The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, the 16th day of February 1921 with the Hon'ble the President in the chair.

The PRESIDENT, on taking his seat, announced to the Council that as there was to be a function at Government House in the evening, he intended to close the sitting for the day at 3-30 p.m. without adjourning for lunch.

He then suggested to the Members of the Council that, as he had heard from a few members of the inconvenience felt by them regarding the seating arrangements, they might write either to him or to the Secretary about such inconvenience and that he would see to it.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

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

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

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

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

Introduction of a Workmen's Compensation Bill in the Council.

73 *Q.*—Mr. M. D. DEVADAS : To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member to state if it is the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill in the near future for workmen's compensation.

A.—There is no such intention at present.

The introduction of a Trade Union Bill.

74 *Q.*—Mr. M. D DEVADAS : To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member to state whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill in the near future for the formation and regulation of trade unions.

A.—The matter is under the consideration of Government.

Salem town drainage scheme.

75 *Q.*—Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state—

(*a*) in what stage the Salem town drainage scheme is ;

(*b*) whether it is not possible to give immediate effect to the scheme considering the insanitary condition of the town for want of proper drainage.

A.—The revised plans and estimates for the scheme are under preparation in the Sanitary Engineer's office.

Intermediate science classes in the Government Muhammadan College, Madras.

76 *Q.*—Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education—

(*a*) if there are no intermediate science classes in the Government Muhammadan College, Madras ;

(*b*) whether they propose to open those classes, and, if so, when ;

(*c*) when they intend to commence the erection of buildings for the above-mentioned college.

A.—(*a*) No.
(*b*) Yes; next July if possible.
(*c*) Plans and estimates for the construction of additional buildings have been prepared and are under consideration.

Separation of office of Registrar of Companies from that of Inspector-General of Registration.

77 *Q.*—Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member whether—

(*a*) the attention of the Government has been drawn to the letter that appeared in the *Madras Mail*, dated 5th January 1921, regarding the separation of the office of the Registrar of Companies from that of the Inspector-General of Registration; if so, whether the Government will be pleased to state what they intend to do in the matter;

(*b*) it is a fact that the Registrar of Companies in Bengal is a Chartered Accountant; and the Government propose to prescribe a similar qualification for the appointment in Madras;

(*c*) it is a fact that the establishment of the Registrar of Companies is to be strengthened by the addition of a second Assistant Registrar.

A.—(*a*) The Government have perused the letter referred to in the question. They do not intend to take any action in the matter at present.
(*b*) The Government have no information.
No.
(*c*) Yes.

Strikes.

78 *Q.*—Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member to state whether the Government propose to take any steps to prevent strikes which cause public inconvenience.

A.—The question is under the consideration of the Government of India who have asked for the opinion of Local Government.

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Whether the opinion of the Local Government has been sent to the Government of India and whether the Government had consulted public opinion in this Presidency in connexion therewith?"

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON for the Hon'ble the Law Member:—"I think I had better say on behalf of the Law Member that I must have notice of the question."

Malabar Tenancy Bill.

79 *Q.*—Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member whether—

(*a*) there is a great deal of agitation amongst the tenants of Malabar for a Tenancy Bill safeguarding their interests;

(*b*) the Government contemplate introducing a Tenancy Bill for Malabar in the near future.

A.—(*a*) Yes.
(*b*) There is no immediate intention to introduce a Bill.

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"Whether the agitation among the kanom tenants and the cultivating tenants was brought to the notice of the Government?"

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The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—" There was a representation made by a conference on the subject made in the course of last year."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" Whether the conference was composed of kanom or cultivating tenants ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—" I must have notice of that question."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Are not the Government aware from a perusal of the newspapers that in Malabar within the last six months or one year there have been many meetings of tenants raising very loud complaints against the oppression of the jenmis ? "

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" Is it a question for information ? "

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*continuing*) :—" I only want to know whether the Government have received complaints and if they have not received complaints, are they at least aware of the fact from a perusal of the newspapers ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—" I am not quite sure that the Hon'ble the Law Member has read the newspapers. If he has not, I am sure he will lose no time in doing so."

Representation of Mappilla community in the Malabar local boards.

80 *Q.*—Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government if it is a fact that the fishermen Mappilla community of Malabar numbering half a lakh has no representation either on the taluk boards or the District Board of Malabar.

A.—There is no member of the fishermen Mappilla community on the local boards in Malabar.

Raja Sir S. Ramaswami Mudaliyar's Lying-in Hospital, Royapuram.

81 *Q.*—Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government whether the Corporation of Madras has represented to the Government to take up the management of the Raja Sir Ramaswami Mudaliyar's Lying-in Hospital, Royapuram; if so, whether the Government will be pleased to state if they intend to do so.

A.—The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The matter is under consideration.

Labour unions in the Presidency.

82 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO : To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member to specify the existing labour unions in this Presidency.

A.—The Government have no complete list, but the Member as a member of the Labour Advisory Board ought to have fuller information.

Maintenance of a labour unions register.

83 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO : To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member to state if a register of labour unions in the province is maintained; and, if so, to place it on the council table.

A.—The answer is in the negative.

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I remember to have seen a register in the Labour Commissioner's office. The Hon'ble the Law Member will be pleased to make enquiries and see whether a register is in existence."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—" No register seems to be in existence, but there is no objection to an enquiry being made."

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Recognition of labour unions by the Department of Labour.

84 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member to state if the Department of Labour has recognized the labour unions in this Presidency.

A.—The answer is in the negative.

Execution by the kerosene oil companies of the award made by the Enquiry Committee.

85 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member to state if it is a fact that the terms of the award made by the Enquiry Committee, in relation to kerosene-oil works, are not carried into execution by the companies.

A.—The Government have no information, nor have any representations to this effect been made to the Commissioner of Labour.

The work of the Commissioner of Labour in regard to the recent tramway strike.

86 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member to state what action was taken by the Commissioner of Labour in regard to the recent tramway strike, both prior to and after the strike to meet the demands of labour or of the company.

A.—Before the strike the Labour Commissioner attended a meeting of the employees and urged the unreasonableness of going on strike in disregard of former agreement.

After the strike the Labour Commissioner induced the employment to put up a notice agreeing to consider the men's grievances on condition of their return to work and the Managing Director to give a promise of personal enquiry on like condition.

Labour Commissioner's intervention in labour disputes.

87 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member if it is a fact that the Labour Commissioner as such has no power to enquire into labour disputes, or intervene and advise in labour disputes.

A.—The answer is in the affirmative.

Loans to ryots.

88 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state the total amount of loans advanced to ryots during the last three faslis, 1327–28, 1328–29 and 1329–30, in the districts of Ganjām, Vizagapatam, Gōdāvari, Kistna and Guntūr under the Agricultural Loans Act and Land Improvement Act.

A.—A statement is placed on the table.*

The RAJA OF MANDASA:—"Is there any particular rule for the grant or refusal of loans to tenants because in refusing loan to one of my tenants the officer has not given any reason?"

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I think it hardly arises out of this question. I want to have notice of the question."

Revenue from Northern Circars.

89 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance to state the total revenue realized under all heads from the districts of Ganjām, Vizagapatam, Gōdāvari, Kistna and Guntūr.

* Vide Appendix I on page 167 infra.

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A.—The Accountant-General will be requested to prepare a statement which will be furnished to the member on receipt.

Revenue under Nagavalli project in Vizagapatam.

90 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state the amount of revenue derived by sales of land under the Nagavalli project in Vizagapatam district and the amount of revenue derived to Government under increased land revenue assessment and water-tax.

A.—An amount of Rs. 3,03,903 has been realized by the sale of waste lands under the Nagavalli project. Sanction was accorded in 1920 to the sale of 556 acres of tank-bed lands. The result of the sale has not yet been reported to Government.

The Government have no information as to the amount of revenue derived under increased land assessment and water-cess.

Medical inspector of schools.

91 *Q.*—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education whether dismissal from Government service disqualifies a registered medical practitioner from being a medical inspector of schools.

A.—The matter is under consideration.

Medical inspection of schools.

92 *Q.*—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education to state—

(*a*) the number of schools in the Presidency for which medical inspectors were appointed; and

(*b*) the number of pupils who were so examined.

A.—Complete information is not yet available, but will be supplied on receipt.

Pay of non-gazetted officers.

93 *Q.*—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance whether it is a fact that there is keen discontent among the non-gazetted officers of the Government on account of the inadequacy of their pay to meet the present-day prices.

A.—The Government have seen communications in the newspapers and have received representations from the non-gazetted officers which indicate that there is discontent in some quarters.

Famine test-works in Bellary district.

94 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state—

(*a*) the famine test-works started in the Bellary district and the amount of estimate of each work;

(*b*) the date on which each work was started and closed, if any has been closed; and

(*c*) the number of coolies entertained on each work from day to day.

A.—(*a*) (1) A road work near Virapuram in the Bellary taluk.

(2) The Alur-Aspari road in the Alur taluk.

The Government have no information as to the amount of the estimates of the test-works.

(*b*) The first work was opened on 20th December 1920. The second work was started as an ordinary work on 1st January 1921 and was converted into a test-work during the week ending 15th January 1921. Both the works are now in progress.

(*c*) The average daily attendance on each work during January was as follows :—

Week ending	Work near Virapuram.	Alur-Aspari road.
8th January 1921 ..	710	..
15th January 1921 ..	673	365
22nd January 1921 ..	840	283
29th January 1921 ..	352	1,788

Payment of coolies as per Famine Code.

95 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state whether—

(*a*) according to the Famine Code wages should be paid to coolies as often as possible and not less than twice a week ; and

(*b*) the above rule was not adhered to in the case of any of the test-works and if so, in the case of what works and how often and when the rule was not followed, what was the period each time during which payment of wages was not made.

A.—(*a*) Under the Famine Code, wages should be paid daily in cases where work is under the management of the Public Works Department. In the case of non-departmental works, the wages should be paid at such intervals as the Government direct, but not less often than twice a week.

(*b*) Government understand that the rule was not strictly adhered to in the case of the test-work near Virapuram in the Bellary taluk during the week ending 22nd January 1921. The work was then in charge of the Local Fund Department but has since been taken over by the Public Works Department.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I wanted to know how often the rule that insists that the payment of wages should be not less than twice a week was broken ? I have no information of that question in the answer. I wish the Honourable Member will be pleased to furnish information on this point."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—" I have no information at the present moment. But I have no objection to make enquiries."

Famine work in Bellary district.

96 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state—

(*a*) the daily rate of wages which coolies, man, woman and child, on each test-work in the Bellary district were able to earn from week to week ;

(*b*) whether in each case enough work was shown beforehand to the coolies to enable them to earn their maximum wages ;

(*c*) whether in the case of any, and, if so, what works coolies were refused entertainment on the ground that there was not enough work for all to do and earn a reasonable wage or for any other reason ;

(*d*) whether coolies were refused to be entertained for work on the Alur-Aspari road and if so, how many coolies, on what dates, and under what authority ; and

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(*e*) whether it is a fact that on the same work many coolies refused to receive their wages for the reason that their wages had been cut down for no fault of theirs and whether there have been similar refusals in the case of other works, and if so, on what works.

A.—The Government have no information, but will enquire.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Will the Honourable Member be pleased to furnish the information as soon as obtained as I have to urge some more points for consideration of the Government ? "

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—" I have no objection to do so."

Bellary taluk village headmen's conference.

97 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state—

(i) if they have received a copy of the proceedings of the Bellary taluk village headmen's conference held at Bellary on 29th August 1920 submitted through the Collector, Bellary ; and

(ii) if they have, what action they have taken thereon.

A.—The Government have not received a copy of the proceedings referred to.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Will the Honourable Member call for a copy of the proceedings sent through the Collector ? The Government say that they have not received a copy. The copy was submitted through the Collector and I do not know if the Collector has discretion to withhold it."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—" As the matter was entirely within the discretion of the Collector to dispose of the matter, I do not see any advantage in sending for the reference at all."

Pay of teachers in elementary schools.

98 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education to state why the Government have not accepted the recommendations of the Salaries Committee in regard to the pay of the teachers in elementary schools.

A.—The question of the permanent revision of the pay of teachers in Government elementary schools is still under consideration. As regards teachers under local boards and municipal councils attention is invited to paragraph 9 of G.O. No. 499, Financial, dated 1st June 1920, placed on the Editors' Table which gives full reasons for the attitude of Government in the matter.

Criticism on Salaries Committee's Report.

99 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance whether the Government have perused the criticism on the report of the Salaries Committee published by the Executive Committee of the non-gazetted Government Officers' Association, Madras.

A.—The answer is in the affirmative.

Madras Corporation on Perambur firing incident.

100 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member if the Government have perused the resolution passed by the Municipal

Corporation, Madras, at its meeting on 18th January 1921 regarding the Police firing on the people at Perambur Barracks.

A.—The answer is in the affirmative.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Did not the Government take any action thereon?"

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"That will be an issue which, I suppose, will be discussed in connexion with the discussion on resolution No. 5."

Report of the Special Settlement Officer of Anantapur and Bellary districts.

101 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to place on the table—

(*a*) a copy of the report of the Special Settlement Officer containing the results of his examination of the economic conditions of a few families in a few villages in the black-cotton soil taluks of Anantapur and Bellary districts whose settlement is now under consideration;

(*b*) a copy of the Appendix A referred to in paragraph 16 of Mr. Cox's letter No. 1009-A, dated 28th October 1889, printed in G.O. No. 729, Revenue, dated 12th September 1890; and

(*c*) copy of a similar statement of cultivation expenses, if any, that may have been prepared by the Special Settlement Officer, Bellary.

A.—(*a*) The reports of the Settlement Officer on the economic condition of the typical villages in the districts of Bellary and Anantapur are exceedingly bulky and contain particulars concerning the circumstances of individuals which it would be not proper to make public. The Government are, however, prepared to let the Member peruse them if he calls at the office of the Revenue Secretary.

(*b*) The Member will be furnished with copies of two statements which form an appendix.*

(*c*) The Special Settlement Officer has furnished details of cultivation expenses in his reports referred to above.

Postponement of takkavi loan collection in Alur taluk.

102 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(*a*) if it is a fact that the members of the depressed classes who were given lands on cowle system in the disafforested lands of the late Molagavelli reserve (Alur taluk) have taken takkavi loans from the Government and that the repayment of the first instalment of the loan has fallen due this year;

(*b*) if in view of failure of crops and the distress prevailing in the Alur taluk it is not proposed to postpone the collection of the loans due from the said members of the depressed classes to next year.

A.—The Government have no information. Under the rules framed under the Land Improvement Loans Act, 1883, and the Agriculturists Loans Act, 1884, officers sanctioning the grant of loans are themselves competent to suspend the repayment of the annual instalment whenever from causes beyond the borrower's control such repayment becomes unduly burdensome.

* Vide Appendix II on page 168 infra.

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Remission in Bellary district.

103 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to place on the table lists of villages in Bellary district in which the remission has been granted and of villages in which suspension of revenue has been ordered.

A.—No remission of assessment on dry lands has yet been granted. A list of the villages in the Rayadrug taluk in which suspension of revenue has already been ordered is placed on the table.* Further proposals for suspension in the five taluks of Adoni, Alur, Siruguppa, Bellary and Rayadrug have recently been received and are under the consideration of Government.

Permits to convey land-produce from Mysore to British territory.

104 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member if it is a fact that there are many people in British taluks who own lands in the adjoining Mysore Province but are unable to bring the produce of their lands to their homes in British territory.

A.—Government have no information regarding the number of British subjects who own land in the adjoining Mysore Province. The export of the produce of such lands is subject to such regulations as the Mysore Government may issue on the subject.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"The people who are living in the British territory and who own any lands in the Mysore Province at present are unable to convey their produce to this province. The answer says that such transport is subject to the regulations in force in that province. As the regulations stand, they have no option but to obey the rules of the Mysore Government.

"I ask if it is the intention of the Government to facilitate such transport in the interests of the subjects living in their territories."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"It is hardly a supplementary question."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"I can only tell the House that the arrangements between the Mysore and the Madras Presidency in respect of food-grains have been the subject of constant consultation between the Directors of Civil Supplies of the two administrations, and I am sure if the matter is brought to their notice, it will be given due consideration."

Unions of Government servants.

105 *Q.*—Mr. T. RICHMOND: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance—

(*a*) to state—

(1) the number and names now existing of the various associations or unions of Government servants from the members of the Indian Civil Service down to the village officers;

(2) the names of the office-bearers of each, including patrons, if any;

(3) whether they belong to the particular branch of Government service or whether they are outsiders; if outsiders, whether they are in Government employ;

(*b*) to mention what the rules are, if any, that exist on the above subject;

(*c*) to state if it is permissible for such associations or unions to be addressed by outsiders at public meetings of such associations or unions;

(*d*) to state—

(1) if any of these associations were lately addressed by Colonel Wedgewood, M.P.;

* Vide Appendix III on page 179 infra.

(2) if so, whether Government have read a report of the proceedings at any such meeting ; and

(3) whether Government propose to take any steps to prevent recurrence of such meetings.

A.—(*a*) (1), (2) & (3) The Government are not in possession of the information.

(*b*) The attention of the Member is drawn to G.O. No. 181, Public, dated 15th March 1920, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

(*c*) There is no specific prohibition.

(*d*) (1) & (2) The Member apparently refers to the address given by Colonel Wedgewood to non-gazetted subordinates at the Memorial Hall, Madras, on 13th January 1921, newspaper accounts of which the Government have perused.

(3) The Government have no such intention at present.

Appointment of a Deputy Advocate-General.

106 Q.—Mr. T. Richmond : To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member if it is proposed to create a new appointment as Deputy Advocate-General.

A.—There is no such proposal.

Karnams in the Hospet taluk.

107 Q.—Mr. P. Siva Rao : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state—

(i) whether about 40 karnams in the Hospet taluk in the Bellary district tendered conditional resignation of their offices in or about the month of October 1920, in view of the unsatisfactory conditions of their service ;

(ii) whether they were called upon by the Sub-Collector of Hospet to withdraw their resignations, and were threatened with dismissal in the event of failure to do so ;

(iii) whether the karnams then represented their grievances and expressed their unwillingness to withdraw their resignations unless their grievances were redressed ;

(iv) whether they were again directed to withdraw their resignations on pain of dismissals ; and

(v) whether thereupon some karnams withdrew their resignations and the remaining thirteen who failed to do so were dismissed from service.

A.—The Government have no information.

Mr. P. Siva Rao :—"With reference to question No. 107, will the Hon'ble Member for Revenue call for information ? They say Government have no information. Will the Honourable Member call for information ?"

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur ;—"Inasmuch as the karnams have a right of appeal and Government have not received any appeals from them, I do not consider, Sir, that it will serve any useful purpose to call for these papers."

Retiring rooms in railway stations.

108 Q.—Mr. P. Siva Rao : To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member what steps have been taken to provide retiring rooms for the accommodation of the

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Indian passengers on railways in accordance with the Resolution of the Legislative Council No. 36 accepted by the Government in the month of August 1920.

A.—The Agent, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, reports that arrangements have been or are being made to provide retiring rooms for Indians at Arkonam, Guntakal and Bezwada where there are such rooms for Europeans also. Should there be a pressing demand for such rooms at other stations, the provision of these will be considered by the Company.

The Agent, South Indian Railway, reports that he is awaiting the instructions of his Home Board on the matter.

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" With reference to question No. 108, will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway have closed the retiring rooms at Guntakal and Bellary to the public since the last discussion in the Legislative Council ? "

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—" I am not in a position to answer that question off-hand. I believe that in one case there has been a closure but I am not certain that there has been more than one closure."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" Will the Honourable Member be pleased to enquire into the matter whether the retiring rooms in Guntakal and Bellary have been closed to the public since the last discussion upon the subject ?

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—" I think that information is already in the possession of the Government. But I cannot carry these things precisely in my head. If further information is necessary, I will call for it."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—" Is it true that retiring rooms at Guntakal are used as private quarters for officers ? There is a proposal to convert the retiring rooms as private quarters for officers. Is it a fact that there is such a proposal ?"

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—" If it is the case, I presume that it is a temporary arrangement, for the information supplied to me is that arrangements have been or are being made to provide retiring rooms for Indians at Guntakal, as stated in the answer."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" One of the Members has received information that those retiring rooms at Guntakal and Bellary have been closed to the public as they were short of accommodation for their own officers. Will the Honourable Member be pleased to make enquiries into this matter ? If it is so, that seems to be inconsistent with the answer to the question."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" Probably no further answer is necessary. The Hon'ble Member is already answered."

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

Committee on the indigenous systems of medicine.

109 *Q.*—Mr. P. SIVA RAO : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state whether the personnel of the committee for the examination of the indigenous systems of Unani and Ayurvedic medicine has been settled ; if so, who are the members of the committee and whether they have commenced their sittings.

A.—M.R.Ry. T. R. Ramachandra Ayyar was invited in June 1920 to propose the personnel of the committee. His reply is awaited.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—"Since the answers were printed Mr. T. R. Ramachandra Ayyar has submitted his report and Government will consider the constitution of the personnel."

Compartmental system in the S.S.L.C. examination.

110 *Q.*—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education what steps are taken to introduce the compartmental system in the S.S.L.C. examination.

A.—A copy of the proceedings of the Legislative Council in connexion with Resolution No. VIII at the meeting held on the 15th July last has been forwarded to the Syndicate of the University of Madras for consideration, and Government await the result thereof.

Abolition of the Board of Revenue.

111 *Q.*—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue whether they have finally decided the question of the abolition of the Board of Revenue.

A.—The proposal has been dropped for the present.

Salaries Committee.

112 *Q.*—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance whether—

(*a*) the special officer appointed to consider the findings of the Salaries Committee has submitted his report to the Government and whether the Government passed final orders thereon; if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay them on the table;

(*b*) the Government received a number of memorials from the non-gazetted officers about the increase of their pay and emoluments.

A.—(*a*) The attention of the Member is drawn to the answer to question No. 9.

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

Distress in the Bellary district.

113 *Q.*—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue what steps the Government have hitherto taken to alleviate the distress in the Bellary district.

A.—Two test works have been opened, one in the Bellary taluk and another in the Alur taluk.

Arrangements have been made with the Mysore Darbar for the supply of 400 bags of dry grains weekly to the Rayadrug taluk and 5,000 bags weekly to meet the needs of the taluks of Bellary, Siruguppa, Alur and Adoni.

The collection of kists in the red soil tracts of the Rayadrug taluk has been suspended, pending receipt of proposals for remission. The Government are considering the question of postponing till next fasli the collection of kists in the taluks of Bellary, Siruguppa, Alur, Adoni and Rayadrug.

An additional allotment has been sanctioned for the distribution of loans under the Loans Acts and a tahsildar and four revenue inspectors have been deputed for the prompt disposal of applications for loans.

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Free grazing in open reserves has been permitted and closed reserves have been thrown open wherever necessary.

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—"The answer to question No. 113 says two test works have been opened. Will the Government propose to start any more test works especially in Rayadrug?"

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"The Government will be quite willing to start more works if recommended by the Collector."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—"It is stated that the collection of revenues in the red soil tracts of Rayadrug taluk has been suspended pending receipt of proposals for remission. I wish to know whether there are any proposals for remission of kists in the taluks of Bellary, Siruguppa, Alur, Adoni and Rayadrug."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"I have a number of proposals on that matter, Sir, but I am not just at the present moment in a position to say whether those proposals relate to the particular taluks now enumerated."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Is it a fact, Sir, that while the Government are considering the question of postponing, the village officials are forcing the ryots to pay kists?"

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"I have no information on the matter."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to inquire?"

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"I have no objection, I will inquire."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—"Have any orders been passed for the suspension of the revenue and for the postponement of collection in the case of all these taluks pending final orders of Government?"

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"Orders are being expeditiously issued as soon as the recommendations are received."

Kunnivattam channel in the Chingleput district.

114 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue whether with reference to question No. 61 put by me at the meeting of the Legislative Council, dated the 28th September 1920, the Government will be pleased to state whether the awaited Collector's report has been received and whether any final orders have been passed thereon in reference to the proposed repair of the Kunnivattam channel in the Chingleput district.

A.—The Collector's report has been received; but as the ryots are willing to contribute only Rs. 15,000 and not the entire cost of the work as originally agreed upon, the estimate amounting to Rs. 45,880 referred to has not been sanctioned.

As however it has been suggested that the requirements of the ryots can be met by a less costly scheme, the matter is being considered further by the Executive Engineer, Chingleput Division, who is preparing the necessary estimates.

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Land Revenue Bill.

115 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue whether the Government have received the draft Bill embodying the principles of land revenue policy from the Board of Revenue; if so, when they propose to introduce the Bill in the Legislative Council.

A.—The Government have not yet received the draft Bill from the Board of Revenue.

Appointment of first-class Special Magistrates.

116 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: Will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken in regard to a resolution of the Legislative Council accepted by the Government in regard to the appointment of Special Magistrates of the first class to try criminal cases only with no revenue powers?

A.—The Government have called for detailed proposals from the Board of Revenue for the appointment of stipendiary first-class magistrates in the districts of Coimbatore and Ramnad and for the towns of Madura and Trichinopoly.

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"Do the Government propose to start the scheme for the appointment of stipendiary first-class Magistrates in the whole of this Presidency or only in the districts of Coimbatore and Ramnad and for the towns of Madura and Trichinopoly?"

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"The Government merely intend to make an experiment in the first instance in those districts and towns. On the result of that experiment will depend whether the question of extension is or is not desirable."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state why these places have been hit upon?"

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"So far as I recollect, the resolution discussed in this Council put in the forefront the question of relief to overworked Divisional Magistrates. On examination of cases in which such relief was *prima facie* necessary and in consequence of detailed recommendations made by the Board of Revenue the districts of Coimbatore and Ramnad were selected out of four districts mentioned. The same considerations do not apply precisely to the appointment of stipendiary first-class magistrates to the towns of Madura and Trichinopoly. There was an independent suggestion to give effect to the same experimental plan in large towns."

Bill to amend the Madras Hereditary Village Officers Act.

117 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue whether they propose to introduce the Bill for the amendment of Act II of 1894 and Act III of 1895 (Madras Hereditary Village Officers Act); if so, when it will be introduced into the Council.

A.—The Government propose to introduce the Bill at the earliest possible date.

Mahazar.

118 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance whether, with reference to question No. 55 put by me at the meeting of the Legislative Council, dated the 28th September, relating to the mahazar by the

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Marvari, Guzerati and certain other communities, the Government will be pleased to state whether they have passed any final orders thereon.

A.—A copy of the order in which the memorial was disposed of is appended—

"The Government regret that they are unable to accede to the request for the cancellation of rule 17-A of the Income-tax Rules which direct the production of accounts or copies of them in English or in one of the vernaculars of the Presidency."

Free scholarships in secondary schools.

119 *Q.*—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education whether final orders have been passed on the question of providing scholarships and free studentships up to 10 per cent of the rolls to indigent pupils of merit in the secondary schools.

A.—The question is still under consideration.

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"Will the Hon'ble the Minister for Education be pleased to state how long this question has been under consideration, for how many years?"

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. SUBBARAYULU REDDIYAR:—"I am not prepared to answer at once. I would ask the Honourable Member to give me notice.

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"In connexion with the same question will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state when is the matter likely to come to a close?"

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. SUBBARAYULU REDDIYAR:—"I cannot answer that question just now."

Mahazars.

120 *Q.*—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education whether any orders have been passed on the mahazars received from the teachers in the secondary schools for the standardization of their salaries and the provincialization of their services.

A.—The matter has not yet been finally disposed of.

Pay of veterinary assistants.

121 *Q.*—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development whether final orders have been passed on the question of the increases of the pay and the emolument of veterinary assistants in this Presidency.

A.—Orders have not yet been issued.

Subordinate Educational Service.

122 *Q.*—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education whether any orders have been passed regarding the reorganization of the subordinate educational service (inspection and collegiate branches); if so, to lay it on the table.

A.—The question is still under consideration.

New offices created since April 1919.

123 *Q.*—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance how many new offices have been created since April 1919, and who has been filling them.

A.—A statement is under preparation.

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The vacation of seats in the Council.

124 Q.—Mr. P. Siva Rao: (*a*) To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member whether it is a fact that the Government declared the seats of (i) Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar and (ii) Mr. M. C. T. Muttayya Chetti in the Legislative Council vacant after they accepted the offices of the Advocate-General and Sheriff of Madras; if so, under what rule;

(*b*) whether the same rule will apply to the case of the Deputy President of the Council also.

A.—(*a*) Yes; under section 80-B of the Government of India Act.

(*b*) No.

Quarters for Government officials.

125 Q.—Mr. P. Siva Rao: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Public Works whether the Government have considered and passed final orders on the scheme for constructing quarters for high Government officials in the City of Madras at the cost of Government.

A.—A scheme for constructing quarters for some of the Government officials in the City of Madras is under the consideration of Government and final orders have not yet been passed.

Location of public offices in Government House, Mount Road.

126 Q.—Mr. P. Siva Rao: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member whether the Government have arrived at any final decision as regards the question of the shifting of the Government House permanently to Guindy and the proposed location of public offices in the compound of the present Government House in the Mount Road.

A.—No final decision has yet been arrived at.

Grazing fees in Bellary district.

127 Q.—Mr. P. Siva Rao: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member to state the grazing fees prevailing in the several taluks of the Bellary district and also the reasons for the difference, if any.

A.—Grazing fees are charged at the rate of 3 annas per cow-unit except in the class II Forests of the Harpanahalli range where that rate has been gradually enhanced to one rupee in order to reduce the heavy incidence of grazing. It was reported in 1917 that the number of licences issued was nearly six times the estimated possibility of the actual grazing area.

Forest and Judicial panchayats in the Ceded districts.

128 Q.—Mr. P. Siva Rao: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member how many forest and judicial panchayats have been established in the Ceded districts.

A.—The number of forest panchayats established in the Ceded districts is 105, while that of village panchayat courts is 124.

Disafforestation in Bellary district.

129 Q.—Mr. P. Siva Rao: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member how far disafforestation has been effected in the Bellary district by reason of the recent order passed by the Government.

A.—There has been no recent case of disafforestation in Bellary.

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Residence of non-official presidents of district boards.

130 Q.—Mr. P. Siva Rao: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state—

(i) which non-official presidents of the district boards have been permitted by the Government to reside outside the headquarters of the district and on what conditions; and

(ii) whether the Government have realized the extra expenditure caused to the district boards by the grant of such concession.

A.—(i) The non-official Presidents of the District Boards of Kistna, Malabar, Anantapur and North Arcot have been permitted to reside outside the headquarters of their districts on the understanding that they spend as much time as may be necessary at the headquarters.

(ii) The Government do not consider that any extra expenditure is caused to the district boards by the above arrangement.

Salaries of secondary school teachers.

131 Q.—Mr. P. Siva Rao: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education how the sum of one lakh of rupees allotted for the increase of salaries of the teachers in the secondary schools has been distributed.

A.—The Member is referred to G.O. No. 1486, Home (Education), dated the 11th December 1920, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

List of Indian officials drawing Rs. 1,000 and over per mensem.

132 Q.—Mr. T. Sivasankaram Pillai: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance to furnish a list of the names of only such Indian officials who were in public service in December 1920, with their pay and length of service, in positions occupied by European officials in the year 1910, with salaries of Rs. 1,000 and over.

A.—The information required by the Honourable Member will be found in the civil list for 1910 and the current list, both of which can be obtained in the library.

Capital expenditure in bringing into force the Government of India Act.

133 Q.—Mr. T. Sivasankaram Pillai: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance to state under different major heads what capital expenditure has been incurred up to December 1920 in connexion with bringing into force of the Government of India Act in the Presidency.

A.—The following expenditure on buildings as on 31st December 1920 is directly attributable to the introduction of the Government of India Act. The Government are not aware of any other expenditure under this head that can properly be declared to be capital expenditure.

	LAKHS.
(i) Extensions and improvements to the New Council Chamber, Fort St. George (work completed).	2·80
(ii) Providing additional lights and fans in the extensions (work incomplete).	·12
Total ..	2·92

Rear gauge readings in January in Coleroon, Cauvery anicut, etc.

134 Q.—Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Public Works (Irrigation)—

(*a*) what the rear gauge readings were on the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th January at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. and also at noon on each of those days in Coleroon

at the Upper Anicut of the Cauvery, Coleroon at the Grand Anicut, the Cauvery and the Vennar;

(*b*) what the readings were on those days at the following places:—

Cauvery at Tirukkattupalli;
Kudamurutti at Tirukkattupalli;
Cauvery and Arasalar at the point where Arasalar branches;
Virasholan where it takes off from the main river;
Mudikondan where it takes off from the main river;
Vennar and Vettar at Vettar head;
Vennar at Corayar head;
Corayar at Corayar head;
Pamaniyar at Corayar head;
Vennar at Pandavayar head;
Pandavayar at Pandavayar head;
Vettar at Engan regulator;
Vettar at Kangalangeri regulator.

A.—(*a*) The gauge readings taken at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. at the Upper Anicut and the Grand Anicut are generally reported. The following were the rear gauge readings on the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th January 1921:—

Upper Anicut.

		North branch.		South branch.		Grand Anicut.		
		North end gauge.	South end gauge.	North end gauge.	South end gauge.	Coleroon.	Cauvery.	Vennar.
		FEET.	FEET.	FEET.	FEET.	FEET	FEET.	FEET.
11th January 1921.	6 a.m.	Nil.	Nil	Nil.	Nil.	..	..	3·1
	6 p.m.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	..	..	3·4
12th January 1921.	6 a.m.	Nil.	Nil	Nil.	Nil.	..	..	3·4
	6 p.m.	Nil.	Nil.	2·10	1·80	..	..	3·4
13th January 1921.	6 a.m.	Nil.	Nil.	2·20	1·90	..	..	3·9
	6 p.m.	Nil.	Nil.	2·10	1·80	..	..	4·1
14th January 1921.	6 a.m.	Nil.	Nil.	2·60	2·40	5·1	2·7	6·0
	6 p.m.	Nil.	0·20	4·00	3·80	7·8	6 3	7 4

(*b*) The readings are not available but will be called for and furnished to the Member.

Maximum water Coleroon can contain at Upper and Grand Anicuts.

135 Q.—Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Public Works (Irrigation)—

(*a*) what the maximum water is that can be let in in the Coleroon at the Upper Anicut and at Grand Anicut; and

(*b*) if the regulations at the Grand Anicut are governed only by the readings there or whether the department takes into consideration also the readings lower down which may be higher on account of local rains.

A.—(*a*) There is no limit fixed for letting water into the Coleroon.

(*b*) In the rules for the regulation of water at the Cauvery-Vennar regulators, provision is made for taking into account the local rainfall in the Vennar basin and regulating the Grand Anicut shutters accordingly.

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Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—"Have Government any idea of fixing any limit ?"

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"None at present."

Floods and breaches in the Vennar and their causes.

136 Q.—Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue if it is a fact that there have been heavy floods and breaches in the Vennar delta and have the Government received any report about the causes of the abnormal floods and about the heavy loss to the crops ready for harvest.

A.—There were floods and breaches in the deltaic tracts of the Tanjore district in November and January last owing to unprecedentedly heavy and abnormal rains in those months. Reports have been received from the local officers and they indicate that the rice crops in the delta taluks were not affected by the November rains but have been adversely affected by those of January.

The damming up of flood water by the railway culverts between Nidamangalam and Koradacheri.

137 Q.—Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member if all the railway culverts between Nidamangalam and Koradacheri were blocked up on the 15th instant thus damming up the flood water on the northern side and the Railway Subdivisional Officer stayed in Nidamangalam till 8-30 a.m. on the 15th instant.

A.—The Government have no information. The Member is advised to apply to the Agent, South Indian Railway, for the information which he desires.

The exportation of flax from Tiruturaipundi to Tuticorin.

138 Q.—Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development—

(*a*) if flax from the sunhemp produced in the Tiruturaipundi taluk of the Tanjore district is being exported to Tuticorin;

(*b*) what the final destination of the raw product is and what the finished product out of the same ; and

(*c*) if the Government have considered the possibility of utilizing the same locally to be converted into the finished product in India itself.

A.—(*a*) The Government have no information.

(*b*) The Member is referred to the letter No. 3246, dated 2nd March 1920, sent to him by Government in the Revenue (Special) Department.

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

Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—"Have Government any idea of calling for information ?"

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"The only difficulty is that in the very nature of things it is not very easy to get such information as that. If it is possible to get that information, it will, with pleasure, be called for."

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Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—"Have Government any idea of the possibility of utilizing it?"

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"The answer is in the negative."

Cocoanut plantations in Tanjore district.

139 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development whether—

(*a*) there are extensive cocoanut plantations in the southern portion of the Tanjore district; and

(*b*) all the fibrous covers and the shells are wasted away by being used for fuel.

A.—The Government have no information.

Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—"Have Government any idea of calling for information?"

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"The answer is the same as that I gave to supplementary question No. 138 (*a*)."

Industrial possibilities of each district.

140 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development—

(*a*) if the Industries Department has published any report about the industrial possibilities of each district and the ways and means required to develop such industries; and

(*b*) if there is such a report, to lay on the table the latest report for the district of Tanjore.

A.—The answer is in the negative.

Breach of rivers and Government action thereon.

141 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Public Works (Irrigation) to state—

(*a*) what the various villages are near which the following rivers breached in the floods of the year 1919 :—

Vettar,	Odambogiyar,	Kaduvayar,
Vennar,	Korayar,	Pamaniyar,
Vellayar,	Harichandranadi,	Pandavayar;
Mulliyar and Kattar,		

(*b*) at what cost each breach was closed in 1919; if the work was not completed in 1919, the cost of the estimated expenditure and the actual cost may be given;

(*c*) if there were any breaches in the said rivers in 1920 (November) and in what places;

(*d*) at what cost the breaches were closed; the cost of each work may be given;

(*e*) if there were breaches again in the second week of January in the said rivers; near what villages; if they are in the same places where the breaches took place in 1919 and 1920; and

(*f*) what the estimated cost is of the closing of the latest breaches; and how much has been spent.

A.—The detailed information required is not available but will be called for and furnished to the Member.

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Inconvenience in South Indian Railway.

142 Q.—Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member whether considerable delay is caused in travelling on account of the station adjoining a junction station not being a crossing station in several places in the South Indian Railway.

A.—The Government have no information. The question will be brought to the notice of the South Indian Railway Administration.

Carriages in South Indian Railway.

143 Q.—Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member if it is a fact—

(*a*) that the third-class carriages of the corridor type, with the passage in the centre, recently constructed, are unsuited and inconvenient, inasmuch as the seats are short in width and have low backs so much so that heads of passengers come into contact often; and

(*b*) that the inconvenience is greater when the passengers on either side belong to different sex.

A.—The Government have no information. The question will be brought to the notice of the South Indian Railway Administration.

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 88 asked by M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro Garu at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 16th February 1921, page 150 supra.]

Statement showing the amount of loans advanced to ryots under the Land Improvement Loans and Agriculturists Loans Acts.

Name of district.	Land Improvement Loans Act.			Agriculturists Loans Act.		
	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Ganjam	8,590	5,915	14,620	5,525	2,49,770	1,01,073
Vizagapatam	1,675	1,510	44,965	1,151	700	6,150
Gōdāvari	..	..	4,300	..	2,500	500
Kistna	9,520	5,145	8,825	37,725	16,025	25,110
Guntūr	4,200	3,700	7,450	6,980	16,723	21,139

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 101 asked by M.R.Ry. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar Avargal at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 16th February 1921, page 154 supra.]

(1)

WET LANDS.

Items	(1) As per villagers' opinion.				(2) As per Tahsildar's opinion.			
	Actual cost.	Number of years during which they last.	Area cultivable each year.	Average cost for acre per annum.	Actual cost.	Number of years during which they last.	Area cultivable each year.	Average cost for acre per annum.
Adoni taluk.								
	RS. A. P.		ACS.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.		ACS.	RS. A. P.
1. Cost of ploughing cattle, per pair	30 0 0	4	4	1 14 0	30 0 0	4	4	1 14 0
2. Implements—								
Plough					0 8 0	1	4	0 2 0
Guntaka or levelling instrument					0 8 0	1	4	0 2 0
Gorru for turning up the soil before sowing ..					..	..	..	..
Zantalu or weeding instrument					..	..	..	..
Goddale or axe					..	..	..	..
Kodavali or sickle					0 8 0	1	4	0 2 0
Kurichigi or weeding hand instrument ..					..	..	..	..
Kadimanu or yoke					0 4 0	1	4	0 1 0
Chalakolu or whip					0 2 0	1	4	0 0 6
Paggalu or ropes					0 2 0	1	4	0 0 6
Varlu or leather stripes	..	..	..	0 12 6	..	..	..	..
Jadigabilla or drill					..	..	..	..
Nagalu or pole					..	..	..	..
Mammuties					..	..	..	..
Medi or handle for guiding					0 8 0	1	4	0 2 0
Karru or plough share					..	..	..	..
Pickaxe					..	..	..	..
Cost of repairing implements					0 8 0	1	4	0 2 0
Carriage					..	..	..	..
Baskets					..	..	..	..
					0 2 0	1	4	0 0 6
Total implements ..	..	..	..	0 12 6	..	..	..	0 12 6

WET LANDS—*cont.*

Items.	(1) As per villagers' opinion.				(2) As per Tahsildar's opinion.			
	Actual cost.	Number of years during which they last.	Area cultivable each year.	Average cost for acre per annum.	Actual cost.	Number of years during which they last.	Area cultivable each year.	Average cost for acre per annum.
Adoni taluk—cont.								
	Rs. A. P.		Acs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.		Acs.	Rs. A. P.
3. Seed	8 0 0	1	4	2 0 0	8 0 0	1	4	2 0 0
4. Manure	24 0 0	1	4	6 0 0	24 0 0	1	4	6 0 0
5. Wages	22 14 0	2	8	13 14 0	55 8 0	2	8	13 14 0
6. Fodder in ploughing season	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total for the taluk ..	..	..	..	24 8 6	..	..	..	24 8 6
Alur taluk.								
1. Cost of ploughing cattle, per pair	30 0 0	12	2	1 4 0	30 0 0	12	12	1 4 0
2. Implements—								
Plough					0 4 0	1	2	0 2 0
Guntaka or levelling instrument					0 2 0	4	2	0 0 3
Gorru for turning up the soil before sowing ..					..	..	..	..
Zantalu or weeding hand instrument ..					..	..	..	..
Goddale or axe					..	..	..	..
Kodavali or sickle					..	..	..	..
Kurichigi or weeding instrument					..	..	..	..
Kadimanu or yoke					..	..	..	..
Chalakolu or whip					0 8 0	4	2	0 1 6
Paggalu or ropes					0 2 0	4	2	0 0 3
Varlu or leather stripes		..	..	0 7 0	0 2 0	1	2	0 1 0
Jadigabilla or drill					0 4 0	4	2	0 0 6
Nagalu or pole					..	..	..	..
Mammuties					0 4 0	4	2	0 0 6
Medi or handle for guiding					..	..	..	..
Karru or plough share					0 2 0	4	2	0 0 3
Pickaxe					0 2 6	1	2	0 1 3
Cost of repairing implements					..	..	..	..
Carriage					..	..	..	..
Baskets					..	..	..	..
					..	..	..	..
Total implements ..	..	..	..	0 7 0	..	..	..	0 7 0

WET LANDS—*cont.*

Items.	(1) As per villagers' opinion.				(2) As per Tahsildar's opinion.			
	Actual cost.	Number of years during which they last.	Area cultivable each year.	Average cost for acre per annum.	Actual cost.	Number of years during which they last.	Area cultivable each year.	Average cost for acre per annum.
Alur taluk—cont.								
	RS. A. P.		ACS.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.		ACS.	RS. A. P.
3. Seed	4 0 0	1	2	2 0 0	4 0 0	1	2	2 0 0
4. Manure	10 0 0	1	2	5 0 0	10 0 0	1	2	5 0 0
5. Wages	46 4 0	5	4	23 2 0	46 4 0	2	4	23 2 0
6. Fodder in ploughing season	11 4 0	1	2	5 10 0	11 4 0	1	2	5 10 0
Total for the taluk	..	..	..	37 7 0	..	..	..	37 7 0
Bellary taluk.								
1. Cost of ploughing cattle, per pair	60 0 0	5	2	6 0 0	60 0 0	5	2	6 0 0
2. Implements—								
Plough					1 0 0	5	2	0 1 7½
Guntaka or levelling instrument					..	..	..	..
Gorru for turning up the soil before sowing					..	..	..	..
Zantalu or weeding instrument					..	..	..	..
Goddale or axe					..	..	..	..
Kodavali or sickle					1 0 0	5	2	0 1 7½
Kurichigi or weeding hand instrument					0 8 0	5	2	0 0 9½
Kadimanu or yoke					0 8 0	5	2	0 0 9½
Chalakolu or whip					..	..	..	..
Paggalu or ropes					0 8 0	5	2	0 0 9½
Varlu or leather stripes	..	..	..	1 1 0	..	..	..	..
Jadigabilla or drill					..	..	..	..
Nagalu or pole					..	..	..	..
Mammuties					1 2 0	5	2	0 1 9½
Medi or handle for guiding					..	..	..	..
Karru or plough share					..	..	..	..
Pickaxe					..	..	..	..
Cost of repairing implements					4 0 0	5	2	0 6 5
Carriage					..	..	..	..
Baskets					2 0 0	5	2	0 3 2½
Total implements	..	..	..	1 1 0	..	..	..	1 1 0

Items.	(1) As per villagers' opinion.				(2) As per Tahsildar's opinion.			
	Actual cost.	Number of years during which they last.	Area cultivable each year.	Average cost for acre per annum.	Actual cost.	Number of years during which they last.	Area cultivable each year.	Average cost for acre per annum.
Bellary taluk—cont.								
	RS. A. P.		ACS.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.		ACS.	RS. A. P.
3. Seed	4 0 0	1	2	2 0 0	4 0 0	1	2	2 0 0
4. Manure	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Wages	62 12 0	2	4	31 6 0	62 12 0	2	4	31 6 0
6. Fodder in ploughing season	10 0 0	1	2	5 0 0	10 0 0	1	2	5 0 0
Total for the taluk	..	..	..	45 7 0	..	..	..	45 7 0
Gooty taluk.								
1. Cost of ploughing cattle, per pair	20 0 0	8	1	2 8 0	20 0 0	1	2	10 0 0
2. Implements—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plough	0 4 0	1	1	0 4 0	..	..	..	..
Guntaka or levelling instrument	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gorru for turning up the soil before sowing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Zantulu or weeding instrument	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Goddale or axe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kodavali or sickle	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kurichigi or weeding hand instrument	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kadimanu or yoke	1 0 0	4	1	0 4 0	..	..	..	..
Chalakolu or whip	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paggalu or ropes	0 4 0	1	1	0 4 0	..	..	..	..
Varlu or leather stripes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Jadigabilla or drill	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nagalu or pole	0 4 0	1	1	0 4 0	..	..	..	..
Mammuties	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Medi or handle for guiding	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Karru or plough share	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pick-axe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cost of repairing implements	0 4 0	1	1	0 4 0	..	..	..	..
Carriage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Baskets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total implements	..	..	..	1 4 0	..	..	..	..

WET LANDS—*cont.*

Items.	(1) As per villagers' opinion.				(2) As per Tahsildar's opinion.			
	Actual cost.	Number of years during which they last.	Area cultivable each year.	Average cost for acre per annum.	Actual cost.	Number of years during which they last.	Area cultivable each year.	Average cost for acre per annum.
Gooty taluk—cont.								
	RS. A. P.		ACS.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.		ACS.	RS. A. P.
3. Seed	2 8 0	1	1	2 8 0	3 0 0	1	1	3 0 0
4. Manure	8 0 0	1	1	8 0 0	10 0 0	1	1	10 0 0
5. Wages	17 0 0	2	2	17 0 0	11 5 4	2	2	11 5 4
6. Fodder in ploughing season	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total for the taluk ..	..	..	..	31 4 0	..	..	..	34 5 4

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WET LANDS—*cont.*

Items.	(1) As per villagers' opinion.				(2) As per Tahsildar's opinion.			
	Actual cost.	Number of years during which they last.	Area cultivable each year.	Average cost for acre per annum.	Actual cost.	Number of years during which they last.	Area cultivable each year.	Average cost for acre per annum.
Tadpatri taluk.								
	RS. A. P.	ACS.	RS. A. P.		RS. A. P.		ACS.	RS. A. P.
1. Cost of ploughing cattle per pair	25 8 8	4	2	3 3 1	32 0 0	4	2	4 0 0
2. Implements—								
Plough					1 0 0	1	1	1 0 0
Guntaka or levelling instrument					..	..	..	..
Gorru for turning up the soil before sowing.					..	..	..	..
Zantalu or weeding instrument					..	..	..	..
Goddale or axe					..	..	..	..
Kodavali or sickle					..	..	..	..
Kurichigi or weeding hand instrument ..					..	..	..	..
Kadimanu or yoke					..	..	..	..
Chalakolu or whip					..	..	..	..
Paggalu or ropes					..	..	..	..
Varlu or leather stripes	..	..	..	1 12 11	..	..	..	..
Jadigabilla or drill					..	..	..	..
Nagalu or pole					..	..	..	..
Mammuties					0 8 11	1	1	0 8 11
Medi or handle for guiding					..	..	..	..
Karru or plough share					..	..	..	..
Pickaxe					..	..	..	..
Cost of repairing implements					..	..	..	..
Carriage					..	..	..	..
Baskets					0 4 0	1	1	0 4 0
Total implements ..	..	..	..	1 12 11	..	..	..	1 12 11
3. Seed	3 5 4	1	1	3 5 4	3 8 0	1	1	3 8 0
4. Manure	11 0 0	1	1	11 0 0	11 0 0	1	1	11 0 0
5. Wages	23 11 4	2	2	23 11 4	23 12 0	2	2	23 12 0
6. Fodder in ploughing season	11 4 0	1	1	11 4 0	11 4 0	1	1	11 8 0
Total for the taluk ..	54 8 8	..	..	54 8 8	..	..	..	55 8 11

(2)

Dry Lands.

Items.	(1) As per villagers' opinion.				(2) As per Tahsildar's opinion.			
	Actual cost.	Number of years during which they last.	Area cultivable each year.	Average cost for acre per annum.	Actual cost.	Number of years during which they last.	Area cultivable each year.	Average cost for acre per annum.
	Adoni taluk.							
	Rs. A. P.		Acs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.		Acs.	Rs. A. P.
1. Cost of ploughing cattle per pair	80 0 0	10	16	0 8 0	80 0 0	10	16	0 8 0
2. Implements—								
Plough					2 0 0	1	16	0 2 0
Guntaka or levelling instrument					2 8 0	2	16	0 1 3
Gorru for turning up the soil before sowing					2 0 0	2	16	0 1 0
Kolu or weeding instrument					1 0 0	2	16	0 0 6¼
Goddali or axe					0 4 0	4	16	0 0 1
Kodavali or sickle					0 8 0	4	16	0 0 1½
Kurichigi or weeding hand instrument					0 2 0	4	16	0 0 ¼
Kadimanu or yoke					0 8 0	4	16	0 0 1½
Chadakolu or whip	..	..	..	0 6 0	0 2 6	1	16	0 0 2
Paggalu or ropes					0 4 0	1	16	0 0 3
Varlu or leather stripes					0 2 0	1	16	0 0 1½
Jadigabilla or drill					1 8 0	6	16	0 0 3
Nagalu or pole					..	..	..	..
Wooden billalu for fastening ropes					..	..	..	..
Guddali or pickaxe					..	..	..	..
Cost of repairing implements					..	..	..	..
Carriage					..	..	..	..
Total implements	..	..	..	0 6 0	..	..	..	0 6 0
3. Seed (4 seers at 1 anna each)	0 4 0	1	1	0 4 0	0 4 0	1	1	0 4 0
4. Manure	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Wages (128 coolies at 2 annas each)	20 0 0	1	32	1 4 0	20 0 0	1	32	1 4 0
6. Fodder in ploughing season	22 8 0	1	16	1 6 6	22 8 0	1	16	1 6 6
Total for the taluk	..	..	..	3 12 6	..	..	..	3 12 6

DRY LANDS—*cont.*

Items.	(1) As per villagers' opinion.				(2) As per Tahsildar's opinion.			
	Actual cost.	Number of years during which they last.	Area cultivable each year.	Average cost for acre per annum.	Actual cost.	Number of years during which they last.	Area cultivable each year.	Average cost for acre per annum.
Alur taluk.								
	RS. A. P.		ACS.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.		ACS.	RS. A. P.
1. Cost of ploughing cattle per pair	100 0 0	12	20	0 6 7	100 0 0	12	20	0 6 7
2. Implements—								
Plough					..	..	..	..
Guntaka or levelling instrument					3 5 4	3	20	0 2 8
Gorru for turning up the soil before sowing ..					20 0 0	1	20	1 0 0
Zantalu or weeding instrument					..	..	..	..
Goddali or axe					..	..	..	..
Kodavali or sickle					..	..	..	..
Kurichigi or weeding hand instrument ..					..	..	..	..
Kadimanu or yoke					5 0 0	3	20	0 4 0
Chadakolu or whip	..	..	..	2 3 8	..	..	..	..
Paggalu or ropes					5 0 0	1	20	0 4 0
Varlu or leather stripes					..	..	..	..
Jadigabilla or drill					..	..	..	..
Nagalu or pole					7 8 0	1	20	0 6 0
Wooden billalu for fastening ropes..					3 12 0	1	20	0 3 0
Guddali or pickaxe					..	..	..	..
Cost of repairing implements					..	..	..	..
Carriage					..	..	..	..
Total implements ..	..	..	..	2 3 8	..	..	..	2 3 8
3. Seed	0 4 0	1	1	0 2 10	0 2 10	1	1	0 2 10
4. Manure	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Wages	50 13 4	1	20	2 12 8	55 13 4	2	40	2 12 8
6. Fodder in ploughing season	22 3 0	1	20	1 1 9	22 3 0	1	20	1 1 9
Total for the taluk ..	..	..	..	6 11 6	..	..	..	6 11 6

DRY LAND—*cont.*

Items.	(1) As per villagers' opinion.				(2) As per Tahsildar's opinion.			
	Actual cost.	Number of years during which they last.	Area cultivable each year.	Average cost for acre per annum.	Actual cost.	Number of years during which they last.	Area cultivable each year.	Average cost for acre per annum.
Bellary taluk.								
	RS. A. P.		ACS.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.		ACS.	RS. A. P.
1. Cost of ploughing cattle per pair	120 0 0	5	90	1 5 4	120 0 0	5	90	1 5 4
2. Implements—								
Plough					24 0 0	5	90	0 0 10
Gantaka or levelling instrument					12 0 0	5	90	0 0 5
Gorru for turning up the soil before sowing ..					10 0 0	5	90	0 0 4½
Zantalu or weeding instrument					9 0 0	5	90	0 0 4
Goddali or axe					4 0 0	5	90	0 0 1½
Kodavali or sickle					10 0 0	5	90	0 0 4¼
Kurichigi or weeding hand instrument					5 0 0	5	90	0 0 2
Kadimana or yoke					12 0 0	5	90	0 0 5
Chadakolu or whip	..	..	..	0 2 8	..	..	..	..
Paggalu or ropes					25 0 0	5	90	0 0 10½
Varlu or leather stripes					..	..	..	..
Jadigabilla or drill					4 0 0	5	90	0 0 1½
Nagalu or pole					..	..	..	..
Wooden billalu for fastening ropes					..	..	..	..
Guddali or pickaxe					6 0 0	5	90	0 0 2½
Cost of repairing implements					54 0 0	5	90	0 1 11
Carriage					100 0 0	5	90	0 3 6½
Total implements ..	..	..	..	0 9 8	..	..	..	0 9 8
3. Seed	0 1 0	1	1	0 1 0	0 1 0	1	1	0 1 0
4. Manure	112 8 0	1	90	1 4 0	112 8 0	1	90	1 4 0
5. Wages	433 1 0	2	180	4 13 0	433 1 0	2	180	4 13 0
6. Fodder in ploughing season	180 0 0	1	90	2 0 0	180 0 0	1	90	2 0 0
Total for the taluk ..	..	..	..	10 1 0	..	..	..	10 1 0

Dry Lands—*cont.*

Items.	(1) As per villagers' opinion.				(2) As per Tahsildar's opinion.			
	Actual cost.	Number of years during which they last.	Area cultivable each year.	Average cost for acre per annum.	Actual cost.	Number of years during which they last.	Area cultivable each year.	Average cost for acre per annum.
Gooty taluk.								
	Rs. A. P.		Acs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.		Acs.	Rs. A. P.
1. Cost of ploughing cattle per pair	150 0 0	10	150	1 8 0	100 0 0	10	100	1 0 0
2. Implements—								
Plough					5 10 0	4	12	0 1 10
Guntaka or levelling instrument					16 6 0	4	12	0 3 5
Gorru for turning up the soil before sowing ..								
Zantalu or weeding instrument								
Goddali or axe								
Kodavali or sickle								
Kurichigi or weeding hand instrument ..								
Kadimanu or yoke					9 0 0	4	12	0 3 0
Chadakolu or whip	..	..	..	2 8 3	..	..	..	..
Paggalu or ropes								
Varlu or leather stripes								
Jadigabilla or drill								
Nagalu or pole								
Wooden billalu for fastening ropes								
Guddali or pickaxe								
Cost of repairing implements								
Carriage								
Total implements ..	..	..	..	0 8 3	..	..	..	0 8 3
3. Seed	2 4 0	1	12	0 3 0	2 4 0	1	12	0 3 0
4. Manure	18 0 0	1	12	1 8 0	9 0 0	1	12	0 12 0
5. Wages	24 0 0	2	24	2 0 0	30 0 0	2	24	2 8 0
6. Fodder in ploughing season	9 0 0	9	1	0 12 0	6 0 0	1	12	0 8 0
Total for the taluk ..	..	..	..	6 7 3	..	..	..	5 3 3

Dry Lands—*cont.*

Items	(1) As per villagers' opinion.				(2) As per Tahsildar's opinion.			
	Actual cost.	Number of years during which they last.	Area cultivable each year.	Average cost for acre per annum.	Actual cost.	Number of years during which they last.	Area cultivable each year.	Average cost for acre per annum.
Tadpatri taluk.								
	Rs. A. P.		Acs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.		Acs.	Rs. A. P.
1. Cost of ploughing cattle per pair	334 6 0	10	30	1 1 10	600 0 0	10	30	2 0 0
2. Implements—								
Plough								
Guntaka or levelling instrument								
Gorru for turning up the soil before sowing								
Zantalu or weeding instrument								
Goddali or axe								
Kodavali or sickle								
Kurichigi or weeding hand instrument								
Kadimanu or yoke								
Chadakolu or whip	13 14 6	1	30	0 7 5	15 0 0	1	30	0 8 0
Paggalu or ropes								
Varlu or leather stripes								
Jadigabilla or drill								
Nagalu or pole								
Wooden billalu for fastening ropes								
Guddali or pickaxe								
Cost of repairing implements								
Carriage								
Total implements	..	..	..	0 7 5	..	..	..	0 8 0
3. Seed	13 2 0	1	30	0 7 0	15 0 0	1	30	0 8 0
4. Manure	146 2 3	1	30	4 13 11	150 0 0	1	30	5 0 0
5. Wages	80 2 6	2	60	2 10 9	82 8 0	2	60	2 12 0
6. Fodder in ploughing season	132 5 6	1	30	4 6 7	135 0 0	1	30	4 8 0
Total for the taluk	..	..	..	13 5 6	..	..	..	15 4 0

16th February 1921]

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to question No. 103 asked by M.R.Ry. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar Avargal at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 16th February 1921, page 155 supra.]

List of villages in which suspension of collection of revenue has been ordered.

1. Nagireddipalli.
2. Junjeramanahalli.
3. Avuladotla.
4. Vadrahonnur.
5. Bhupasamudram.
6. Kalugodu.
7. Belodu.
8. Baginayakanahalli.
9. Udegolam.
10. Kontanahalli.
11. Mallapuram.
12. Mecheri.
13. Rayadrug.
14. Virapuram.
15. Pulukunta.
16. Gollapalli.
17. Golagala.
18. Rangasamudram.
19. Tallakera.
20. Gummaghatta.
21. Kondapuram.
22. Chadam.
23. Bondinakallu.
24. Gramadotla.
25. Hulikallu.
26. Muridi.
27. Ganigera.
28. Kanekallu.
29. Hulikeri

II

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

Rates of assessment in the black-soil taluks of Bellary and Anantapur districts.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"The Council will now resume consideration of the resolution which has been moved by Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar in regard to the rates of assessment in the black-soil taluks of Bellary and Anantapur."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. President, I merely propose at this stage to place before the House a brief statement of facts as they stand at the present moment without entering into anything like a detailed or analytical examination of the subject-matter of the resolution. Reference, Sir, has already been made by the Honourable the mover and by the Honourable the seconder to the fact that I had the honour of receiving deputations both at Adōni and at Gooty in regard to the subject-matter of this resolution now before this House. It was then my peculiar privilege to listen to the able and very forceful arguments of Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar at Adōni and my friend on the front bench Mr. Kesava Pillai at Gooty. I am grateful to them all for the very kindly reference they made both yesterday forenoon and afternoon in regard to the reception by me of the deputations and the very patient hearing that I gave to their representations. I may assure the House that I took very careful notes of the various representations that were made before me in regard to this matter. I held conferences with the Collectors, with the Special Settlement Officer and with the Settlement Commissioner. And not merely satisfied with that, I referred the various representations which were made to me and of which I had taken very careful notes to the Special Settlement Officer and the Settlement Commissioner for further scrutiny and examination. The replies and criticisms of these two officers were put into my hands quite recently. I confess, Sir, that I have not had the time to look into them as yet, and I promise the House that I shall look into them very carefully and decide the matter. At the present stage, it is impossible for me to give anything like a definite assurance as to what the Government will do on that matter; but this

assurance I will certainly give, that the Government will give the whole matter their most sympathetic consideration."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" Mr. President, being a neighbour of the Bellary and Anantapur districts, I think I have a right to speak on the matter. Comparatively speaking, it seems to me that Bellary and Anantapur districts are somewhat more unfavourably situated than the Cuddapah district. In the Cuddapah district, the irrigation sources are more favourable : there is the Cuddapah-Kurnool canal which passes through three taluks."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" I must beg of the Honourable member to confine himself to the Bellary and Anantapur districts. We have nothing to do with the Cuddapah district just now."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" Yes, Sir, I shall obey. So far as this district is concerned, I meant to say that at the last resettlement there was not practically any enhancement of rates in the land revenue."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" We are speaking of the Bellary and Anantapur districts and it is a subject of great importance to them. But if we are going to take up other districts also for discussion, I appeal to the Honourable member to consider whether that will not greatly prolong the deliberations of the Council and I would beg of him to give some weight to that aspect of the matter and confine himself to the Bellary and Anantapur districts which are alone now under consideration."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"Yes, Sir, without referring to the Cuddapah district I shall confine my remarks to Bellary and Anantapur districts. I would respectfully urge for the consideration of the Government that in calculating the rates certain areas in which the prices were abnormal should be omitted altogether. It must also be noted that in assessing the rates the Government should be pleased to take into consideration the nature of the soil, the scarcity of the rainfall and the vicissitudes of the seasons If only a little sympathy were shown in these matters, I have no doubt that the Government will come to a proper appreciation of the nature of the soil and the rates that are assessed on that soil. Such considerations no doubt depend upon the instructions given and also upon the individual officers that are deputed. I only request that sympathy should be shown. I only submit that if they should only behave sympathetically towards the people of those districts, I have no doubt that the present rates will not be increased. At any rate, I would request all the members of this House through the President that whatever may be the report in accordance with the resolution that has already been passed, if there is any enhancement of rates, that enhancement be postponed till the provisions are laid in a statute."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—" Sir, I do not think any further discussion is necessary since the Hon'ble the Revenue Member has promised a very careful consideration of the facts placed before him both at Adoni and at Gooty and in so many other representations made to him. Perhaps he would be kind enough to give us a hearing before a final decision is arrived at on the representations made by the Settlement Officer. Of course I am sure the Honourable member, my previous speaker, referred to Cuddapah only with this view if I am not mistaken . . ."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" I must beg of the Honourable member not to follow the Honourable member, his previous speaker."

16th February 1921] [Mr. P. Kesava Pillai]

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"I simply wanted to say that it is a more favourably situated district and what my previous speaker wished to point out was probably that the poorer districts might have consideration before any enhancement was made."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I rise to support this resolution. The scheme report is quite formidable. It is full of statistics to support the several inferences such as rainfall, coercive processes, sale values and so many other things. I wish to confine my observations to the way in which these statistics have been put in by the Honourable Member. There are two things that are referred to. One of them is statistics and the other averages. Now there is the question of rainfall. How it is being recorded in the villages is an open secret. In the villages an account is kept. It shows that on one day the rainfall is 1·5 inches and afterwards 0·4 inch and after that perhaps 1 inch and some two months after 2 inches. In this way monthly accounts of rain are being made. What is the use of these accounts? How is this kind of recurring statistics helpful in ascertaining the annual rainfall? The scheme report makes it appear that there has been a fairly distributed rainfall in those tracts which are made to come under the present settlement operations. As a matter of fact if these statistics are examined in detail, it would appear that no just reference is made to the difference in the quantity of rainfall within each district and then the Honourable Member will be able to see that there is nothing to be inferred from these accounts. And then there is the question of coercive processes. They say that the absence of coercive process shows that the villages have never felt any difficulty in paying the assessment and so it must be a sign of prosperity. There is a kind of moral pressure upon ryots without any coercive processes being resorted to to pay the assessment. But no coercive processes that are resorted to are being made to appear on the public record. The village magistrate, often, brings to bear some pressure upon these people; he sends a man and then he actually takes away his bull or some such thing from his house and yet he does not bring it to record at all. So we see that there is no pressure brought upon the villagers and they are quite well off. Then there is the question of sale values of land. The scheme report says there are many people who are purchasing lands in various villages and pay high prices. What does this mean? Now, it seems that the Settlement Officer forgets that for as many purchasers there must be as many sellers as well. Why should these people sell? Is it because they want to get more money? It is the fact that the value of money has grown less. The price of land has risen in the same way as the price of so many other articles. We have to pay one anna for a pencil now for which we had to pay only a quarter anna one or two years ago. Does it mean that the quality of the pencil has improved? No; it is only the purchasing value of the anna that has been reduced. And thus so far as the land values are concerned there is nothing that will suggest any inference as to the prosperity of the ryot in these villages. And then they say that the yield is greater. This is due to the fact that statistics are assumed to be correct. But what is the condition of things? We see in Anantapur and Bellary districts that people are not able to find their living. What about the years previous to these? Were they prosperous? If they were not, how are we to know that they deserve the enhancement? The reason that they are not able to find themselves well off is that even in the former years the yield was not great. So I beg to submit that the statement that is made to appear in the scheme report that the lands are yielding better now does not stand to reason."

[Mr. T. Balaji Rao Nayudu] [16th February 1921

Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu :—"Sir, in view of the resolution that we have passed yesterday (Resolution No. 1), it is for the Government either to accept or reject the recommendation. This Resolution No. 2 also will be practically of the same value. Even if it is passed it will be for the Government either to accept it or reject it. In case Resolution No. 1 is accepted by the Government, we will have nothing to do with the Resolutions Nos. 2, 3 and 4. So I do not see the utility of the House wasting any time or devoting any time to the three other resolutions until we know the result, whether it will be accepted by the Government or not."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"After the assurance given by the Honourable Member for Land Revenue, it seems to me unnecessary to proceed further with this question. As observed by Mr. Krishnan Nayar, the acceptance of this resolution follows from that of the previous resolution. But, still, I wanted the Government to be aware of the opinion of this House with regard to the specific case involved in this resolution and I think that purpose has been served. I believe the Government are going to give a favourable consideration to this question. Only one thing I want to say, Sir. The Honourable Member in charge of Land Revenue referred to many conferences of Collectors and Commissioners. The results of those conferences may be all one-sided perhaps. Against that he has to weigh the overwhelming feeling of the people in the matter. I dare say that he is in a position to give his best judgment to this question and satisfy the legitimate grievances of the people."

The resolution was, by leave of Council, withdrawn.

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

"3. *That this Council recommends to the Government that in view of the economic condition of the districts of Anantapur and Bellary the present rates of land revenue assessment prevailing in the six black cotton soil taluks of the said districts may not be raised.*"

Postponement of the proposed settlement rates in Bellary and Anantapur districts.

Mr. P. Siva Rao :—"Sir, the resolution I have the honour to move runs thus :—

'4. *That this Council recommends to the Government that in view of the distress now prevailing in the districts of Bellary and Anantapur the proposed settlement rates may not be introduced during the coming fasli.*'

"I need not detain the Council long upon this resolution. As the Honourable Member in charge is well aware, there has been very acute distress prevailing in these six taluks to which resettlement proposals have been sought to be applied. The Honourable Member had occasion to go to Raichur, he had occasion to go to Gooty, and he had occasion to go to Adōni and so I dare say he is well impressed with the unfortunate conditions that prevail in those tracts. His Excellency was kind enough, sympathetic enough, to refer to the miserable condition of these districts in his opening address, and the answers given to question 113 on the agenda make it abundantly clear that test-works have been started, that collection of kists has been postponed, and that proposals for remission are under consideration, and so forth. So in this state of things, in my opinion, it would have a disastrous effect to impose this fresh taxation just at this juncture.

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Whatever decision the Government may come to with regard to the enhancement proposals that have been now sent up by the Settlement Officer, at any rate I would ask that they may not be introduced in the coming fasli as that introduction would have a very unfortunate effect upon the people. When there are proposals for remitting the present kist and when there are proposals for suspending the collection of kist, it looks rather anomalous to impose any fresh taxation. The time is inopportune. The rates should not be introduced, at any rate, during the coming fasli. With these words, I commend this resolution."

Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu seconded the resolution.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, I have only one difficulty in understanding this resolution, that difficulty having arisen from the use of the words 'coming fasli'. If I understand the Hon'ble Mover to mean the fasli which is now current, my answer will probably be different from the answer which I would have to give if I were asked to understand 'coming fasli' as denoting the fasli which is to begin after July. If I have an answer to that, Sir, I shall at once proceed to reply."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"No, Sir, I had no idea that the Government intended to introduce these rates in the current fasli. If it be their intention to bring them into effect during the current fasli, my resolution relates to that, and I shall amend it suitably. I thought that the introduction will be made only in the coming fasli and that during the current fasli the Government would not do it."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"So you mean the current fasli."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"Yes, Sir."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"The amended resolution runs thus:—

'That this Council recommends to the Government that in view of the distress now prevailing in the districts of Bellary and Anantapur the proposed settlement rates may not be introduced during the current fasli.'

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, I think after having seen somewhat of the two districts referred to and after having listened to the representations that have been made to me as to the economic condition of these two districts at present, it seemed to me rather hard to advise Government to introduce the resettlement rates during the current fasli. I therefore advised the Government that these rates had better not be introduced during the current fasli, and I am happy to announce to this House that the Government have graciously accepted not to introduce the resettlement rates during the current fasli."

The resolution was put to the vote and carried.

A mixed committee to report on the firing incident at Perambur Barracks.

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS:—"Sir, the resolution that stands against my name runs as follows:—

'5. *That in the matter of the firing by the Police on the people at Perambur Barracks on 9th December* 1920 *this Council recommends to the Government that a Committee of officials and non-officials be appointed to investigate and report on the circumstances which led to the firing, and on the question whether the action of the police was justified or not.*'

"Sir, before I begin to mention facts in connexion with the firing, let me premise my observations by stating that it is not my intention to hold a brief either for the police or for the people who find fault with the police. It is not my intention now to say anything against either versions. Sir, you may remember that my resolution ran as follows:—'That in view of the different versions before the public . . . a Committee should be appointed . . .' and you were pleased, Sir, to alter it, and I submitted to the alteration. Therefore I am mentioning this not to protest against the alteration but to thank you for it, and at the same time to mention to the Council that my object in bringing forward this resolution is to make the people feel that the Government are really anxious to place the matter before the public in a way which would appeal to them. Sir, my object in coming forward with this resolution is that there are two contradictory versions, one an official version, and the other, if I may so call it, a non-official version, or the version which the labour people have put forward. That being so, people who are not connected either with the officials or those who are not connected with the labour people are no doubt feeling that an inquiry should be held so that the public may understand which version is the correct one. Sir, that being my object. . . . . "

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"Sir, I rise to ask your permission, now that the Honourable Mover has developed his object, to say that there is every probability of the facts in issue in this resolution going up before a civil court in the very near future in which case they will be fully inquired into, and the discussion in this Council—I should not say discussion in this Council, but I should say that the investigation by a specially appointed committee—would be superfluous. The Government, Sir, have no desire to burke the discussion on the facts of this issue, and I may ask, with your permission, the Honourable Mover to consider whether, in view of the fact that these issues will come before the civil court almost immediately, he desires to proceed with the discussion in this Council."

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS:—"If the matter is going before the civil court, I should be the last person to have any discussion in the matter, because when the matter is *sub-judice*, I don't want to prejudice the proceedings by anything that may be said here or by the findings of any committee appointed by the Government. I take it that the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson is sure about the matter going to the court."

The Hon'ble the ADVOCATE-GENERAL:—"I think I may assure my hon'ble friend Mr. Devadas that in the very near future this matter will be the subject of action in a civil court, in fact in the High Court at Madras, and therefore I think this particular discussion might be postponed until we exactly see how this litigation develops itself."

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS:—"Well, Sir, on the assurance of the Hon'ble the Advocate-General I do not press my resolution, but if it is not going to be brought in the near future, I crave leave to bring forward this resolution at the next meeting."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"You must give notice again."

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS:—"I will give notice."

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

16th February 1921.] [The Hon'ble President.]

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"The Council will notice that there is a batch of four resolutions relating to the pay and prospects of non-gazetted officers. I take it that it is the wish of the Council to take them all together in one discussion."

Mr. K. GOPALAKRISHNAYYA:—"Sir, these resolutions (Nos. 6 to 9) and resolution Nos. 27, 28 and 29 may be taken together. They more or less relate to the same matter."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"I venture to support the suggestion. It is quite beyond our present means to meet the demands of the non-gazetted officers. Unless therefore we discuss the means of finding the money at the same time, the discussion is apt to be unprofitable."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"This matter did engage my anxious consideration, and I came to the conclusion that I would not be justified in putting all the resolutions together as one subject. Though I quite understand that the decision on the one will have an important bearing on the other, I do not think I should permit all the resolutions to come under a single discussion. For the present I would ask the Council to confine itself to resolutions 6 to 9."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Areall these four resolutions to be proposed and voted for together, or one after the other?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"My idea is that Mr. Venkatarama Ayyar should move his first resolution, and if that is seconded, the debate will probably disclose as to which resolution the Council will take out of the four so that we may discuss that one resolution."

Pay and prospects of Non-Gazetted Officers.

Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"I move the resolution standing against my name—

'6. *That this Council recommends to the Government that a committee composed of officials and non-officials be constituted to report on the minimum salary of the non-gazetted Government officers of the various departments and the grading of the same, having regard to the present-day condition of living, the rise in prices of foodstuffs and cloths and the absence of house accommodation in towns and the consequent high rents, with power to co-opt one member of each department in the inquiry into the fixing of salaries of that particular department.*'

"I have ventured to bring up this resolution before the Council in view of the various complaints put forward by non-gazetted officers. I am not here to say whether the report of the Salaries Committee is correct or not or what the report of the Salaries Commissioner Mr. A. R. Knapp will be, though in some papers I find some hints as to those recommendations.

"I am chiefly concerned with the complaint put forward by the officers that they have not been consulted, that their evidence has not been taken and that they had no representation on the committee which originally sat to decide upon the salaries. Of course it is but proper that there should be representatives from those concerned and that witnesses should have been examined from among the very persons who put forward the complaint. We have known that in other committees, e.g, that on the Provincial Judicial Service, members of the service were put on the committee and they were also consulted. Therefore my chief point will be: give them the opportunity, take them into your confidence, and let there be a committee of officials and non-officials who may be selected by this House or by Government,

with one member from each department, whenever an inquiry is made into that department, with power to examine officers from each department. If the committee will be able to convince the non-gazetted officers that the original recommendation made by the Salaries Committee was proper and would also take into consideration the present-day condition of living, and the rise in prices, and if they should come to any conclusion, after consideration of the state of finances as revealed at the next budget, then I think the whole body of non-gazetted officers—who must be supported by Government because it is they who must take care of them rather than the members of this House—would be satisfied; and I think it is proper that this House should accept this resolution to give them an opportunity of representing their grievances and to find out exactly, under all conditions, what should be the minimum living wage or the minimum salary which must be given to these officers, considering all the circumstances that I have put forward in this resolution.

"I submit therefore for the consideration of this House that this resolution may be accepted and I would also request this House to take into consideration the fact that even the Local and Municipal Conference raised the pay of the officers in their service and gave a time-scale increment. Therefore I would say that this committee will not have very much work before it but that they should take the officials into their confidence and satisfy them that the recommendation of the original committee was proper or they should put forward new recommendations acceptable to the officers who seem to be discontented in all the departments."

Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar:—"I beg leave to second Resolution No. 6 as I do not wish to move Resolution No. 7 standing in my name as an independent resolution. Resolutions 6 and 7 are much the same except in some matters of detail.

"Resolution No. 6 contains reasons which I am sure will be sufficient to evoke the sympathy and the generosity of the members of this House. Everybody seems to be familiar with the hardship and privations which the members of the non-gazetted service have been undergoing. Everyone of us here and outside this House seems to be overflowing in abundant sympathy for these officers. But when it comes to a question of translating this sympathy into action, so far as the attitude of the Madras Government is concerned, the attitude expressed towards these officers was akin to the affection and attachment shown by a step-mother. The economic condition has caused a good deal of unrest in this country, and it is impossible for these non-gazetted officers to live under the existing conditions. From the answers to the interpellations which have been placed before us, I find that the Government are in receipt of numerous memorials forwarded to them from time to time by the non-gazetted officers and in one of the answers I find that the Government do recognize that these memorialists are discontented. Therefore in view of the prevailing economic distress and the hopless situation created by the tremendous rise in prices of every item of expenditure, I have not the slightest doubt that the House will unanimously vote for the constitution of a committee. By this resolution, as the Council is well aware, the Honourable Mover does not propose to tie the hands of any member because it is quite possible that the committee which he would usher into being may or may not agree with the grievances of the non-gazetted officers though to a superficial observer it looks very much as if their grievances are real and by no means unsubstantial.

"I do not want at this stage to sound a note of warning or alarm cause I am not an alarmist and I do not propose to be an alarmist. But this much I feel bound to state for the information of this House that there is a strong under current

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of discontent not easily translatable into language which has of late been permeating this service which, if I may say so, represents the broad base of the huge edifice of departmental administration. With these observations I commend this resolution to the acceptance of the Council."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I have given notice, Sir, of an amendment, which is to the effect that in the scope of this inquiry the case of village officers also should be included. It need hardly be said that there is a good deal of discontent among the village officers also in addition to the great discontent among the ordinary non-gazetted officers. In reply to some question, the Government have informed us practically that they have no idea at present of increasing the emoluments of these village officers."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER (*interrupting*) :—"Will the Honourable Member please state to which question he is referring."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR (*continuing*) :—"I am referring to answers to questions Nos. 58 and 59. I think I was correct in saying that the effect of the answers given by the Honourable Member is that there is no prospect in the near future of any increment either in the pay of the karnams or what has now been baptized as honorarium of the village munsifs.

"Those honourable members who come from the mufassal are aware of the fact that there is great discontent in the minds of the village officers that their cause has not been considered at all. One thing that strikes any impartial person is this. That as regards the inquiry that is supposed to have been conducted about the pay of these village officers there was no regular inquiry giving an opportunity to the village officers themselves to put their case before the committee or before the Government. If there is a regular inquiry after a committee is appointed to go into the question, if an opportunity is given to the village officers to represent their case, and probably if an opportunity is given to the members of the committee and to the gentlemen representing the Government to satisfy these village officers either by way of cross-examination or by explanation that their grievances are after all not real, it will certainly go to satisfy the village officers and the public whether their grievances have had any foundation whatever.

"Taking, for instance, the case of the karnams, no doubt their pay has been increased to Rs. 15, whereas in many cases it was Rs. 12 and below. In the case of village menials the pay has been increased from Rs. 4 to Rs. 8. The karnams represent that the pittance of increase of about 25 per cent from Rs. 12 to Rs. 15 is absolutely inadequate, but the case of village munsifs seems to be very strong. The karnams who were receiving a higher pay before have got an increase now. The pay of village menials has also been increased—in fact, has been doubled from Rs. 4 to Rs. 8; whereas the pay of village munsifs has been allowed to be in the same position excepting this change that what was called salary is now called honorarium. It is a fact, Sir, that in several places the village menials begin to say that they are superior to village munsifs, because their pay is higher than that of village munsifs. It was probably this that led to the village munsifs complaining that their status as measured by pay was considered to be below that of the village menials. Probably it is this consideration that led the Government not to increase the pay of village munsifs, but, to allow it to remain stationary and call it honorarium. We know that in the interests of the Government as well as of the ryot we should add to the village officers' salary. From the Government point of view, it may be that many other officers, high or low, may strike. But the Government work may not suffer very much. Apart from the question whether we should attach any weight to the voice of the village officers at all, if, by any

circumstances, either through public sympathy or through their legitimate grievance, these village officers, viz., the village munsifs and karnams, strike, I think the Government will be put to great difficulty because practically every pie that comes into the coffers of the Government has to be collected by the village munsifs; and even if there be a temporary strike of such village munsifs and village karnams who give them regular accounts as to how much kist has to be collected, certainly there ought to be great hardship from the point of view of Government. Therefore, apart from the question that all subordinate officers of Government should be satisfied with what they get, it is all the more important that village officers also should be made to feel that they are treated so far as their salaries are concerned in a fairly satisfactory way.

"From the point of view of the ryot also, it is clear that we should have a fairly well-paid village establishment. We all know, Sir, how every report on which big cases are based and every case of encroachment, are made originally by the village munsif or karnam or both jointly, and if they are dishonest, or if they are indifferent, then there is the possibility or probability of a false report being made, of indifferent reports being made by which both parties of litigants as well as ordinary ryots are likely to suffer very much.

"It is therefore extremely necessary that some attempt should be made to satisfy these village officers. We are satisfied that the pay given to them is absolutely very small; and if on the other hand Government are satisfied, and if they are able to satisfy the public also that their salaries are already high and that no enhancement is necessary, the best way of doing that will be to place all the facts and records before the members of the committee who will be appointed to investigate the matter and to make a report, and we expect to have represenatives from several non-official bodies in the committee. The best way of satisfying the public and the village officers will be to have the various records placed before the committee and enable them to make a satisfactory report.

"Only one word about this honorarium. Granting it is only an honorarium as Government call it, it is granted only in return for certain work done, such as collection of money and all such things. It is not an honorarium as a pension given to some Diwan or other high official in recognition of his past work, but it is given in return for some work, actually done. The honorarium is only Rs. 7 at present. It must be increased because the value of money has gone down. Therefore the honorarium which was placed at Rs. 7 some years ago should now be revised, and even if we are giving it as honorarium, we should have a reasonable increase in the honorarium. That is the view put forth by the village munsifs. If the Honourable Members of the Council think that there is a good ground for an inquiry into the salaries of the non-gazetted officers, there is a good reason also, probably greater reason, for including in the scope of this inquiry the case of the village officers also."

Rao Sabib U. RAMA RAO:—"I beg to second this amendment, because I know as a matter of fact that the low-paid karnams and village munsifs from South Kanara have sent an ultimatum to the Collector that unless and until they are paid a higher pay they are going to strike work from the 1st of next month. I have also heard from other parts of the Presidency they are going to hold a conference and they are going to strike work from the 1st."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"Does the Honourable Mover accept the amendment?"

Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"I accept the amendment."

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Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—" Mr. President, this is a matter in which everybody is satisfied that the non-gazetted officers require increments. No doubt about that. But the committee to be formed to inquire into this matter requires a larger scope. At the time of the budget I did say in this House that in addition to giving reasonable increments to non-gazetted officers, we must look into the curtailment of the establishment and the curtailment of the work wherever necessary. These establishments have been increased during the last 10 or 12 years. The work has been increasing because it is now done more by office notes and so on, and if the Council is going to carry the resolution, the committee must have power to go into the work done by each non-gazetted officer or subordinate and see which portion of it can be reduced, and also the establishment. There should be therefore some amendment to this resolution before it is put to the final vote."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—" Mr. President, in view of what has just fallen from the last speaker, I beg to suggest an alteration in the form of this committee. This resolution brings before the Council at the outset of its career a very grave problem which is going to put to a very serious test the sense of responsibility which is vested in it. I am very glad to be able to see that every member who has spoken on the subject has fully recognized that.

" We have been told more than once in the course of this session that proposals made in this House were somewhat Utopian in their nature. I think that description will apply to some extent to these resolutions. The normal state of affairs is for the Government and especially when it is a bureaucratic Government, to put forward proposals to increase the pay of the bureaucracy. They are generally supposed to have little inducement to put a check on such expenditure. It is the function of the representatives of the tax-payers to pass, reduce or prohibit the proposed expenditure. Here we have the position to a great extent reversed. We have the representative of the tax-payer asking for the imposition of further taxation in order to enable the bureaucrat to pay his brother bureaucrat better. The position is not less Utopian than the proposal of a certain High Court Judge who, on his retirement recently, proposed at a meeting of the non-gazetted officers of the High Court that the proper course would be for the salaries of all concerned to be pooled from the Judge to the lowest clerk. I have yet to see the report of a meeting in which that Honourable Gentleman has made the same proposal to his late learned colleagues on the bench.

" I said just now that this proposition involves such large expenditure as to raise the question of further taxation, and that was the reason why an Honourable Member behind me suggested that we should take up along with it certain proposals on the subject of economics. And the last speaker has very properly pressed the same view. I would like to put my reason for saying that the proposal involves further expenditure before the Council in the fewest figures possible. Our budget for the year 1921–22 will amount to the record figure of 17 crores of rupees. Out of that we have to pay a very large sum to the Government of India which with the other charges referred to in section 72-D of the Act, amount to a sum of five crores. We may put the charges for the absolute necessities of the administration such as police, jails, law courts, registration and hospitals at another $4\frac{1}{2}$ crores. The non-gazetted officers in the departments which I have referred to and the village officers already consume three crores. The cost of their present demands, if we give all they ask for, comes to $4\frac{1}{2}$ crores. If you add up these four figures you will have a total of 17 crores. In other words, if we were to grant the whole of their requests, there would be absolutely nothing left for the development of agriculture, industries, fisheries or co-operation or for local bodies or sanitation or other departments in which progress is most necessary. This is the position.

"The truth is, if I may say so, as the non-gazetted officers show in their memorial, that they and not we are asking for a new state of affairs. They set up as the standard pay for an entrant into Government service the cost of keeping a middle class family in a certain degree of comfort, and they tell us in their memorial that while Rs. 30 a month is not a sufficient payment for that purpose now, Rs. 15 was not sufficient standard 20 or 30 or even 40 years ago. In other words, they say that they were never paid what they call a living wage. If that is granted, what is the result? Is it not that we have built up an enormous system of detailed meticulous administration, eliminating the middleman, on the basis of a very cheap and very efficient subordinate establishment? We are in the position of a manufacturer, who has installed a very elaborate machinery which has been returning him good profits on the basis, if I may say so for the purpose of the comparison, of cheap coal. The price of coal has quadrupled and he cannot afford to run his machine. That is the position to which we are committed; and if we grant their requests in full, we must either impose further taxation or we must effect a root and branch alteration in our very detailed system of administration.

"We have been told that the Government have taken the attitude of a stepmother towards the non-gazetted officers. Now I would like to say that, if so, the Council have taken the attitude of a hard-hearted aunt, because the Government do not for a moment accept the sole responsibility for the rate fixed. The rate was fixed by a committee almost entirely composed of members of the Legislative Council. The rate proposed by the committee was confirmed in the resolution of a non-official member in the Council, moved on behalf of the non-gazetted officers. It was confirmed again in a discussion in committee with the whole Council. One Honourable Member has referred us to the resolution of the Local Fund Conference. I should like to ask the Honourable Member what was the minimum wage fixed there? Did it not again confirm the Government rate? The Government are not going to take the whole burden upon their shoulders, and I am glad the whole responsibility in this serious matter is not imposed upon them, but that it is shared by them with the whole of this responsible Council. The matter is one upon which we are anxious to have the fullest advice. And I am glad we share the responsibility with and have available to us the advice of so large a body of responsible members.

"The Hon'ble Member Mr. Krishna Rao asked me at the opening of the session why the Government had not acceded to the request of the non-gazetted officers to appoint a committee as proposed by them. Well, I hope I have given him a great part of the answer, namely, that the main thing the committee would have to inquire into is not solely the question of what is the cost of maintaining a middle class family, but the question of further taxation or root and branch alteration of the existing system. Nor is that the only reason. It is said that we are not taking evidence. Well I ask the Council if you have not sufficient evidence in the statistics of prices and wages and of house-rent, in the opinions which I have already referred to, and in the very ably prepared minutes of the non-gazetted officers themselves. Then again there is the question of the constitution of the committee which the non-gazetted officers asked for and which is asked for now. The first feature of that committee was that it was to contain representatives of the non-gazetted officers. If honourable members will refer to the resolutions a little lower down on the paper, they will find one in which it is proposed that we should reduce the pay of every officer above Rs. 200 and increase the pay of every officer under Rs. 100. In other words that we should rob Peter to pay Paul. If you are going to rob Peter to pay Paul, do you ask Peter and Paul to sit together on a committee to advise you how to do it? Further I do not think that the proposed committee would have given sufficient representation to the other persons interested. The Government in this

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matter, as controlled by the Council, stand in the position of arbiter between two parties—the man who pays the taxes and the man who receives payment out of them—and in any such committee we must ensure the proper representation of the tax-payer. There are other people, who, I think, are entitled to be heard or to be represented. There are the employers of labour, for instance, the big zamindars. I think it must be obvious that, if we raise the rate of wages very largely, their rates will also be affected and their income will also be very largely affected. Similarly with business concerns, some of which have been built up very much like our own Government systems upon a basis of meticulous detail, and which cannot be continued if the cost of clerical work is going to be doubled and trebled.

"Lastly I would like to lay stress upon the factor of time and in doing this I hope it is not necessary to say that because they have issued no specific orders in the matter since last August, the Government have not been unmindful of it. On the other hand, it is one that has hardly been out of their minds. From some representations that have been made it would appear that people imagine that the order of August last is the only order that the Government have issued. On the other hand, that was only the last of a series of six orders. Referring again for a moment to the question of the responsibility of the Council, I would remind them that the Finance Department consisting of members of the old Council accepted without demur a lump sum estimate of 50 lakhs as sufficient to meet the demands involved in the report of the Salaries Committee. The Government have spent in the course of the year a sum of not 50 lakhs, but 134 lakhs, in meeting the demands of the non-gazetted and village officers. In fact we have stripped the budget bare and I am afraid involved ourselves in a further draft on balances at the close of the year. Having thus reallotted every pie that we could reallot, we have since August been busy in the preparation of a single co-ordinated scheme. We have succeeded, working at great pressure, in getting the scheme ready, and we have sent it to the Government of India and asked them to permit us to put it into the budget in order to enable the members of this Council to discuss it in all its details. Now we are within two or three weeks of presenting the budget to the House and if we are to abandon all this and put the money for which we have made provision back into the balance, when it will be open to attack from every Honourable Member who wishes to spend money on different projects, while we allow the committee to re-open the whole case of the non-gazetted officers, I am afraid that the net result would be very much to their prejudice inasmuch as the money would all be voted away and they would find that the time came when there was no means of meeting whatever the committee might recommend.

"In thus deprecating the appointment of the committee which is recommended, I do not for a moment wish to say that we are not ready to submit the scheme which we have prepared to the fullest examination. All I do ask is that, in the interests of the non-gazetted officers, the scrutiny should be made at once; and in this connexion I would press one more point, namely that, if the result of the scrutiny is to suggest the allotment of further money to the non-gazetted officers, the committee should also make recommendations as to the sources from which that money is to be drawn. If these views commend themselves to the members of this House, I should be prepared to propose an amendment of the resolution in the following terms:—

'This Council recommends to the Government that a Committee of this Council be appointed, representative so far as possible of all the interests concerned, to scrutinise the proposals for the revision of salaries of non-gazetted officers which have been submitted to the Government of India and to make recommendations to the

Government regarding them and regarding the provision of any further funds, the voting of which may be involved by their adoption; the committee to be appointed and to commence its sittings at once and to make recommendation within such time as may be fixed having regard to the dates appointed for the consideration of the budget.'"

Mr. Krishnan Nayar complained that he did not hear the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter who read out the terms of the suggested amendment again.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" Does the Honourable Member propose to move the amendment ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—" If the trend of the debate shows that the honourable members are prepared to accept such an amendment, I will ask one of my honourable colleagues formally to move it."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" At present then there is no amendment."

Mr. K. P. GOPALA MENON :—" I am strongly in support of the resolution with the amendment of Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. As we all know, it is only the wearer who knows where the shoe pinches. It is no good appointing a set of persons to inquire into the grievances of the non-gazetted officers without giving a chance for these poor persons to have their say."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER *(interrupting)* :—" I may say that I am perfectly willing that the committee proposed should hear representations of non-gazetted officers or village officers."

Mr. K. P. GOPALA MENON *(continuing)* :—" I can quite see Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter's point. Whatever it may be, we are not going to suggest, as Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter has said, to rob Peter to pay Paul. We have certain resolutions which show the ways and means by which the grievances of these poor persons could be redressed. We know that the Government have been very gracious to increase the salary of the high paid officials, viz., deputy collectors, munsifs, sub-judges and the other like officers. Where do they find funds for all these officers ? They have been given the increase with retrospective effect too. If, as a matter of fact, the Government are not too poor to give consideration to the status and salary of the rich and highly paid officials, I think it is an irony of fate to say that they are poor when we come to this question. I know the Secretary of the Village Officers' Association at Madura. I have heard from him many a time the grievances of the village munsifs in regard to their pay and the onerous responsibility thrown upon them on the civil, criminal and the revenue side. In places where there are murders and heavy offences, if the village munsif sends the first information report a little late, the magistrates and sessions judges come down upon him. If the village munsif delays the report even for 10 minutes, they say the whole case is lost. What is the position of the village munsif ? He is not the man who takes the report to the police station. He is to give the report to the talaiyaris or totis. In many districts the totis and talaiyaris have conceived a sort of independent spirit on account of their pay having been increased and the village munsifs' pay not having been increased. I have personally in my professional career come across cases where in the Sessions Court the village munsifs have appeared, and said ' Well, Sir, what am I to do ? I sent my report immediately on receipt of the information through the talaiyari and he says I have no power to ask him because he receives more pay than I.' It is no good saying that it is an honorarium. A village officer once said that an honorarium of rupee 1, and a salary of rupee 1 can get only the same $2\frac{1}{2}$ measures of rice. We have to take into

consideration whether the rule that affects the highly-paid officers will not affect the non-gazetted officers also. The functions which the village munsif has to discharge on the civil and revenue side—which is a responsible side—are enormous. He holds responsibility for thousands of rupees. At the time of jamabandi the tahsildars and sub-collectors and other officers go to his village and he has to do various functions then and also to discharge his duties properly. I am sure he must be paid properly if he is to do his duties. In certain places the village munsifs are rich pattadars and some of them—who are my friends—are also graduates. But they are exceptions to the rule. We must take the class of the village munsifs who are poor. It is only one out of a hundred who are in good and affluent circumstances. I will take the generality of the village munsifs into consideration. It is absurd to say that they must be paid only an honorarium of Rs. 5 when such onerous duties are assigned to them. I propose that proper inquiries should be made throughout the Presidency if possible, to hear the representations of the people who are suffering, to consider their grievances and to adopt what measures we can for the amelioration of these people."

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN:—"Mr. President, just before I came to Madras to attend this Council it was forcibly brought to my notice by the non-gazetted officers at Madura that the most harrowing and distressing conditions obtain in Madura. Imagine a family consisting of a wife, two children with probably an old mother and a widowed sister living in a miserable room not even measuring 10 feet by 6 feet with only one window for ventilation and for this the rent is Rs. 10. A clerk getting Rs. 30 spends Rs. 10 for the rent of that house. He has to spend the balance to maintain his family, to dress himself decently and to look as a clerk in the eyes of the public. A clerk who has also many children to send to school must pay their school fees. He has to pay for his kerosene oil, the ghee which is like liquid gold in Madura, selling at Rs. 5 a measure. He can only get milk mixed with a good deal of water and not pure milk. How can we expect him to maintain health and discharge the onerous duties appertaining to his office in a satisfactory manner? I have seen clerks limping, and with consumption written on their faces trudging on their miserable existence through the streets of Madura, and coming back to a home where there is nothing to cheer them up. They cannot afford to spend anything for their comforts; imagine also the poor condition of their wives. Here is a wife who owing to her condition in life is unable to engage a servant and she has to work all day. She has to cook her meals not only for her children but also for others in the house. Look at her condition when she is enceinte and gives birth to a child."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"May I rise to a point of order. I understood that we are engaged on the resolution as amended by the Member for Coimbatore so as to include village officers. My friend Mr. Abbas Ali is discussing only the non-gazetted officers."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"The resolution before the Council is the amended resolution and the Council may discuss the whole resolution regarding non-gazetted officers and village officers."

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN:—"To resume what I was saying, a clerk who has no food, who cannot get even the bare necessaries of life on his paltry pittance of a pay becomes a wreck. Is it not fair and just that the House should consider the just and equitable grievances of this class of servants who are hard-worked and loyal servants of Government and who are carrying on the administration without a hitch and who have said nothing for such a long time simply because they are pursuing the even tenor of duty? Therefore, Mr. President, I ask how can it be

expected that we shall have a healthy population to grow up if out of 24,000 clerks 10,000 get not more than Rs. 30 or Rs. 50?"

"Fortunately the Madras Presidency is free from the horrors of war, but we have two other causes of destruction, namely, disease and want of sufficient food. What do the clerks say? They say, 'You are all members of Council. You are all young men come from England and other civilised parts of the world. Can't you go into the Council and do something for us and give us more bread?'. This cry for bread is coming from the children of the country and the people of the land are saying, 'give us some more bread'. Now, Mr. President, I think the House will cheerfully bear any reasonable burden. That burden will not fall heavily on any particular community or class. It may be thrown on all sections of the public. I am sure no other country will bear more cheerfully any burden to alleviate the sufferings of a moiety of humanity who are in dire need of such an alleviation. There are many sources from which revenue could be derived, for instance export tax on seeds, excise and other things. I do not want to take much of your time. I cordially and most heartily support the resolution moved by my predecessor."

Mr. K. GOPALAKRISHNAYYA:—"Sir, I have given notice of a resolution of my own which stands in the list as resolution No. 29. But I have no objection to support this resolution. In the adoption thereof the House, I think, would show a very favourable consideration. To my mind it looks as if the Government at the very outset, in the consideration of the increase of salaries of their officers, began at the wrong end. Because, it is my view, that the several officials may be classed under three classes: the I.C.S. officers, the gazetted officers, and the non-gazetted officers. They have made the administration top heavy. They have begun with the increase of the salaries, of course in England, of the I.C.S. officers and in India of the gazetted officers, unmindful of the many clamours and the many complaints of the last class, the non-gazetted officers. They could have begun with increasing the salaries of the non-gazetted officers in the first place and then take up the case of others in the second place. Now the House is given to understand by the Hon'ble the Finance Member that in adopting this proposition it will be accepting a heavy burden. Of course the same argument should have been taken into consideration when the increase of salaries as a whole was considered at the very outset. The Hon'ble the Finance Member observed that it would be robbing Peter to pay Paul. I would also quote a biblical maxim, viz., to whom that hath, more shall be given and from whom that hath a little, more shall be taken. That, I think, is a paraphrase of the text and in this case it aptly applies. I do not know if these officers who are now under the famine prices were getting their adequate dues, but still the high-class officers were at least making both ends meet; not so in the case of the non-gazetted officers. I would suggest that if the Hon'ble the Finance Member is unable to find the money for the increase of the salaries of non-gazetted officers, I am going to move that, a reduction may be made even from gazetted officers' salaries in order to meet the charges on account of the non-gazetted officers. Of course, there are two or three resolutions pertaining to the same matter. But I pray that the President may be pleased to give us permission to move some sort of amendment, though due notice has not been given for consolidating all the proposals contained in resolutions Nos. 5, 6, 28 and 29."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"I have already ruled that resolutions 28 and 29 would be taken up as they come on. The Honourable Member will please resume his seat. I do not propose to go back upon that ruling. I must ask the Council to confine itself to the resolutions about the pay and prospects of non-gazetted officers. It is open to the Honourable Member, when he comes to his resolution, to move it."

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Mr. K. GOPALAKRISHNAYYA :—" Of course, as I have already said at the beginning of my speech, I do not propose to detail the numerous complaints of the non-gazetted officers. At the time when my resolution comes, I shall have my own say. I have no objection to support this resolution."

Dr. GILBERT SLATER :—" Mr. President, in considering this question consideration must be given to the sources from which such increase of salaries as may be desirable and just is to be met. We have to consider it not only from the point of view of the hardships of non-gazetted officers but also in relation to the interests of the ordinary population of tax-payers, many of whom are in a much worse position than the non-gazetted officers. When we discussed this on the Salaries Board we had to face a very difficult position. Criticism has been levelled against the Salaries Committee because it declined to receive evidence from the non-gazetted officers. I should like to say that the Salaries Committee was actuated by the feeling that in the interests of the officers concerned, it was extremely desirable that a decision should be arrived at as soon as possible. What we felt was that we were called upon to deal with the special emergency caused by a great and rapid increase in prices. In the first place we had to answer the question whether this great rise in prices was to be considered as a temporary economic phenomenon, in which case it might be dealt with by granting temporary allowances ; or whether we had to face in India the prospect of a permanent rise in prices, in which case salaries should be adapted to the higher rates of prices. We came to the conclusion that high prices were likely to continue, and that the general level of post-war prices would be considerably above the pre-war level, but that some reduction in the very high prices prevailing when we were sitting was to be anticipated.

" In my opinion experience since has confirmed that opinion. There is evidence of a tendency of wholesale prices in the world market to fall considerably, and this must affect India ; and the fall of prices which can reasonably be anticipated will in itself be a considerable mitigation of the position of all people receiving fixed incomes. In these circumstances I myself was very pleased that the Salaries Committee went so far as to recommend an increase of 100 per cent in the minimum starting pay of the officers on the ground of the rise of prices.

" Another criticism which has been levelled against the Salaries Committee has been that the view that we took with regard to increase of pay of village officers was not applied to village munsifs as well as to karnams. But the view that we took was that the money which munsifs receive should be regarded as an honorarium or allowance to meet their out-of-pocket expenses and not as payment for work done. This idea, I think, should not be lost sight of. If it is recognized that the munsif's position is purely honorary, then we come to this position : that in those villages where it is possible to get suitable persons to serve the country as munsifs without pay, honorary munsifs should be appointed ; but where such an officer cannot be obtained then the karnam should be given the work.

" With regard to the main issue and the general principle which should be recognized in determining the minimum starting pay for non-gazetted officers, I do think we ought not to consider it without some consideration of the question what is the average income of the tax-payer. The question what is the average rupee income per head in the Madras Presidency has been very much controverted ; and I myself have been very much criticised for putting it as high as Rs. 70 per annum per head. Supposing that estimate of mine is really too low, and supposing we reckon the average income in the Presidency is Rs. 90 per head

per annum then Rs. 30 per month which is Rs. 360 per annum, is four times the average income per head. In England we should not consider it right and proper to fix as the minimum starting pay for Government servants more than half the average income of a family of four persons. Now the non-gazetted officers claim that their minimum pay ought to be Rs. 60 per mensem, which means that every boy from school who gets a clerk's post under Government should straight way receive twice as much as the average income of a family of four persons.

"It seems to me that we have to look at that demand from the tax-payer's point of view, and consider whether it is just to the tax-payer to levy additional taxation on him in order to give so much to his servants who already get more than he does.

"Further let me say that the Salaries Committee was continually asking how much money was available. It was anxious to give as much as possible, as much as could be spared in view of the financial situation and framed its recommendations accordingly. It appears to me that since further demands are now being made the question has now to be considered whether it is possible to find increased pay for the lower paid Government services out of the moneys at present spent for the services, instead of out of increased taxation. The question is whether it is possible to save money by reorganization of the services, without diminishing efficiency in order to give a more satisfactory living to the lower paid non-gazetted servants. I think it is desirable that the inquiries of the proposed committee should not be hurried, and that its discussions should extend in this direction."

Mr. S. SOMASUNDARAM PILLAI:—"I thoroughly agree with what has been said by my previous speakers as regards the non-gazetted officers. It is true that they have been protecting large families. The increase of family goes on increasing every day without any regard for the increase of the pay, and of course we are really sympathetic towards their condition. As regards the amendment I have to say a word or two. The village karnam and the village munsif are the most prosperous officers of the Government. If there is any revenue officer who is most prosperous it is the village karnam. Does this House believe that the village karnam depends entirely upon his salary? He can command anything he likes in his village. Every landlord is afraid of him for fear of a report of encroachment and he is hardly affected by any feeling that there would be a vote of reproach against him. Generally the village munsif is a landlord. He does not depend upon his salary. So, to say that a village munsif requires more pay is rather, I cannot say what it is, rather very absurd. The village munsifs themselves would not like that statement. And to say that he is paid Rs. 5 and his menial is paid Rs. 8, and consequently the village menial does not respect the village munsif, is not true. I cannot agree with this statement made by the mover of the amendment; for, in the village post office the postmaster is paid Rs. 5, the delivery peon Rs. 9; yet the village peon is obedient to the village postmaster. He does not say that the postmaster is paid only Rs. 5 and he is paid Rs. 9; he does not say that. The village munsif is a man of his own village. He is respected by all the men of the village. While such is the case I do not think there is any disparagement by paying an honorarium of Rs. 9. As regards curtailment of the pay of higher officers it is left to the pleasure of the Government and those responsible officers who receive the salary. If the lower officers resent their lower pay, will not the higher officers resent the proposal to cut short their pay? These are all utopian ideas. I do not agree with them. But I insist upon the increase of the payment of the non-gazetted officers who are on the lowest rung of the ladder. Every man when he enters office does not care for the pay at first. Somehow he

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gets into the Government service hoping that he may rise. I was for sometime in that hope. When I entered Collector's office I was paid Rs. 15 in 1892 and in three months I saw the difficulty of getting higher pay. So I gave it up. So if every man is entertained on Rs. 30, it is for the first entry and he hopes to get more in course of time. Of course he must be somewhat responsible for that. It is pitiable that the present condition should continue. Their condition should be improved at once".

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"MR. President, Sir, so far as the resolutions now under discussion are concerned they raise two important questions. The first question is as to the necessity for increasing the salaries of the non-gazetted officers and of the village officers and the second and the more important one is how to effect that object. So far as the first question is concerned I take it that this House is agreed as to the necessity for increasing the salaries of the non-gazetted officers and the village officers. But for the remarks of my Hon'ble friend Mr. Somasundaram Pillai I would have thought that there is no discordant voice in this House as to the desirability of increasing the pay of both these sets of offices. The Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter himself did not say a word against the necessity for increasing their pay. But he only suggested the necessity for taking up the question early enough, in view of the presentation of the budget early next month. In referring to the case of the village officers, I wish to take this opportunity of placing before this House one aspect which has not been prominently brought forward either by the Salaries Committee or by the previous discussions. Something has been done to improve the pay of the village officers in Government villages; but so far as estates are concerned, the pay of the village officers has not been increased at all, even to the extent allowed in the case of Government villages. There is a cry for an increase of pay to the village munsifs because nothing was done in their case. In the case of karnams there was a slight increase of pay in Government villages but nothing absolutely was done in the case of karnams of proprietary estates. The duties being almost the same the reason of this differental treatment in their case is not known. They have also been making representations to the effect that their lot should be improved. While I believe that there might be cases here and there where karnams might be fairly well off, it is impossible for this House to subscribe to the general statement that all the village officers are well off as suggested by Mr. Somasundaram Pillai. We are not to take into account any cases of mischief done by karnams here or there, but we must take account of the general condition of affairs. We may be reasonably satisfied that much improvement has to be effected in that direction. While we are agreed as to the necessity of improving their position, how are we to effect that object? Is it by the appointment of a committee like the one suggested by the Honourable Mover of the resolution, or the appointment of a committee of this House to go into this question without any delay and then to suggest means of effecting the object and to state how far we can allow an increase in the case of these officers. Before we enter into a detailed consideration of this question, I must express a sense of anxiety at the somewhat gloomy prospect of the budget which the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter proposes to introduce early next month. He has given some figures and has tried to show that the expenditure already provided for has taken up the amount of the income realizable and there is not much scope for retrenchment. He put to this House the plain question as to whether this House would embark upon fresh taxation as it would be necessary, if we should fully concede the demands made on behalf of the non-gazetted officers or the village officers, or whether it would propose to effect retrenchment by examining the whole

budget. And the example of robbing Peter and paying Paul would not fit in this case. I do not think this House would subscribe to the statement of Hon'ble Member Mr. Abbas Ali that this House would be prepared for fresh taxation for the purpose of effecting this object. So far as I am able to judge of the feeling of honourable members of this House or those whom these members represent in this Council, I do not think that they will be prepared to resort to additional taxation. I for one would not be a party to fresh taxation to effect that object. But at the same time I feel that this result has been brought about owing to the Government having taken up this question of increase of salaries piece-meal, instead of taking a comprehensive view of the whole situation. An examination of the various increments and increases which have been made from time to time within the last two or three years show that the increase has been provided from time to time in the case of officers of one particular department without considering the claims of other officers whose claims would naturally be put forward sometime later. It is that policy that has brought us to this unfortunate predicament. If it were possible for the Government to arrive at a complete and correct idea of the existing sources of income and to have a fairly correct forecast as to the possible additional revenue which might be realized and if they could only take into consideration the claims of all the gazetted, non-gazetted and village officers and distribute the available revenue among all these officers, I have not the slightest doubt that it would have produced far greater satisfaction in the country than it has now. But as the Government have chosen to begin at the wrong end, as the Government have chosen not to begin from the bottom with the village officers who form the bulwark of Government administration, but have chosen to begin from the top, I venture to suggest that we must take to a policy of retrenchment. I would appeal to the Honourable Members of the Government who are receiving higher salaries to have a grasp of the whole financial situation, to take a more cheerful and more sympathetic view of the demands made on behalf of those who are less paid and who are in need of further payments, and to see if the budget cannot be so altered as to effect a more equitable and just readjustment of the finance so as to cause satisfaction to all officers irrespective of the class to which they belong. I would suggest, Sir, that whether we appoint a committee as the one suggested by the mover or whether we appoint a committee proposed by the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter to which I take no objection whatever, the committee can do useful work only if it makes up its mind to examine the necessity for the various new costly appointments which have been created during the past two or three years and to see that some retrenchments are effected and that the money so realised is used for improving the lot of these officers. If without doing that, we accept the suggestion of Mr. Todhunter and appoint a committee at once and if we merely place before the committee the facts mentioned by him, what can the committee possibly do? Is the committee going to suggest fresh taxation? Even the Local Boards Act, which we passed the other day, has provided for fresh taxation. The Local Boards are now put to the necessity of increasing their resources; the tolls have been increased; the municipalities have increased their taxes; and the Education Act suggests the levy of an education cess. In addition to these things, do we expect that any examination of the financial proposals for this purpose can justify our embarking upon additional taxation? Therefore I request this House to appoint the committee for examining the proposals fully and for allowing this increase not with the idea of raising additional taxation but with the hope that it will be possible to do away with some appointments which I believe have become superfluous or have been created without necessity within the last two years. I put a question to the Government in regard to these appointments; but I have not yet got the answer. Probably I will get it

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to-morrow and I will deal with it on another occasion. If we examine this question from all these standpoints, if we examine the necessity for decreasing or omitting the salaries of some high-paid officers and if we pool together all the revenue so realized, it is possible to relieve the distressed condition of these officers. It is this aspect that I wish to lay before the Council."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—" Mr. President, with your permission, Sir, I wish to intervene at this stage and to propose an amendment which I think would cover all the four resolutions on the agenda, and will at the same time, I feel certain, be acceptable to this House in its entirety. The amended resolution that I have the honour to move runs thus :—

' That this Council recommends to the Government that a Committee of this Council be appointed, representative so far as possible, of all the interests concerned to scrutinize the proposals for the revision of salaries of non-gazetted officers which have been submitted to the Government of India and to make recommendations to the Government regarding them and the village officers and regarding the provision of any further funds the voting of which may be involved by their adoption, the Committee to be appointed and to commence its sittings at once and to make recommendations or at least an interim report, within such time as may be fixed having regard to the dates appointed for the consideration of the budget.'

" In doing so, Sir, I have nothing to add except that we have been considerably profited by the suggestions that have gone on so far, and I am fully confident that this will meet with the acceptance of this House in which case the committee may be appointed at once."

The Hon'ble the Advocate-General seconded the Resolution.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" Proposed by Mr. Habib-ul-lah and seconded by the Advocate-General that the resolution proposed by Mr. K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar and amended by Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar be further amended as shown below :—

' That this Council recommends to the Government that a Committee of this Council be appointed, representative so far as possible, of all the interests concerned to scrutinize the proposals for the revision of salaries of non-gazetted officers which have been submitted to the Government of India and to make recommendations to the Government regarding them and the village officers and regarding the provision of any further funds the voting of which may be involved by their adoption, the Committee to be appointed and to commence its sittings at once and to make recommendations or at least an interim report within such time as may be fixed having regard to the dates appointed for the consideration of the budget.'

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" May I suggest an alteration to that, Sir."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" No, Sir. The Honourable Member will get his turn."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, I believe that this amendment which has been just now proposed by the Hon'ble Mr. Habib-ul-lah, generally, represents the sense of this House. In the first place, it is quite clear from the financial aspect of the numerous proposals which are involved in the resolutions tabled for to-day and the inquiry that is asked for by the various members of this council into the financial position of this Province, that every member of this House is alive to his new responsibility as regards the working

expenditure. At the outset I quite realize that this question namely, the financial position of this Province, is likely to come up in some from or other, and I therefore requested by way of an interpellation, for a statement of the increased expenditure involved in the reorganization of the pay of these services in consequence of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Public Services. But, Sir, I regret that that statement is not before us. Of course I sent it a month ago, but nevertheless I am told that the Accountant-General is still preparing that statement. Another statement, which also would have equally shown our absolute helplessness at the present day in consequence of these increases which have been sanctioned in anticipation of the reformed Council, is the statement of new appointments that have been created since 1918. The answer that I have is that it will take a month to compile it, that somebody or other will have to be put on special duty for a month in the Accounttant-General's office to examine the budget proposals, and ultimately I was asked to state what particular class of officers I wanted to deal with. Of course, I informed the Financial Secretary that at least we should like to have information regarding new offices created carrying a salary over Rs. 200 per mensem. I am certain that Honourable Members will look at the fact that the increase of the cost of the public services sanctioned either by the Secretary of State or by the Local Government for the various all-India services and the various provincial services would amount approximately to not less than seventy or eighty lakhs of rupees per annum. Well, I say that is merely a guess, but I am certain that we shall have an opportunity of dealing with this matter when the budget is presented. I do not know whether it will come exactly in the form in which I wanted to put it before this House. Therefore, I say that the case of the non-gazetted officers, the subordinate services, which formed the subject of investigation by the Salaries Committee was one which we have to deal with under some difficult circumstances. The Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter will bear me out when I say that I have been constantly asking for information as to what are the funds available for any increase that that Committee may recommend. I join with my friend Dr. Gilbert Slater in the statement that he has made that we were as anxious as anybody else in that Committee to do our best. But we realized fully the financial limitations of these projects, and in making the recommendations that we did we were certainly as alive to the need for the improvement of the services as it was possible to be under the circumstances. Sir, I do not think that there is any other way to deal with this question except that which is indicated in this resolution. There is no use of putting off this matter. As has been pointed out by the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter, we are working against time, and at least the non-gazetted services should be benefited immediately by some interim recommendation of this Committee. I trust that we shall be able to arrive at some sort of conclusion which would be acceptable to these hard-worked officers.

"Regarding the village officers, I do not agree with my friend, Dr. Gilbert Slater, in regarding the village officers as honorary officers. Their duties have increased and they are at the beck and call of every subordinate official and they feel the irksomeness of their position. They are considerably out of pocket by having to meet supplies. Notwithstanding Mr. Soma-undaram Pillai's experience that they are making money by illegal means—possibly they do it to recoup themselves for their expenditure on supplies—notwithstanding all these facts, there remains the fact that they feel that they are not honorary officers, held in esteem by Government officials, but that they are practically the menial attendants upon the public officers who visit their places. Whatever that may be, I am aware of the fact that there is considerable feeling in that part of the country from which I come that these people were not properly treated by the Salaries Committee in

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taking the view that they are honorary officers. Some of them are landlords, but the fact remains that they are as much subordinate officials of the Government as the revenue inspector or anybody else. Therefore they have a genuine grievance in this matter, and there is no doubt that some remedy or other must be found.

"As regards karnams and village officers in zamindari areas, I am glad that this resolution proposes that all the interests in this Council should be represented on this Committee, and I trust that some of the landholders in this Council, among the distinguished gentlemen sitting here, will be willing to serve on this Committee and that they will be willing to devise ways and means and possibly to share the financial responsibilities along with the Government in seeing that their servants are properly remunerated. Of course, I am talking from the standpoint of the general tax-payer, and if these zamindari officials are persons for whose pay and emoluments the zamindars are responsible under the regulations, I am sure that some method will be suggested by which their claims may be considered. Anyhow I do not see why the general tax-payer should be saddled with the establishment charges which ought to be maintained by the zamindar. In fact, that is an aspect of the case which I may present to the Council because there are many Honourable Members who represent the zamindari areas, and they will realise that in dealing with this matter we shall have to take account of factors which they have to consider in all their bearings. Sir, I agree generally with this proposal, but at the same time I do not look forward to the time when this question will be placed on a final footing. I do not suppose that it is the object of the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter that this Committee should go into the question of retrenchment of establishments suggested by my friends Messrs. Balaji Rao Nayudu and Gopalakrishnayya. That is a very large question, the question of retrenchment of establishments, and this has been allowed to go haphazard without any consideration and I think the Government would be well advised in setting up another committee to see in what respects many of these establishments which have overgrown our present needs should be cut down, and ways and means should be devised to minimise the huge expenditure on establishments now involved."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"If I may speak for one moment upon this amendment, I should like to say this. I am very sorry that we have been unable to give the Honourable Member who has last spoken and the other honourable members the figures which they have asked for. But I would remind them that the preparation of these many statements is throwing a very heavy burden upon the non-gazetted officers, who, I am sure, will do their best to expedite the preparation of the returns which have been asked for.

"With reference to the question of the committee, there is just this to be said. Several Honourable Members have thought that we can save enough to meet the demands of the non-gazetted officers out of the pay of the gazetted officers by cancelling new appointments that have been created. The Hon'ble Member Mr. Ramachandra Rao has estimated that the cost incurred by new appointments created since 1918 comes to no less than 70 lakhs of rupees. I haven't the exact cost of these appointments to give him, but I should like to invite his attention to some that are closely related to them. If you abolished every officer in the service of the Government drawing a thousand rupees and upwards and gave him no pension and put nobody in his place, the saving would be 80 lakhs of rupees. Now the non-gazetted officers and village officers together want 450 lakhs of rupees, so that if these recommendations were taken, what we should have saved would form a mere drop in the ocean of what is wanted."

Mr. QADIR NAWAZ KHAN :—" The proper way of judging the salary to be paid to non-gazetted officers is not by so much per cent, but we have to consider what under present conditions any moderate family has to spend. I believe I am reproducing the sense of the whole Council here when I say that Rs. 30 is miserably low for a man with a very small family. Again, we have to consider the class of society from which these poor unfortunate men are drawn, the way in which they are accustomed to live and the way in which they have been brought up in their houses. It is easy to say that the tax-payer on similar conditions is content with so much, but the tax payer who is content with that much pays also the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter and the pay of the Hon'ble the President. We have to consider what under existing conditions a family coming from a particular class of society has to spend in order to keep body and soul together. I am personally aware how much these poor clerks spend in maintaining themselves and their family.

" You will also have to consider the amount of labour and money and the long period these poor wretched men take in order to qualify themselves for a twenty or thirty rupees post. My driver who had been only cleaning as an assistant to my driver for nearly one month developed into a driver and begins to ask for a starting salary of Rs. 40. The poor unfortunate man who has spent about 20 years of his life in plodding through his books and getting through these merciless examinations and having spent all the time and money at last comes to the Government service which is regarded as the only course that is open to him, or at least that is the only course which tradition has taught him. The result is that my driver is much better off than the poor B A. who comes for an appointment. The Government thinks that starting on a pay of Rs. 30 is a good deal. I quite understand that it will take several millions of rupees if the pay of these poor clerks is to be increased. What I want is that you must view them sympathetically and you must do your level best."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—" I rise to a point of order to inquire whether the speaker's remarks are well to the question which is now before the House."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" What does the Honourable Member say with regard to that point ? I assume that the Honourable Member has finished his speech."

Mr. QADIR NAWAZ KHAN :—" Sir, the only difficulty is one of finding money and we must do our level best to find the money and do something for them."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—" I move that the question be now put ; we have had enough of discussion and more or less we agree that there should be a committee."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" Mr. President, I stated that I have an amendment to move."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" It is for the Council to decide whether it has had enough of discussion and whether it would accept the closure. If the Council says it wants further discussion, then of course it is for the Honourable Member to bring up his further amendment. But, I really cannot take away that privilege from the Council. Has the Honourable Member anything else to say ? "

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—" May I know, Mr. President, what is the question that is put ? "

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The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"I will tell you; we began with a discussion of Resolution No. 6, which was amended, when the Deputy President was in the chair, by Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar including the village officers. Then a further amendment has been put forward by the Hon'ble Mr. Habib-ul-lah Sahib and seconded by the Hon'ble the Advocate-General which has been read to the Council. I will ask the Council whether it will have the closure.

"The point is that the question be now put. Those Honourable Members who are for it will please raise up their hands."

The President found that 61 members were *for* the question being then put and 9 *against*.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"I shall now put the main question to the Council. The main resolution is—

"That this Council recommends to the Government that a committee of this Council be appointed, representatives so far as possible of all the interests concerned, to scrutinise the proposals for the revision of salaries of non-gazetted officers which have been submitted to the Government of India and to make recommendations to the Government regarding them and the village officers and regarding the provision of any further funds, the voting of which may be involved by their adoption, the committee to be appointed and to commence its sittings at once and to make recommendations or at least an interim report within such time as may be fixed having regard to the dates appointed for the consideration of the budget."

A poll was taken and the result was as under:—

Ayes.

1. The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson.
2. The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter.
3. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur.
4. The Hon'ble Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
5. The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. Subbarayulu Reddiyar.
6. The Hon'ble Mr. P. Ramarayaningar.
7. The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. Venkatareddi Nayudu.
8. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar.
9. ,, A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar.
10. ,, F. J. Richards.
11. ,, P. Subbarayan.
12. ,, E. Periyanayagam.
13. ,, K. Adinarayana Reddi.
14. ,, S. R. Y. Ankinedu Prasad Bahadur.
15. ,, R. Appaswami Nayudu.
16. ,, V. Appaswami Vandayar.
17. Diwan Bahadur C. Arunachala Mudaliyar.
18. Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu.
19. Mr. B. P. Devarajulu Nayudu.
20. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar.
21. Rao Sahib P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu.
22. Mr. K. Gopalakrishnayya.
23. ,, K. P. Gopala Menon.
24. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar.
25. Mr. J. Kuppuswami.
26. ,, B. Munuswami Nayudu.
27. ,, A. T. Muthukumaraswami Chettiyar.
28. ,, C. V. S. Narasimha Raju.
29. Sir P. Tyagaraya Chetti.
30. Mr. M. Narayanaswami Reddi.
31. Rao Bahadur A. Parasurama Patro.
32. Mr. C. Ponnuswami Nayudu.
33. ,, P. T. Rajan.
34. ,, T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar.
35. Rao Bahadur A. Ramayya Punja.
36. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.
37. ,, K. Sarabha Reddi.
38. ,, W. P. A. Saundara Pandya Nadar.
39. ,, S. T. Shunmugam Pillai.
40. ,, N. A. V. Somasundaram Pillai.
41. ,, S. Somasundaram Pillai.
42. ,, T. Somasundara Mudaliyar.
43. ,, A. Subbarayudu.
44. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu.
45. Mr. A. Tangavelu Nayagar.
46. ,, T. C. Tangavelu Pillai.
47. ,, O. Tanikachala Chettiyar.
48. Rao Bahadur C. Venkataranga Reddi.
49. Diwan Bahadur R. Venkataratnam Nayudu.
50. Mr. P. Venkatasubba Rao.
51. ,, W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyarl.
52. ,, M. C. Raja.
53. ,, L. C. Guruswami.
54. ,, R. T. Kesavulu Pillai.
55. ,, M. C. Madurai Pillai.
56. ,, G. Vandanam.
57. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai.
58. Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu.
59. Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar.

Ayes—cont.

60. Sriman Biswanath Das.
61. Diwan Bahadur T. Desika Achariyar.
62. Diwan Bahadur L. A. Govindaraghava Ayyar.
63. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu.
64. Mr. S. Muthumanikkachari.
65. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhacharlu.
66. Mr. K. V. Ramachari.
67. Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. Rama Rao.
68. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao.
69. Mr. Sasibhushana Rath.
70. Diwan Bahadur D. Seshagiri Rao Pantulu.
71. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar.
72. ,, P. Siva Rao.
73. ,, C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar.
74. ,, M. D. Devadoss.
75. ,, S. Arpudaswami Udaiyar.
76. Rai Sahib E. M. Mascarenhas.
77. Mr. A. T. Palmer.
78. The Raja of Ramnad.
79. Sri Meka V. Apparao Bahadur.
80. The Zamindar of Mandasa.
81. Mr. J. A. Richardson.
82. ,, A. Y. G. Campbell.
83. Abbas Ali Khan Bahadur.
84. Saiyid Diwan Abdul Razaak Sahib Bahadur.
85. Khan Sahib Muhammad Abdur Rahman Sahib Bahadur.
86. Munshi Muhammad Abdur Rahman Sahib Bahadur.
87. Ahmed Miran Sahib Bahadur.
88. Abdul Quasim Beary Sahib Bahadur.
89. K. K. Koya Sahib Bahadur.
90. Hamid Sultan Marakkayar Sahib Bahadur.
91. Quadir Nawaz Khan Sahib Bahadur.
92. Saiyid Muhammad Badsha Sahib Bahadur.
93. A. P. I. Saiyid Ibrahim Ravuttar.
94. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
95. Diwan Bahadur Govindoss Chathurbujadoss.
96. Mr. A. M. MacDougal.
97. Rao Sahib P. Venkatarangayya.
98. Dr. Gilbert Slater.

Ninety-eight voted *for* the resolution and none *against*.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"I declare the resolution carried unanimously."

Exodus to the hills.

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"I beg to propose : 'that this Council recommends to the Government that the annual exodus to the hills may be discontinued from the current year.

"Sir, the arguments advanced against the annual exodus are all quite familiar. The Government retire to the hills for about six months in the year. They may be doing some work there but they cannot be said to be there in touch with the people. And then the expenditure incurred by this exodus works up to a considerable figure. No doubt compared to the actual revenue, the percentage may be low. But the actual amount is considerable. The budget is not given in one figure but is distributed under various heads, hill allowances, travelling allowances, grants for communication and so many other things, all of which ought to be taken into consideration. Only the other day the proposal to pay from provincial funds in full the salary of the Chairman of the Ootacamund Municipal Council was sanctioned by Government on the ground that Ootacamund is the sub-capital of Madras, and then also there are several grants made by Government to the Ootacamund Municipal Council and the Nilgiri District Board on the ground that the Government goes to the Nilgiris. So, Mr. President, I beg to submit that at a time when we are looking forward to economy in all possible directions, this continuance of the exodus is out of the question. It comes to this : that only a few people like to go there, i.e., Members and Secretaries and their establishments, and for their sake the whole Government is transferred to the Nilgiris for a considerable part of the year. And with regard to this, the arguments advanced on the other side in favour of the exodus, so far as I can make out, are not convincing. That more efficient work is turned out is the main argument advanced. Well, Sir, want of touch between the public and the Government should go a very long way to make that efficient work inefficient. Then also it is said by the European firms that they are able to carry on their work as efficiently in Madras as anywhere else. They do not feel any difficulty in carrying on their work. The Board of Revenue is here in Madras all the time and it is not proposed, according to the efficiency theory of the

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Government, that all the officers of that department should be taken to the Nilgiris for six months in a year. It may be said that the heat in summer is severe on the plains. I do not think that any one would argue that every gentleman who comes out to India is to be allowed to go to the hills for six months in a year. Even in regard to the heads of departments retirement for six months to the hills is not necessary, but they can go and make a stay for two months in the year, just as the Surgeon-General or other Presidency officers do. Some arrangement can easily be made. With regard to this matter there is no very serious argument put forward on the other side for the continuance of this system of annual exodus. I must say that in this case Europeans and Indians agree that the exodus should be stopped at the earliest possible date.

"Chambers of Commerce also have taken that view. There is one matter to which I want to refer and that is an article written to the *Madras Mail* by an Indian gentleman regarding the question of exodus which appeared to me inspired. On the next day, the announcement of the Government was made."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"I do not know whether the Honourable Member, in saying that the announcement in the *Madras Mail* was inspired, means that it was inspired by Government. If so, I must repudiate that insinuation."

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"I do not understand."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"I stated that I did not know whether the Honourable Member, in saying that the announcement in the *Madras Mail* was inspired, meant to say that it was inspired by Government. I beg to know what right he had to make that statement."

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"I am only referring to a certain article in the *Madras Mail*. I do not know who wrote it. It said that Government might very well reduce the period of exodus to three months and, the personnel of the exodus to His Excellency the Governor, the Executive Councillors and Secretaries who might go to the hills with such establishment as might be necessary. The next day Government announced by means of a communique that this is so.

"His Excellency was telling us that he was going to be as much in touch with the popular part of the Government (I do not say it is unpopular) as with the executive portion of it. If, as is proposed, the Executive Councillors alone are going to the hills along with the Government, it means that His Excellency will be not only out of touch with public opinion but will be also out of touch with the Ministers.

"I will make my position clear. This is a question that has been considered year after year and we should come to some sort of final arrangement in the matter. This is a representative Council and it is expected to meet much oftener than the old Council. In the old Council we used to have meetings at long intervals. There was a meeting in April last year and the next was in November. One argument that was put forward against more frequent meetings was that the Government was on the hills and that it was not possible to arrange for meetings. I believe that during the last year or two it was possible for the Members of the Government and other officers to come down from the hills to Madras and they felt a lot of inconvenience in being called upon to do so. Also last year His Excellency had to come down once a month so that he might be in touch with the public

opinion. All this shows that the time has come when the exodus should not be continued and when the Government ought to remain at headquarters throughout the year. If they go to the hills at all, it should be only for a few days or weeks; else they would have to carry an establishment thither. If the establishment were left behind and they went for a long time, papers would have to go from here and that would mean a long delay. On these grounds I beg to submit that the exodus should be put an end to."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I as one who has given notice of a similar proposition, have the honour to second this proposition. My Hon'ble friend Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar has given various reasons to show as to why at least now if not earlier the exodus should be put an end to. I was talking to a European friend a few days ago who in conclusion agreed with me. He wanted to argue from the point of view of the Government. One of the points urged by the Government for this exodus is that important questions are being decided by the Government and if the weather is very hot the brains of these Honourable gentlemen at the head of Government will not be able to work so as to come to a decisive and satisfactory conclusion on these important points and that therefore they wanted a cool atmosphere on the Nilgiris to enable them to consider the matter and come to some conclusion on all matters relating to the welfare of 40 millions of this Presidency. So far as that is concerned, I would say that the Honourable Members of the Board have also to deal with important questions and it has not till now been suggested that they must also have the cool atmosphere to decide important points.

"There is another place where very important decisions are taken, where even the well-considered opinion of the Government is set aside, or considered and approved. That is the High Court. They have no long holidays at all in the year except the summer vacation for two months. The learned Judges of the High Court who decide important cases, the learned vakils and barristers who argue upon various points of importance do not decide or argue these questions in the cool atmosphere of the Nilgiris. My colleague from Coimbatore has said that there is no necessity hereafter for His Excellency and the Members of the Government to have recourse to these hills because they will have to be in touch with the local opinion and public opinion here as well as the various subordinate officers. There is also one other point to be urged that it will not be necessary for a large number of subordinate officials being taken to the hills. We are told that telephonic communication is soon to be put up between Madras and the Nilgiris so that all important matters might be easily talked to His Excellency at the hills by the other Members of Government though they stop in Madras. Also we are told of the fact that an aeroplane is intended to be purchased for the benefit of His Excellency and his subordinates which might take him from Ootacamund to Madras in a few hours, if necessary. I am of course in an unfortunate position of not knowing as to what the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter has to say on this point. Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar referred to an article in the *Madras Mail*. A point of order was raised by the Hon'ble the Finance Member which shows that it was not inspired by Government and probably the Government does not approve of the scheme of leaving the Ministers at Madras and other Members of Government alone going to Ootacamund. I think in any case the point raised by Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar shows that the Ministers should not be left here and other Members of the Government alone go to the hills, so as to create a distinction between the Ministers and the other Cabinet Members.

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"I shall therefore very strongly say that from every point of view both from the question of economic point of view and of public utility there is absolutely no necessity why money should be wasted upon this exodus.

"There is one other point yet. We have been so kind to the non-gazetted officers. Several of them have to be taken to the Nilgiris. It may be said that they get allowance. People with children studying in schools cannot take their children to Ootacamund. We know what all it means—an establishment at Madras and an establishment at the hills. An establishment at Ootacamund means double the cost of the establishment at Madras. So I think the present Government constituted as it is on popular representative lines may accept this proposition that there need not be any exodus of the Government. Of course individual members may go and have the cooler atmosphere. With these few words I have the honour to second the proposition."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"Mr. President, when this matter was discussed at some considerable length in this Council last year though the resolution moved on the subject was defeated, we all agreed that the permanent decision in the matter must be for the new and enlarged Government and the new and enlarged Council. The trend of the debate, however, had several points of interest. On the side of maintaining the exodus for a period of six months was the experience of Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar and Mr. V. K. Ramanuja Achariyar, while Mr. Yaqub Hasan added his testimony to its advantages. There was no member who was prepared to deny the Members of the Government any period of recess, while several members put forward the specific proposition that the recess should be limited to three months and confined to the Members of the Government with a minimum staff. This attitude of mind was possibly influenced by the fact, which I think is a factor in the position, that under a Statute of George III, Members of the Government, like the Governor, are allowed no leave during their term of office except on period of sick leave and that under most stringent conditions.

"The period of the recess which the majority of the speakers proposed was the same as that proposed in an amendment moved during the debate of 10 years before.

"As I have said, the final decision in the matter was left to the enlarged Government and the enlarged Council. I do not know how far more this democratic body will be disposed to repeat the views of its predecessors in 1910 and 1920, but I am authorised to say that, as far as the enlarged Government go, they are very much of the opinion expressed by the majority of the speakers in last year's debate, that is to say, their proposal is this : that during the recess of the Council, His Excellency the Governor will take up his residence at Ootacamund and will summon Members and Ministers for Cabinet meetings and otherwise as he may see fit. Under this arrangement, a Secretariat staff with a minimum of establishment will transact business at Ootacamund, but the period of their residence on the Hills will be limited to three months.

"This conclusion will, I think, be found to represent as nearly as may be the opinion of the main body of the members who opposed the exodus in the years 1910 and 1920, and I hope that it will commend itself to the members of the present Council."

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS :—"I think, Sir, after the Finance Member has given the view of the Government we may have this resolution dropped. I remember the discussion that took place last year, and I for one thought that if the Government would confine the exodus to three months it would meet with the wishes of all the

members present and also meet the requirements of the Members of the Government. Sir, the Members of the Government have seen their way to cut short the period of exodus and we trust that they will only take as few clerks as possible consistently with the needs of the work that may have to be transacted there. That being so, I would ask the honourable members, both the mover and the seconder, to drop this resolution as well as the next."

Diwan Bahadur Sir P. TYAGARAYA CHETTI :—"Mr. President, the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter has explained the position of the Government, and I think it does not much differ from what the honourable mover and the seconder have said. No doubt the question of three months is there. His Excellency is not going to take all the staff there but only a few members of the staff who are absolutely necessary. I think under these circumstances Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar and the seconder will withdraw the resolutions."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"If Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar has no objection I have no objection to give this scheme a trial for a few years."

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"If only the Secretaries that are most needed, and the minimum establishment were taken, I have no objection, and I will accept it."

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"Is the mover withdrawing?"

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Yes. In case it is accepted."

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"Has the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter anything to say?"

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"I am afraid I cannot commit the Government to anything more definite than what I have already stated. Under this arrangement the Secretariat staff with a minimum of establishment will transact business at Ootacamund. I should explain that it is not the case of one Member (or one Minister) and one Secretary, but there are various Secretaries and their staff, and it is impossible to say that any particular Secretary will not be wanted. And if Secretaries were to be running up and down the hill, that would cost more than all coming up for three months. Therefore I am unable to give any definite undertaking that any particular section will be left behind."

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"Does the mover accept the assurance of the Honourable Member?"

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Yes. We may try that for some time. We also rely on the assurance that only the minimum establishment that is necessary will be taken."

Resolution No. 10 was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I withdraw my resolution also."

Resolution No. 11 was by leave withdrawn.

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, some of the Honourable Members are thinking of lunch and you call upon me to propose the resolution that stands in my name."

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"I understand that the Council will adjourn definitely at 3-30 p.m. without any break."

VOICES—"Yes, yes."

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"Then you can have no lunch. You may speak."

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The abolition of the Board of Revenue.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu :—" Mr. Deputy President, I now beg leave of this Council to place before them a resolution of some importance and which runs as follows :—

'12 *That this Council recommends to the Government that the Board of Revenue be abolished and that the Collectors be left to deal directly with Government.*'

" The Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter in dealing with the pay and prospects of non-gazetted officers and village officers suggested that unless there are drastic reforms in our methods of administration, it will be impossible to finance this province. I entirely agree with him, and now I ask for his co-operation in getting rid of one of the cog wheels in the machinery of the administration of this province. Now in regard to this matter, it is unnecessary that I should take up your time in placing before you the duties which appertain to the Members of the Board of Revenue. This institution was established in or about the year 1794. But the Act constituting the Board of Revenue is the Regulation of 1803. By this Regulation the general superintendence of the revenue administration of this province is committed to this body. You will easily realize the state of things when this institution came into existence and the state of things at the present day. There were no communications at that time such as those that we have now at the present day, when a Member of the Government can reach any part of this province with comparative comfort both by railways and other means of communications which are now available. It was very possible in those days that a subordinate body, to assist the Government to go about, inspect and investigate and find out many matters for the Government, was necessary. Things have changed considerably. Therefore that is one aspect of the matter that I should like to place before you. The second point is that the question of the abolition of the Board of Revenue came up for consideration more than once. The last time when this subject was taken up was when the Royal Commission on Decentralization sat in this country. The question was then gone into and it was ultimately decided so far as this province was concerned, that the abolition of the Board was inadvisable. As Honourable Members are aware, in every province in this country, either there is a Board of Revenue or in provinces where there is no Board of Revenue, there is a corresponding authority under the designation of Financial Commissioner. After these reforms have been introduced Honourable Members would have noticed that in other provinces Members of the Councils have taken up the question as to whether there is any longer a necessity for the continuance of the Board of Revenue. In the United Provinces the question is already engaging the attention of the Council. In the Central Provinces the Government have brought forward a Bill for the abolition of the post of the Financial Commissioner. Honourable Members will see that these steps are being taken in view of the expansion of the Government, the Executive Councils of the provinces. In this province there are now four Members of the Executive Council. In other provinces also similar changes have been made. In view of these altered circumstances, the question for consideration is whether there is need any longer for the continuance of the Board of Revenue. I respectfully submit to you that there is no need for its continuance any longer. The Royal Commission on Decentralization stated that if and when the Executive Council of this province is expanded, so far as the Revenue administration is concerned, the executive Government, the Members of the Council, should directly deal with land revenue administration. I would invite the attention of the Council to that paragraph of their report. It is as follows :—' Were the Madras Government to remain on its present footing, we

should not be inclined to recommend any material modification of the existing system which has long been established and with which the public seem to be generally satisfied. Moreover, we consider it of distinct advantage to the Commissioners of Excise and Settlement, who in the present circumstances are Members of the Board of Revenue. Their presence there facilitates administration in these matters and prevents undue specialisation'. They go on to state further, 'if'—and this is the portion to which I would invite your special attention—'if, however, as we consider advisable on other grounds, the Executive Council of the province should be expanded'—as I believe it has been—'we think that it would be then perfectly possible for the local Government to take into its own hands the direct co-ordination and control of the revenue administration and such matters as the general charge of forest and abkari'. I am bringing this to the notice of the Council to show that so far as the land revenue is considered, the question is beyond dispute. I shall presently deal with the other functions of the Board. Here we have a clear recommendation of a responsible commission appointed by the Secretary of State to the effect that when the Executive Government of this province is expanded, land revenue administration should be directly dealt with by the local Government. I submit respectfully to you that we have now a Land Revenue Member, and this is just the time when this change which has been contemplated by the Royal Commission should take place. The second circumstance on which I lay great stress is the fact that the post of Forest Member of the Board of Revenue, which was created for the purpose of supervising the forest administration, is no longer necessary. Some time ago you will remember that the Forest Committee went into the whole question of forest administration and as a consequence of its recommendation especially for the purpose of introducing a change in the method of administration, a Chief Conservator of Forests, as head of the department, has been created."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"No, not in consequence of it."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson, who knows much more about the subject than I do, says that it is not in consequence of the recommendations of the Forest Committee that the Chief Conservator's post has been created. All that I can say is that the President of the Committee, Mr. Horne, who was the Forest Member of the Board of Revenue, told me in our deliberations that this is the change which he was recommending to the Government, though he did not like to incorporate it in the report."

At this stage the Hon'ble the President took the presidential chair.

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"I take it whether it was in consequence of the written report or not, the fact remains that the change, namely, that the Forest Department should be placed under an expert head from the department itself has now been made. And I submit to you that therefore another member of the Board ought to go. In fact, I might perhaps refer to you the statement of the case by the Madras Government on the last occasion in defence of its proposal for the retention of the Board of Revenue. In that statement they lay special stress on the fact that the Board should continue on its present basis because one of the members is engaged continually in the supervision of the forest department. Now, Sir, that the Chief Conservator has been appointed, I submit that there is no longer any necessity for the retention of that member of the Board of Revenue who has been dealing with forest questions. Now, after the constitution of this Conservator of Forests when I was in the Minto-Morely Council, I continually pressed upon the Government for the abolition of the Forest Member from the Board. It was always stated that the matter was under consideration. It continues

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to be under consideration up to date. It was yesterday, I think, that some reference was made to the tendency of political parties to find places for political supporters. Now, I affirm in this Council that it is the tendency of the Civil Service to maintain its prizes, and the continuance of this office of the Board of Revenue on its present basis is due to this tendency, and I say that with particular emphasis because no steps, so far as I know, have been taken to examine the need for the continuance of this office."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter :—" Does the Honourable Member refer to the Forest Member? May I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that the Forest Member of the Board of Revenue was abolished long ago?"

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu :—" All that I say is that the member is continuing there, but does not do forest work. It means that the four members are there, that other duties have been found for them. I thought the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter could have understood me perfectly well. I submit to the House that there is nothing to do for the Forest Member while other departments are found for him and there is a readjustment of work. Now, Sir, as regards the question of income-tax, the duties relating to income-tax are now performed by one of the members of the Board of Revenue, but I take it that under present circumstances this officer would be on the Imperial establishment. During the last two years honourable members will also remember that agriculture was transferred from the Board for direct administration by the Government. The department of Co-operation, which was administered by the Board of Revenue, is now directly dealt with by the Government, and I ask you in the face of these broad facts, namely, when there is this recommendation, when this executive Government of this province is expanded and land revenue should be directly administered by the local Government, in view of the fact that there is a new head for the Forest Department and that matters relating to forest are not dealt with in the Board of Revenue, and in view of the fact that a certain portion of the work of the Board of Revenue has been directly taken over by the Government, and also in view of the fact that the income-tax work is to be done by an officer on the Imperial establishment, whether the time is not come to take up this question of the abolition of the Board of Revenue. There is only one other matter to which I like to refer, and that is I should not be understood as denying the necessity to make certain consequential changes which require the examination of the question in a much more detailed manner than is possible in the Council, more especially in regard to the administration of separate revenue. It may be—I do not wish to commit myself to that position—it may be that on an examination of the whole question it may be necessary to have a head of a department in regard to the subjects grouped under separate revenue. But that is a matter on which I wish to be understood as neither denying nor affirming the necessity of such an officer at the present stage. But what I do respectfully submit is that the time has come for undertaking an investigation into the necessity of this institution. In regard to the last portion of this resolution, I should like to point out that Collectors should have opportunities hereafter of dealing directly with the Government in all questions in which they are now addressing the Board for orders. There is no necessity for the constitution of Divisional Commissioners. It would be fatal to our system of district administration to interpose Divisional Commissioners between Collectors and the Government. The Collector in this province is a much more responsible official than in any other province. Our districts are larger and the scheme of decentralization has proceeded farther in Madras than in any other province. Their powers are comparatively larger and the interposition

of a Divisional Commissioner in other provinces has dwarfed the Collector considerably, and there is a tendency on the part of the Collectors always to look forward to the Divisional Commissioner as an authority in all matters which legitimately should be disposed of by them. I do not believe that there is any necessity at all for any divisional commissioners in this presidency. The Collector goes to the Government direct in all matters except in those relating to land revenue, and if there is an Executive Council Member in charge of the group of subjects relating to land revenue, he would be able to deal with the Collectors in the same way in which the Board has been dealing with the matter now. During recent years Collectors' conferences have also been held at the instance of Government. It was said that the Board is a useful authority for co-ordinating official information and advising district officers. But I believe some of the policy of the Government is now communicated to the Collectors when the Collectors' conferences are held. Therefore, looking at the question from any standpoint, I submit to the House that the first step of reform, which this new Council ought to undertake, is the abolition of the Board of Revenue. In the statement of the case before the Royal Commission it was stated that the Board of Revenue is popular with all classes of people. In the minds of average persons the Board is always regarded as an authority which declines to interfere in any matter. In regard to religious and charitable institutions, in regard to which the Board is an authority, it has entirely failed to fulfil its function. The question has been brought up in this Council several times and it was acknowledged in this Council that the Board has done nothing and that it had neglected its duties in regard to the supervision of these institutions. In regard to financial matters the Board has no powers. It has some powers of supervision; it has some powers of patronage, and these may well be exercised by the local Government. Let us all try to abolish useless offices in this province for the purpose of finding funds for which the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter is so struggling.

"I now move the resolution—

'That this Council recommends to the Government that the Board of Revenue be abolished and that the Collectors be left to deal directly with the Government.'"

Mr. P. Siva Rao:—"Sir, a similar resolution stands in my name. Without taking the time of the Council over again, I have decided to second the resolution which has been now moved by the Hon'ble member, Mr. Ramachandra Rao. I may say that for the last two or three years I have been moving resolutions having the same object, the abolition of the body known as the Board of Revenue. And I have been interpellating Government at more than one meeting whether it is not desirable to abolish the Board of Revenue. And the Government have been replying to me that the matter was engaging their close consideration until at last in the reply that was given at the present meeting, the Government stated that the proposal had been abandoned for the present and so we feel it all the more necessary to move this resolution formally before this Council. And this discussion is, in my humble opinion, very opportune. We are at our wit's end to find money for so many useful purposes, for the enhanced salaries of non-gazetted officers and village officers, for the development of industries, for spreading elementary education, and so forth. Now, any useful solution of these financial difficulties would be welcome at this juncture, and I seriously put it to the Finance Member whether this is not one of the ways and means for the solution of the problem. The issue before the House is whether this Board of Revenue is a necessity or a superfluity at the present time. Whatever may be said of the state of things at the time when the Decentralization Commission sat and deliberated on this matter, the same conditions do not prevail now. The

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Council has recently been expanded and the Secretariat has more recently been strengthened. We have to take our stand on the present situation of affairs in order to arrive at a comprehensive view of the whole situation. When the Commission considered this question, we probably, if I remember right, had an Executive Council of two members, and then they said—if not, they broadly hinted—that it was quite possible to look forward to the time when the Board might be absorbed in the Governor-in-Council system. There is a footnote saying that they also contemplated the addition of an Indian Member to the then Executive Councils. This is what they say in paragraph 474 : " If, however, as we consider it feasible on every ground, the Executive Council of the province "—they were speaking specially of this province—" should be expanded, we think that it would then be perfectly feasible for the local Government, assisted by Special Commissioners of Salt, Excise, and Settlement, to take into its own hands the practical co-ordination and control of the revenue administration and of such matters as the general charge of the forest." Then in another place they observe : " We consider it to be a useful makeshift, pending the more complete absorption of the Board into a Governor-in-Council system." So, Sir, they clearly contemplated a time or state of things when it would be possible to abolish the Board of Revenue and to confer all its present powers on the Government themselves. And now, we shall see what are the functions of the present Board of Revenue.

" It has already been stated in one of the replies to one of the interpellations that the Agriculture, Co-operation and Veterinary departments, which formed the subjects of the Board of Revenue, have since been taken off, and it is also stated for our information that the Forest, which used to be managed by the Board of Revenue, has since been taken away from its control, and we have the new Conservator of Forests who apparently looks after the whole forest administration. Now, the subjects that remain in the hands of the Board of Revenue are Land Revenue, Settlement and Land Records, Salt, Excise, Income-tax and Stamps, and there are also minor functions attached to this Board of Revenue ; for instance, they form the Court of Wards, and they have also some appellate powers under certain Revenue Acts ; for instance, the Madras Village Officers' Act. Now, we shall just consider whether all this work cannot be done by the Government direct with the strength of the expanded Secretariat. We have now a Land Revenue Member, and I may at once say that where we had only three Executive Council Members, now we have four Executive Council Members and three Ministers, and where we had four or five Secretaries, we have got an addition of 3 *plus* 3 or six Secretaries added to the Secretariat. We have got the new Financial Secretary, we have got the new additional Revenue Secretary, we have got a new Legislative Secretary, we have got three more Secretaries whose salaries we voted for yesterday, and so it becomes necessary for us to review the whole situation and to consider seriously whether it is not possible for the Government to assume direct control over matters such as Excise. Excise, I may observe, is a transferred subject. Now, the Minister with the help of his own Secretary will be quite able to manage his department without the necessity of an intermediary body like the Board of Revenue. Considering the matter from all aspects, I think I must unhesitatingly say that there is absolutely no necessity for an intermediary body like the Board of Revenue. I am not concerned with the popularity of the Board or with the question whether it has hitherto inspired or commanded the confidence of the public or not. Even if it has inspired the confidence of the public, my attitude is still the same. On the ground of retrenchment and public economy I want that these establishments should cease. I am also quite alive to the fact that

the Decentralization Commission, when speaking of the Province of Madras, contemplated that, if the strength of the Executive Council were to be enhanced, it was quite possible to abolish the Board of Revenue, but they stuck to the idea that even then there would be a necessity, or it would be necessary, to appoint some Divisional Commissioners. Now there is absolutely no need for Divisional Commissioners. The District Collector is quite competent to run his district. It may be said, on the other hand, that this step would result in over-centralization of the district administration. Now the district administration is gradually brought under popular control. There is a Legislative Council in which there are representatives from every district. Each district in the Presidency has got at least two minimum representatives. Now they from their places in the Legislative Council will be the supervising body. They are best fitted to look after the interests of the district administration without any help whatever of any officers of the class of Divisional Commissioners. One word just before I close. I was asked about the Income-tax Commissioner's duties. Now it has become an Imperial head, an all-India head. Whether they are going to continue the Income-tax Commissioner or not, I think in fairness his pay should be debited to Imperial funds. I am only concerned with the other members of the Board of Revenue for whose existence there is absolutely no case made out. I may also ask, as regards the Court of Wards, 'Cannot some member of the Government supervise it directly, and why should we leave it to the Board of Revenue at all?' As regards the appellate jurisdiction, I would suggest that instead of the Board of Revenue being made the appellate authority in such matters, we may very well bring about some amendment to the effect that such cases might be dealt with in regular courts. It is not necessary that we should have the Board of Revenue to sit in appellate judgment or hear second appeals in cases arising under the Village Officers' Act.

"Now, Sir, I have to sum up. There is absolutely no necessity for the continuance of the Board of Revenue. Now that the Council has been expanded and the Secretariat has been strengthened, and this bit of reform, this bit of retrenchment, is proposed, I hope it will specially appeal to the Hon'ble the Finance Member who seems to have got the same identical interest with us, non-officials."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur:—"Mr. President, generally it falls to my lot to have to answer resolutions which are merely works of destruction without anything like a substitute in the shape of construction. Yesterday we were asked to scotch away the settlement principles and to-day we have been asked to abolish the Board of Revenue without any suggestion whatsoever as to what should take the place of the Board of Revenue and how that bulk and quantity of work that is being administered by the Board of Revenue, not merely of an administrative nature but of a statutory nature as well, should be conducted. I have certainly listened to the interesting history given by the Honourable Member who moved the resolution in regard to the establishment of the Board of Revenue. He is not far wrong when he says that it was established somewhere in the year 1780; as a matter of fact, it was established in 1786. But ever since its establishment I may assure the House that this question of the substitution of the Board of Revenue by other machinery has always engaged the attention of the Local Government. Its attention was directed for the first time, as I am able to glean from the old records, so early as 1831. That was followed up by subsequent enquiries and investigations which seemed to have been periodically conducted until probably to the last time covered by the period of the report of the Decentralization Commission. But on no occasion, Sir,

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was it seriously contended that the Board of Revenue might go, but that it should leave no trace behind it at all. The whole question then was whether the Board of Revenue could well be substituted by what is known as the Divisional Commissioners in other provinces of India. Well, somehow or other we felt, and rightly felt, that the substitution of Divisional Commissioners in the place of the Board of Revenue would not at all tend to anything like an improvement in the efficiency of the district administration. We are not at all enamoured of the system in vogue in other provinces. We considered the results and we were quite satisfied that the work turned out by the Board of Revenue was far better than the work that would be turned out under altered conditions. For we felt that the creation of an intermediary between the Government and the District Collectors of an inferior degree would certainly not be desirable. Well this question, as I say, has come up for discussion from time to time until as I pointed out, it ended with the discussion at the time of the Decentralization Commission. But I may at once assure the House, Sir, that although we have accustomed ourselves to call that institution by the name of the Board of Revenue, in practice it is not an aggregation of the various individuals doing anything like a consultative work between them, but it is merely an aggregation of heads of departments, each one of whom is in independent charge of certain departments that are entrusted to him for administration. We have got in the first place what we call the Commissioner of the Settlement who is also in charge of Survey, Maintenance and Famine. We have got what we call the Commissioner of Land Revenue to whom is also confided the care of the Court of Wards. We have also what we call the Commissioner of Separate Revenue to whom is also confided the duty of an Inam Commissioner, and we have now what we call the Commissioner of Income-tax. Now, the only question, therefore, is if these different heads of Presidency departments are made to disappear, how is the work to be done? It has been suggested, and suggested very lightly I should say, that if these go away, the Collectors might be made to deal with Government direct. In other words, the Member in charge of Land Revenue will have to convert himself into what until now the Commissioner of Land Revenue has been; and that the former will have to sit from day to day, days in and days out, for the purpose of hearing all the appeals which, under the Statute, the Commissioner of Land Revenue is now authorised to hear. Not only that, Sir, it will also devolve on the Land Revenue Member the responsibility of directly supervising the work of the Collectors in the land revenue administration of the various districts, that the Land Revenue Member shall have to devote not less than some period of his time for the purpose of touring round the Presidency and finding out for himself how the Collectors of districts are doing their work, and above all, Sir, he will be the only functionary for the purpose of exercising what one would call direct supervision and control over the work of the Collectors.

"Now, looking to the statistics, Sir, I don't wish to bother the Council with anything like a narration of the statistics from the year 1786 when the Board of Revenue was constituted but all that I would urge as a relevant factor will be that looking at the statistics we find that in the year 1919, for which I have been able to secure accurate figures, the departmental heads whom we have been accustomed to call as Board of Revenue, have disposed of no less than a thousand appeals under the various enactments in force and they had to deal with a volume of correspondence not less than 55,000 in number. Now is it easy to conceive that the Member in charge of Land Revenue who would in that case have to deal with the work that is now being turned out by both the Commissioners—I mean the Commissioner of Settlement and the Commissioner of Land Revenue, for he is in

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charge of Settlement, Land Revenue and Irrigation as well—whether it will be possible for the Government Member in charge of Land Revenue to take direct control of the whole work that is now being done by two different functionaries called the Commissioner of Settlement and the Commissioner of Land Revenue? It is to be remembered that the Settlement has got a large staff to control, and as regards Land Revenue, I need not tell the House what a large establishment that again is. Now, are we running our machineries here in such a fearfully extravagant manner that they call for an immediate retrenchment? Are we tolerating the Board of Revenue here in such a way that we are saddling the country with an expenditure far more than what other provinces are doing, or are we unique by ourselves in the institution called the Board of Revenue, and have all other provinces already trained their Members of the Executive Councils to take direct charge of the district administration without anything like an intermediary? I have got a few figures, Sir, which I shall place before the Council and which will convince the Council that Madras of all others is the cheapest in that direction. We begin with the United Provinces. They have got two Members of the Board of Revenue, nine Commissioners of divisions, one Commissioner of *Coonum* as they call it, and one Commissioner of Excise, all told 13, as against 3 that we have got in the Madras Province.

"Bihar which was satisfied with only two members of the Executive Council the other day because of its smallness has got a Board of Revenue which is given the glorified appellation of Board of Revenue with one member—presumably it still wants to retain the sacred designation of the Board of Revenue—one Commissioner for Excise and five Commissioners of divisions.

"Then we have got the Punjab. We have no Board of Revenue there. They have got two Financial Commissioners and five Commissioners of divisions. We have next got Bengal where also the Council has been amply expanded, consisting of four members and three ministers. Even there, Sir, we have got one Board of Revenue, one Excise Commissioner and five Commissioners of divisions. In Bombay, from which we have got much to learn—of which our present Governor was the Governor—we have got four Commissioners, one Commissioner separately for Sind, one Commissioner of Excise and one Director of Land Records. So far as we are concerned, we have not thus behaved extravagantly. The three members of the Board of Revenue whom we have got here compare very favourably with the huge machinery which other provinces are maintaining. Our Board has been run on the most economical lines. But let me at the same time say that we have effected considerable reform since the year 1887. Since the year 1887 we have taken away the consultative aspect of the Board as a Board. We have from that year forwards merely treated them as heads of the various departments and no more, and whenever the head of another department controlled by the Board was created, we took care to separate that department from the control by the Board of Revenue, instances of which my friend Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao has given, viz., the veterinary, agriculture and co-operative. Now our being asked to abolish the Board of Revenue without creating anything like a separate head for the various departments which they control would be somewhat of a big order to issue Am I going to be told that the next resolution which might be brought will be that all heads of departments should be abolished? If every honourable colleague of mine here, including the Ministers to my right, is in future going to agree to supervise these departments without the intermediary of heads of departments, I can very well understand it. There is the Director of Public Instruction who has got to supervise the whole of the educational machinery of the land and serve as an intermediary

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between the various officers of the Educational Department and the Minister in charge. There is the Surgeon-General who is an intermediary between the Government and the various officers of his department. Similarly I am treating my Commissioners—the Commissioner of Settlement and the Commissioner of Land Revenue—I am merely treating both these Commissioners as the heads of those departments which it is my privilege to control on behalf of the Government. They are merely intermediaries between me and the various officers of the departments for supervising their work, for co-ordinating their work, for placing every information at my disposal and for answering such questions as I may like to ask in regard to those departments.

"Now, Sir, let me also assure the House that this matter, even after its disposal as a result of the Decentralization Commission's report, did not escape the notice of the Madras Government. It was not burked or shelved after that but the matter continued to be under consideration. We have quite recently put ourselves into correspondence with the Government of India as to what further procedure should be adopted, what machinery should be substituted in the place of the Board of Revenue and how the work of this province may be conducted, if the Board of Revenue as a Board of Revenue should disappear. I may tell the House, Sir, that I have no authority to publish the correspondence that is still going on between this Government and the Government of India. All the same I can tell them this much that there is this correspondence between us and the Government of India. We are just at the present moment trying to evolve some scheme, if we can, for the purpose of carrying out the intention which has been present in our minds for a long time past, of doing away with the Board as a Board and substituting some other machinery which would be satisfactory for the conduct of the work. If we come to any such conclusion and before sending out to the Government of India our final opinion, I can assure the House that we would give the matter every publicity possible so that we may be benefited by the opinion and criticism which members of this House or anybody else may be willing to furnish on this matter. It will be of course fatal to the efficiency of the administration if a resolution is passed simply agreeing to the abolition of the Board of Revenue without at the same time creating another machinery to take its place, so that the work may go on as it has gone on in the past. To expect the Land Revenue Member to take direct control of the Settlement Department, the Land Revenue Department, the Survey Department, the Maintenance Department, the Famine Commissioner's work and the Inam Commissioner's work and various other items which are now being controlled by the Commissoners, would be, I repeat, far, far beyond the capacity of one individual to undertake. It may be that others in my position might not have pleaded that inability so clearly as I do. But so long as I happen to be the occupant of that place, I must certainly say that it will be impossible for any member of Government to undertake the direct control and supervision of such huge and technical departments like those which are now supervised by the Board of Revenue and which constitute the portfolio of the Land Revenue Member.

"Then, Sir, reference was made to the increase of the Secretariat and an appeal was made to the Honourable the First Minister, I think, as to why he should not take over control of the Salt and Abkari Department, inasmuch as there has been a good addition to the Secretariat. All that I can say would be that there has been no addition whatsoever to the Secretariat excepting presumably the Financial Secretary. The only addition now made as a result of the reform was the creation of the Financial Secretary. Of course, my Hon'ble colleague Mr. C. G. Todhunter will be able to assure you that it is by no means a sinecure post but that it carries

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a lot of responsibility, and that the Secretary has enough work to keep him engaged all day long. And then he is not merely in charge of what one would call a provincial subject but he is dealing also with the Government of India finance.

"Then as regards the possiblity of one single Minister taking direct control of the department which is at present being controlled by a Commissioner in the Board of Revenue in the Salt and Abkari Department, I should ask whether it would be possible for any Minister to undertake the responsibility of directly controlling the establishment which consists, I think, of no less than 8,000 men, which involves constant inspection of salt factories scattered throughout the presidency which I think are no less than 64 in number, and all salt tracts spread over the whole province. Now I ask, is it possible for any Minister to accept such a big order? Is it expected of us that we should agree to do more work than is humanly possible for any individual to do? Is it because of the fact that we are Indian Members of the Council that we are asked to take on our shoulders more work than it is humanly possible to do? Well, Mr. President, let me press upon the House the practical impossibility of our abolishing the Board of Revenue at once without simultaneously considering the other side of the question, that is to say, as to how if the Board is abolished the work that is being done by the Board can be otherwise arranged with due regard to efficiency and expedition. Now, Sir, if some such scheme can be devised, and if any of the honourable members put that scheme into the hands of Government, I assure them on behalf of the Government that we will be glad to consider it. Before creating any such substitute I would beg of the House not to try to do away absolutely with the machine which has been working there since the year 1786 and without at the same time trying to substitute something else in its place."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR:—"My original idea was not to intervene in this debate at all, because it appeared to me that this question of the abolition of the Board of Revenue was one which was long before the public, on which the arguments that could be urged for the proposition have also been long before the public; and if the Government has not yet been able to accept the resolution, it is more or less due to the spirit of which I am sorry to say there is some evidence even in the speech of the Honourable the Revenue Member who evinced some kind of fondness for existing institutions and also an anxiety not to interfere with their nature and shape. But, Sir, the arguments that the Honourable the Revenue Member has advanced as to why the Board of Revenue should be kept intact have made me intervene in the debate. I think he will himself recognize that he has given us a number of arguments as to why Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao's resolution should be accepted. But so far as the statements of facts go, it is clear that the Board of Revenue no longer performs the functions that were assigned to it at the time when it was created. He himself has stated that instead of its doing work in a corporate capacity and as a corporate body, it has become a several body as it were, each Member having functions of his own and discharging them, so that I think it is an excellent reason why the Board of Revenue as it stands should go. Then again, Sir, no attempt has been made to explain away the resolution or rather the view of the Decentralization Commission, that when the councils have been expanded this question will require further examination. The only argument, so far as that part of the controversy went, which the Honourable the Revenue Member has advanced, is that there have been no constructive proposals on the part of Mr. Ramachandra Rao or others who agree with him as to how exactly the work that is being done now by the Board of Revenue should be performed in future. Now, Sir, with

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respect to that, the proper course will be to recognize the need for the abolition of the Board of Revenue; then to specify the functions for the performance of which arrangements should be made and to devise the necessary machinery for that purpose. It cannot be denied that Government is in a much better position to do it than any particular non-official private member.

"Now I wish to put my idea in a somewhat more concrete form. It will be noticed, as has been pointed out, that so far as medicine is concerned, there is the Surgeon-General who acts as the intermediary between the Government and the medical staff. It has been said that so far as education is concerned, there is the Director of Public Instruction serving as an intermediary between the Government and the Educational Department. Now, Sir, this is what I wish to urge in that connexion. Is the Director of Public Instruction paid as much as any of the Members of the Board of Revenue? Is the Surgeon-General paid anything so much as any of the Members of the Board of Revenue?"

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"Yes."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR:—"It may be so. But is it so with the Director of Public Instruction?

"Therefore you have to consider the proposal on its own merits and you then know what functions there are for an intermediary officer to discharge. You will be in a position to say what salary is to be assigned to his office when you consider the case on its own merits. The system that has been pursued is this: It is taken as an established proposition that the Board of Revenue must be maintained, that fresh work may be found for it or some may be taken away from it, but the maintenance of the Board of Revenue is to be an established part of the Madras Presidency. But that is exactly the view that this proposal is aimed against. And in fact the Honourable Member for Revenue has supplied enough reason for the proposal. He has told us that the matter is now under correspondence between the Government of India and the Provincial Government. He was of course at liberty not to publish any of that correspondence. I think it will rather strengthen the Government's case if this resolution is accepted, because it will show that inasmuch as in our capacity as members of the Council who have as much responsibility in giving advice and making recommendations as the Honourable Members who in response to the call of the King have come here to serve the country, our advice or recommendation may also carry some weight, provided of course one is satisfied that that recommendation has been made with a due sense of responsibility. One can, I think, in this case easily realize that when the suggestion was made that the Board of Revenue should be abolished, a great part of the case that is put for it has been admitted on the side of the Government itself. Mr. Ramachandra Rao himself has in the very careful arguments that he has advanced taken care to say that there may be a few departments in respect of which it may be that Government will have to provide a fresh machinery. It is not at all for a moment sought to minimise the importance of that aspect of the Honourable Member's suggestion, nor is it the intention of this House or of any member of it, that any member of Government should be asked to bear upon his broad shoulders any greater weight than has been borne by any of his predecessors or than is humanly possible. But what is urged is that such a burden as is legitimately undertaken by a person in the position of the Revenue Member may well include, particularly with the facilities and the opportunities of assistance that he now possesses, some portion of the work that is now being assigned to the Members of the Board of Revenue. Take for instance the department of Local Self-Government. There is direct communication,

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I take it, between this department and the Government and it is not the Board of Revenue that comes in to assist the Member in charge of that department. Now we want a system similar to that, so far as other departments are concerned, and if the volume of work that has to be done, whether by way of enunciation of policy or by way of direction and control, is such as is not possible for the Revenue Member or the particular Member of Government in charge of that department to do, he may be assisted in doing it by an intermediary such as the Hon'ble the Revenue Member has thought of. But this is a point which I submit has to be considered on its own merits, apart from the question whether the Board of Revenue is necessary or should go. I think the time has come when this House should say definitely that there is no place any longer for the Board of Revenue. The example of other provinces has been cited; and it has been pointed out that there, in addition to the Board of Revenue, you have Divisional Commissioners. What is it that is going to be done to the Board of Revenue? After the reforms have come into existence, as Mr. Ramachandra Rao has already pointed out, there is a proposal to abolish the Board of Revenue in the several provinces but as yet no final resolution has been adopted on it. It will not therefore be correct to refer to the example of those provinces and say that because you find this institution there even after the reforms have been introduced, you should have it here. Then, Sir, it has been pointed out that there are certain statutory enactments in which appeals to the Board of Revenue have been provided for and we are asked who should hear these appeals if the Board of Revenue is abolished. This is a pertinent question, but the Honourable Member knows as well as I do that the Board of Revenue has been selected not because the legislature had any particular fondness for the institution known as the Board of Revenue or that it was contemplated that the Board of Revenue and the Board of Revenue alone should do it. It merely provided certain machinery by which these appeals could be disposed of. As a matter of fact, in the state of things that the Honourable Member has described taking the business that is disposed of, it will be found that the number of appeals is very much smaller than those that were originally contemplated. That is, however, a small detail on which I do not want to lay any stress, but what I would suggest is this. If once we agree that the Board of Revenue as such should disappear, it will not be a work of any great difficulty to have these acts suitably amended so as to substitute in them other institutions for the Board of Revenue. So far as the hearing of appeals goes I am not sure whether some of these Acts are not so worded as to render amendment unnecessary even if the Board of Revenue ceased to exist. In these circumstances, when you find that much of the substantial portion of the work that was intended for the Board of Revenue has been taken off its hands, when you find what a costly establishment the Board of Revenue is, when you also find that the proper means of doing the work that can be said to legitimately belong to the Board of Revenue is to directly provide an intermediary wherever it may be needed in respect of particular departments, when you find that there is no necessity for the Board of Revenue to exist in the way in which it was orginally contemplated,—has not the time come for the Board of Revenue to cease to exist? I have not the slightest doubt that members of this House will consider very carefully, with the responsibility that ought to characterise their views, any proposals that the Government may make as to what precise institutions have to be created supposing the Board of Revenue goes. If I may say so, the Hon'ble the Revenue Member would have done better if he had told us what he would like to be done in the interests of some departments. It is obvious, that in respect of all the departments which are now supposed to be under the control of the Board of Revenue, intermediaries might not be required, and it is equally obvious that in respect of some

departments intermediaries would be required, in which case the proper course is to abolish the institution and provide the necessary intermediaries, and no more. I have not the slightest doubt that if the matter is viewed from that standpoint it will be found that a great deal of retrenchment is possible. Even from the financial point of view, the proposal of Mr. Ramachandra Rao deserves sympathetic consideration and final acceptance by this House."

The Council then adjourned to 11 a.m. on Thursday, the 17th February 1921.

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

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
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