and from 1870 onwards the matter has been investigated. Government have spent quite a lot of money in having the projects investigated and in getting the reports recorded. But meanwhile all these famines arise. As I have already told the House, every ten years or even at shorter intervals we have a famine and the Government is spending much money in relief works. As the speaker has told the House only in last year we spent 35 lakhs in relieving distress. I hope the Government will be sympathetic to our demand for supplementing the irrigation resources of our district. I understand the Honourable Member for Revenue is sympathetic in the matter. So I second the resolution."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:— "I fully respond to the last words of the previous speaker in which he has foreshadowed that I was going to view this question sympathetically. I suppose it is needless for me to say that I am ready to view every case sympathetically, provided it is feasible. I shall not take up anything like the time of the House in trying to go over the ground travelled by the Honourable Mover from 1872, nor am I going to enter into a discussion with him as to whether, if this particular project had been already undertaken, it would have converted the Ganjām district into a land of fertility to defy all subsequent calamities which befell it! However I am willing to concede that it is a pressing necessity from the standpoint of the happiness and welfare of the landowning classes of the district. Let me at the same time assure my honourable friend that this question has been engaging the attention of the Government for some years past. He has told us that some schemes had been previously investigated, namely, Bordapalli, Godohollo and Bahuda reservoir schemes, and that all of them had not attained anything like fruition. Our technical advisers clearly assured us that the Godohollo and Bahuda reservoir schemes could not be embarked upon in any case. But that the first one, viz., the Bordapalli scheme, might be deferred until the necessary improvements to the existing works had been undertaken and completed. The further investigation of a new project like the one that now forms the subject matter of this resolution had perforce to be deferred. But, in the year 1913, Government were advised by the special officer who was deputed for the purpose of making investigations into all projected schemes to order an investigation into the Surada scheme as well. And in the year 1917 we received plans and estimates in regard to that scheme, but having found that they were not absolutely satisfactory, they were sent back for revision on the lines indicated. I am now in a position to assure the honourable mover and seconder, the former particularly, that final plans have since been received and are being carefully scrutinized in the Chief Engineer's office. As soon as the scrutiny of these plans and estimates is completed, we are hoping to start work as expeditiously as we possibly can. We have also another proposal on hand, namely, the creation of what we call a separate project division, so that the officers employed in that project division will have no other work to do except to engage themselves in the completion of such of the projected schemes as have been already sanctioned by Government, and for which it may be found possible to provide funds. That matter of the organization of a separate project division is being considered by the Financial Department, and if that is secured,

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I think I may safely assure the House that the question of the project referred to will presumably occupy the first place. If this assurance is sufficient, I take it that both the honourable mover and the seconder will be willing to withdraw the resolution."

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I am grateful for the assurance given by the Honourable Member for Revenue. I wish that this scheme will occupy, not presumably but pre-eminently, the first place in the list of schemes that are to be worked out by the special officer. My conception had all along been that Government has been considering and are still considering the matter and I hope it will not be too late. I beg to withdraw the resolution."

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

The following resolutions standing in the name of Mr. P. Siva Rao were not moved and were therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

Recruitment of higher judicial officers from the Bar.

" 41. *That this Council recommends to the Government that a certain percentage of the higher judicial officers in the mufassal may be recruited from the Bar as recommended by the Public Services Commission.*"

Training of Civilian Judges in Civil Law and Sub-Judges in Criminal Law Administration.

" 42. *That this Council recommends to the Government that suitable training may be given to the Civilian Judges in the administration of Civil Law and to the Sub-Judges in the Criminal Law.*"

Workmen's Compensation Bill.

MR. M. D. DEVADAS :—" Sir, the resolution which stands against my name is—

'43. *That this Council recommends to the Government that a Bill providing for workmen's compensation be introduced in the near future on the lines of the English Acts.*'

" It is well-known fact that in India there is no Act with regard to workmen's compensation, anything like what it is in England. If a workman suffers injury, he can only have what is known as the Common Law remedy. According to the English Law there are three kinds of action open : one under the Common Law, one under the Employers' Liability Act of 1880 and 43 and 44 Vict., Chapter 42, and the third is under the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1906, VI, Edward VII, Chapter 58.

" Now I do not mean to go into the various provisions of the two Acts of the rules relating to the actions which can be brought under the Common Law of England. There is a great difference between the Common Law action and an action under the Workmen's Compensation Act. It is this : under the Common Law a labourer or a workman who is injured can sue or bring an action only in case the employer is guilty of some negligence, that is, if he or any workman employed by him is guilty of negligence, or if he furnished defective material for the workman to work upon ; then only he can be sued. The Employers' Liability Act enlarged the scope of the action by making not only the employers but also the other workman's negligence a ground of action, and there are several defences to the action. If the workman is aware of the defective machinery or the dangerous nature of the material, then he is supposed to have taken the risk, and he could not claim compensation. But the Workmen's Compensation Act makes a

difference this way : first of all he could not contract himself out of the provisions of the Act, that is to say, an employer cannot agree with the workman that he should not ask for compensation in case he is disabled or suffers injury in the course of employment. The second thing is that the Workmen's Compensation Act provides for compensation even if the workman knew or was aware of the defective nature of the materials or of the dangerous nature of the work. Sir, in this country it is very material that the workmen should be properly protected, for sometimes the materials are defective and the nature of the work is dangerous. I will only give one or two examples. Sir, take for instance, the case of a workman, a mason or a mason's boy who goes up a ladder. Everybody knows that there is danger in that kind of work. But under the Common Law you cannot sue the employer in case the workman falls down from the ladder or from the roof of the house thereon he is working, unless it can be shown that the employer was guilty of some negligence or neglected to take some precaution which he was bound to take under some provision of law. Now, if a mason or a mason's boy goes up a ladder when the work is under construction and if he happens to slip down he cannot sue and he cannot claim compensation from his employer because if the employer had furnished a proper ladder and if the roof was not in any way dangerous, then he could not claim compensation. But under the Workmen's Compensation Act he could, because the nature of the work is such that there is a certain amount of risk involved and therefore he can claim compensation. He can protect himself when there is danger. Take for instance a case where he has to deal with noxious things or deleterious substances. He takes the risk, no doubt, but the law says that the mere fact that he takes the risk on account of the necessity of earning his livelihood should not in any way take away his right to compensation. Under the Workmen's Compensation Act he can claim compensation only if he is disabled from work for more than a week or in any way suffers injury. Now, Sir, under the Employers' Liability Act of 1880 if the workman suffers injury he cannot bring an action against the representatives of the employers, nor the representatives of an injured workman could bring an action against the employers. But the Workmen's Compensation Act is different. Sir, I do not mean to go into the details of these things, but I feel sure that Honourable Members would agree with me in thinking that some protection ought to be given to the labourers. Sir, it is not my intention to give the various rules and regulations that ought to be provided for. It cannot be done at present, but when an Act is introduced into the Council, then it will be time to consider what rules should be made. I fear the Government may say that it will require a costly machinery to work the Act, but I may be permitted to say that no costly machinery is needed at present. The Workmen's Compensation Act is no doubt a very highly technical subject and after it is passed, I think it will not be difficult to work the Act and the cost will depend upon the amount of work involved and the Government should make provision for Referees, Doctors and Boards of Arbitration. But one great benefit which it would confer upon the labouring classes is this. At present it is left entirely to the mercy of the kind consideration of the employers to compensate the workmen who have been injured and the workmen have no right to proceed against them, unless they could show that the employer or the organization under which the workmen work has been guilty of negligence. You know, Sir, with what tenacity these big organizations would fight a case like this. I may mention, Sir, though it is not quite relevant to the purpose, the Mangapatnam case with which the Honourable Members of this House are familiar. The railway company fought against the claim brought by the representatives of a deceased person and you know, Sir, what an amount of time

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and trouble it took for the representatives to establish their claim. That being so, it is not possible for every workman who is injured and who is disabled to do any work on account of injuries sustained in the course of employment to successfully prosecute a suit against any big organization like a railway company or the owners of a mill. But, on the other hand, the Workmen's Compensation Act provides statutory remedy, i.e., what is known as Arbitration Board. This Board would be able to decide what compensation a man should receive, and whether the injury was received in the course of employment or not. It would not be very difficult to work this Act and I feel sure that, in the interests of labouring classes, such an Act should be introduced. I do not wish to elaborate the provisions of the Act, nor is it necessary to go into the details of the various defences to action under the Employers' Liability Act, or any other thing, but I would only ask the Government to consider whether it is not high time for them to introduce a Workmen's Compensation Act now."

Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao :—"The lot of Indian workmen in this Presidency is very pitiable. They are ill-fed, ill-nourished, ill-clothed and overworked, whereas English labourers are well-paid, well-fed, and well-organized. The Indian workmen are not at all organized and they have no means even to bring in their complaints and grievances before the authorities. The climate in India is very hot and enervating and the system goes out of order very soon, whereas in a cold country like the United Kingdom the labourers' health is always well preserved and they are able to do more work and efficiently too. Here in India the men are liable to fall ill much earlier and so on. So in a country like the United Kingdom when they have got the Workmen's Compensation Act, I do not see any reason why there should not be a similar Act especially in this Presidency. To protect labourers in cases of accidents, it is absolutely necessary. For an Indian labourer who has been employed in a firm may have put in his services for about 20 years and if owing to defective machinery any accident were to happen to him and he become disabled, he might not be paid anything whatever by the employers but he should have to go back home and remain penniless all his life without any means for his livelihood. Of course, the employers may give him some sort of allowance out of pity but they are not bound to pay him any compensation, and the honourable mover has brought this resolution for the consideration of this Council, I hope, to guard against this kind of hardship. I therefore strongly second this resolution hoping that the Government will approve of the resolution and will bring in an enactment as early as possible to save the employees from this hardship."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—"Sir, it has been my lot to consume a considerable quantity of English reports in the course of my practice, but I believe that it is ordinary experience of every practitioner, that when we get a report on Workmen's Compensation Act, either in the King's Bench reports as it happens largely or when you get hold of a part of House of Lords' reports which oftentimes consists of only compensation cases, we turn them over with a sigh of relief. When this resolution was tabulated and the Government was asked to introduce Workmen's Compensation Bill *on the lines*—that is important—of the English Workmen's Compensation Act, my idea of the English Workmen's Compensation Act was very hazy. It was a very short Act of 13 sections. I knew almost every word of that Act had to be considered for the benefit of the workmen by the highest judicial authority in the land. So much so, there are a series of reports, as my honourable friend knows, of workmen's compensation cases. I believe it is running the 18th volume. I knew also great difficulty has been

experienced in working the Act even in England where trade and employers and employees are organized. Every question of compensation arising out of the Act has been repeatedly put before the tribunals and you may take it that these tribunals are trained for this work.

"Now I should like to have some further assistance from my learned friend before I attempt the task which he asks me to undertake. From the speeches I have heard, apparently the workmen about whom necessity is felt to provide compensation are only industrial workmen. Are workmen whom the mover wants to provide for include agricultural labourers also? I will just read to you one passage from a book which I have got here as to the persons who are likely to be compensated under the English Workmen's Compensation Act. 'Compensation can now be claimed by domestic servants, workshop assistants, clerks, sailors, hospital staffs, theatre staffs, church staffs, persons maintained by the State, Municipal or any other body, musicians, teachers, sick-nurses and many more.' The question therefore arises whether the Workmen's Compensation Act, which I am to bring in, is to be restricted to industrial labour, whether it is to be restricted only to manual labour, or whether all the class of persons contemplated in England should also come in under our workmen's compensation scheme. The next question which arises for consideration, Sir, is whether this would apply to what are called contractors. That will be a practical problem, so far as agricultural labour is concerned, because it is my experience that in ryotwari tracts—and I think the same thing prevails in other tracts also—the ryotwari proprietor takes in practically as a partner for the purpose of cultivation a tenant who is called a kudi, apart from pannaial or farm servant. Whether this man is also to come in as a workman, because he is the man who actually works, is also to be considered. I am putting forward these difficulties for the purpose of having some assistance from my learned friend with regard to these matters, about which we have heard nothing except that this scheme should be on the lines of the English Compensation Act. Then, Sir, there has been a considerable amount of difficulty as to the kind of accident against which compensation is to be provided. Is it confined to objective physical injury alone or also to physiological injury? There has been a considerable amount of trouble with regard to what is called the contracting of industrial disease in the course of the employment and whether that should be compensated for. Apparently, if you want to introduce a Compensation Act similar to or on the lines of the English Compensation Act, I want to know whether you have got to compensate for what is called industrial risk or disease. If you want compensation for that, you will want a panel of trained doctors. You must create them. Then, Sir, what is meant by accident, what is meant by accident in the course of employment—these are the words used in the English Act—has not yet been quite settled and the learned Lords in the House of Lords are even now deliberating as to what exactly these words mean. In the course of the working of the English Compensation Act there is a special class of lawyers who are specialists in this branch of the subject. You have in England specialists trained in the working of this Act and expert Judges who deal with such cases. In spite of that training, in spite of expert legal assistance which the Judges can have, you still find that almost every word of these thirteen sections is still a matter of contention. Then there is a further question whether you would allow the workman to contract himself out of the provisions of this Act. That again is one of the serious problems which have been agitating the labour unions and the employers. That again takes you to the question whether there is any possible way for the employer to protect himself by the provision of a provident fund out of which these accidents or damages for accidents or compensation for these accidents can be paid. Then

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again, Sir, there are the elaborate rules for the purpose of ascertaining what the compensation should be: whether a week's stay from work deserves compensation; within what time notice of the accident should be given to the employer, so that he may protect himself by having the person who says he is suffering from an accident examined medically for the purpose of ascertaining whether it is true or false. These are some of the questions which have been raised in England under this Act. One point to which my learned friend adverted is the machinery to work this. That, I respectfully desire to tell the Council, is almost impossible to devise now. Whether the persons to get the compensation should go to a village munsif or to an ordinary District Munsif, I am afraid that both these gentlemen would be absolutely puzzled, if required to work a Workmen's Compensation Act, on the lines of the English Act, and if I were to be the Judge, I would want expert legal assistance before I could decide any particular point. My learned friend said that these questions can be decided by arbitrators. Arbitrators appointed by the Country Court Judges do state the facts and on questions of law they go before the King's Bench Division and then by way of appeal before the House of Lords. It is after the arbitrators have decided the facts that these 18 volumes of reports I was referring to are required for the elucidation of law. After all, the question is whether any grievance has really been felt. I have no idea that there has been any serious accident, so far as agricultural labour is concerned. So far as industrial labour is concerned, it is possible to make a provision for compensation At the same time, I want this Council to consider whether this is going to be of any benefit whatsoever to the employee. You have no idea of the cost of the litigation likely to ensue for the sake of a few rupees which you are going to give the workmen as compensation. Is there any workman who singly can bear this cost and come out benefited even to the extent of a single rupee? In England, where those cases are taken to the House of Lords, they are financed by the organized Trade Unions who have hundreds of thousands of pounds to their credit. On these grounds, Sir, I think it is far too premature to introduce any Compensation Act here on the lines of the English Compensation Act, at any rate till the trade is much better organized and till we are able to induce labour to organize itself in unions or at least in industrial concerns. If at the present stage, it is desired to provide for workmen's compensation, it may be possible to do so in railways and that would be the function of the Government of India. I will read to the Council one or two passages as to the workings of this blessing in the shape of Workmen's Compensation Act in England. Mr. Sydney Webb, whom we all know as a strong supporter of labour, says this: 'Considered as a method of preventing industrial accidents, the whole system of employer's liability is an anachronism'. Then, Sir, in another passage dealing with the question of cost, he says, 'actual experience indicates that it neither prevents accidents nor ensures their prevention. It has another drawback, i.e., to compel the workmen to extract this compensation from the employer is inevitably plunging into litigation. Even where compensation can now be recovered the law forms a serious evil.' This was said of the older Compensation Acts in England. It would be wholly true of any Compensation Act here. Even in England where labour is organized and trade unions have got in their hands considerable funds, unless the sufferer happens to belong to a strong and wealthy trade union—I draw special attention to this—which takes his case up, it is quite impossible for him to fight out at all from lack of both knowledge and funds. So far as I am aware, neither in Calcutta nor in Bombay, where I believe industries are more organized than in Madras, has there been any proposal to bring a Compensation Act on the lines of the English Act."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I am surprised that the Honourable Member who is in charge of Law and Labour should have made the speech he did, altogether declining to consider this question. I think it is perfectly true that when a resolution like this is proposed, i.e., a Bill providing for workmen's compensation should be introduced in the near future on the lines of the English Act, it is perfectly true, I say that you can make a detailed criticism of the provisions of the English Act. You can then refer to numerous difficulties which have confronted those who are striving for the improvement of labour in England. Nobody suggests for a moment that the words 'on the lines of the English Act' should be so emphasised as to require that the sections of the English Act should be literally and without alteration reproduced here. But apart from that, for I am not concerned with the particular question in issue between the honourable member who moved it and the Honourable Member who replied to it, I think I am entitled to say this that when a resolution like this is proposed, it is the duty of the Government not to take a technical point, that is to say, that on the lines of English Act make the resolution impossible. Undoubtedly there are difficulties and undoubtedly my Honourable friend the Law Member is entitled to take a technical point if he likes. But when you look at the question not from the technical point of view, not from the legal point of view, but from the point of view of an administrator, of a member of a Government that is responsible for the happiness of the labouring classes, the attitude that ought to be adopted should, I say, be quite different and that attitude ought to be to propose such an amendment as would meet the wishes of the Government and to accept such an amended resolution. As I understand the Honourable Member who spoke on behalf of the Government, his idea is that labour legislation of this description is altogether premature and that legislation of this description on the lines of the English Act is difficult. So far as the latter is concerned, I am perfectly willing to agree to that criticism, for I know perfectly well that a literal reproduction of the English Act will not be able, in Indian conditions, to do us much good. I do not know what is the exact intention of the mover of this resolution, but I presume the general intention of raising this debate is to make Government think seriously of the position of workmen of various descriptions employed in great congested cities of this province and to see that they get some kind of compensation. Difficulties have been pointed out that if you have a Compensation Act, you won't be able to get compensation. So, too, compensation is provided in the Land Acquisition Act, and before people get compensation, half the compensation is eaten up in litigation. That only shows another defect in the law and I hope my Honourable friend will introduce some measure by which litigation can be cheapened and mitigated. But it is no answer at all to questions of pressing need for compensation which workmen who are injured by the unskilful way in which employers of labour in industrial and other matters are managing their things, ask for. If you do not have it we do not know what will happen in the factories, in the workshops and also in the case of various ship-building companies and boat-building firms. Therefore, it is plain that a case has been made out for some legislation for workmen's compensation. I understand the resolution to mean very much the same. Even if it meant more than that, it is quite possible for my Honourable friend to amend it. I submit it is the plain duty of the Government at once to undertake some legislation for the purpose of providing sufficient compensation and also for the purpose of devising some better machinery than the English machinery. My learned friend quoted from some books and referred in great detail to the working of the Act in England. With the full experience of these details he will be able, I am sure, to devise a very

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much more efficient way of handling this matter. He ought to be able to do that. Therefore, I trust that this House will not look at this resolution proposed by Mr. Devadas merely on the ground of the technical objections raised and, of the difficulty of working English Acts in India as to which I entirely agree with the Honourable Member who spoke for Government. I think the House should view with sympathy the principle involved in this resolution and persuade the Government to accept it in the way in which it should be accepted, by amending it as may be desired."

The Rev. E. M. MACPHAIL:—"I view with sympathy the principle that underlies this motion. But I wish to protest against the idea put forward by the last speaker that when a resolution is brought forward in this House and is discussed the resolution does not mean what it says. Many of us here are busy men and we get a number of resolutions which we are told are going to be discussed, and then when these resolutions are brought forward, and are being discussed, it is said that we must not take the resolutions in the sense in which they are put down in the agenda here, but in some other sense and with some other interpretation. I have found in other places also that it is a favourite thing that when one puts forward a certain argument one is told that one is too technical, one is laying great stress on technicalities, whereas in certain cases the same people tell us that we must abide by the actual wording. I think that when resolutions are brought forward they should be first of all thought out carefully so that we may know exactly what we are going to discuss. Now I consider that the hon'ble member Mr. Devadas who moved the resolution meant what he said, namely, that the proposal that the law to be introduced should be on the lines of the English Compensation Act. It is there in so many words. And I think the Honourable Member who opposed it did very well indeed in bringing forward the difficulties in the way of accepting this resolution. Personally, I am strongly in favour of offering all possible help to workmen and am anxious to protect them sometimes even from themselves, but I know that the Compensation Act sometimes causes hardship in the cases of domestic servants to the employers of labour. A domestic servant if he is careless may tumble down the stairs and his employer is asked to pay compensation. I wish, however, to read to this House a thing which I happened to come across the other day. I was reading an extremely interesting book—'The Reminiscences of Judge Parry of Manchester'—and I happened to be reading it when I first saw this resolution. This is the passage which I saw in his book and remember he is discussing the law as a judge. He is protesting against the amount of litigation that it has given rise to. I may mention in passing that I heard one legal member in this House saying that this law would be an excellent thing for lawyers."

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS (*interrupting*):—"May I say, Sir, that it is not my object to benefit the lawyers?"

The Rev. E. M. MACPHAIL (*continuing*):—"I should be the last person in the world to impute any such motives to Mr. Devadas or to any other lawyer member of this House. I mentioned it however, by way of joke. This is what Mr. Parry says: 'The scheme of workmen's compensation was intended by Mr. Chamberlain to be a business-like and statesmanlike scheme of accident-insurance to be administered by the County Court Judge acting as an arbitrator with the assistance of a medical referee. There were, as I have said, to be no lawyers, no appeals which to his business mind were merely things leading to expense; annoyance and irritation. The statesman desired and intended a scheme for the benefit of the employer and workmen based upon peace and conciliation, but the lawyers have been too many

for him and to-day the Workmen's Compensation Act litigation is little better than a wild-cat legal gamble.' That is what a judge says who had much experience of the working of the Act. It was when I read this and I saw this resolution that I felt that however much I may sympathize with the working man and however much I wish that he should be protected against the employer and against himself, I could not vote for a resolution proposing that there should be legislation introduced upon the lines of the English legislation."

Sriman BISVANATH DAS :—" Mr. President, Sir, the Hon'ble the Law Member does not like to introduce the Bill on the lines of the English Act and as I feel the imperative necessity for the enactment of a Workmen's Compensation Act, and as I see the conditions in India are not the same as they are in England, I beg to offer an amendment to the original resolution, that is, to delete the words ' on the lines of the English Act'."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" I am very sorry that the amendment could not be accepted ; for, it alters the original resolution so completely after the discussion has reached this stage. I do not think it would be convenient to the House to allow the amendment which so completely alters the original resolution."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—" I move that the question may now be put."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I wish to say one word before the question is put. I have been accused of treating this resolution in a technical spirit by my honourable friend on the opposite side. I was really alarmed, Sir, at the commission which I was asked to undertake in producing a Bill in the terms of this resolution. I asked the question whether every workman, manual or intellectual, should be paid compensation in cases of accident. There has been no answer, and I say, Sir, if I had restricted my Compensation Bill to industrial labour or industrial manual labour or to factory labour, I would not be giving effect to the resolution. That is, however, a matter of substance. The second thing, Sir, is that I should give effect to the Compensation Bill on the lines of the English Workmen's Compensation Act. That I take it to be the vital part of the resolution. If there is a general principle underneath, you may as well say that there is a general principle underneath every one of these resolutions, viz., that every one should be free, that every one should be happy. That, of course, the Government has absolutely no objection to grant. I have got to provide a Bill ; if my learned friend opposite or my learned friend who moved the resolution would produce their opinions in the form of legislative proposals which would avoid the difficulties of the English Act which would make it practical to work in India amidst the unorganized conditions of labour, I for one, would be exceedingly glad to criticise it, and, if necessary, to pass it."

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS :—" May I answer, Sir ? "

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" Does the Honourable Member wish to reply?"

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS :—" Yes, Mr. President, Sir, no doubt I was perfectly aware of the defects of the working of the English Act. Whenever we get the Law Reports we know very well that a good portion of them is taken up with compensation cases. It is for that very reason, that is to say, because the Act has got settled, a good many of the doubtful points have been settled in England, that I wish that the Compensation Act to be introduced here should be on the lines of the English Act. If you introduce a new Act, it would be very difficult for the

courts to understand what is really meant by the legislature, and probably opinions may differ and it may give rise to a crop of cases. On the other hand, when a thing has been worked for a number of years, no great difficulty could be felt in working it here. No doubt in the beginning there was considerable difficulty in construing the provisions of the Act. As the Honourable Member said the word accident has been understood in various ways in different cases, there are heaps of cases on the word 'accident,' 'workmen' and so on. After having seen the Act working for a number of years and having considered the various interpretations put upon the different words of the various sections, I think it would not be very difficult now to understand the Act clearly, and therefore, Sir, there is nothing impossible in our having an Act on the lines of the English Act. Then the Law Member said he has not heard of any complaint of injuries and so on. The difficulty is this. In India, people do not know their rights; a good many people do not know there is such a thing as the Law of Torts and that a man could sue another for injury inflicted. These things people have to learn. And I know very well that a number of people have been injured and they are at the mercy of the employer or the institution or the corporation which employs the workmen. It should not be so. On the other hand an arbitration board could easily settle matters. No doubt, text-book writers and others complain of the heavy cost of litigation but, Sir, do they take into account the number of cases that have been settled amicably, in which compensation was awarded without going to court? We only hear of cases where there has been a contest. But we do not hear of cases in which there has been no contest and in which workmen have been compensated without going to law. Then again, Sir, the difficulty of working the enactment should not stand in the way. Sir, you are perfectly aware that the Estates Land Act is a very difficult Act. Do we give it up simply because it is difficult? We are going to amend it again. How many times have we amended it since 1907? When it is so, Sir, the Hon'ble the Law Member should be the last person to find it difficult to frame a Workmen's Compensation Act. I give him more credit than he would take for himself for bringing out an Act which would satisfy all the reasonable expectations of this House. Then again, Sir, the Hon'ble the Law Member said that there are no trade unions in this country. Such unions are being formed. We want to put them on a legal basis. We want them to take up cases in which the employer or the company which employs labour is unreasonable in refusing to pay compensation. It is only in such cases that the matter would come before courts. For these reasons, I think the Government would be very well advised in bringing a measure for workmen's compensation."

The resolution was then put to the vote and lost.

Extension of 'The Hindu Disposition of Property Act of 1916 *' to the Madras Presidency.*

44. *That this Council recommends to the Government that the Governor-General in Council may be moved to extend by notification to the Province of Madras the Hindu Disposition of Property Act of* 1916.

The resolution was not moved by Mr S. Srinivasa Ayyangar and was, therefore, deemed to have been withdrawn.

Portable school-houses.

45. *That this Council recommends to the Government that a committee consisting of one or more engineering experts, an inspector of schools and a taluk board president may be appointed to devise plans and specifications with a rough estimate of cost for a*

portable school-house with an eye to the standardization of parts to accommodate 30 *children for the use in rural parts by local boards in view of the probable need to shift schools from one place to another in connexion with the enforcing of compulsion.*

Mr. T. Sivasankaram Pillai begged permission to withdraw the resolution, and the resolution was by leave withdrawn.

Fixed committee to suggest scheme of secondary education.

46. *That this Council recommends to the Government to appoint a committee of non-officials, two-thirds of such committee consisting of Indians and educationists, to inquire into the condition of secondary education in this province and to suggest a comprehensive scheme of reforms in connexion therewith.*

Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar did not move the resolution which was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn.

Demonstration parties to exhibit improved agricultural methods.

47. *That this Council recommends to the Government that the employment of demonstration parties be tried experimentally in select places for bringing home to their doors the advantages of improved methods of agriculture to the ryots in rural areas.*

Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar did not move the resolution which was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn.

Opening of experimental and demonstration farms.

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI:—"I beg to move the following resolution:—

'48. *That this Council recommends to the Government that steps may be taken to start experimental and demonstration farms in as many centres as possible in each district with the co-operation of the leading landholders and agriculturists wherever they consent to carry out at their own cost on their own lands set apart for the purpose under expert advice, experiments or demonstration in improved methods of cultivation leading to larger outturn and introduction of new crops, expert advice, chemical manures and use of new implements being free.*'

"Sir, the Agricultural department has been in existence for nearly two decades and it has been doing some work; what work, how useful it has been, is not known to the cultivating population in the interior. This resolution, if accepted, will be the best means of disseminating practical knowledge in agriculture in rural parts. There have been resolutions proposed this very day about the starting of agricultural schools in different centres. That may or may not be possible in the near future. But an attempt like this can be made in as many places as possible considering that the help, the co-operation, that is expected of landholders, and their interest in agriculture is increasing, and that there are ryots here and there who want to improve their crops and are trying new methods of cultivation. In my district I know there are several landholders, influential and enlightened, who are prepared to co-operate with the department by placing at the disposal of agricultural experts any part of their lands, and supplying them with labour, manure and such other things. Now there are several places where it may be possible to make experiments and demonstrate to the ryot so that he may take advantage of the experiments. However conservative the ryot living in rural parts may be, once it is demonstrated to him that a particular crop is profitable, he is sure to take advantage of it. It is only with this view that I propose this resolution. There are several crops such as potatoes, etc., which in some parts may not flourish; and if these people are asked why they do not grow them, they say 'our ancestors were not doing it.' So in cases like this, I think that with the help of the agricultural experts who are

turned out from the agricultural colleges something might be done. What is wanted is this. If the ryot undertakes to set apart some extent of his land and supply labour, manure, etc., the agricultural expert must teach him what he should do and he will go on following the instruction. In that way, if the work is taken up, much useful work will be done by introducing new methods of cultivation and also there will be increased output from land. With these words I beg to propose the resolution."

Mr. T. Somasundaram Mudaliyar seconded the resolution.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—" Mr. President, the resolution as it stands consists of two parts, one asking for the introduction of experimental farms and the other for the introduction of demonstrative farms. I may at once state that Government is in entire sympathy with the objects underlying this resolution, but I am afraid, so far as experimental farms are concerned, it would be rather difficult to induce landholders to come forward to place their lands for experimental purposes, for an experiment always involves the idea that it is likely to fail. Perhaps the honourable mover of the resolution would be glad to leave that part of the work to the Government to be done on Government farms such as we have got in various places especially in the college at Coimbatore. Experts too cannot be easily spared. They are very costly, though we have got a number of them, and in the interest of the ryots themselves I would appeal to my honourable friend not to press that part of it.

" As regards the other question of demonstrative farms, I should say that the energies of the department are now directed in that direction. We have got a number of officers in the subordinate service and in the upper service who are given what are known as definite tracts to work upon. An officer goes to a tenant and enters into a sort of agreement with him to give a portion of his land, or to set apart a portion of his land to be cultivated in a particular manner with particular seeds, using certain particular manures. All these are being experimented upon in our experimental farms, the results tested and the best of the kind found out; and when these are introduced and when the tenant or the ryot agrees to utilize the service and the advice that is given to him, the increased output on these farms is an eye-opener not only to the person who came forward to give his land, but also to his neighbours, who, either on their own account or at the instance of the demonstrator come to the plot and see. Such a thing has been going on and certainly when an offer of that kind comes from other villages, as I see from the statement by the honourable mover of this resolution, Government will be glad to come forward and certainly help. But the only difficulty is very few come forward, even there every attempt will be made to satisfy the ryots and I should think the honourable mover will be satisfied with the statement I have made."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—" One word of explanation, Sir. I only meant that actual results obtained from different conditions may be experimented on in different soils. That is why I have no objection to delete it. Otherwise I have no objection."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" Does the Honourable Member withdraw the resolution ?"

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—" Yes, Sir."

The resolution was withdrawn by leave of Council.

Grants to local bodies for communications.

49. *That this Council recommends to the Government to give early effect to the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee in respect of grants to local bodies for communications, in addition to the 14 lakhs grant hitherto made to local bodies in aid of their general resources.*

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, I move that my resolution be taken up on the 5th March or on a later date after the presentation of the budget."

Diwan Bahadur T. Desika Achariyar seconded the motion.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"I rise to a point of order. Is it not the correct procedure under the rules that in a case of this sort, the resolution should be moved and seconded and then a motion for adjournment should be made? There is no provision in the rules for the adjournment of a resolution which has not been moved."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"Has the Honourable Member, Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao, anything to say?"

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"I submit that rule 34 enables me to make this motion. The mere fact that I add a specific date does not take away from it the character of the motion, and I also give the option to the President to fix a date after the presentation of the budget, and I submit that the motion is in order."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"May I submit, Sir, that under another rule, rule No. 56, a resolution that is not moved lapses and that the object of that rule is to prevent a great deal of work being given by resolutions being put on the paper, and after people have got ready to discuss them, being postponed to another meeting. I have the less hesitation in raising this now because I have no objection to the postponement of this particular resolution, but as a matter of general practice, it will be a great hardship on members, on the Government side of the House particularly, if they have to prepare themselves for a large number of resolutions which are then postponed without being moved. I think the rules definitely provide only for the case of resolutions being moved and seconded and the adjournment then being made."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"Does the Honourable Member who spoke on behalf of the Government mean Standing Order No. 34?"

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"I submit that Standing Order No. 56 makes no provision for adjournment. Standing Order No. 34 provides for three things, adjourning a meeting, adjourning business and moving the previous question. The present case cannot come under the first or third heads. As regards the second, I put it to the chair that a resolution that has not been moved is not business before the House."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Mr. President, as Mr. Todhunter raises a general point, I wish, with your leave, to say that rule 34 appears to be quite clear. 'Business' does not mean that a resolution should be moved, but any item in the list of business. That will be the most convenient thing; otherwise a very lengthy speech will have to be made by the mover and another equally lengthy speech will have to be made by the seconder before a resolution can be adjourned to another day. There is not a word anywhere in the rules which supports the construction for which the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter contends, and this has also been till now the invariable practice."

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Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR (ADVOCATE-GENERAL):—"As the rules stand, Mr. President, it seems to me that it is open to any person including the mover of a motion to ask that it only should be adjourned, because though rule 56 only speaks of withdrawing a resolution or moving a resolution it does not exclude the alternative contemplated in rule 34. One way of testing it would be this: No objection can be taken from any point of view if the mover moved a resolution formally and somebody seconded it, and a third man got up and said 'I move an adjournment'. Rules 34 and 56 can be worked so as to reconcile themselves with each other. As the rules at present stand, I believe there is no legal objection to a member himself proposing an adjournment."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"It may be that the Standing Orders are somewhat defective and are apt to inconvenience the Government, but I am bound to apply them as they stand. Under Standing Order No. 34, I have no doubt, the honourable member will be in order in moving for the adjournment of the resolution."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"Is it permitted to me, Sir, to speak on the motion?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"The Honourable Member will be entitled to speak and to object."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"That, Sir, is my desire. I wish to object to the adjournment proposal on the ground which the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter has stated to this Council, viz., that very grave inconvenience will be caused to Honourable Members and Ministers if by this process the consideration of a subject before a meeting, after a careful discussion by the Members of this House, is postponed to a subsequent date. Let me put an extreme case. We have here before us on the agenda paper 67 resolutions. We have been sitting for the past five or six days, and a few hours ago we had not got through half of the business. Let us suppose that the majority of the House are desirous to withdraw up-country or to their respective homes in the City of Madras and that a quorum could not be obtained owing to their absence, then all the remaining business would ordinarily lapse. If the procedure which has been adopted in this case, and I believe also in the case of an earlier resolution or possibly more than one resolution—in the circumstances of which I am not fully conversant, having been absent from the Council room at the time—were to be followed, I fear that at our next meeting, whenever it may be—possibly in March—we should have a residuum of some 30 or 40 old resolutions and all the new resolutions. We might conceivably have a repetition of the same procedure in March with the result of a growing accumulation in the balance of pending resolutions. I submit, Sir, it throws a very heavy burden on those whose duty it is to prepare statements in answer to the resolutions which are tabled. In the late Council, I have myself suffered very severely in the matter of getting up statements in answer to resolutions of a very difficult and intricate nature."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO:—"The late Council and other things are not relevant to the present motion."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"I am giving reasons, Sir, why I deprecate a repetition in this Council of the procedure adopted in the last Council. It caused extreme inconvenience to those whose duty it was to take charge of the replies to resolutions, to prepare a statement of the case and to familiarize themselves with the facts, when they found that an Honourable Member who had put

down notice of a resolution desired to return to his up-country residence and to put the discussion off for a month. My recollection is that the honourable mover was himself an offender in this respect. In one instance, I had myself to prepare an elaborate statement in answer to a resolution on two occasions owing to repeated postponement; and the resolution was ultimately never moved at all. It is in order to prevent unnecessary labour of this kind that I ask this House to refuse to vote for the motion for adjournment. I base my argument on a question of general principle, although, like the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter, I have personally no objection to the postponement of this resolution."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU: —"Sir, these two resolutions which are now proposed to be adjourned resolution 49 and 50——"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"Order, order. We are dealing with Resolution No. 49."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"We are dealing with Resolution No. 49, No. 50 may come after some time——"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"Order, order; we must not speculate as to the future."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Well, Sir, with reference to Resolution No. 49 it was stated yesterday that the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government and the Minister for Education were not in a position to tell us which of these grants recommended by the Financial Relations Committee the Government would be able to permit. It was pointed out that it was absolutely essential for the sake of budgeting of the local boards that we should know whether the system of grants-in-aid in existing cases is as recommended by the Financial Relations Committee and therefore it is that we are anxious and we are trying to meet the Government by not having a debate just now till the Government is in a position to make up their mind and the adjournment of this motion has been proposed not with a view to gain any advantage but really to facilitate business. If the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter without knowing himself or the other Members of the Government, without making up their minds, wishes really to record a resolution that the Government should give early effect to the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee and is not prepared to say what the Members of the Government will say with reference to that request, I should think that a discussion on this matter will be absolutely fruitless. That is the reason why an adjournment has been proposed. I am very surprised to hear that a case has been got up when the Government has not made up its mind with reference to the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee. I am really surprised at the objection that is now taken to the adjournment on this subject. If, however, we are to look forward to the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter making a statement on this subject, I think it will be perfectly in order to continue discussion in this matter. I am really unable to understand why this motion cannot be adjourned till after the budget."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"I am quite ready to vote for the adjournment of this particular case. I have no objection for post-ponement. I simply desire to obtain a ruling from the chair on a point of order which is not clear to me from the rules and having obtained the ruling I shall bow to it."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"I think it will be extremely inconvenient to obtain rulings which do not really arise. The particular motion now is whether item No. 49 should be adjourned and the ruling has been already given,

and if the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter now invites you to give a ruling with reference to some case which has not arisen, I certainly enter my emphatic protest against it."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—" I beg to say that I said nothing of the sort. I rose to a point of order as to whether the Honourable Member should formally move the resolution."

Mr C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Mr. President, I think the Government is perfectly justified in saying that they could not come to any definite conclusion regarding the budget before the 5th March and I think an adjournment of a motion involving expenditure for discussion after the 5th March is to my mind objectionable, because it is in a way departing from the procedure laid down for discussion of the budget hereafter. No doubt, we the old Members are accustomed to a particular form of presenting resolutions on the budget, but that has to be given up. Hereafter the non-official Members are given the liberty of only suggesting reductions of grants, they have no liberty hereafter to propose any enhancement of grants and therefore the object of putting off this resolution for the budget is to defeat a fundamental principle of budget discussion. Therefore, as it is against the intended procedure of this House in the matter of budget discussion, I oppose the adjournment of any motion for discussion after the 5th March."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" By way of reply, Sir, I am only surprised at the remarks made by the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson and before I proceed further I may point out that he is entirely inaccurate in thinking that this is a repetition of the procedure of the old Council. He forgot entirely that I was not a Member of the late Council."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON—" May I say, Sir, that I was not thinking only of the last Council, but of earlier Councils in general. I had forgotten the fact of the Honourable Member's temporary eclipse."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" I think the Honourable Member would have been probably more accurate if he could specifically refer to any instances. I do not think such general statements are to be permitted or that they can attract the notice of this Council. Now so far as this motion is concerned, it would be better if the Hon'ble the Finance Member and the Hon'ble the Home Member had consulted the Member in charge of this particular department beforehand. I may inform this House that before I made this motion I had an informal consultation with the Ministers, but I do not wish to say what took place. The second point I wish to press upon this House is that yesterday we had an elaborate discussion based on the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee. These two resolutions also deal with the question of Financial Relations Committee. After an elaborate discussion about a grant of a portion of the excise revenue to local bodies and after several speeches were made, the House deliberately voted upon a motion that the discussion should be adjourned to some date after the presentation of the budget. As no orders have been passed regarding the question affecting the recommendation of the Financial Relations Committee, I make this motion for adjournment, but I have not the slightest idea of going up-country. I am prepared to withdraw the motion for adjournment."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" Does the Honourable Member propose to withdraw his motion for adjournment ? "

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" So far as I am concerned, I wish to withdraw the motion for adjournment."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"The Honourable Member proposes to withdraw his motion for adjournment with the consent of the House. Do the Honourable Members permit him to do so?"

The motion for adjournment was allowed to be withdrawn.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"Leave is granted to the Honourable Member to withdraw his motion for adjournment of his resolution."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"I shall now move the resolution. I have the honour to move—

'*That this Council recommends to the Government to give early effect to the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee in respect of grants to local bodies for communications, in addition to the* 14 *lakhs grant hitherto made to the local bodies, in aid of their general resources.*'

"It will be in the recollection of this Council that after considerable discussion as to the methods of adjusting the finances between the Central Government and the Provincial Government, after considerable discussion as to the method of adjusting the financial relations between the Provincial Government and the local bodies, it was considered desirable to appoint a representative committee to go into this question fully and thoroughly and make suitable recommendations in respect of this important matter. This committee whose labours were acknowledged by this Council and by the Hon'ble the Finance Member the other day sent up their report on the 30th August last upon various problems."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"The honourable gentleman is giving us the date of another committee. The Financial Relations Committee submitted its report on the 21st November."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU *(continuing)*:—"Thank you for the correction. Among the other various recommendations, we find this one which is the subject of this resolution. We find that, so far as communications were concerned, they suggested that the roads under the control of the local bodies should be divided into three classes. The first class known as trunk roads regarding which Government has to assume the responsibility for the full cost of the maintenance. And then they state that there ought to be what is known as second class district roads, regarding which Government and the local bodies should share the responsibility to an equal extent, subject to a maximum expenditure of Rs. 400 per mile. They state that, subject to that maximum, the expenditure in the case of second-class roads should be shared equally between the local bodies and the Government. They no doubt suggest that in the calssification of roads they must adopt a procedure whereby both taluk boards and district boards in the district could come to a conclusion as to what are to be the district board roads and what taluk board roads, and have the conclusion ratified by the district board, though the final choice is to be left to Government. Further they refer to what is known as third class roads, second-class roads to be district board and third class to be taluk board. Sir, this arrangement which was recommended by the Financial Relations Committee would not involve the Government in an expenditure or anything really more than what is actually made by contribution; and the condition laid down by the committee that Government should only bear one-half of the cost on condition of the Board spending an equal amount is likely to hamper the local boards to a considerable extent. I do not think it necessary to detain the Council long, because an examination of the budgets of the various local boards shows that in a number of cases they have not yet been in a position to spend anything like 200 rupees per mile to enable them to keep them in as efficient a condition as Government

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has desired. The calculations made by the committee would also show that it will not be possible for the district boards even in the present state of finance to take full advantage of this opportunity. So far as this resolution is concerned, it lays special stress upon the fact that the recommendation of the committee ought to be given effect to without further delay. The public are not aware of the circumstances under which any orders have been passed in respect of this important question. In the new Local Boards Act it is stated that instructions have been issued to the district boards to send up their budgets before the 15th March. Instructions have been issued from time to time that they should also consult the taluk boards and send their budget in due time. Without a definite understanding as to what roads are to be classed first class and what second class, without knowing whether the Government are prepared to go even to the extent recommended by the committee, I do not know if any district board can frame its budget in an accurate manner. Instructions have been issued but it is not possible to carry them out unless and until the recommendations of the Finance Commitee were known. My complaint is more serious. Even if the recommendations of the Finance Committee have been accepted by Government, I would submit that it will not be any substantial relief to the local bodies It is suggested by the committee that this grant-in-aid be substituted for the 14 lakhs, the grant already placed at the disposal of the district boards. In a Government Order, I remember of 1919, it is stated that what is known as 14 lakhs has come to 17 lakhs and that the Government should contribute one-fourth of the amount of the land-cess realized from local bodies. When the promise has been made and the obligation still exists, to say we replace that system by a new method whereby the district boards, taken as a whole, are likely to get a few rupees more is a circumstance which cannot be welcomed. I have already brought to the notice of this Council that for a long time to come district boards will not be able to take advantage of the offer that has been made, because of the cost of maintaining communications. It is only gradually they can work up to the limit and take full advantage of the opportunity. I would therefore ask the House to consider whether it is fair in trying to give relief to the local bodies in maintaining the communications in an efficient condition and trying to give them relief for Government to impose upon them so many restrictions and prohibitions. Is it fair, I ask, to take away the 14 lakhs which under the orders of the Government of India has been pledged to them and vouchsafed to them? Therefore I ask that the Government should not only give effect to the recommendations of the committee in the matter of making grants to second-class roads in addition to the obligations for trunk roads but should not take away the 14 lakhs. It was a matter of agreement upon which basis we framed the budget. I have not the slightest doubt that there will be any objection to the acceptance of this resolution."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" I beg to second this resolution. In so doing, I wish to place before this Council one aspect of the question. This 14 lakhs grant is going out and in its place contribution to second-class roads is going to be continued. The difficulty is this : what the Government says, up to a maximum of Rs. 200 per mile we shall give you, provided you contribute an equal amount for that mile. In the case of district boards which are poor, the district boards are not contributing even Rs. 200 per mile even on their first-class roads. They are simply unable to do it : they have no funds. Government says, whatever you pay over a mile on the second-class roads we shall give as much. Very well. My district gets Rs. 37,000 and odd in this 14 lakhs. In order to earn Rupees 37,000 I should equally spend Rs. 37,000 over the roads. Now, Sir, I can spend Rs. 37,000 (mileage about Rs. 200 or a little less). The first-class roads in my

district is only 84 miles; the second-class roads 850 miles. By this means I cannot have more than 200 miles. Therefore you will have to find out money for the other nearly 650 miles, and our land-cess is only Rs. 1,13,000 and odd. You know we have to spend a good deal of this amount on the establishment. Half of this plus the toll we have to spend on the roads. That means we will have Rs. 95,000, because the income in our district board on tolls is only Rupees 35,000. Out of this Rs. 95,000 we will have to spend away something like Rs. 30,000, for the establishment and other connected charges. So that we have got only Rs. 60,000 to spend not only for the roads but on all other important subjects, e.g., schools, sanitation and other matters.

"Now, Sir, how can we find that amount sufficient to meet all the expenditure of the district board? We have to find money for nearly 650 miles. We have to find money for all the other important items of expenditure. Now, Sir, your telling us that you are going to give us at the rate of Rs. 200 per mile reads very well on paper; but when you look into the matter you will find the real difficulty. You ask us to find as much; and having found Rs. 40,000 from ourselves, we will have Rs. 60,000 — 40,000 or Rs. 20,000 left. I request you to consider whether a local body which possesses the name of a district board can afford to subsist for a whole year on only Rs. 20,000. This is the aspect of the question which I want to impress upon this Council. Therefore I think I have made out a case for supporting this resolution. Let not Government say: be satisfied with this kind of arrangement, but let Government say: we will come to your aid; we will give that and even more."

The Hon'ble the President put the proposition to vote.

Mr. F. J. Richards: —"Mr. President, the resolution and the motion for adjournment and its rejection have placed me 'between the devil and the deep sea.' I fear I should be ruled out of order if I were to suggest who is which . . . . . The recommendation contained in the resolution is one which I have myself subscribed to and I cannot go back on my signature. I am not opposing this resolution on its merits, but I would lay before the House that it is inexpedient to give immediate effect to it. There are two reasons for this, and I may briefly recapitulate some of the matter contained in the report of the Financial Relations Committee.

"In the first place, local bodies are now being consulted about the classification of their roads. A final decision will take time. In fact, although a reference was made some time back no local body, as far as I know, has yet sent in its final reply. It is an intricate problem and one which cannot be decided hastily. I should point out that in the Financial Relations Committee's recommendations no immediate increase in the allotment over that of recent years is contemplated. In other words, there is no proposal for an extra grant over and above this so-called Rs. 14 lakhs grant and (so far as I am aware) there is no proposal outside the Financial Relations Committee to entrench on that grant. The basis on which that grant was distributed, the amount of land-cess realized by each local board, and the distribution was stereotyped a few years ago. General dissatisfaction has been expressed in many quarters as to the justice of this distribution, and the Financial Relations Committee had this in mind in basing their recommendation on a principle which has not been hitherto observed fully, but which was, I believe, accepted by the general sense of the House in a similar discussion on the abkari revenue proposal at the suggestion of Dr. Gilbert Slater, namely, that in future provincial contributions should not be by doles but should be payment for definite services rendered, with the subsidiary rider that preferential treatment may be

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given to such local bodies as are notoriously poor, of which Cuddapah is a well-known instance. Before anything can be done in pursuance of the resolution now before the House, classification is needed and classification must be controlled. The Financial Relations Committee Members themselves have recommended that Government shall decide in the last instance which roads should be classed in class (1), or class (2), or class (3). If all taluk and district boards are to rush blindly for the fulfilment of this resolution, there may be a general scramble to place every single road, thinkable or unthinkable in class (2). We all know there is not enough money to go round. There would then ensue one of these scrimmages for subsidies which, during the past week, have been more than once deplored. I may explain on this point that the Government have appointed a road board on which four presidents of district boards, representatives of the four principal geographical groups of the Presidency, have agreed to serve. The principal objects of the board, which I hope will meet very shortly, are first of all to scrutinize the proposals for classification received from the various district boards and to distribute the allotments and to regulate the classification on equitable principles. Secondly the board is to provide facilities for opening up the trade of this country by means of motor transport. As the House is well aware, there are very few of the main trunk roads which are capable of carrying a motor lorry throughout their length. It is hoped that one day (it may be distant, because there is so much work to be done) it may be possible for a motor lorry heavily laden to travel from Tinnevelly to Calcutta. But unless some co-ordinating authority is established it would be impossible to prepare the way for such facilities of transport to come to pass. The road board, it is hoped, will, if so possible, place itself in the closest direct contact, either by a provincial conference or by group conferences, with the district board presidents within each group in order that those responsible public officers may be taken fully into confidence and that their case may be fully stated.

"The second reason why this resolution should not be given effect to immediately is the familiar one of finance. And the reasons which I put forward are the same as those put forward for the postponement of a decision on the question of a share of the abkāri revenue. Our allotments are limited, and a hasty decision at the present stage would prejudice other proposals. Some members here have spoken of the demands of industries, others of the . . ."

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu:—"Is the Honourable Member in order? He is now speaking about the desirability of postponing a decision on this resolution that has been moved in the Council to be disposed of now."

Mr. F. J. Richards:—"I may be permitted to finish my sentence. Some members have pleaded for industries and some for education. Personally I am at one with the Honourable mover of the resolution in securing liberal grants as possible for district boards and municipalities That, Sir, is my job, but I do admit that it is advisable, in the face of this financial stringency, to view the budget as a whole. I would point out to my friend who moved this resolution that the recommendation of the Financial Relations Committee embodying this resolution is a matter which under no circumstances has been shelved. So far as I am aware, no attempt was made and no desire has been expressed anywhere to shelve it. If it is shelved it is in the power of the House to revive it again. But I would earnestly appeal to my friend, in view of the considerations I have put forward, of the uncertainty whether local bodies themselves can comply with the conditions of the grant and lay down enough money to earn even what they would be entitled to under existing 14 lakhs grant and in view of the financial crisis, to consent to withdraw this resolution."

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Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, before I speak on this resolution, I should like to know whether the statement made by Mr. Richards in answer to this resolution is the only statement that would be made on behalf of the Government. Otherwise I would take my course accordingly. I should like to know whether the Hon'ble the Minister . . ."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—" Sir, the Honourable the Secretary for Local Self-Government has made the position of the Government quite clear. I have only to add that the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee are still under consideration by Government. Before the Government come to a definite decision regarding these recommendations, it is not possible for the Local Self-Government Ministry to commit itself to any undertaking. The Ministry has to be careful as to how it should deal with this resolution. Government have recently appointed a road board to consider matters connected with communications and to classify the roads into first-class, second-class and third-class roads as stated in the Financial Relations Committee's report. Until this classification is completed, it is extremely difficult to come to a definite conclusion in the matter."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, we are now in a position to fully recognize the significance of my Hon'ble friend Mr. Krishna Rao's proposal to adjourn the consideration of this subject. In the first place, I very much sympathize with my Hon'ble friend Mr. Richards when he said that he was between the devil and the deep sea."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, I rise to a point of order. I think it is unparliamentary language to speak of that gentlemen in this House in the terms of ' the devil and the deep sea'."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" May I suggest to the Honourable Member who has just spoken that he ought to have raised the objection when Mr. Richards spoke ?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" Mr. Richards only means that he is in a difficulty."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" Have I your permission, Sir, to refer to that gentleman ?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" Yes, in connexion with the deep sea."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" In connexion with that matter only. Now, Sir, that represents exactly the position of the Minister for Local Self-Government also. I do not think that Mr. Richards' chief is in any better position than that which he has himself indicated by this very expressive and very homely phrase ' between the devil and the deep sea'. Now, Sir, during the last three days we were anxious to find out the mind of the Government with reference to the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee. Many Honourable Members were anxious, in view of the fact that the budgets of district boards and municipalities have to be sent up to Government before the financial year begins, to know whether any orders had been passed on the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee. In regard to more than one resolution this matter came up for consideration and we do not know what has become of the associated deliberation and the joint recommendations so fully indicated in the Joint Committee's report. They have not come as yet to any conclusion in this matter though the report was submitted in November last. We are placed in a difficult position. We do not know what grants to expect for the next year : whether it is

on the basis of the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee, or whether it is on the basis of the existing system. We are anxious to impress upon the Government that some decision should be reached as early as possible and that that decision should be communicated to the local bodies concerned. If this does not serve any useful purpose it will at least be an inducement to the Government to come to a decision as quickly as possible. Mr. Richards has indicated and has suggested a postponement of a decision on this matter. I cordially agree with him in this matter. That was also the intention of the honourable mover of this resolution. He has elicited a statement from the Honourable the Minister and Mr. Richards that they have not made up their minds—a fact of which we are perfectly aware of. Therefore I think if any useful purpose is to be served it is only by putting this resolution to vote not because we are agreed to its merits but we urge the Government to come to a speedy decision."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"I do not know whether, in the reference made in this debate to the devil and the deep sea, it is intended to apply to the Financial Department the former or the latter term. I take it, however, from the demands that have been made, that the deep sea can only be the bottomless ocean of expenditure to which it is sought to commit the Government, and therefore it only remains for the Financial Department to personate a certain gentleman.

"Complaints have been made of the delay on the part of the Government in passing orders on the report of the Financial Relations Committee. I should like to say in defence of the department that has been called devilish that I suggested the appointment of the Financial Relations Committee just a year ago to-morrow. The fact that the committee was not called together and set to work upon this very important question of regularizing grants was due to the fact that another committee intervened and it was thought that the Financial Relations Committee could not sit until the Local Fund Committee had dealt with the questions referred to them. As we have been told, the Financial Relations Committee did not report till the 21st November, so that the complaint made is of the delay since then. May I remind honourable members that the Ministers did not take office till nearly a month after that and another month was consumed by Christmas holidays and the Duke's visit? The bulk of the third month has been swallowed up in answering questions and resolutions. Even if we could sit *de die in diem* to discuss this most important report before we could decide upon the various very excellent recommendations made, we must see what they are going to cost.

"As I said yesterday, it is the old question of tax-payer versus rate-payer and we have first of all to decide the question raised by Dr. Slater the day before yesterday as to whether the proper basis for contribution is not the share of services rendered.

"Then as regards the postponement of the discussion of this matter, I wish to say that the Government must consider it and are considering it as part of their discussions on the budget. Although it is not possible to pass orders on these various recommendations at once, they are examining them as part of the items of the budget to which they belong and they are very glad to have the advice of the House upon them to consider. On the other hand, as the Honourable Member from Vizagapatam has pointed out, if discussion is postponed till the voting of demands for grants, the advice received will be limited to the question of the reduction of the proposals put forward by the Government. I venture to say, therefore, that there is no waste of time in a debate at this stage on the question of what shall be included as well as what shall be excluded."

Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" Mr. President, I wish to give my vote for the proposition on the short ground that I feel bound to discourage criticisms which were made on the motion for adjournment that was proposed. I find that the plea of Mr. Richards is really a plea for more time and when Mr. Krishna Rao wanted time it was objected to by the Government. I therefore feel bound to discourage such an attitude on the part of Government Members and without going into the merits I must record my vote for the proposition which Mr. Krishna Rao moved."

Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju :—" Mr. President, I am not really able to understand what the resolution really means, because as I read the resolution and as I read the recommendations of the Finance Committee, I am not able to understand that there is any agreement between the two, because the Finance Committee recommend in paragraph 71 of the Report—the Council will give me permission to read the recommendation—' We recommend that the grant for this class of roads should be equivalent to one-half of the average expenditure on maintenance actually incurred, provided that where half the average expenditure in a district exceeds Rs. 200 a mile the grant should be limited to that amount, and that the present 14 lakhs grant-in-aid of general resources—which now amounts to 17·28 lakhs—should be distributed as a grant for second-class district roads in local board areas.' From this it is clear that the recommendation is that instead of giving a general grant for the augmentation of the general resources of the district boards, this grant should be confined as a road grant and a further consideration is that it should be at least on second-class roads, the average maintenance cost of which is Rs. 400 a mile, Rs. 200 being the contribution from provincial grants. Further, it says in paragraph 72 that ' any substantial diminution in the amount which they have been accustomed to receive is likely to upset materially their levels of expenditure, especially on roads. We think therefore that the list of second-class district roads should be so adjusted that each district may earn, on the new basis of distribution, at least the amount allotted to it '. From this it is clear that the committee recommended that the contribution should be not in addition to the grant hitherto made but in lieu of that grant. Sir, now if we read the resolution as it stands it is this :—' That this Council recommends to the Government to give early effect to the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee in respect of grants to local bodies for communications, in addition to the 14 lakhs grant hitherto made to the local bodies, in aid of their general resources '.

" Sir, the resolution says that the Government should accept the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee. What are the recommendations? Grant Rs. 200 a mile and withdraw 14 lakhs grant for the general augmentation of the resources of the local bodies. I do not see any reason why my friend Mr. Krishna Rao is anxious to go to the Government at this stage before they come to any conclusion—for this reason because it is not in addition that the Financial Relations Committee recommended ; it only says ' make the grant for the general augmentation of the resources of the local bodies for a particular purpose namely road grant and with certain limitation as to the method and the manner in which that amount should be utilized '. Sir, as President of the District Board, I shall be as anxious as any other district board to get as much money from the general tax-payer. How far it is a wise thing, I have got my own reasons to consider ; because whether we tax the rate-payer or the general tax-payer, it is a very difficult problem as far as my individual mind is concerned. Now, Sir, the Hon'ble Member for Kistna Mr. Ramachandra Rao said that they are in a fix regarding the presentation of the budgets of the district board. I am in agreement with him there. Of course the Government wanted to send certain

instructions, but perhaps they are not in a position to come to any definite conclusion regarding the method in which the contributions ought to be given hereafter, as we recently sent our budgets to the Government on the lines on which we were hitherto getting contributions. I do not know why the president of the district board should find it difficult in sending his budget to the Government when they have definitely laid down what the procedure should be as for the contributions for the year to come. Sir, I think that the resolution as it now stands is not at all clear and if really Mr. Krishna Rao means that regarding the second-class roads Government must contribute half the expenditure and also they should give in addition 14 lakhs grant, I am of the same opinion as Mr. Richards.

"Because if such a thing is granted, every district board comes forward with a list which has to be carefully and minutely examined and it cannot be easily settled. The Government have framed rules for the formation of draft rules. In these circumstances, I think my friend Mr. Krishna Rao will be well advised to withdraw this resolution."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I have very few words to offer on this resolution. Sir, we had the Financial Relations Committee sitting sometime last year under the able guidance of our secretary for the Local and Municipal department and I thought they had come to some conclusions—very sensible conclusions, if I may presume to say so—on the help that the State should give to local bodies and the principles on which this help should be rendered. Sir, it is well-known in western institutions, the local boards have certain duties and the State should come to the help of the local bodies in some particular respects. In western institutions it is well recognised that there are certain duties which are primarily the duties of the State as a whole. There are other duties in which the State has a semi-interest and in which the local bodies are supposed to take as much interest as the State itself. There are again Sir, other duties which are purely parochial in which the parish council, municipality or the local board as they are termed here in this country, must take the entire interest and must be solely responsible. That was the fundamental recommendation of the Financial Relations Committee. That was the main basis on which the recommendations of the committee proceeded not only as regards communications but as regards other services as well. If I read the recommendations aright, I understand that so far as communications are concerned, trunk roads are said to be the first necessity for a State to maintain and that it is the sole duty of the State to see that there is a well-established system of trunk roads maintained. That being a State interest, the State takes over the whole charge of maintaining this. As regards what are termed second-class roads, it is a matter in which the State has as much interest as the local boards and the Financial Relations Committee recommended that so far as second-class roads are concerned, the local boards should share equally with the State in the maintenance of such roads. And in respect of third-class roads, the local bodies should have the entire and sole charge over them. Now, Sir, I understand that the Committee deprecated the system of doles. They said that the system of several district boards and municipalities trying to get a little more or a little less from the Financial member was a squabble which they did not like to see repeated year after year. Honourable members who had a little more influence or persuasion, persuaded the Finance Member to give them greater assistance and succeeded in doing so to the detriment of others. The system therefore worked hard on many of those honourable members who had not the same persuasion and hence some district boards complained of unfair treatment. In deprecating this system of doles, the committee came to the conclusion that the only scientific system on which the State should be asked to come to the help of these local

boards was the system by which they classified all services into State services, demi-State services and purely local services. Now, Sir, the resolution cuts at the whole root of the recommendation. The resolution says that in addition to whatever you may grant on this principle of State and demi-State services you have still to give us a grant of 14 lakhs. Therefore, Sir, in opposing this resolution, I do not by any means suggest that district boards should not have the grants; but I protest, I emphatically protest, that this system of doles or bounty grants should be put an end to as early as possible. And if for any reason it is not possible this year to classify roads as first and second-class roads in accordance with the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee, if for any reason delay is unavoidable in carrying out the recommendations, the old system of doles has to be resorted to. I earnestly implore the local municipal Minister and the Finance Member to see that this system is put an end to as early as possible and the only scientific system on which any country can give out State money to the different boards, the scientific system which has been advocated by the Financial Relations Committee is resorted to as early as possible. It is for these reasons, Sir, I find myself unable to support the resolution brought forward by the Honourable Member for Nellore and I therefore oppose it."

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"I move that the question be now put."

The motion for closure was put to the vote and carried.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"The motion for closure having been carried, 45 voting for and 5 against, I will now put the main proposition to the vote. It reads 'that this council recommends to the Government to give early effect to the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee in respect of grants to local bodies for communications in addition to the 14 lakhs grant hitherto made to the local bodies in aid of their general resources'."

Mr. F. J. RICHARDS :—"May I make an explanation to remove the possible apprehensions? There is some misunderstanding . . ."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"I fear the Honourable Member will be out of order. I daresay there is some misunderstanding. But when once the closure is applied and I have taken the sense of the House that it has had enough of the debate and that it wants a division, it is not open to me to go back. I put it as the decision pronounced by the House. I must put the resolution to the vote immediately."

The resolution was put to the vote and lost.

For 22; *Against* 39.

Headquarter hospitals.

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, I have the honour to move—

'50. *That this Council recommends to the Government to relieve the local bodies from their obligation to contribute for the maintenance of the headquarter hospitals.*'

"Whatever fate this resolution may meet with at the hands of the Council, I may point out that its sole object is to relieve local bodies of certain obligations which now exist. It is well known that all the headquarter hospitals have been taken over by the Government gradually and it is not necessary to discuss the circumstances under which they have come to be in the possession of Government. Sir, the previous history of this question will show that several municipalities were in a way forced to hand over the management of headquarter hospitals to

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Government. When owing to causes natural and unnatural, when owing to the exigencies of the war the cost of maintaining the hospitals as well as the cost of medicine became abnormal, became high, when applications were made for a further increase of grant, the municipalities did not meet with a satisfactory response at the hands of the Government. A proposal went up to the effect that if the municipality would offer to hand over the management of the hospital to the Government and would undertake along with the local boards, if any, to pay one-third cost of the maintenance, taking the average of three years, the Government would take over the management of the hospitals. It is difficult for us to discover whether the Government themselves were solicitous to take over the management of these hospitals or whether the municipalities were solicitous to hand over their management to Government. Probably the correct conception lies between these two positions. While on the one hand the provisions of the District Municipalities Act and Local Boards Act included as one of the objects of these local institutions the maintenance of these hospitals, we now cannot imagine why we should under ordinary circumstances transfer the control of these medical institutions to the Government. We see from their history they were in a way under financial stringency and owing to the attitude of the Government in not giving them such assistance as they were entitled to, they were practically forced to hand over the management to Government. Now, Sir, I would ask whether it is reasonable that after the management of these institutions was taken over by the Government, a contribution from the local bodies should still be insisted upon. This resolution only refers to that question and nothing else. It is a well-recognized principle that whoever has control of an institution must pay for it in entirety. And there is no justification whatever to call upon these bodies to contribute to the maintenance. The only possible reply is that at the time when those hospitals were taken over by the Government, there was an understanding that they must contribute towards the maintenance of the hospitals. And why should they go back upon that engagement? I request this House to consider whether the arrangement which was entered into some time ago at the time when the hospitals were handed over is to be taken as a permanent arrangement for all time to come and whether it is not desirable that in view of the larger demands on these local boards and in view of the fact that their limited resources have probably to be utilized for developing every medical institution in their own way and so far as they can, this question of contribution should not be done away with and the loss of revenue is a little over one or two lakhs. I think this is a small amount which the Government ought not to grudge and which they need not insist on the local boards paying."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"I have great pleasure in seconding this resolution. The one ground on which the local bodies, not only district boards but also municipalities, should be relieved of this contribution is this. Hitherto the municipalities or the local boards have been controlling these institutions. Now the Government have taken up the entire control. On this ground, namely, that whoever controls an institution should also pay for it, I say that the Government ought not to raise any contribution from the local bodies."

Mr. F. J. RICHARDS :—"Mr. President, again my honourable friend from Nellore has submitted a recommendation to the House to which I myself have subscribed. It is not for me to oppose or criticise it, although I am aware that this particular recommendation of the Financial Relations Committee is open to criticism.

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"I must, however, protest against the assertion that local boards and municipalities are entitled to a share of the tax-payer's money. The fundamental basis of local self-government is self-taxation. However, that is a matter not quite relevant to the present issue. District boards and municipalities have agreed to contribute an annual sum equivalent to one-third of the cost of maintaining district headquarter hospitals. The object of the Government in taking them over was not solely to give local bodies financial relief. It was realized that municipalities are unable to keep pace with the times and to maintain their hospitals at a standard adequate for modern requirements, and it was the intention of Government to establish in every district an institution which should be on a model of what a hospital should be. District boards and municipalities which contribute have therefore been relieved not only of two-thirds of the cost of maintenance before the transfer, but of also an ever-increasing burden involved in future maintenance owing to the rise of prices and the cost of improvement necessary to keep headquarter hospitals up to the standard of modern requirements. The actual sum involved in this resolution is small. Twenty-four hospitals have been taken over. The cost of their maintenance was Rs. 3·90 lakhs. The amount of the relief given to local bodies by the transference is Rs. 2,32,000. The amount now asked for is only Rs. 1,35,000. But although the amount seems small, I would again press the principle that payment should be made for services rendered and a fairly minute study of municipal and district board administration reports during the past few months has convinced me that, if you suddenly relieve a local body of charges which it is accustomed to bear, it cannot immediately find a useful method of spending the money so saved. Would it not be more in the interests of the tax-payer to ask local bodies how they are going to utilize the money which this resolution recommends they should not in future be called upon to pay? If local bodies give a guarantee, that such money will be usefully spent, then, I submit that the tax-payer, under the auspices of this Council, can cheerfully shoulder a further portion of the burden which, I may point out, is *obligatory* on local bodies and municipalities. It would be unnecessary, but for the financial crisis, for me again to appeal to my honourable friend to withdraw his resolution. But there is not enough money to go round, and I hope this House will not prejudice other proposals by accepting this resolution and will permit the budget to be reviewed as a whole. The recommendation has been made by the Financial Relations Committee, and it has got to be answered sooner or later by the Government. A hasty answer, I submit, is not in the public interest."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"As a president of a very poor district board I may tell Mr. Richards that we should be very glad if even a small amount is given up to us, that is, by way of relief from the small burden which we have to bear in maintaining these headquarter hospitals We know how to spend it very usefully. We can point out to the Government that we shall spend the money more usefully in places where we have some control. Of course we are being more or less deprived, by the new Act, of all control over the medical department, and practically over the engineering department. But we can spend this money in giving medical relief in distant villages. The general tax-payer is bound to maintain one proper hospital at least in the headquarter to which the people in the district go for relief at one time or other, but there are villages, nooks and corners in the district, where medical relief is very sadly wanting. If you generously take away that burden which you impose on us, we may assure the Government that we shall spend the money very usefully by spending it in places where we have no hospital and where people suffer for want of medical relief."

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Mr. B. P. DEVARAJULU NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, as representing a very poor municipality, I must also join with the request of my honourable friend Mr. Kesava Pillai. I think this House knows, at any rate the presidents of local boards and municipalities know, that we have been asking for increased responsibilities so far as medical aid is concerned. So long as these hospitals were under the control of the municipalities, there was some satisfaction that they were under our control and we were able to direct our energies to the amelioration of the condition of the people. But I think that there is much difference of opinion with regard to the management of hospitals under the municipalities and under the Government. At any rate, so long as the municipalities have absolutely nothing to do with the control of hospitals, and so long as Government has itself taken the control, it is but fair that the amount of imposition should be taken away. Secondly, I think there is a requisition now to increase the number of midwives so far as municipalities and local boards are concerned and they are also asked, to send in proposals as to how much money they will be in a position to place for this purpose, calculating at a percentage of the population I think the responsibility will become very much increased in a few years, and as I have already pointed out there will be enough use for this money if it is given to us. For these reasons, Mr. President, I strongly support this resolution."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR:—"Sir, I quite sympathise with the Honourable Member for Nellore in his anxiety to secure more funds for local bodies. I know the demands on the local funds have gradually been on the increase and it is certainly desirable that these bodies should be placed in a financially better position. As the Secretary for Local Self-Government Ministry has already explained, the resolution is based upon a wrong principle. It is wrong not only in principle, but it is against the agreement entered into between Government and the Boards. When the Government undertook the management of the headquarter hospitals it was understood, rather agreed, that the local bodies should contribute one-third of the expenditure to be incurred in maintaining the hospitals. Now, the demand of the honourable mover is that they should be relieved from making any contribution towards the maintenance of these hospitals. Besides, the question raised in the resolution is also one of the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee, and the recommendations are still under consideration, and Government have yet to arrive at a decision regarding these recommendations."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"Mr. President, I have carefully listened to the debate on this matter. The honourable member in charge was referring to some agreement that took place some years ago under which it was settled that the local bodies, both the district boards and the headquarter municipalities, should bear one-third and the remaining two-thirds should be borne by the Government. I must say I was a party to that agreement as it were, as it was I that moved the resolution which was accepted under that condition. Now the conditions have altered. We have been anxiously looking forward to a time when there should be some solution of the financial difficulties of the local bodies. We anxiously expected that the Financial Relations Committee would solve it, would come to our rescue, to the rescue of the local bodies, and would give some satisfactory solution. Now, Sir, for the last three days I have been observing in resolution after resolution, however unanimously may have been the finding arrived at by the Financial Relations Committee, an attempt has been made to fritter it away on the ground of finance, but if that is the way in which these recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee are respected, I see very little prospect for the local bodies. Now, the Finance Department must have known fully well that when the Government

appointed the Financial Relations Committee, their proposals would involve some cost to the State, and knowing full well what the effect of their recommendations would be, to explain away every resolution on the ground of want of funds simply takes away my breath. Now, Sir, I think a loyal attempt should be made to carry out the resolutions of the Financial Relations Committee and a strenuous effort should also be made to allot funds so far as possible. We were told from time to time, when we pleaded the stringency of our own funds the pitiful inadequacy of our own resources, to wait until the time when the relations between the imperial and provincial finances had been settled. We waited till then, and we anxiously waited in the hope that the Financial Relations Committee would really come to our succour. Now, I see, Sir, an attempt though I deprecate that attempt, made on behalf of the Government by the Member in charge to fritter away the resolutions of the Financial Relations Committee. Their recommendations, I must say, are based on excellent principles. One of these principles is that the authority that has got the control over an institution should pay for it. The other principle is that this is a service which ought to be paid for and maintained by the Government. It does not mean that local bodies are relieved from all expenditure on medical relief altogether; for we shall have to maintain the smaller dispensaries. So far as the maintenance of model headquarter hospitals is concerned, the Committee has rightly found that it is more or less the legitimate sphere of the State and not of the local bodies. With these words, I strongly support the resolution."

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu:—"I only wish to make a small inquiry. I should like to know from the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government if there is any likelihood of issuing the decisions of the Committee before the presentation of the budget in which case it may not be necessary to press this resolution."

The Hon'ble the President:—"The Hon'ble the Minister has already spoken once and it is not open to him to speak again. It is Mr. Richards who, on behalf of the Government, is opposing this resolution, that could speak."

Mr. F. J. Richards:—"I am afraid, Sir, that it is quite impossible to prophesy what the final decision of the Government will be."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter:—"The honourable member seems to think that the Financial Relations Committee was appointed in order to enhance the grants. The instructions to the Financial Relations Committee were to make proposals for regularizing the grants. I therefore submit with reference to this argument, which is based on the idea that the Financial Relations Committee was formed to increase the grants to local bodies, that it is made on a wrong basis. As for the suggestion that we are frittering away the proposals, I must say that that seems to me an extraordinary phrase to apply to the financial examination of suggestions of a very far-reaching nature. The honourable member's alternative seems to be that large sums should be voted at a moment's notice without giving the Government an opportunity to examine the proposals on which the vote is based. I have already explained the reason why in the very short time since the Ministers took charge it has not been possible for the Government to examine that Committee's report."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar:—"I just want to say a few words. Attempts have been made in connexion with this proposition as well as the one before it to draw a distinction between rate-payers and tax-payers. It has been suggested that this is an attempt to burden the tax-payer. So far as we are

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concerned we are tax-payers as well as ratepayers. Many of the members here belong to both classes and therefore if we speak on either behalf it is after considering the respective qualifications, the respective relationships between the two parties. One thing has been said and that is that the honourable member, the Secretary for Local Self-Government, was afraid that the municipalities and local bodies will have too much money. It was also stated that the demands for grants from these various local bodies are increasing. But there is absolutely no fear of indigestion with any municipalities or any of them going wrong if a few rupees are saved in this grant. So far as Coimbatore is concerned, I may say that although we have been practically freed from maintaining the headquarter hospital, the municipality is maintaining a dispensary, and arrangements are being made to start two more dispensaries and therefore it is not with a view to save money from medical relief for any other department that we want this small excess, but that we may be able to devote more money for additional medical relief in various places. Of course the argument about an agreement was mentioned, and the Honourable Member for Bellary has spoken on it. My opinion is that this is an agreement without any advantage. The Government said already, 'we will take up on this condition and this condition alone, that you will contribute a portion of the cost'. Therefore in order to be relieved of the larger portion the municipalities have given their consent to bear a smaller burden. It is not to save that voluntary burden we say that these small sums will be required by these local bodies, for the Government may agree to reduce this small amount. No doubt municipalities and local bodies have been spared the expense of maintaining the hospitals. It has been very well stated that if they were maintaining hospitals the cost would be more. Now Government wants to have more luxurious hospitals and want to spend large sums of money, and it may be that when another attempt to increase the utility of these hospitals is made, the cost may be so large that a contribution made by the local bodies and municipalities may exceed what they used to spend under the old management. Is it therefore equitable or necessary that those who have got a voice in the expenditure of these hospitals should say, 'I spend the whole money, you give a portion'?"

Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"Sir, I rise to support the motion. I must own to a feeling of deep disappointment at the way in which district boards are treated and at the way in which the Financial Relations Committee's report is dealt with. It used to be said, and it has come to pass in this case, that if any matter is to be shelved it should be referred to a committee. This committee has sat and deliberately recommended certain proposals, and the committee in its proposals did not say that to the extent to which the district boards are to be relieved of the liability to contribute to headquarter hospitals, there was to be anything like a condition to be attached to it, whatever may be the previous understandings under which the district boards were relieved from the managements of these hospitals. And now when requests are made for adding to the elementary schools, there is the objection of funds. When requests are made in any other direction, there is the objection of funds.

"We are asked to prepare our budgets soon. On what basis are we to send them? When we ask the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government, it is stated that this paltry sum of 1½ lakhs of rupees has to be distributed to 25 districts. That portion at least may be accepted. The Local Self-Government Secretary stated that the Government would be pleased to consider the proposal provided an undertaking is given that the money will be properly utilized in a particular manner. I submit, Sir, it is hardly fair for the Local Self-Government

Secretary to ask for an undertaking of that sort; with this disappointment held over us, with the increasing demand and the increasing salaries for the servants maintained by the district boards, the small sum that could be saved by the district boards should go to relieve the general condition of these district boards. In those circumstances, Sir, I sumbit and I earnestly implore the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government to accept this resolution.

"I must also take objection to the expression of view that the tax-payers' interest is different from the rate-payers' interest. Sir, you will find that the main item of the income of the district board is land-cess. By whom is the land-cess paid? It is paid by the tax-payer. And the main item of revenue is either land revenue or excise. We will wait and see what will be the fate of excise. We, Sir, are sent by the tax-payers, those tax-payers who pay more than Rs. 10. I certainly think that if these tax-payers are asked whether they would prefer certain taxes to be handed over to the taluk boards or the district boards, or whether they would be willing to contribute an extra one anna in addition to what they already pay, the answer will certainly be, 'we will pay to the Government, let them pay the institution.' Wherefore is the provision in the Local Boards Act, weak for the purpose of adding to the general resources and for levying a further quarter anna tax upon these tax-payers? Therefore the ingenious distinction that is sought to be drawn between a tax-payer and a rate-payer is only in name. If the opinions of the tax-payers are obtained, they would certainly prefer to have a certain portion of their tax given and not a fresh taxation levied on them. With these observations, I support this resolution."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I rise to support this resolution. In the first place, the resolution is in accordance with the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee. Secondly, the amount concerned is very small, between one and two lakhs, and when distributed among the various bodies concerned, the amount that each will get is extremely small and particularly, as I interpret the speech of my friend Mr. Richards, Secretary for Local Self-Government, and the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government, the opposition on their part is really half-hearted so that for these three very brief reasons, I heartily support the resolution."

Mr. C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Mr. President, it is really unfortunate that the preparation of the budget for the local bodies under the new Act and the preparation of the budget of the Local Government under the new Act should come almost at the same time. It is more unfortunate for the provincial finance, because the budget of last year was prepared in the expectation of something more than what was really granted under the Meston award.

"Now, Sir, hitherto I was in the habit of sending resolutions to this Council for demands for the augmentation of local bodies, but Sir, there is a change now. Our anxiety was hitherto that the finances of the local bodies should be under the control of the people, whereas the finances of the provincial Government were not under such control. But now, Sir, there is a great change; as has already been stated by the Member for the University, the Council has got a control over the purse. Therefore the time has come when we the representatives should make proposals time after time for demands or we have to pay due regard to curtailment and vote accordingly. Hereafter no proposals for enhancement of expenditure should come from the Government whereas the right of voting and curtailment must rest with the people. If I have stated correctly the principles on which we have to work hereafter, I think my colleagues in the Council will agree with me and put a stop to sending demands from the non-official side; the Government will come with their purse and their demands and submit them to the Council.

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With these words, Sir, I request my friend Mr. Krishna Rao to wait till the preparation of the budget. We shall have ample time when once the budget is presented on the 8th, 9th and 10th, and it will be open for general discussion. When the general discussion is over, the Government may come forward with their own demands and then we can show to the Government what curtailment we wish to make and what demands we wish to refuse. With these words, Sir, I once more request Mr. Krishna Rao to withdraw his resolution."

Mr. T. DESIKACHARI :—"Speaking on the resolution, the question suggests itself to me, as it ought to suggest itself to everbody else, as to whether the recommendation that is made by Mr. Krishna Rao is sound and a reasonable one. The question has to be judged upon its own merits. The Financial Relations Committee had excellent reasons for taking away the burdon of maintaining headquarter hospitals from local bodies. The local boards are maintaining a number of institutions and are finding it very difficult to find money for duplicating the local institutions, where the multiplication of an institution is found to be absolutely necessary. Similarly in municipalities, dispensaries which are not headquarter hospitals are maintained out of municipal funds. It is not that several municipalities and district boards are deprived of any burden on account of headquarter hospitals being taken off by the Government. Their charges are multiplied, their responsibilities are increasing, and it is an accusation against local bodies and municipalities that they are not sufficiently active in multiplying medical aid. In the circumstances, the measure of relief that is recommended by the Financial Relations Committee is a measure absolutely necessary."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"I am exceedingly sorry to find the attitude taken by the members of this House, as also by the Honourable Members of Government, in dealing with a simple request like the one placed before the Council. There are in this House representatives of local bodies, whether taluk boards, municipalities or district boards, and I appeal to them to take a more serious view of the way in which the local bodies are being maintained. It has been suggested that there is a scramble for grants from the provincial Government as if they were different institutions, as if they were different bodies, and as if there were no unity of interest between one body and another. A sort of conflict has been suggested in the discussion between the rate-payer and the tax-payer. I am afraid this has created some misunderstanding in the minds of the members of this House. May I assume that it is their duty, their only duty, to consider what are the objects for which local bodies are established and what functions they discharge. If those who are supposed to represent the tax-payers against the rate-payers only realize that these local bodies are doing most valuable work in the country, often discharging functions which are dear to every one, whatever objections the Hon'ble the Finance Member may take, whatever difficulty the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government may find, they will give their assent to this simple proposition. Now, I understand that there is a sort of agreement. What is the agreement? It is the question of adjustment of funds between a part of the Government and the local bodies. This question of adjustments is liable to reconsideration. As has been well pointed out by an honourable member, can any one honestly state that, at least in the case of some institutions, it has been voluntary? They find the expenditure increasing year after year. Government would not give enough grants. They would only give a portion. If it was a private party, they would sue for breach of contract, though in this case they would not. I would therefore submit to this House that we need not be carried away by these theories of agreement. We want that this obligation of maintaining hospitals should be taken away from the local bodies. I am rather surprised at the attitude taken by

the Honourable Minister in dealing with questions concerning local bodies. If I were so fortunate that a 200-mile trunk road was taken over by Government, it would leave me a substantial amount, and I would not feel the same financial stringency. When we are utilising all the funds for carrying out those great objects which all the people have at heart, when we also know that the funds at our disposal are not sufficient to carry out all the objects, is it fair and just to reject this simple request which would not cripple the finances of Government to any appreciable extent? Whatever the decision may be I am prepared to accept the result. Because even the Secretary for Local Self-Government has told us that he would not oppose the motion on principle. He is the only representative here on behalf of the Government. As you, Sir, have been told, he is going to speak against it, and no doubt he made the same statement in this House on a former occasion. So far as the argument is concerned, he is at one with me—"

Mr. F. J. RICHARDS (*interrupting*):—"On a point of order, if I said that I am not opposing it I intended to have said that I would not oppose it *on its merits*. If I have omitted these words, they may be taken. I oppose the motion on the ground that it is inexpedient. I would not oppose it on its merits."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU (*continuing*):—"I accept the correction. I have got the satisfaction that the Hon'ble the Secretary himself admits that it may be accepted on its merits."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"I will now put the motion to the House. Does the Honourable Member in charge wish to say anything?"

Mr. F. J. RICHARDS:—"No, Sir."

A poll was then taken with the following result:—

Ayes.

1. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar.
2. ,, K. Audinarayana Reddi.
3. ,, R. Appaswami Nayudu.
4. ,, C. Arunchala Mudaliyar.
5. ,, B. P. Devarajulu Nayudu.
6. ,, S. Ellappa Chettiyar.
7. ,, P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu.
8. ,, K. Gopalakrishnayya.
9. ,, M. Krishnan Nayar.
10. ,, J. Kuppuswami.
11. ,, B. Munuswami Nayudu.
12. ,, A. T. Muthukumaraswami Chettiyar.
13. ,, A. Ramayya Punja.
14. ,, K. Sarabha Reddi.
15. ,, S. T. Shanmugam Pillai.
16. ,, T. Sivasankaram Pillai.
17. ,, N. A. V. Somasundaram Pillai.
18. ,, A. Subbarayudu.
19. ,, K. Suriyanarayanamurti Nayudu.
20. ,, A. Thangavelu Nayagar.
21. Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao.
22. ,, S. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
23. ,, Biswanath Das.
24. ,, T. Desika Achariyar.
25. ,, A. S. Krishna Rao.
26. ,, S. Muthumanika Achari.
27. ,, T. M. Narasimhacharlu.
28. ,, U. Rama Rao.
29. ,, D. Seshagiri Rao.
30. ,, R. Sethuratnam Ayyar.
31. ,, P. Siva Rao.
32. ,, R. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
33. ,, K. S. Venkatrama Ayyar.
34. ,, C. V. Venkatramana Ayyangar.
35. ,, A. T. Palmer.
36. ,, Muhammad Abbas Ali Khan Bahadur.
37. ,, Qadir Navas Khan Sahib Bahadur.
38. ,, Saiyid Muhammad Padsha Sahib Bahadur.
39. ,, Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai.

Noes.

1. The Hon'ble Mr. P. Ramarayaningar.
2. Mr. S. Somasundaram Pillai.
3. ,, T. C. Thangavelu Pillai.
4. ,, O. Tanikachala Chettiyar.
5. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell.
6. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.

The resolution was carried, 39 voting *for* and 6 *against*.

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"May I ask whether you have come to any decision as regards the neutral votes?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"No, Sir."

19th February 1921] [Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar]

Recognition of copyists, section-writers, etc., as full-time servants of Government.

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Mr. President, the resolution that I have got to move is as follows :—

" 51. *That this Council recommends to the Government that copyists, section-writers and other similar subordinates may be recognized as full-time servants of Government and admitted to all the privileges of regular wholetime servants of Government.*'

" Having regard to the short time before me I should like to confine myself to a brief survey of the situation. The Salaries Committee in dealing with this matter have recorded as follows :—

' The committee does not consider that any differentiation can be made between a clerk and a copyist in the matter of their minimum pay. It considers therefore that when a copyist is fully employed his remuneration, whether it be in the shape of a fixed salary, or of fees calculated on the outturn, should not average less than Rs. 30.'

" Later on, when the matter was before the Government I find the Government in its order No. 146, dated 18th February last year, stated that the question of the remuneration of public establishments was under consideration. I should like to know if the matter is still engaging the attention, sympathetic or otherwise, of the Government."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER (*interrupting*) :—" The question raised by the resolution is not a question of remuneration to copyists."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR (*continuing*) :—" Part of my resolution also deals with their pay, because I ask therein that they may be recognized as full-time servants of Government and admitted to all the privileges. These people get only a fixed allowance for the time being which is liable to be supplemented with reference to extra work that they may turn out, extra work of a nature sufficient to cover the pay allotted to them. As it is, the two main establishments which employ copyists in appreciable number are the Revenue and the Judicial departments. I am conscious of the fact that in this resolution I am not trying to paralyse the Government or taking them into a region of barrenness, but into a region where a large amount of surplus accrued so far as the Judicial Department is concerned. Every year Judicial Department is making enormous profits and there is absolutely no reason why a portion should not be devoted to the improvement of the condition and prospects of the copyist department. I need hardly remind the House that the sale-proceeds of copy stamps constitute the main source of income. The men that work all day long and contribute mostly to the stamp revenue are the copyists. But in every stamp only $2\frac{1}{2}$ pies goes to the copyist, whereas the surplus of the income goes to feed and maintain a much higher establishment, viz., superintendents, assistant superintendents, readers, etc. who are entitled to pension and who are in the regular line of establishment.

" I need hardly remind the House that the pay of the copyists was fixed at Rs. 10 at a time when the lowest pay of an officer in the clerical establishment was Rs. 15. This was formerly known as the 15th regiment.

" Since then much water has flowed under the bridge. The lowest clerk's pay was raised to Rs. 20 and thereafter to Rs. 30, and is there any reason why the condition of these poor copyists should not be bettered ?

" There is one other matter which I have to press before the House. All these copy applications have to bear one-anna stamps, and I understand that it is

not regarded as general revenue for the purpose of taking into consideration the income earned by the copyists department. I also understand that this income has mounted up considerably. That being the case, I hope and trust that this resolution will commend itself to the consideration of Government."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"I beg to second it. Sir, may I propose an adjournment of the House ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"So far as I am concerned, I won't take much time. With your permission, Sir, I should like to hear if any honourable member wishes to speak on the resolution. The mover has said nothing that bears on the resolution and the seconder has said nothing at all."

Mr. SAYID MUHAMMAD PADSHA SAHIB :—"There is no denying the fact that the copyist works as hard and works as much as any other servant of Government, and that his work is as much indispensable as the outturn of work of any other department of Government. When such is the case there is no reason why there should be a difference between the treatment accorded to the copyists and that meted out to the clerical establishment. As my honourable friend the mover said, most of the money that goes to the Government on account of the copyist department, is utilized in paying the superintendents and assistant superintendents, but as a matter of fact, they have got much lighter work to do than the copyists who have more work and who work from 11 o'clock in the morning to 5 or 6 o'clock in the evening.

"Now, Sir, it may be contended that in addition to the fixed pay, the copyist has got an opportunity to earn extra amounts for extra work done by him. My answer to that argument would be that unless we allow the copyist to earn an extra amount by giving him more copying work every day, the concession would not actually benefit him. If the copyist is able to earn this extra amount sufficient for maintaining himself and his family, there would not have been the demand on the part of the copyist department to raise their status. The very fact that there is this demand is sufficient proof that the persons who are employed in the copyist department are not justly treated.

"Now, Sir, I may tell you of some of the disabilities of the copyists. Though they work as hard as any of the clerks in the department, they are not entitled to any leave at all. There is no pension except for the superintendents and assistant superintendents who supervise the work of the copyists. Most part of their work consists in perhaps reading for an hour or two the copies that were prepared by these copyists. While they carry away the best part of the prizes that go to the copyist department, the copyist who works hard the whole day long receives the least benefit."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—"I am constrained to oppose this resolution. Of course, my sympathy is not the less for these poor copyists but as between the elementary school teacher and the copyist, I must prefer the claims of the elementary school teacher. Yesterday, when I was pleading the cause of these poor elementary school teachers, the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter, the Finance Member, accused me of an attempt at daylight dacoity and street plundering. So I would not have the copyist coming in the place of the elementary school teacher. If there is any money available, if anything can be spared, I plead that it should be given to the schoolmaster."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"The Council will now adjourn and meet again on Monday. Before declaring the adjournment I should like to inform

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honourable members that Monday will be the last day for the disposal of this batch of resolutions which could not be finished to-day, though there has been no adjournment for lunch.

The balance of questions will be taken up on Monday morning. There will be a residuum of 20 to 25 questions to which Government have not sent in answers, and in exercise of the discretion vested in me under the Standing Orders, I have given them further time in regard to these questions. They will accordingly be answered at a later meeting.

"Four amendments to the Standing Orders have been notified by the Hon'ble the Law Member of the Government. Notices of these amendments will be circulated to all honourable members to night, and I hope they will reach them in the course of to-morow morning. Those amendments also will be taken up for consideration."

At 5-10 p.m. the Council adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 21st day of February 1921.

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

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
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TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS