The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 21st day of February 1921, the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Sir P. Rajagopala Achariyar Avargal, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

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

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

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

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

Roofing the uncovered portion of the Bezwada railway platform.

249 *Q.*—Mr. S. R. Y. Ankinedu Prasad Bahadur: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member—

(*a*) if it is a fact that passengers intending to catch the Madras-Calcutta mail trains and the Nizam's State Railway trains and those who get down from them are put to great inconvenience for having to wait, exposed to the inclement weather in winter and in the rainy season on that portion of the railway platform at the Bezwada station which lies uncovered at a distance from the main building;

(*b*) if so, to direct the Railway authorities to have the uncovered portion covered up at an early date or to arrange for the stopping of the said trains at the covered platform adjacent to the building.

A.—The member's question was referred to the Agent for remarks and the reply received is as follows :—

> . . . The north-going mail trains are received on the portion of the platform most conveniently situated for passengers transhipping to His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railway trains which start from the immediately opposite side. . . . This portion of the platform is not covered, but the cost of providing a roof over the whole platform area of so large a junction as Bezwada is prohibitive.

Tamil Lexicon.

250 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur V. Appaswami Vandayar: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education to state—

(i) the amount expended up to date in the preparation of the Tamil Lexicon,

(ii) the extent of work done by the Lexicon Committee,

(iii) the time when it is expected to be published.

A.—(i) The total amount spent on the work of the Tamil Lexicon up to date is about Rs. 1,05,306.

(ii) & (iii) The preliminary work of selecting and defining words is now under final revision by a committee.

The rest of the work will be finished in about four years.

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Disafforestation in Chingleput district.

251 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur C. ARUNACHALA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member—

(*a*) whether any action has been taken with reference to paragraph 2 of G.O. No. 1798, Revenue (Special), dated 9th October 1920, in regard to disafforestation of reserves in close proximity to villages in the Chingleput district;

(*b*) if so, to state

(i) what the extent is of the area to be disafforested in different ranges; and

(ii) what the extent is of the land that has been registered as poramboke till now in such ranges.

A.—The orders of Government have been communicated to the Chief Conservator of Forests and the Board of Revenue, but no specific proposals for disafforestation have yet been received.

Kancha system in Chingleput district.

252 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur C. ARUNACHALA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that under the kancha system the lessees are collecting very much higher rates than under the old departmental system;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the kancha system which has been newly introduced in the Chingleput district is causing great hardship.

A.—(*a*) The Government have no record of the rates collected under the kancha system. These rates are left to the kanchadars as in the case of private kanchas. The Government however believe that the rates are higher than the normal fees charged by Government.

(*b*) The Government have no reason to believe that the kancha system causes hardship.

Conversion of disafforested areas in Chingleput district into ayan.

253 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur C. ARUNACHALA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that disafforested areas in the Chingleput district are now being converted into ayan and auctioned;

(*b*) whether such disafforested areas were owned by the mirasidars of the village before the Forest department was established.

A.—The Government have no information.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Will the Government be pleased to inquire? They say they have no information."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—'If the questioner or any other honourable member has information of any specific case in which there is reason to suppose that hardship has been caused, I shall be happy to inquire into the matter. I do not propose, as at present advised, to direct any general inquiry."

Conversion of porambokes of Chingleput district into ayan.

254 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur C. ARUNACHALA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to convert porambokes in many villages of the Chingleput district into ayan for assignment.

A.—The Government have no information.

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List of taluk head accountants, etc., in Chingleput district.

255 Q.—Diwan Bahadur C. ARUNACHALA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to furnish a statement of the number of Brahmans, non-Brahman Hindus, Christians, Muhammadans in the grade of Tahsildars, Sub-Magistrates, Deputy Tahsildars, Taluk Head Accountants in the Chingleput district.

A.—The Government have not yet received the district establishment list corrected up to 31st December 1920; the information will be furnished as soon as it is received.

Gazetted officers of the Industrial department.

256 Q.—Diwan Bahadur C. ARUNACHALA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development to furnish a statement showing (1) the names of all the gazetted officers of the Department of Industries as recently organized, (2) their general educational qualifications, (3) their past services, (4) the technical and expert knowledge they possess for the department, and (5) their past and present salaries and the grade of pay.

A.—A statement is laid on the table.*

Transfer of a district board engineer to the Industrial department.

257 Q.—Diwan Bahadur C. ARUNACHALA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development whether it is a fact that a district board engineer has been recently recruited to the Department of Industries; if so, to state what expert and technical knowledge he possessed for being drafted into this department.

A.—The member is requested to see the answer given to his question No. 256.

Assignment of forest land in Chingleput to Messrs. Walker & Co.

258 Q.—Diwan Bahadur C. ARUNACHALA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that over 300 acres of forest land near Thambaram railway station in the Chingleput district have been assigned by Government to Messrs. Walker & Co. for the erection of a spinning and weaving mill;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the original application of Messrs. Walker & Co. was for a lease of only 200 acres of land;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the villagers of adjacent villages like Meppedu have no forest grazing ground at all for their cattle and have been put to extreme inconvenience by such a lease.

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

(*b*) The original application was for 500 acres of land.

(*c*) No such complaint has reached Government.

Construction of a secondary school for girls near the Ice House.

259 Q.—Diwan Bahadur C. ARUNACHALA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to construct a secondary school for girls next to the Ice House and whether the building is now in progress.

A.—The answer is in the affirmative.

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* Vide Appendix I on page 511 infra.

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Veterinary dispensary for Chingleput.

260 Q.—Diwan Bahadur C. ARUNACHALA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development—

(*a*) to state where a veterinary dispensary will be opened at Chingleput;

(*b*) if it is a fact that the veterinary hospital at Saidapet is being utilized mostly by the people of Madras.

A.—(*a*) It is proposed to open a veterinary dispensary at Chingleput.

(*b*) The Government have no information.

Export of bone, etc., from the Presidency.

261 Q.—Diwan Bahadur C. ARUNACHALA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development to state the quantity and value of bone, oil-cakes and fish manure exported out of this Presidency since 1910.

A.—The member is requested to refer to the review and returns of the Rail-borne trade of the Madras Presidency and the volume of the Sea-borne trade and Navigation of the Madras Presidency published annually; they contain all the information available on the subject.

Duties of Inspector of municipalities.

262 Q.—Diwan Bahadur C. ARUNACHALA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government what the duties of the Inspector of municipalities and of local boards are, and how the necessity for such appointment arose.

A.—The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards has been appointed under section 38 (1) of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, and section 40 (1) of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, for a period of one year. His chief duties among others are to help local bodies to give effect to the principles embodied in these Acts and the rules framed thereunder, advise them in regard to such matters as they need advice upon, scrutinize all branches of their work and keep the Government in touch with the special needs, difficulties and grievances of local bodies.

Number of panchayat courts in Chingleput.

263 Q.—Diwan Bahadur C. ARUNACHALA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member to state the number of panchayat courts which have been established in the Chingleput district under section 9, sub-section (1) of the Madras Village Courts Act, 1888, as amended by Madras Act II of 1920.

A.—The number of panchayat courts established in the Chingleput district is 33.

Communal representation in the appointment of assistant registrars of co-operative societies.

264 Q.—Diwan Bahadur C. ARUNACHALA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development whether it is a fact—

(*a*) that all the eight assistant registrars of co-operative societies appointed after the 8th January 1920 when Mr. Hemingway went on leave belonged to a single community;

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(*b*) that out of eighteen assistant registrars (paid) only two are non-Brahmans and the rest are Brahmans ;

(*c*) that the assistant registrars get an allowance of Rs. 100 besides their pay.

A.—(*a*) & (*c*) The facts are as stated.

(*b*) Of the seventeen officers at present employed, three are 'non-Brahmans'.

Registrar of Books.

265 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur C. ARUNACHALA MUDALIYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education—

(*a*) whether the Registrar of Books is a full-time officer of the Government and what emoluments the office carries ;

(*b*) whether it will not be possible to entrust the duties of this office to the Senior Translator to Government on grounds of efficiency and economy.

A.—(*a*) The Registrar of Books is not a full-time officer. He is granted an allowance of Rs. 150 per mensem.

(*b*) The Government have not considered the possibility.

Admission to the Madras Medical College.

266 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur C. ARUNACHALA MUDALIYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to lay a tabular statement on the table showing—

(1) the number of students who applied for admission to the Madras Medical College during the last five years,

(2) the number who were actually selected, and

(3) the number of persons in each of the principal communities who were selected.

A.—(1) & (2)—

Year.	Number of applicants.	Number admitted.
1916	111	101
1917	155	102
1918	159	110
1919	235	100
1920	262	99 *

* Excludes six military pupils.

(3) The information is not available but will be called for and supplied when available.

Admission to L.M.P. class.

267 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur C. ARUNACHALA MUDALIYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state—

(*a*) the number of candidates who applied for admission into the L.M.P class during the last five years,

(*b*) the number of candidates who were admitted in these years, and

(*c*) the number who were fully qualified according to the rules to be so admitted.

A.—Such information as is available is furnished below :—

Year.	Number of applications received.*	Number of students selected for admission.	Number qualified for admission (40 per cent of marks and over in English in 1919 and Presidency average in all subjects in 1921).
January 1921	684	389	186
July 1919	1,591	349	622
,, 1918	1,407	265	Not available.
,, 1917	1,181	254	
,, 1916	908	229	

* Several of the students applied to more than one school for admission. The number of *students* who applied for admission is not available and so the total number of *applications* received has been given.

Sub-assistant surgeons.

268 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur C. ARUNACHALA MUDALIYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state the number of sub-assistant surgeons who have been temporarily entertained in Government service.

A.—According to the latest Quarterly Civil Medical List the figures are as follow :—

Retired sub-assistant surgeons re-employed	21
Other temporary sub-assistant surgeons	55

Admission to L.M.P. class.

269 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur C. ARUNACHALA MUDALIYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government—

(*a*) if it is a fact that in the recruitment of students for the L.M.P. class preference is given for Andhra and Ceded districts students ; and

(*b*) whether similar preference cannot be shown in the case of non-Brahman students seeking admission to the Medical Colleges.

A.—(*a*) Seventy-five per cent of the stipends awarded annually to civil medical pupils in the medical schools are reserved for applicants coming from the Telugu districts. No such distinction is made in the selection of candidates as private pupils.

(*b*) The Government cannot accept *ex parte* the member's proposal to restrict the entrance of Brahmans into the Medical College.

Mr. Knapp's report on the abolition of the Board of Revenue.

270 *Q.*—M.R.Ry. BHASKARA RAJA RAJESWARA SETUPATI alias MUTTURAMALINGA SETUPATI Avargal : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(*a*) if Mr. Knapp had sent in his report on the question of the abolition of the Board of Revenue ;

(*b*) if so, to lay it on the table ; and

(*c*) otherwise to state when his report is likely to be received.

A.—Mr. Knapp sent in no report, but in his capacity as a Secretary to Government submitted notes which it is not proposed to publish.

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Railway accident at Bommidi.

271 Q.—Mr. M. D. DEVADOSS: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member—

(*a*) to state how many persons lost their lives and how many were injured in the recent railway accident at Bommidi;

(*b*) to state who were the persons on account of whose negligence or carelessness the accident was caused and what action has been taken against them;

(*c*) to state what action he proposes to take to prevent the occurrence of such accidents in future;

(*d*) to lay on the table the evidence taken during the inquiry into the accident by the Personal Assistant to the District Magistrate of Salem, and the report thereon;

(*e*) to state whether he has received a copy of the report of the railway administration submitted to the Governor-General in Council under section 85 of the Indian Railways Act;

(*f*) to state how many carriages were damaged or destroyed in consequence of the accident and how many passengers they were intended to carry; and

(*g*) to state whether the Railway Company paid any compensation, and, if so, how much to those who were injured, and to the relations of those who were killed, in the accident.

A.—(*a*) Forty-eight persons are reported to have been killed and twenty-five persons injured.

(*b*) The question whether criminal negligence or carelessness has been displayed by any of the railway servants has been referred to the legal advisers of the Government.

(*c*) It is not clear that any effective preventive action is practicable. The responsibility for taking action does not rest on the Local Government.

(*d*) The Government do not propose to do so, as the matter is still *sub judice*.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) Three bogie carriages of the mail train were wrecked and burnt and a fourth vehicle was damaged. Two goods vehicles were burnt and five were damaged. The Government have no information as to the carrying capacity of the passenger carriages.

(*g*) The Government have no information.

Mr. M. D. DEVADOSS:—"Will the Government be pleased to call for information regarding the answer to question (*g*)?"

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"I have no objection, Sir, to passing on the question to the Railway Administration. But I think it will be of advantage if the Honourable Member would directly address the Agent himself."

Railway accident at Bommidi.

272 Q.—Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the recent railway disaster at Bommidi railway station on the Madras-Erode line;

(*b*) the real cause of the accident, the number of casualties and the value of property lost;

(*c*) who is responsible for the accident;

(*d*) if the railway officials are responsible, what action has been taken against them; and

(*e*) whether the report of the joint inquiry held has been submitted to the Government, and if so, to place the same before the Council.

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) The question of responsibility is *sub judice*. The casualities are reported to have been 18 persons killed and 25 injured. The Government have no information as to the value of the property lost.

(*e*) The report of the joint inquiry has not yet been submitted to Government.

Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar :—"Will the Hon'ble the Home Member be pleased to get the information for question (*b*) as to the value of the property lost?"

The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson :—"May I ask, Sir, if the Honourable Member refers to the value of property lost by the passengers or the value of the property belonging to the Railway Department?"

Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar :—"Both sides, Sir."

The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson :—"I shall be happy to pass on to the Railway Administration the inquiry about the value of the property belonging to the railway. But I am afraid, Sir, it would pass the ingenuity of man to ascertain the value of the property lost by the unfortunate passengers who died in the accident."

Eviction of Kanam tenants in Malabar.

273 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member to lay on the table a statement showing the number of suits instituted in the civil courts of Malabar during the last five years for the eviction of Kanam tenants.

A.—The required information is not available in the Government office.

Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"Will the Honourable Member be pleased to call for the necessary information?"

The Hon'ble Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—"If I can possibly get it without unreasonable trouble, I should like to do so; but I cannot promise."

Famine areas in the Presidency.

274 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue in what places in this Presidency famine conditions are prevailing and what steps the Government have taken to alleviate distress in those places.

A.—Distress or famine is apprehended in portions of the districts of Ganjām, Bellary, Kurnool and Anantapur.

Seven test works in Bellary and two in Anantapur have been opened. A test work is being opened in each of the districts of Ganjām and Kurnool.

An adequate supply of food-grains in Bellary is being arranged for by importation of dry grains from the Mysore territory. Additional funds have been sanctioned for the grant of loans under the Loans

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Acts in the affected districts. Special establishments for the disbursement of loans have been sanctioned for Bellary and Anantapur. Suspension of collection of kists has been ordered in Bellary, Kurnool and Anantapur. Arrangements have been made where necessary for the grazing of cattle in forest reserves. The question of granting a subsidy to local boards to improve the drinking water-supply in Ganjām is under consideration.

New appointments made in 1920.

275 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance to state the new appointments which have been created in the various departments during the official year 1920–21 and the pay and allowances sanctioned for each of those appointments.

A.—A statement will be prepared.

Appointment of Inspector of Municipal Councils.

276 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state—

(*a*) the circumstances which led to the appointment of an Inspector of Municipal Councils;

(*b*) the duties assigned to that officer; and

(*c*) the pay and allowances sanctioned for that post.

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Attention is invited to the answer to question No. 262. Only one officer has been appointed as Inspector of both municipal councils and local boards.

(*c*) No pay and allowances have been sanctioned *for the post*. The officer appointed has been allowed to draw from the 15th to 17th December 1920 his grade pay as Deputy Collector plus a duty allowance of Rs. 300 per mensem. From the 18th December 1920 he draws his pay as Collector.

Recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee.

277 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to lay on the table a statement showing the substance of the orders passed on the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee.

A.—As most of the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee are still under consideration, the Government are not prepared to make a pronouncement on the subject.

Irrigation projects in Nellore.

278 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state—

(*a*) what irrigation projects are still under investigation in the Nellore district;

(*b*) when their investigation was first taken up;

(*c*) what progress has been achieved in their investigation; and

(*d*) when their investigation is likely to be completed and, if so, with what result.

A.—There are no irrigation projects in the Nellore district still under technical investigation. There are a few projects that can be taken up provided an adequate water-rate is guaranteed and these are shown in the list appended to G.O. No. 69 I., dated 14th February 1917, which has been placed on Editors' table.

Irrigation projects in Nellore.

279 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state—

(*a*) what irrigation projects in the Nellore district have been investigated and abandoned within the last ten years;

(*b*) when their investigation was taken up; and

(*c*) when their investigation was abandoned and for what reasons.

A.—The only irrigation project in the Nellore district that was abandoned during the last ten years is the Boggeru project, the investigation of which was first taken up in 1903-04. The project was ordered in 1916 to be abandoned as it did not satisfy the conditions of either a productive or a protective work and as it was also found that, in indifferent years, the old ayacut alone would benefit by the increased supply.

In this connexion the Hon'ble Member is referred to the statement laid on the Council table in reply to question No. 49, put by him at the meeting of the Legislative Council held in November 1918.

Number of village courts in the various districts.

280 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member to state the number of village courts established in the various districts of the Presidency under the Village Courts Act, 1919.

A.—The number of village panchayat courts established in the several districts in this Presidency is approximately 2,333.

Ramnad-Virudupatti Railway Scheme.

281 *Q.*—Mr. E. PERIYANAYAGAM: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member—

(*a*) to state in what stage the proposed Ramnad-Virudupatti Railway Scheme is;

(*b*) whether the Government have received from the inhabitants of Kilakarai, Ramnad district, a memorial, dated 3rd November 1920, praying that the proposed Ramnad-Virudupatti line may be made to pass through the important villages of Kilakarai, Tirupullani, Morekulam and Yervadi; if so, what orders have been passed by the Government on the memorial and whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table the report of experts, if any, with reference to the proposal contained in the said memorial.

A.—(*a*) The proposal of the Bombay Company, Limited, to construct the line is in abeyance pending the general revision by the Railway Board of Branch line terms. The Ramnad District Board has stated that it is unable to raise funds to invest in the proposed line.

(*b*) A memorial was received and the residents of Kilakarai have been informed in G.O. No. 8, Railway, dated 21st January 1921, that their request will be considered when the final location of the railway is taken in hand.

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Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I should like to rise to a point of order as to whether any Secretary to the Council appointed recently can interpellate the Government ?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"Order, order. These interpellations were sent in before the Honourable Member was appointed as Secretary."

Mr. E. PERIYANAYAKAM :—"Yes, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I want to know whether when that question arises the Honourable Member will be entitled to make any inquiry ?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"When that question arises, when a Secretary to the Council puts any question, the Honourable Member can make his inquiry and then I would consider what answer to give to him."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU Garu :—"According to the English system, questions may be addressed not only to members of Government but also to private members and even to the Speaker. The members of Government may themselves sometimes arrange to have questions put to them with a view to obtain an opportunity of making certain announcements informally."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I want the practice to be established here."

Salary of compounders.

282 *Q.*—Mr. E. PERIYANAYAKAM : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government—

(*a*) whether any memorial has been received from the compounders with reference to the report of the Salaries Committee ; and

(*b*) what scale of pay, if any, is recommended by the Surgeon-General and sanctioned by the Government.

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Government have not yet passed orders on the memorials.

Receipt and expenditure relating to Government Arts colleges.

283 *Q.*—Mr. E. PERIYANAYAKAM : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education to lay on the table a statement showing under different heads—

(i) the various Arts colleges in the Presidency maintained by the Government ; and

(ii) the total receipts for the last official year of each college and the expenditure incurred.

A.—A statement is laid on the table.*

Channels for irrigation of lands assigned to Adi Dravidas.

284 *Q.*—Mr. M. C. RAJA : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue what steps have been taken to open up channels to enable the Adi Dravida ryots to dress up and irrigate the lands assigned to them.

A.—The Government are not aware that any steps have been taken or are necessary. The land assigned is in most cases dry.

* Vide Appendix II on page 514 infra.

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Superstructures of houses on cheri lands in the City.

285 Q.—Mr. M. C. RAJA: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that trouble is caused by certain landlords of the cheris of Madras to the owners of the superstructure of the houses built thereon regarding the occupancy rights;

(*b*) what help the Government propose to give to the owners of superstructures of houses built on cheri lands who are ordered by courts to vacate and deliver possession of the lands in the ejectment suits filed in the court by landlords;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the owners of the superstructure of houses in Halls Garden, Thousand Lights and Flowers Road Cheri memorialized the Government to protect them against the effect of such ejectment suits;

(*d*) if so, to state what steps they have taken in the matter.

A.—(*a*) It is the case that certain landlords have taken action by suits or notices of suits.

(*c*) Memorials have been submitted to the Commissioner of Labour and to the Government.

(*b*) & (*d*) The Member is referred to the answer to question No. 158.

Grant of darkhast lands to depressed classes in Arkonam taluk.

286 Q.—Mr. M. C. RAJA: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state—

(*a*) (i) if it is a fact that, on the recommendation of the Rev. J. E. Neill, Mr. F. J. Richards as District Collector ordered to give some darkhast lands to the members of the depressed classes of the village of Krishnapuram, Arkonam taluk, for house-sites; and

(ii) if that object was frustrated by the karnam of the village by his assigning eight or nine acres in the name of his own toti on that plea, and subsequently by his selling them away to other caste ryots of the village;

(*b*) if it is a fact that this action of the karnam and the toti was reported by the then Tahsildar to the Deputy Collector;

(*c*) what action the Deputy Collector took in the matter.

A.—The Government have no information but will inquire.

Labour unions.

287 Q.—Mr. M. C. RAJA: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member whether the Government intend taking any steps (*a*) to regularize the working of labour unions, (*b*) to place them on a legal basis, and (*c*) to get their accounts audited by a responsible officer.

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

Closure of the cart-way leading to Adi-Dravida hamlet in Nannimangalam village.

288 Q.—Mr. M. C. RAJA: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government whether it is a fact that the high caste Hindu residents of the village of Nannimangalam, Lalgudi taluk in Trichinopoly district, closed the only cart-way leading to and from the said Adi-Dravida hamlet which has been in use from time immemorial.

A.—The Government have no official information on the subject.

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Government Panchama schools in the Presidency.

289 Q.—Mr. M. C. RAJA: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education to state the number of Government Panchama schools in the Presidency and the number of Panchama trained teachers employed in these schools.

A.—The number of Government Panchama schools in the Presidency is 10. Regarding the number of Panchama trained teachers employed in these schools information has been called for.

Purchase by Government of buildings adjoining Queen Mary's College.

290 Q.—Mr. M. C. RAJA: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance whether it is a fact that some buildings adjoining Queen Mary's College had been purchased by Government and if they have been purchased the price and to what use Government intend to put them.

A.—The Government have under consideration a proposal to purchase certain buildings and lands adjoining the Queen Mary's College for extensions to the college.

Amendment of the Estates Land Act.

291 Q.—Sri S. RAJAMANI RAJA DEO, ZAMINDAR OF MANDASA: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member whether the amendment of the Estates Land Act will be taken up this term.

A.—The Bill is under preparation and will be taken up as soon as it is ready. It is not possible to introduce the Bill this session.

Forest resources of Ganjām and Vizagapatam.

292 Q.—Sri S. RAJAMANI RAJA DEO, ZAMINDAR OF MANDASA: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member—

(*a*) whether the forest resources of Ganjām and Vizagapatam districts were investigated by the Department of Industries; and

(*b*) to lay the report on the table.

A.—The answer is in the negative.

Paper-pulp in Ganjām forests.

293 Q.—Sri S. RAJAMANI RAJA DEO, ZAMINDAR OF MANDASA: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member if it is a fact that facilities exist in Ganjām forests for making paper-pulp economically.

A.—The Government have no knowledge of any such facilities.

Personnel of the Industrial Department.

294 Q.—Sri S. RAJAMANI RAJA DEO, ZAMINDAR OF MANDASA: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development to state the special training and special qualifications of various officers of the Industrial Department of Madras and the offices they filled before they were recruited to this department.

A.—The Member is requested to see the answer given to question No. 256.

Reorganization of the Agency tracts.

295 Q.—Sri S. RAJAMANI RAJA DEO, ZAMINDAR OF MANDASA: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member to state—

(*a*) the cost of the reorganization of the Agency portion of the districts under a Commissioner; and

(*b*) the number of new offices created with the salary attached to them under new organization.

A.—The reorganization of the Agency division is not yet complete. The only new office created, so far, is that of the Agency Commissioner on a salary of Rs. 3,000 (including allowances) per mensem with a temporary establishment costing not more than Rs. 300 per mensem.

Cost of Agency administration.

296 Q.—Sri S. RAJAMANI RAJA DEO, ZAMINDAR OF MANDASA: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member to state the cost of agency administration in each of the districts of Ganjām, Vizagapatam and Gōdāvari under the Governor's Agents' system.

A.—The information cannot be given as separate establishments were not employed exclusively in the Agency tracts.

Agency administration.

297 Q.—Sri S. RAJAMANI RAJA DEO, ZAMINDAR OF MANDASA: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member whether there were any complaints either with regard to efficiency or economy in the Governor's Agents' system.

A.—No specific complaints were made to Government, but it was a matter increasingly brought to their notice that the system was lacking in efficiency.

Emigration from Agency tracts.

298 Q.—Sri S. RAJAMANI RAJA DEO, ZAMINDAR OF MANDASA: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member if the Agency tracts of Ganjām, Vizagapatam and Gōdāvari are thrown open for emigration to Assam, Straits Settlements and Fiji islands.

A.—The whole of the Agency tracts of Ganjām is thrown open for emigration to Assam; the whole of the Agency tracts of Vizagapatam is thrown open for the recruitment of Dombs only for labour in Assam; the Agency tracts of Gōdāvari are closed for any emigration to Assam. Emigration to Straits Settlements is free throughout the Presidency. But emigration to Fiji islands is prohibited under rule 16-B of the Defence of India Consolidation Rules, 1915.

Agency administration.

299 Q.—Sri S. RAJAMANI RAJA DEO, ZAMINDAR OF MANDASA: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member whether for want of labour in the Agency tracts progress of works and communications are delayed.

A.—The Government have no reason to believe that any delay is being caused by shortage of labour.

Construction of causeway across the Palar.

300 Q.—Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government whether the causeway across the Palar on the Chingleput-Madurantakam Great Southern Trunk road is so low that it is impossible for carts, etc., to cross during floods and whether the Government intend to provide adequate funds to the district board for the construction of either a bridge or a causeway at a very much higher level.

A.—The Government have no information on the subject and cannot make any promise at present.

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Restoration of the Kinnevettum channel.

301 Q.—Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state, with reference to the interpellation of Mr. Siva Rao at the last Legislative Session on 28th September 1920 regarding the restoration of the Kinnevettum channel, what action has since been taken.

A.—The Member is referred to the answer given to M.R.Ry. P. Siva Rao Pantulu Garu for question No. 114.

Expenditure due to new appointments.

302 Q.—Mr. T. RICHMOND: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance to state the additional expenditure per annum by way of salaries as the result of the new appointments in pursuance of the present reforms and otherwise since the last one year.

A.—The total salary bill of the Government for March 1921 is likely to amount to 52·29 lakhs as against 41·81 lakhs for March 1920.

Breaches in South Indian Railway.

303 Q.—Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member whether, owing to the recent breaches in the South Indian Railway line north and south of Trichinopoly, the passenger traffic has been stopped for more than a week to the greatest inconvenience, trouble and anxiety of the travelling public.

A.—Owing to floods of exceptional severity breaches in the railway line to the north and south of Trichinopoly occurred at several places on the 13th, 14th and 15th January and through traffic could not be restored until the 27th January. Passenger traffic from stations south of Trichinopoly to Madras was however carried via Erode from the 20th January. The inconvenience caused to the public was unavoidable.

Accommodation for second-class passengers in South Indian Railway.

304 Q.—Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member whether—

(*a*) the Government are aware that the second-class passengers of the South Indian Railway are often, for want of room, put to the inconvenience of standing inside or in the corridor outside the compartment, or of finding room somewhere in the third class, and sometimes in no class; and

(*b*) the Government intend to issue the necessary orders to provide a sufficient accommodation to suit the convenience of the second-class passengers.

A.—The Government are aware of the fact that there is overcrowding on the South Indian Railway passenger trains, but they have no power to issue orders in the matter and if they had it is doubtful whether the inconvenience complained of admits of immediate remedy. The question will be brought to the notice of the South Indian Railway Administration.

Irrigation Conference held in 1912.

305 Q.—Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue what orders were passed on the report of the result of an Irrigation Conference held at Ootacamund in 1912 under the presidency of Sir Harold Stuart, the then Member of the Executive Council of the Government of Madras, and to state the action taken thereon.

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A.—The orders passed on the subject will be found in G.O. No. 572 I., dated 13th December 1912, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

Transfer of jurisdiction of Vasudevanallur firka from Sub-Court of Tuticorin to that of Tinnevelly.

306 *Q.*—Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member whether—

(*a*) it is a fact that the jurisdiction for adjudication of the original suits of over Rs. 3,000, and of the small cause suits of over Rs. 100, of the Vasudevanallur firka of Sankaranāyinārkōyil taluk, Tinnevelly district, within the jurisdiction of the Court of the District Munsif, Tenkāsi, is vested in the Sub-Court of Tuticorin 80 miles distant from Tenkāsi and 100 miles away from the firka, though there are two sub-courts at Tinnevelly which lie midway between Tenkāsi and Tuticorin; and

(*b*) the Government cannot arrange for the transfer of the jurisdiction in question to either of the two sub-courts at Tinnevelly, thereby minimising the hardship and inconvenience which the litigant public have now to suffer.

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

(*b*) The matter is one primarily for consideration by the District Judge and the High Court.

Recruitment to the higher judiciary from the bar.

307 *Q.*—Mr. P. SIVA RAO PANTULU: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member whether—

(i) with reference to the recommendation made by the Public Services Commission that certain percentage of higher judicial offices in the mufassal should be directly recruited from the bar, it is a fact that the Government appointed a committee to consider the proposals of the said Commission in regard to the Judicial Department; the committee have submitted their findings thereon to the Government; if so, whether they will be pleased to lay them on the table;

(ii) the Government have considered the said recommendations of the Commission and the findings thereon of the committee and passed final orders thereon; if so, whether they will be pleased to lay them on the table; and

(iii) if any orders passed, any effect has been given to them; if so, to what extent.

A.—(i) & (ii) It is a fact that the Government appointed a committee. The committee's report was forwarded to the Government of India, together with the opinion of this Government, and has been taken into consideration in the final orders passed by the Government of India in Home Department Resolution No. 2559, dated 1st December 1920; that resolution has already been published at pages 1550–1553 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 21st December 1920. The Government are not now prepared to publish the committee's report.

(iii) The question of giving effect to the decision is under correspondence with the Government of India.

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A trained teacher for the 'School for the deaf and the blind' at Madura.

308 Q.—Mr. P. Siva Rao Pantulu: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education whether—

(*a*) one Mr. Swaminatha Pillai has opened a school for the deaf and the blind at Madura; and

(*b*) he applied to the Inspector of Schools, Tenth Circle, for a trained teacher in the school and the Inspector replied that he could not spare nor recommend any.

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It is understood that efforts are being made to get a specially trained teacher.

Nomination to taluk boards, district boards and municipal councils.

309 Q.—Mr. P. Siva Rao Pantulu: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government whether—

(i) the nominations of members to the taluk board are made by the district board president on the recommendation of the taluk board president;

(ii) the nominations of the members of the district board are made by the Government on the recommendation of the president of the district board; and

(iii) the nominations of members to the municipal councils are made by the Government on the recommendation of the Collector without even the consultation of the chairman.

A.—(i) The Government have no information. Presidents of district boards may consult whom they please in nominating members for taluk boards within their jurisdiction.

(ii) The answer is in the affirmative.

(iii) Nominations to membership of municipal councils are made by the Government on the recommendations of Collectors who may consult the chairmen at their discretion.

Correspondence of municipal councils with the Government.

310 Q.—Mr. P. Siva Rao Pantulu: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government whether—

(i) it is a fact that under the present rules *all* the correspondence of a municipal council with the Government should be made through the Revenue Divisional Officer and the Collector;

(ii) the committee appointed for the revision of the Local Fund and Municipal Account Codes unanimously recommended that this formality should be dispensed with;

(iii) I moved a resolution in the same matter in the Legislative Council and Sir Rajagopala Achariyar, the then Member in charge, promised careful consideration of the same question;

(iv) the Government are prepared to dispense with this condition and allow the municipal councils to correspond direct with the Government.

A.—(i) The answer is in the negative. Only certain specified communications have to pass through these officers.

(ii) The committee recommended that councils should continue to send budgets and administration reports through the Revenue Divisional Officer and the Collector and that other communications

should be sent direct to the Government, copies being despatched at the same time to the Collector through the Revenue Divisional Officer.

(iii) The answer is in the affirmative.

(iv) Under section 33 (1) of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, administration reports must be submitted through the Collector. As regards other communications the question as to how far the existing rules can be relaxed will be considered when issuing rules under section 303 (1) (*g*).

Colonel Smart's Vadavar project.

311 Q.—Mr. T. SOMASUNDARA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(*a*) whether all the rivers in the Tanjore delta are able to discharge all the flood water coming below the Coleroon head and all the deltaic rain water falling into them without overflow and damage to the surrounding lands;

(*b*) whether Colonel Smart suggests the Vadavar project as a safeguard to protect the district in times of flood and heavy rains; and

(*c*) what action has been taken in the matter and when it is likely to be carried out.

A.—(*a*) The defective drainage of the whole Cauvery delta has been engaging the attention of the Government for a great many years past and certain improvements have already been carried out. The Government believe, however, that under normal conditions the rivers in the delta are able to discharge the flood water without causing any appreciable damage.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Vadavar scheme suggested by Colonel Smart consists of a large distributary for direct irrigation with the added capability of acting as a drain when the occasion requires. It has been included in the Cauvery-Metur Reservoir Project, information regarding which has been given in answer to question No. 37.

Nadar representation in judiciary.

312 Q.—Mr. W. P. A. SOUNDARA PANDIA NADAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that, in the Presidency, no Hindu Nadar has been raised to the rank of sub-judges or district munsifs; and

(*b*) whether the Government intend to redress their grievances in this connexion.

A.—(*a*) There are no Hindu Nadar Sub-Judges or District Munsifs at present. Information as to whether there were any such Nadar Sub-Judges or Munsifs in the past is not readily available.

(*b*) The appointment of District Munsifs vests with the High Court and Sub-Judges are generally appointed by promotion from their ranks. The Government are not aware of any grievances to redress.

Allotment of land to Panchamas in Madura.

313 Q.—Mr. W. P. A. SOUDARA PANDIA NADAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member how many acres of land have been allotted to the Panchamas in the district of Madura by their Revenue officer in compliance with the standing order of the Revenue Board.

A.—One hundred and forty acres up to 31st December 1920.

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Salary of teachers in Tenth Circle.

314 Q.—Mr. W. P. A. Soundara Pandia Nadar : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state, with regard to the recommendation of the Inspector of Schools, Tenth Circle, for raising the salary of the teachers of board schools by 50 per cent, what necessary actions have been taken by the taluk boards included in the above circle.

A.—The Government have no information.

Allotment of poramboke lands to ryots in Madura, Tinnevelly and Ramnad.

315 Q.—Mr. W. P. A. Soundara Pandia Nadar : To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member whether any portion of poramboke or forest lands in the districts of Madura, Tinnevelly and Ramnad has been allotted to the ryots for pasturage as has been done in some of the northern districts.

A.—Pasturage in certain classes of forest and poramboke is permissible in all districts. The Government do not understand to what special procedure in the northern districts the Member refers.

Elected presidents for taluk boards in Madura district.

316 Q.—Mr. W. P. A. Soundara Pandia Nadar : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to give out the number of taluk boards in the Madura district that have not their presidents elected by themselves.

A.—Three.

Report to Government from zamindars on welfare of their ryots.

317 Q.—Mr. W. P. A. Soundara Pandia Nadar : To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member—

(*a*) whether the zamindars submit to the Government any reports with regard to their contribution to the welfare of their ryots ;

(*b*) if so, to place on the table the reports submitted by the zamindars of the districts of Madura and Ramnad ; and

(*c*) to state if the Government can get the said reports from them and place them on the table as early as possible.

A.—The Government are not aware of any such reports and, if there are, do not consider it necessary to get them and place them on the table.

Census Report of 1911.

318 Q.—Mr. W. P. A. Soundara Pandia Nadar : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(*a*) if it is a fact that, in the census report of 1911, many castes have been entered in a manner prejudicial to their principles, and that in the report to be published this year the same fact is likely to occur ;

(*b*) how many representative institutions have submitted petitions objecting to the same ;

(*c*) when they will begin to write the final report of the census which is to be taken shortly ; and

(*d*) to call for a representative of the above institutions before the said report is written, so that the names of the different castes may be entered therein according to the statements of those representatives.

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

(*b*) Representations have been received from four communities.

(*c*) It is not possible to state definitely when the writing of the report will be taken up.

(*d*) The Government do not propose to take any action on the lines suggested.

Test works in Ganjām district.

319 *Q.*—Sriman SASIBHUSHANA RATH: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state—

(*a*) whether scarcity conditions have been reported to exist in certain areas of the Ganjām district;

(*b*) whether test works have been ordered to be opened, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of such works and the estimated cost of each work;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that no relief is proposed to be given to the people living within the Bodogodo zamindari area;

(*d*) whether favourable reports regarding the condition of the people living within this zamindari area have been received, and, if so, from what sources;

(*e*) whether the Revenue Board Member who is said to have recently visited Ganjām investigated into the condition of the people of the Bodogodo zamindari;

(*f*) what scale of wages is proposed to be given to the people attending the test works; and

(*g*) whether in the list of test works proposed to be undertaken there are any items of work which would supplement the irrigation system of Ganjām.

A.—(*a*) The situation in parts of the district is causing anxiety.

(*b*) Two test works are being opened. Both are road works. Government have no information as to their estimated cost.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The latest communication, dated 28th January 1921, from the Collector is to the effect that there is no acute distress yet in the Bodogodo estate and that relief measures will not be necessary till March next.

(*e*) Yes; but he considered further investigation necessary.

(*f*) The scale prescribed in section 49 of the Famine Code.

(*g*) The programme of famine-relief works in the district includes a large provision under irrigation works.

Average annual expenditure on the administration of the Agency tracts.

320 *Q.*—Sriman SASIBHUSHANA RATH: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member to state—

(*a*) the average annual expenditure on the administration of the Agency tracts of Ganjām, Vizagapatam and Gōdāvari districts while under the charge of Agents to the Governor;

(*b*) the amount of approximate annual expenditure on the administration of the said Agency tracts under the newly constituted Agency Commissioner's charge;

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(*c*) what investment is proposed to be made on the development of the Agency tracts in the course of the next ten years ; and

(*d*) how many additional civilian appointments have been provided for in the reorganization scheme and what extra cost is involved on that account each year.

A.—(*a*) The information cannot be given as separate establishments were not employed exclusively in the Agency tracts.

(*b*) The reorganization is not yet complete.

(*c*) The programme is not yet settled.

(*d*) One, viz., the Agency Commissioner on a salary of Rs. 3,900 (including allowances) per mensem.

Appointments in the Imperial Service in this Presidency in 1913–14 *and* 1920–21.

321 *Q.*—Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance to lay on the table a statement showing

(i) the number of appointments in the Imperial Services in this Presidency in 1913–14 and 1920–21 (*a*) on account of new appointments created and (*b*) on account of extra allowances to existing officers,

(ii) the net cost in connexion with the services during the years 1913–14 and 1920–21, and

(iii) the number and cost of new appointments created since August 1914 on a salary of Rs. 1,200 or upwards and continuing up to date, figures being given separately for Indians and Europeans.

A.—The Accountant-General has been requested to prepare the statements asked for, which will be furnished to the Member on receipt.

Number of non-gazetted officers in 1913–14 *and* 1920–21.

322 *Q.*—Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance to lay on the table a statement showing

(*a*) the number of non-gazetted officers in the years 1913–14 and 1920–21,

(*b*) the net cost for their permanent pay during these two years, and

(*c*) the cost of the allowances given to them under G.O. No. 700, Financial, dated 2nd August 1920.

A.—A statement will be prepared.

Allowance for high prices and house-rent to High Court Judges.

323 *Q.*—Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member whether it is a fact that the High Court Judges have applied for a special house-rent allowance and an allowance for high prices ; if so, what amount is claimed by them under either head and what action the Government propose to take in the matter.

A.—In October last the Government received from the Registrar of the High Court a letter intimating that the Honourable the Judges supported a proposal emanating from another High Court for the grant of house-rent allowances of Rs. 500 per mensem and local allowances of the same amount. As the proposal referred to was understood to be under the consideration of the Government of India, the Registrar's letter was forwarded to the same authority.

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Pay and prospects of village officers.

324 Q.—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(*a*) if the Government have received memorials from the Village Officers' Association in the various parts of the Presidency touching the pay, status and privileges of the village officers; and

(*b*) to state if any and what action has been taken thereon.

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Member's attention is invited to G.O. No. 499, Financial, dated 1st June 1920, and G.O. No. 1958, Revenue, dated 14th August 1920, which have been placed on the Editors' Table.

Industrial school for Northern Circars.

325 Q.—Diwan Bahadur K. SURYANARAYANAMURTI NAYUDU: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development when an industrial school for the Northern Circars will be started and whether the required funds will be provided in the next budget.

A.—It is at present impossible to say whether and if so, when a Government industrial school will be started in the Northern Circars.

Relinquishments from owners of mamul wet lands in Polavaram, Gōdāvari.

326 Q.—Diwan Bahadur K. SURYANARAYANAMURTI NAYUDU: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue whether the obtaining of the relinquishments from owners of mamul wet lands in the Polavaram island of the Gōdāvari district for which a special officer was appointed was completed and, if so, whether the construction of canals and channels in that island will be commenced without further delay.

A.—The work of obtaining relinquishments is not yet complete.

Reconstruction of Thorigedda outfall sluice in Rajahmundry.

327 Q.—Diwan Bahadur K. SURYANARAYANAMURTI NAYUDU: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue what orders have been passed on the memorial submitted by the Gōdāvari District Association in 1920 on the urgency of reconstructing Thorigedda outfall sluice in order to save the people of the northern portion of Rajahmundry taluk from an avoidable distress and scarcity and when the work may be taken on hand.

A.—As the work was not profitable in view of the estimated cost of over Rs. 1 lakh and as the ryots concerned did not come forward to contribute materially towards the cost as originally promised by them the matter was dropped.

Seethapalli Vagu irrigation and Pammileru irrigation projects.

328 Q.—Diwan Bahadur K. SURYANARAYANAMURTI NAYUDU: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue whether it is a fact that the Tank Restoration Party has been lately directed to investigate the Seethapalli Vagu irrigation project in the Gōdāvari district, and what the terms of reference to the Tank Restoration Party in this connexion are, and whether the investigation is intended to include the Pammileru irrigation project also.

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A.—The answer is in the negative. The Pammileru project was under investigation in 1919-20 and the Superintending Engineer's report thereon is awaited.

Conferences of Public Works Department officers dealing with water-supply with ryots.

329 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue whether with reference to the view expressed by His Excellency the Governor at the deputation of the Gōdāvari District Association held at Cocanada on 22nd December 1919 " that Conferences of Public Works Department officers dealing with the supply of water with the ryots would prove valuable," the Government will be pleased to state how many such conferences were held by the Delta Engineers in the Gōdāvari and Kistna deltas during 1920.

A.—The question of holding conferences with the ryots has been under consideration for some time and orders have been passed in G.O. No. 194 W., dated 7th February 1921, which is being laid on the table.

Salaries of village officers in Telugu districts.

330 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue (*a*) whether it is a fact that the discontent among village officers of all grades in the Telugu districts is growing in volume owing to tardiness in recognizing their claims for better emoluments as manifested in conferences held continuously in some taluk or other of every district ;

(*b*) what steps have been proposed to be taken to meet the demand of that class of subordinates of the Revenue Department ;

(*c*) whether it is under contemplation of Government to revise the salaries of village establishment in proprietary estates of Gōdāvari, Kistna and Guntūr districts and whether it is a fact that in this connexion an increase of emoluments is contemplated only in villages where water-tax of Rs. 1,000 and more per annum is realized ; if so, what the propriety is of drawing a distinction between dry and wet villages.

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The member's attention is invited to the orders passed in G.O. No. 499, Financial, dated 1st June 1920, and G.O. No. 1958, Revenue, dated 14th August 1920, which have been placed on the Editors' Table.

(*c*) The question of the revision of the salaries of village establishment in proprietary estates is under examination.

Secondary School-Leaving Certificate boards on linguistic basis.

331 *Q.*—Mr. M. Suryanarayana Pantulu : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education whether—

(*a*) the Government have perused the resolution passed at the recent Educational Conference of the Kistna district that the Telugu-speaking districts of this Presidency be placed under the jurisdiction of a separate board of the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate scheme ;

(*b*) it is a fact that a similar resolution was passed at the Provincial Educational Conference suggesting the formation of a separate Secondary School-Leaving Certificate Board for each of the vernacular languages in this Presidency.

A.—(*a*) The Government have not perused the resolution referred to.

(*b*) The Government have no information.

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Redistribution of taluks in Vizagapatam district.

332 Q.—Mr. M. SURYANARAYANA PANTULU : To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member —

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a large area of each of the taluks of Pārvatīpuram, Sālūru, Palkonda, Srungavarappukota, Viravalli and Golgonda taluks has been removed from those taluks and added to the newly-formed Agency Commissionership ;

(*b*) what the extent is (approximately) that has been so transferred ; and

(*c*) having regard to this transfer, whether the Government have under contemplation to direct a reorganization and redistribution of the taluks and revenue divisions for criminal and revenue purposes.

A.—(*a*) The portions of these taluks which were formerly within the agency jurisdiction have been regrouped into new taluks, as shown in the Revenue Department notification No. 351, dated 6th November 1920, published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 9th November 1920.

(*b*) The area involved is about 1,800 square miles.

(*c*) The Government are examining the question.

Emigration of weavers from Vizagapatam.

333 Q.—Mr. M. SURYANARAYANA PANTULU : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development to place on the table a statement showing the total number of weavers that left the district of Vizagapatam during the last ten years in search of work elsewhere.

A.—The Government have no information.

Want of sub-treasury at Razam, Vizagapatam district.

334 Q.—Mr. M. SURYANARAYANA PANTULU : To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member whether it is a fact—

(*a*) that Razam in the Vizagapatam district is the seat of a District Munsif and is removed 14 miles and 11 miles from Palkonda and Chipurupalle respectively where only there are sub-treasuries ;

(*b*) that successive District Munsifs reported to the District Judge about the great inconvenience felt by want of a sub-treasury there ; and

(*c*) that mahazars were submitted by pleaders and litigant population also setting forth the inconvenience felt thereby.

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Government have no information.

Resolution No. 11 *of the First Vizagapatam Village Officers' Association at Chodavaram,* 26*th December* 1920.

335 Q.—Mr. M. SURYANARAYANA PANTULU : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue whether—

(*a*) the Government have perused the resolution No. 11 passed at the First Vizagapatam Village Officers' Association held at Chodavaram on the 26th and the 27th of December 1920 ; and

(*b*) it is a fact that the remarks of the Government officers on village accounts are not recorded in the vernaculars.

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) They are usually recorded in English.

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Travelling allowance and batta to village officers and menials.

336 Q.—Mr. M. SURYANARAYANA PANTULU : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(*a*) whether the Board of Revenue have worked out the details regarding the travelling allowance and batta to village officers and menials attending the taluk headquarters on jamabandi or other Government work as described in G.O. No. 1958, dated the 14th of August 1920 ;

(*b*) if so, to place the same on the table.

A.—The Government have not yet received a report from the Board of Revenue on the subject.

Damage to harvesting crops in Trichinopoly.

337 Q.—Mr. T. C. TANGAVELU PILLAI : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue whether—

(*a*) it is a fact that the recent floods have caused damage to the harvests in the Trichinopoly district ;

(*b*) if so, the Government is in a position to state the extent of the damage to the crops ready for harvest ;

(*c*) the Government have arranged for remission of the land revenue to such of those lands that were affected ;

(*d*) the Government are in a position now to state the aggregate amounts that have to be written off by way of remissions ;

(*e*) it is a fact that many Panchamas, cultivators and other ryots have been reduced homeless by the recent floods and whether the Government will be pleased to state what steps were taken to help them ;

(*f*) it is a fact that during the January 1921 floods, the breaches occurred on the same spots where there were breaches during the previous floods in November 1920 ;

(*g*) the attention of the Government has been drawn to the public protest meeting held at Negapatam on 25th January 1921, against the export of rice to Ceylon, viz., 15,000 tons per quarter.

A.—(*a*) *to* (*f*) The Collector's preliminary reports on the floods in the Trichinopoly district will be found in G.O. No. 2895, Revenue, dated 4th December 1920, and G.O. No. 195, Revenue, dated 24th January 1921, which have already been placed on the Editors' Table. The Government have not yet received the Collector's further reports.

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

Co-operative societies.

338 Q.—Mr. T. C. TANGAVELU PILLAI : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development to state the number of co-operative credit societies in rural areas of Trichinopoly district ; what amount was advanced to cultivators for productive purposes.

A.—Separate figures as regards the number of societies in rural as distinguished from urban areas are not available with Government. The number of credit societies on 30th June 1920 in the district as a whole was 181 and they had then advanced an amount of Rs. 6,09,809 for productive purposes.

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Allotment of loans to public bodies for building houses.

339 Q.—Mr. T. C. TANGAVELU PILLAI: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance to state the total amount that has been allotted as loans for building houses by public bodies and what allotment has been made to each district.

A.—The loans recently given by Government to local bodies for building purposes are as shown below:—

Local body.	Year.	Amount.	Purpose.
		RS.	
(i) Coimbatore Municipal Council.	1918-19 and 1919-20.	25,000	For advances to the Othechekkars Building Society.
(ii) Ootacamund Municipal Council.	1919-20.	28,540	For the construction of sanitary dwellings for the poor.
(iii) Do.	1920-21.	21,460	Do.

Classification of Assistant Registrars and Inspectors of Co-operative Credit Societies.

340 Q.—Mr. T. C. TANGAVELU PILLAI: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development to state the number of Brahmans, Non-Brahman Hindus, Christians and Muhammadans in the post of Assistant Registrars and Inspectors of Co-operative Credit Societies in the Madras Presidency.

A.—Regarding Assistant Registrars, the Member is referred to the answer to clause (*b*) of question No. 264.

Information as regards Inspectors is not at present available with Government.

Number of colleges that refused Government grant, and number of non-co-operating students.

341 Q.—Mr. T. C. TANGAVELU PILLAI: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education to state the number of colleges that refused Government grant on account of non-co-operation movement and the number of students who have withdrawn from the various colleges in the Presidency.

A.—No colleges have so far refused Government grant. Complete information as to the number of students that have withdrawn from colleges is not available.

Tamil Ayurvedic system.

342 Q.—Mr. T. C. TANGAVELU PILLAI: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government—

(*a*) whether there is a Tamil Ayurvedic system in addition to the Aryan Ayurvedic system; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government propose to have both these systems represented in the committee proposed to study and report the indigenous system of medicines.

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A.—(*a*) The Government are not aware that there are two independent Ayurvedic systems.

(*b*) If they are satisfied that there are two systems the claims of both the systems will be considered for representation on the committee if such a committee is to be formed.

Social boycott by Non-Co-operation Khilaphat Committee.

343 *Q.*—Mr. T. C. TANGAVELU PILLAI: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member—

(*a*) whether social boycott was played by the Non-Co-operation Khilaphat Committee on the 12th December 1920 at Trichinopoly and on the 30th January 1921 at Tellicherry; and

(*b*) if so, what steps the Government are pleased to take for counteracting its influence and in safeguarding the personal interest of the peaceful and loyal citizens.

A.—(*a*) The question presumably refers to the interruption said to have been caused to the guests invited to a feast given by a newly elected Muslim member of the Legislative Council residing at Trichinopoly and to action in the nature of a boycott taken against another such member at Tellicherry in regard to which the Government have received certain information.

(*b*) For a statement of the general attitude and policy of Government towards the movement from which such incidents arise the Member is referred to the published Resolution of the Government of India No. 4484-Political, dated 6th November 1920.

While public opinion is the only force to counteract the influence of a social boycott which does not transgress the law, persons who suffer from action constituting a breach of the law have their remedy in the civil and criminal courts and will receive all possible assistance from the police if the offence complained of is cognisable or of such a nature as to warrant security proceedings under section 107 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Assessment of income-tax, super-tax and excess profits duty in the city.

344 *Q.*—Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance to furnish the following information in regard to assessment in the City of Madras for income-tax, super-tax and excess profits duty:—

(*a*) Amount levied for

Income-tax for 1917-18, 1918-19 and 1919-20,

Super-tax for 1917-18, 1918-19 and 1919-20, and

Excess profits duty for 1917-18, 1918-19 and 1919-20;

(*b*) how much thereof was levied from assessees who maintained accounts either in the Gujarati or Marwari languages;

(*c*) what the total number is of assessees for the year 1918-19—

(*a*) for income-tax,

(*b*) for super-tax, and

(*c*) for excess profits duty; and

(*d*) how many of such assessees maintained accounts in the Gujarati or Marwari languages.

A.—The statement below gives the information available; there is no information as to which assessees actually kept their accounts in the Gujarati or Marwari languages:—

(*a*) Amount levied—

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Income-tax	31,36,292	37,05,379	36,95,284
Super-tax	19,58,067	27,09,676	10,25,152
Excess profits duty ..	Nil.	Nil.	39,85,854

(*b*) Amount levied from Marwari and Gujarati assessees was—

	RS.	RS.	RS.
Income-tax	2,39,383	2,89,693	2,69,723
Super-tax	91,055	81,670	45,855
Excess profits duty ..	Nil.	Nil.	1,61,648

(*c*) Total number of assessees in 1918-19—

(*a*) 8,897.

(*b*) 200.

(*c*) Nil.

(*d*) Number of Marwari and Gujarati assessees in 1918-19—

Income-tax	356
Super-tax	20
Excess profits duty	Nil.

Gold Import Act XXII of 1917.

345 *Q.*—Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance to state whether—

(*a*) it is true that certain insured parcels containing gold jewellery which were declared and accepted at Colombo Post office for delivery at Karikal were intercepted and seized at Dhanushkodi in March 1919, and acquired by Government under the Gold Import Act, 1917;

(*b*) gold jewellery come within the purview of the Gold Import Act XXII of 1917;

(*c*) under the rules of the Postal Department applicable to such cases, such parcels should not have been returned to the country of origin;

(*d*) it is true that the addressees of such parcels were paid at the rate of Rs. 10 for gold of the weight of a sovereign and whether the market rate in March 1919 when the parcels were seized was about Rs. 17 per sovereign; and

(*e*) it is true that petitions have been sent to the Board of Revenue and to the Local Government and such petitions have been dismissed.

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Certain parcels were intercepted which were found to contain newly-made gold bars of an unusual weight in circular shape which the Customs Collector held to be gold bullion roughly converted into that shape with a view to evading the prohibition contained in Government of India notification No. 1469 F., dated 29th June 1917.

(*c*) Rule 95 at page 39 of the Post Office Guide contains provision for returning to the sender any postal article found to contain any goods which are being imported or transmitted by post in contravention of any enactment for the time being in force, except in cases where there are other provisions for dealing with such goods. The cases in question fall within the exception.

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(*d*) The gold in the parcels was acquired by the Controller of Currency, Calcutta, under the Gold Import Act, 1917 (XXII of 1917), and was sent for Assay to the Mint Master, Calcutta. The acquisition value was paid with reference to the report of the Mint Master. Government have no information at present as to the actual amounts paid.

(*e*) One such petition has been rejected.

* *

Passenger traffic between India and Ceylon through Point Calimere.

346 Q.—Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member whether—

(*a*) the Government have received any proposals from the District Board of Tanjore to extend the railway line to Point Calimere; and

(*b*) the Government have passed final orders on the proposal made by the Board of Revenue to provide a salt siding which was also approved by the District Board of Tanjore.

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No such proposal has yet reached Government.

Railway connexion between Tanjore and Ramnad districts.

347 Q.—Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member—

(*a*) whether the Government have any idea to connect the districts of Tanjore and Ramnad by railway line through the Pudukkottai State;

(*b*) what the projects are before the Government on that subject; and

(*c*) if the extensions from Arantangi have been finally handed over to the Madras Provincial Railway Company.

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Two projects are in existence for lines connecting the districts of Tanjore and Ramnad and traversing parts of the Pudukkottai State, namely—

(1) a line from Trichinopoly to Ramnad, and

(2) an extension from Arantangi to Karaikkudi.

(*c*) The application of the Madras Provincial Railway Company for a concession to construct the extension from Arantangi has not yet been sanctioned.

Train services for pilgrim traffic during Mahamakham festival.

348 Q.—Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member whether—

(*a*) the Government have received a copy of the preliminary arrangements to be made by the South Indian Railway Company for meeting the heavy pilgrim traffic at Kumbakonam during the ensuing Mahamakham festival; and

(*b*) the Government are satisfied about the adequacy of the train services which may have been proposed by the Company.

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The arrangements appear to be as satisfactory as can be expected under present conditions.

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Construction of regulator over the bridge across the Kaduvaya river.

349 Q.—Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(*a*) what has become of the proposal to construct a regulator in the river Kaduvayar above the bridge at Thevur for the purpose of improving the irrigation of Thekkodiyar and Rathamangalam, etc., channels;

(*b*) whether this question has been pending for the last twenty years;

(*c*) whether the Government have any idea of beginning work at the next working season so that the improvements may be completed before the next irrigation season; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact that on account of defective irrigation of the abovementioned channels remission had to be granted in the year, fasli 1328.

A.—(*a*) Proposals estimated to cost Rs. 23,500 are under the consideration of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and are likely to be sanctioned soon.

(*b*) No; though the general question of improving the Kattar-Kaduvayar irrigation was under consideration for a long time in some form or other the proposal to construct a regulator across the Kaduvayar so as to benefit irrigation under the Thekkodiyar also was suggested by the Superintending Engineer only in 1915.

A provision of Rs. 10,000 has been made for this work in the budget estimate for 1920–21 with the idea of starting it in the next official year.

(*c*) The Government have no information.

Appellate powers for first-class magistrates.

350 Q.—Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member whether—

(*a*) it is a fact that officers invested with first-class magistrate's powers are not invested with appellate powers for more than a period of one year;

(*b*) such a procedure inconveniences the parties who have to present appeals before another Divisional Magistrate;

(*c*) the Government intend to remove such a condition and invest Deputy Collectors with first-class powers and appellate powers simultaneously;

(*d*) if that restriction is not to be removed, the Government have any proposal to invest Tahsildars marked out for promotion to Deputy Collectors' posts with first-class powers;

(*e*) it is a fact that, in the district of Tanjore, out of six divisional officers only three had appellate powers at a time and consequently parties within the jurisdiction of two revenue divisions had to go to the magistrate for appeals; and

(*f*) were such a contingency to arise, the Government have any idea to order the hearing of appeals on fixed dates at the headquarters of the particular division from which the appeals are filed.

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A.—(*a*) Yes : in pursuance of a rule introduced under instructions from the Government of India.

(*b*) There is probably some inconvenience.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The procedure referred to is actually in vogue in this Presidency, first-class powers being conferred on Tahsildars as soon as they are included in the list of persons declared suitable for appointment as Deputy Collectors.

(*e*) As the Honourable Member has not specified the period to which he refers, the Government are unable to say whether the situation was as described by him.

(*f*) No.

Girls' (residential) schools in the districts.

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

(*a*) the Government have any proposals to open and maintain girls' high schools (residential schools) on the model of the Women's College at Madras in the mufassal districts ;

(*b*) Tanjore is likely to be one of the districts where such a school will be opened ;

(*c*) proposals have been called for from the Director of Public Instruction as to the location, cost of each school and other details preliminary to giving effect to the establishment of such schools ; and

(*d*) the Government have any idea to allot necessary funds in the budget for the year 1921–22 for at least half a dozen schools.

A.—(*a*) Government have a programme for the opening of additional secondary schools for girls in selected places in the different circles. Hostels will be attached to these schools if found necessary.

(*b*) & (*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The matter is under consideration.

Tile works in the Presidency.

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

(*a*) how many tile works there are in this Presidency similar to the Ferok Tile Works where roofing and flooring tiles and wall (glazed) tiles are manufactured ;

(*b*) if the Government have taken any steps to open such works anywhere in the Presidency ;

(*c*) if the Government have considered the possibility of encouraging such works in any other part of the Presidency ; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the cost of transit from Calicut is even greater than the cost of the goods on account of the great distance the goods have to be carried.

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

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

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Municipal elections and division into wards according to the new District Municipalities Act.

353 Q.—Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government—

(*a*) in what municipalities the wards have been divided in accordance with the number of the elective seats under the new District Municipalities Act and finally approved by Government in the districts of Tanjore and Trichinopoly;

(*b*) when the division into wards was finally approved of in each of the municipalities above mentioned;

(*c*) whether voters' lists are ready for each ward in each of the municipalities in the said two districts; if not, in which of the towns it is not ready;

(*d*) whether elections have been held in any of the municipalities under the new Act; if not, why they have not been held and in which of the places elections have not been held;

(*e*) whether the Government have issued orders to hold elections or approved of dates proposed by the council in any of the places in the two districts;

(*f*) whether the Government have fixed any date before which elections in all the municipalities should take place;

(*g*) whether the Government have fixed any date before which the election of chairman should take place in the said municipalities;

(*h*) if the Government are aware that in several municipalities elected seats have not been filled up in view of the division of wards and that more than half the elective strength remains unfilled for more than a year or two; and

(*i*) what the total strength is as per the new Act and the existing strength in each of the said municipalities.

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The information required is given below:—

Municipality.	Date.
Kumbakōnam	10th December 1920.
Mannārgudi	24th August 1920.
Māyavaram	5th November 1920.
Negapatam	9th November 1920.
Tiruvālūr	25th September 1920.
Karūr	24th August 1920.
Srīrangam	5th November 1920.
Trichinopoly	22nd November 1920.

(*c*) The electoral rolls are ready in all the municipalities except Kumbakōnam and Tanjore.

(*d*) & (*f*) Elections can be held only after the electoral rolls are ready and, under the rules issued for the preparation of the electoral rolls, the final publication of the electoral rolls could be made only on or about 15th December 1920. Most of the chairmen have prepared and published the electoral rolls accordingly and they have been directed to

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take steps to hold elections in time for the new councils being brought into office by 1st April 1921. In a few municipalities the chairmen have not prepared or could not prepare the electoral rolls and the Government propose to issue fresh dates for their publication and have ordered that the elections should be held in time for the new councils being brought into office by 1st July 1921. Elections have been held in Chicacole, Chingleput, Cuddalore, Narasaraopet, Adōni and Kodaikānal and are being held in Anantapur, Parlākimedi and Conjeeveram. The Government have not however complete information as to the municipalities in which elections have been held and those in which they have not been held.

(*e*) The Government have ordered that in Kumbakōnam elections may be held after the Mahamakham festival and that in all other municipalities, except Tanjore in which electoral rolls are not ready, elections should be held in time for the new councils being brought into office by 1st April 1921. In Tanjore elections should be held in time for the new council being brought into office by 1st July 1921.

(*g*) The answer is in the negative. Chairmen have been informed that the new councils should elect their chairmen as soon as they are brought into office.

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

(*i*) The information required is furnished below :—

Name of Municipal Council.	Total strength sanctioned under the Act of 1884.	Existing actual strength as per Quarterly Civil List corrected up to 1st January 1921.	Total strength sanctioned under the new Act.
Kumbakōnam ..	24	22	32
Mannargudi ..	16	17	20
Māyavaram ..	18	12	20
Negapatam ..	24	15	32
Tanjore	24	22	32
Tiruvālūr ..	16	8	16
Karūr	12	10	16
Srīrangam ..	16	15	20
Trichinopoly ..	24	17	36

Failure of crops in Kurnool district.

354 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. Venkata Ranga Reddi : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(*a*) to state in how many villages in the Kurnool district there was total failure of crops and in how many there was partial failure ; and

* Includes the Chairman who is ex officio a councillor.

(*b*) whether the Government intend to grant full or proportionate remissions in all such villages.

A.—The Government have not yet received proposals for remission of revenue on dry lands in the Kurnool district; the proposals of the Collector and the Board will be carefully considered when they are received. The Collector himself may grant season remissions for wet lands.

Levy on each cart-load of leaf manure from reserve forests.

355 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur C. VENKATA RANGA REDDI: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member—

(*a*) to state the rate levied by the Forest Department for each cart-load of leaf manure taken from the reserve;

(*b*) what rate was in vogue before 1916;

(*c*) what the annual income then was and what it is now; and

(*d*) if there is a fall in the income, what the reason is for the fall.

A.—Different rates are levied in different districts for the removal of green manure leaves from the forests. If the Member will specify the district which he has in view, an endeavour will be made to answer the enquiry.

Hereditary Village Officers Act Amending Bill.

356 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur C. VENKATA RANGA REDDI: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue whether—

(i) a number of meetings were held all over the Presidency protesting against the proposed introduction of the Bill for amending the Hereditary Village Officers Act (Act III of 1895); and

(ii) the Government still propose to proceed with the Bill.

A.—The Government have received the minutes of proceedings of several village officers' conferences protesting against the introduction of the Bill. They have, however, after careful consideration, decided to proceed with the Bill.

Rao Bahadur C. VENKATA RANGA REDDI:—"When is it likely to be introduced?"

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I can give no definite undertaking on that matter."

APPENDIX I.

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[Vide answer to question No. 256 asked by Diwan Bahadur C. Arunachala Mudaliyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 21st February 1921, page 479 supra.]

Name of the officer.	General educational qualifications.	Past services and technical and expert knowledge they possess for the department.	Their past and present salaries and the grade of pay.
Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell, C.I.E., I.C.S.	No information.	For particulars, please see the Quarterly Civil List.	....
Mr. L. B. Green, M.B.E., Commercial and Intelligence Officer.	Do.	Advanced certificates of the Board of Education for Machine Construction and Drawing, Heat Engines and Applied Mechanics (Materials and Structures) and the Mechanical Engineering certificates of the City and Guilds London Institute (both grades).	Rupees 750 in the grade of Rs. 750—800.
Mr. A. Guthrie, Leather Expert and Principal, Leather Trades Institute	Do.	Certificate of proficiency in Leather Manufacture and Chemistry of the Leeds University; was employed in Messrs. Cooper Allen & Co., Cawnpore, for more than five years and studied Chrome Tanning in the Leeds University and Kettering.	Rupees 1,150 in the grade of Rs. 1,100—50—1,450.
M.R.Ry. P. K. Rajamanikkam Nayudu, Vice-Principal, Leather Trades Institute.	Do.	Qualified in the Leather Sellers' College, London, in leather; Diploma of merit from City and Guilds, London Institute in Heavy and Light Leather Manufacture, in Dyeing and in Finishing. Had one year full practical experience in various tanneries in England.	Rupees 450 in the grade of Rs. 300—25—600.
Dr. F. Marsden, Industrial Chemist.	Do.	Ph.D. (Heidelberg); M.Sc. (Honours in Chemistry), Victoria University, Manchester; Medals for Dyeing, etc., at Leeds University; was on the staff of Bangor University College, employed in Rubber, Cellulose and Dye Works in England and Germany. Has passed in Tamil.	Rupees 750.
M.R.Ry. A. K. Menon, B.A., F.C.S., Oil Chemist and Soap Expert.	B.A. (Madras).	(1) A graduate of the Madras University with Chemistry as optional. (2) Had special training in analysis and examination of oils, fats and waxes and their manufactured products in the laboratory of Dr. Lewkowitsch in London for about eighteen months. (3) Then had practical training in the manufacture of soap, glycerine, etc., in the soap factory of Messrs. D. and W. Gibbs, Limited, Wapping, London, E., for about eighteen months. (4) Had also training in several soap factories in Germany, France and other places on the continent. (5) Special training in the fat splitting by Twitchell's process and the Castor ferment process, etc., in Germany. (6) A fellow of the Chemical Society, London, and member of the Society of Chemical Industry, London.	Rupees 550 in the grade of Rs. 500—50—750.

Name of the officer.	General educational qualifications.	Past services and technical and expert knowledge they possess for the department.	Their past and present salaries and the grade of pay.
Captain Watts, Industrial Engineer.	..	M.I. Mech. E., M.I.E.E. Complete information is not available about his past services.	Rupees 1,500.
M.R.Ry. V. Ranga Achari, Assistant Industrial Engineer.	B.A. (Madras).	B.C.E.; had been Assistant Agricultural Engineer till 10th September 1920.	Rupees 250 in the grade of Rs. 200—12½—450.
Mr. W. S. Hadaway, Superintendent, School of Arts.	..	Indian Educational Service	Rupees 1,000 + 250.
M.R.Ry. N. R. Balakrishna Mudaliyar, Acting Assistant Superintendent.	..	....	Pay not yet decided.
Mr. D. M. Amalsad, A.M.C.T., M.T.I., Textile Expert.	No information.	Associate of the Manchester College of Technology. Holder of the first parchment certificate awarded by the City and Guilds of London Institute in Honours. Plain and Fancy Cotton Weaving (the manufacture of woven textiles). Silver medalist in Honours Weaving and Bronze medalist in Cotton Spinning. Holder of first-class full Technological certificates in Cotton Spinning and Weaving and a second-class certificate in Bleaching and Finishing. Had special training in sizing under the well-known Experts Messrs. Percy Bean, F.C.S., M.P.H.S., and Julius Hubner, F.I.C. Special experience of every up-to-date and economic methods of warp and weft preparation followed in the cotton, woollen, silk and linen trade. *Indian Mill experience*; Messrs. Buckingham Mill Company, Ltd., Madras, and Tata's Mills, Nagpur. *Lancashire Mill experience*; Messrs. Allen Bros., and Emmott Stuttard & Son, Radcliffe; Butterworth and Dickenson, Burnley; Robert McBride & Company, Ltd., Belfast; The Mains Weaving Company, Ltd., Carlisle. *Experience in fitting and erecting Machinery*; Messrs. Howard and Bullough, Ltd., Accrington; Butterworth and Dickenson, Burnley; Mather and Platt, Ltd., Manchester. Experience in cotton, silk and woollen hand-loom weaving as carried out in Macclesfield, Yorkshire, Ireland and Egypt. Member of the Textile Institute, Manchester.	Rupees 450 in the grade of Rs. 400—50—500.
W. Fyfe, Esq., Inspector of Industrial Schools.	No information.	Holds the following certificates:—City and Guilds London Institute—Woodwork, Teachers' Final certificate; carpentry, ordinary grade, first class; Sloyd Association of Scotland—Woodwork; Teachers' Higher certificate. Board of Examinations for Educational Handwork—Metal work, Teachers' Certificate. Board of Education, South Kensington—Building Construction and Drawing, Advanced first class; Geometrical Drawing, first class; Clay Modelling. August Abrahamson's Stiftelse, Nass, Sweden—Woodwork, Teachers' Certificate. Glasgow School of Arts—Public Elementary School, Teachers' Drawing Certificate; Metal work, Silversmithing and Enamelling. Glasgow Provincial Committee for the Training of Teachers.—Woodwork, second year certificate; Metal work (Repousse), second year certificate; Drawing third year certificate.	Rupees 700 in the grade of Rs. 600—50—1,000.

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Name of the officer.	General educational qualifications.	Past services and technical and expert knowledge they possess for the department.	Their past and present salaries and the grade of pay.
M.R.Ry. K. C. Srinivasan, M.A.	M.A. (Madras).	Passed M.A. of the Madras University in Chemistry with first-class Honours, University Marsh Scholar for Chemistry from 1914—17. Prince of Wales Medalist in Chemistry, 1917. Member of the Indian Science Congress. Underwent training under the Tanning Expert to the Government of India. Curzon Research Prizeman for Applied Chemistry of the University of Madras. Fellow of the Chemical Society. Member of the Society of Chemical Industry. Underwent training in Bio-Chemistry under Dr. Gilbert. J. Fowler at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.	Present salary Rs. 225 in the grade of Rs. 200—25—500.
Mr. H. E. R. Dunhill, Superintendent, Government Industrial Institute, Madura.	No information.	Government Technical Examinations in Steam and Steam Engine, Fitter's work, Machine construction and Machine Drawing; was employed in the Southern Mahratta Railway Workshops at Hubli for nine months and as General Assistant to the Foreman, Water-Works Department, Madras Municipality, for about five years; Inspector of Machines in the Salt Department.	Present salary Rs. 400.
M.R.Ry. C. S. Ramachandra Ayyar, B.A., Sub-Engineer.	..	B.A.; Engineer's Test, College of Engineering, Madras; (Practical) Training in the Railway Workshops, Perambur.	Present salary Rs. 250.
M.R.Ry. T. K. T. Viraraghava Achariyar, Assistant Director of Industries.	B.A. (Madras).	B.C.E. (Madras). Was District Board Engineer, Kistna.	Rupees 700—20—1,000 as District Board Engineer, Rs. 800—850 as Assistant Director of Industries.
M.R.Ry. S. Rajagopalaswami Mudaliyar, Assistant Director of Industries.	..	B.C.E. (Madras). Was Honorary Assistant Engineer, Public Works Department.	Rupees 500 in the Public Works Department, Rs. 600—650 as Assistant Director of Industries.
M.R.Ry. D. Sadasivan, Assistant Director of Industries.	B.A. (Madras).	B.Sc. Was Head Technological Chemist and Superintendent of Dyeing, Bleaching and Finishing Works, Morarji Gokuldas Spinning and Weaving Company, Bombay. Professor of Chemistry, Pachayappa's College.	Rupees 300 in the Pachayappa's College. Rupees 600—650.
Mr. L. S. Pinto, Assistant Director of Industries.	Matriculation examination, University of London.	M.Sc. (Durham University), A.M.I.Mech.E. Employed for five years in various capacities by the N.E. Railway Company, Darlington, England.	Present salary Rs. 600—650.
Mr. A. Jordon, Assistant Director of Industries.	Not available.	Received Engineering Training in Drawing Office and Workshops of R. Laidlaw & Sons, Glasgow. Served as Engineer in various firms, especially in sugar manufacturing companies in India.	....

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 283 asked by Mr. E. Periyanayakam at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 21st February 1921, page 487 supra.]

Statement showing the Arts colleges maintained by Government in the Presidency and the receipts and expenditure thereof during 1919–20.

District.	Name of institution.	Receipts during the year.			Expenditure during the year.		
		College department.	Secondary department.	Total receipts.	College department.	Secondary department.	Total expenditure.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Godavari	Government Arts College, Rajahmundry	24,872	..	24,872	51,684	..	51,684
Anantapur	Ceded Districts College	13,532	..	13,532	34,020	..	34,020
Tanjore	Kumbakonam College	42,586	..	42,586	66,092	..	66,092
Coimbatore	Coimbatore College	8,324	17,625	25,949	10,874	21,748	32,622
Malabar	Victoria College, Palghat	18,866	15,504	34,370	27,312	12,437	39,749
	Brennen College, Tellicherry	5,261	11,851	17,112	13,308	20,877	34,185
South Kanara	Government College, Mangalore	10,634	3,251	13,885	30,637	30,611	61,248
	Presidency College	58,102	..	58,102	2,15,421	..	2,15,421
Madras	Muhammadan College, including Madrasa-i-Azam.	2,021	*4,706	6,727	20,062	*28,044	48,106
	Total, Arts Colleges, men ..	1,84,198	52,937	2,37,135	4,69,410	1,13,717	5,83,127
Madras	Queen Mary's College for Women	5,486	..	5,486	52,467	..	52,467
	Total, Arts Colleges ..	1,89,684	52,937	2,42,621	5,21,877	1,13,717	6,35,594

* The amounts relate to the Madrasa-i-Azam, the expenditure thereof is debited to "22-E. Secondary Schools for Boys."

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II

Amendments to Standing Orders.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"I believe I have already mentioned to Honourable Members that there still remain about twenty-two questions to be answered, and that under the discretion vested in me by the Standing Orders, I have given the members of the Government further time for answering these questions. They will come on the agenda of the next meeting. I am sure Honourable Members will recognize that this being the first session there has been a very large volume of work and it has not been possible to answer all the questions at the present meeting.

"I believe Honourable Members are in possession of the draft amendments to the Standing Orders which have been notified by the Hon'ble the Law Member. I shall now proceed under Standing Order No. 76 to put before the Council the motion for leave to amend the Standing Orders and to inquire whether the Hon'ble the Law Member has the leave of the Council to proceed."

The motion standing in the name of the Hon'ble Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar was put and the necessary leave to proceed obtained.

Standing Order No. 22—

For '4 o'clock' *substitute* '3-30 p.m.'

Standing Order No. 23—

In clause (1) *for* '6 o'clock' *substitute* '6-30 p.m.'

In clause (2) after 'shall' *add* 'except with the permission of the President.'

Standing Order No. 77—

After the word 'President' in the fourth line *add* 'and the Advocate-General,' *omit* 'and' in the beginning of the line and *substitute* 'six' *for* 'seven' in the fifth line.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"Under Standing Order No. 77, these amendments will have to be referred to a select committee of which I have to be the Chairman and the Deputy President will be a member. I have to appoint one of the Chairmen of the Council as one of the members and propose to appoint the same gentleman whom I appointed the other day, namely, M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur R. Venkataratnam Nayudu Garu. Then it is for Honourable Members to elect seven members. It is for Honourable Members to consider whether it would be convenient to appoint the same gentlemen who have been already appointed, or if they want to exercise their right of ballot I shall fix an hour. It is for them to decide the matter."

The Council having agreed that the same members should be appointed for these amendments also, the President announced that these amendments also would be referred to the same Select Committee as before.

The Council then resumed consideration of resolutions on matters of general public interest.

III

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

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

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"Mr. President, I promised on Saturday night that I would not take up a great deal of the time of the Council upon this resolution, and in fulfilment of that promise I must ask the leave of the Council to confine myself to the strict and narrow terms of the resolution and not

to wander over the large area which has been covered by previous speakers. The terms of the resolution are 'That this Council recommends to the Government that copyists, section-writers and other similar subordinates may be recognized as full-time servants of Government and admitted to all the privileges of regular whole-time servants of Government'—that is, that a piece-work staff should be put on a permanent basis. There is no question of the copying fund, of the rate of pay of the copyists, or of rates of remuneration generally. All that we have in the proposition is that this piece-work staff should be placed on a permanent basis.

"I should like further to premise that anything I say on the subject must be subject to the concurrence of the Honourable the Judges of the High Court. Under section 107 of the Government of India Act the duty of laying down rules for the remuneration of copyists and the employment of the same in civil courts rests with the Honourable the Judges of the High Court. Though I am sure the Honourable the Judges will be only too ready to co-operate in any scheme for the reform of this branch of the service, I cannot pledge them to anything in advance. Coming now to the proposal itself, I need hardly say that as a bureaucrat I cordially welcome a resolution which tends to improve the conditions of the bureau with which I am concerned. If we were able to convert the copyists' staff into a permanent pensionable staff with privileges of leave and so forth, we should be able to insist upon a higher standard of education, on the typing of all copies and on the employment generally of a more responsible class of men, so that there would be a minimum of danger of the divulging of official documents. As a bureaucrat I am entirely in favour of the resolution. But as I have already in another connexion endeavoured to explain, this Council and the Government stand in the position of arbiter between the man who pays the tax, or in this case the fees, and the man who receives the fees, and I am not quite sure that this proposition is one which would commend itself wholly to either class.

"Taking in the first place the parties to suits, who are chiefly concerned in paying the fees, they will have to pay a large further increase in the fees for copying in order to raise the general scale of remuneration. Now, if we are going to give copyists leave and pension, that is, pay them for periods when they are not working, that would mean a still further increase in the fees. There is a still more important aspect of the case from the point of view of the parties, and that is the question of time. Under the present arrangements, it very frequently happens, and it will continue to happen, that very large masses of matter are sent to be copied in very short spaces of time as the parties want the copies very urgently for suits. That can be provided for under the present arrangements, under which the men are glad to do extra work for extra pay. Moreover it is easy for the controlling officers to call in temporary men. But if you are going to have a permanent pensionable staff entitled to leave, you obviously will have to regulate that with reference to the average daily work. That means to say that, if the work is above the average on any day, a balance of it will have to lie over to be done on a day when the work is less than the average. Then parties are apt to be delayed. I do not say that it is impossible to get over this difficulty, but it is a matter for serious consideration.

"Then as regards the point of view of the copyists,—to illustrate this I may tell the House that an expert copyist in the Secretariat, who copies fair copies to the Government and can work at the rate of 8,000 words a day could earn four times the amount the mover gave us as the present earnings of a copyist. And even without attaining this standard of speed, there are no doubt capable copyists who are earning a good deal more than the minimum pay of a clerk. If you are

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going to put them all down to one level you will be inflicting hardship on your best men. Again honourable members who were present during the discussion in committee of the full Council of the Salaries Committee's report will remember that the point was taken by more than one of them that for the copyist staff we do not need the same class of men as we do for clerks. In other words the copyist staff provides for men who are not quite up to the standard physically and otherwise and it also provides a training ground for young men coming into the Government service. Now if you are going to insist upon the age bar, a doctor's certificate and educational qualifications and an average standard of work, you are going to cut out a lot of these people who are working now in the Government service. Thus both from the point of view of the best men and the worst men it is doubtful whether it is wise to convert it into a pensionable staff on an average rate of pay.

"There is also an intermediate course, which I have been considering. That is the course provided by article 380 of the Civil Service Regulations for the case of piece-workers in the Government Press under which we are allowed, by bringing the press workers on the permanent piece-work staff, to make them eligible for a pension which is based upon their piece-work earnings during the last three years of their service. I have been considering whether it would not be possible to devise some similar scheme in the case of the copyists. But the piece-workers of the Government Press, to whom that scheme has been applied, are so extremely dissatisfied with it, that it seems to me hardly wise to introduce in a new staff a scheme that has given dissatisfaction to the staff to which it is now applied.

"To sum up, the Government have an entirely open mind upon this question and they will gladly welcome any suggestion that honourable members may have to make for improving the lot of these men in the way suggested by the resolution. I was inclined at one time to suggest a committee to go into the question. But we have got several committees sitting already and I am not sure whether it will be the wish of the House to appoint another. Possibly the committee that has been appointed to go into the question of salaries of non-gazetted officers would not object to this addition to their burden. If they would be willing to advise, Government will be only too glad to ask them for their advice on the subject."

Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhachariar:—"May I propose that this also may be referred to the committee to which the Hon'ble the Finance Member has referred, i.e., the committee appointed in connexion with non-gazetted officers' salaries."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter:—"I have said that the Government are quite willing to do that. I do not think that it is necessary to put that in the form of a resolution."

The Hon'ble the President:—"There is nobody who can take the responsibility of withdrawing the resolution. I will put it now."

The resolution was put and lost.

The following resolution standing in the name of Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar was deemed to have been withdrawn under Standing Order No. 56 (2) as the Member was absent:—

Honorary Advisory Board of Industries for each district.

"52. *That this Council recommends to the Government that an Honorary Advisory Board of Industries be formed for each district to help the local officers of*

the Industries Department in investigating the industrial possibilities of each district and in helping them with their local influence."

The following resolution standing in the name of Mr. K. Gopalakrishnayya was deemed to have been withdrawn under Standing Order No. 56 (2) as the Member was absent :—

Appointment of a Scientific Expert to improve agriculture and industries.

"53. *That this Council recommends to the Government the employment of a highly-paid scientific expert in agriculture and industries to devise practical means and methods tending to stimulate the production of agricultural products and other raw materials in this Presidency even by abolishing some posts in these departments.*"

The following resolution standing in the name of Mr. T. Sivasankaram Pillai was considered as having been withdrawn under Standing Order No. 56 as the member did not move it :—

Enhancement of travelling and daily allowances to jurors, witnesses, etc.

"54. *That this Council recommends to the Government that a committee may be formed to revise the rates of travelling and daily allowances to jurors, assessors and witnesses required to attend Courts of Justice in view of the rise in the cost of living and conveyance.*"

Site for the Civil Hospital in British Cochin.

Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—"Mr. President, I beg to move the following resolution :—

'55. *That this Council recommends to the Government that the site selected for the Civil hospital in British Cochin in accordance with G.O. No. 977 M., dated 16th May 1914, upon which building operations have been going on, may not now be abandoned in favour of another site.*'

"The facts which are necessary for the purpose of bringing before the House this question have been elicited by Mr. Krishnan Nayar's question, answers to which were supplied on the 18th instant. The question is No. 166 on page 5 of the question and answer book of that day. The site for the Civil hospital in British Cochin was selected in 1914 about seven years ago. The then Collector of Malabar, Mr. Innes, stated that it was the best site that could be got and that it was one of the healthiest sites in Cochin and though not exactly central it was readily accessible from all parts of the town. The area of the site is a little over 7 acres. The estimated cost for the construction sanctioned by the Government was Rs. 74,000. The site itself belonged to Government and was alienated free of cost to the Municipal Council. The whole matter was carefully considered by a Government Order and the new hospital was placed on the road to construction. Designs for buildings were approved by the Sanitary Board, including the Chief Engineer and the then Surgeon-General Bannerman. Rupees 24,000 have already been spent upon the construction of the building upon this site. The Government now propose to abandon this site at the instance of the present Surgeon-General Giffard. One reason for this, as far as I gather from correspondence and the newspapers, is that it is stated that the present site is too far away from the town. That is a point which was certainly considered and which must have been considered before the site was originally sanctioned for the construction of the Civil hospital. The second reason, I understand, is it is proposed to hand over the new site upon which construction has been going on to European residents of the town for erecting residential bungalows. The site which was sanctioned in

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1914 undoubtedly happens to be half a mile south of the European club and close to the volunteer butts. The site which was sanctioned by the Government upon which the hospital was to be erected is a little more than seven acres and the site in favour of which it is proposed to be abandoned now is only 2·26 acres. The site now recommended by Surgeon-General Giffard has a marsh in front of it, on another side there is Pierce Leslie's cask yard, on the third side a cooper's work-shop, and on the fourth Aspinwall's building with its high walls that shut off breeze. This place is considered by the Municipal Council as well as by those who know about it as a dirty and insanitary one. This is the site upon which the Civil hospital is to be built when a most excellent site was selected seven years ago, which was approved by the then Collector, by the Government, by the Sanitary Board and by everybody concerned after a good deal of correspondence. Under these circumstances I do think that a very strong case has been made out for the Government not going back upon the expenditure which has already been incurred, and for not taking up the unsatisfactory proposal of the Surgeon General. I do not know what further reasons will be stated. All these statements of mine rest upon the answers which have been frankly given by the Government in answer to the skilfully devised series of questions which my friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar put the other day. It is suggested in those answers that there has been since a change in the public opinion and that petitions have been received. Well, the correspondence has not been placed on the table though asked for. The municipal council itself is in favour of the retention of the site which was sanctioned and that is the accredited exponent of local opinion on such a matter. Under these circumstances, Mr. President, I would commend this resolution strongly and emphatically for the favourable consideration of the House."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I have very great pleasure in seconding this resolution. As my honourable friend, the mover of this resolution, has already submitted to you, Sir, all the facts, at any rate, most of the facts that are necessary for the discussion of this resolution have been given by the Government in answer to an interpellation that was submitted by me to you. As has been already stated before you, Sir, the estimated cost of this building which was to have been constructed upon the site chosen was Rs. 74,000. The site itself was chosen seven years ago, the building operations commenced about three years ago and about a third of the estimated expenditure, namely, about Rs. 24,000, has already been spent upon the building. The building itself was approved of by a Sanitary Board of which the Chief Engineer and the Surgeon-General were members.

"The town of British Cochin is a very small place, I believe, not more than one square mile in extent—I am speaking of course very roughly—and the then Collector, as has been admitted by the Government in their answer to my interpellation, stated that it lay on the sandy beach, that it was very difficult to find a central place for building a hospital in the town of British Cochin, but it was a very convenient place and it was accessible to all and that it was the best site available. So that, after a great deal of consideration and consultation among all the authorities concerned, the Collector, the Surgeon-General, the Chief Engineer, the Sanitary Board and the Municipal Council, this particular site was selected and the building itself began to be constructed. Now the Government proposes to give up the site and to go back to the old site. What is the nature of this site? One would think, even a layman will, I am sure, be of opinion, that the site on which the Government want to construct the hospital is the least suitable for a

hospital. It is a very unhealthy site, admittedly. All the boundaries of it are peculiarly unsuited for the construction of a hospital. It is bounded on one side by a marsh, breeding, I suppose, all kinds of noxious germs, on another side there is a cask yard of a firm, on another side there is a cask-maker's workshop and on the fourth there is a high wall belonging to a firm; so that, practically if one thinks of selecting a site which is most unsuited to the construction of a hospital, it is this site.

"What are the reasons for abandoning the other site? As has been stated by the honourable mover of this resolution, the reason is that the European residents of the place want this site for the construction of residential quarters and it is stated that the value of the land will rise considerably when the harbour comes into operation. These certainly are very inadequate reasons for giving up the site which was intended for a hospital that had been partially constructed. I asked the Government to lay on the table the correspondence on the subject, the letter of the Collector, the letter of the municipal chairman, the letter of the present and the former Surgeon-General. The Government have not chosen to lay on the table this correspondence. I can very well understand the Government refusing to lay on the table confidential correspondence relating to State matters and so on. Now, if that correspondence were produced, we would have been in a position to know what the reasons were for abandoning this hospital and whether those reasons were adequate. As it is, the only answer elicited to my question, with reference to this matter, is that there is a change now in the public opinion as regards the location of this hospital and that the majority are now in favour of reconstructing the hospital on the present site, also that petitions have been received from the citizens of Cochin which support this view. My information from the people of Cochin is that it is just the other way, it is the opposite of the public opinion which, according to the Government, exists there. I should like to know very much, Sir, when this petition was received by the Government. The Honourable Member who will answer this resolution will give us more facts with reference to this matter. I repeat again, I should very much like to know when this petition referred to in answer to my question was received by Government, who the signatories are, how many signatories there were.

"As far as the Council can now judge, Sir, it seems to me that it is a very clear case for not shifting the site on which the building is now being constructed. With these few words I have very great pleasure in seconding this resolution."

Mr. F. J. Richards:—"Mr. President, I oppose this resolution, not because the land is required for European residents, but because the hospital is required for the sick poor. It is frankly admitted in the answers to the interpellations that there has been a difference of opinion in the past on this subject and I admit that at first perusal of the correspondence in this connexion, the natural impression is that the case for reverting to the old site is not convincing, but on going into the matter more carefully, I have entirely altered my standpoint, and I hope that the House will follow what I lay before them.

"The petition referred to in the answer to interpellation was received in the Surgeon-General's office on the 30th October 1918, and I may be permitted to quote from it. It is a petition from the citizens of British Cochin and has several pages of signatures attached, mostly in the vernacular. The present site 'is easy' the petition runs, 'of access from all parts of the town, and in special, being located in a spot in the neighbourhood of which, thanks to the drainage system and congestion, sickness always persists, it is found to afford real and excellent facilities to the suffering citizens.' The petition goes on, 'the petitioners beg to

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state that the new hospital is far removed from the populous quarters and access to it is full of difficulties especially in the case of purdah ladies, etc.'

"I am afraid, I must also trespass on the time of the Council by reading in extenso the minute of dissent which was put in by one of the municipal councillors on the 30th October 1918 when the matter was discussed by the municipal council. 'The town of Cochin may be taken as a strip of land lying along the sea-board from north to south with the sea on the west and Native Cochin territory in the east. Dividing the land into two portions, we find that the new hospital is located almost near the dividing line, easily reachable by the people in the south. But of the two portions the more thickly populated is the northern, close to which the old hospital is situated. Though the new hospital is nearer the southern portion, it is thinly populated: and therefore the old hospital is located closer to the thickly populated part of the town, including Vypeen where there is no dispensary, the necessity of which was often pointed out by the people of the island. In addition to these facts all the mercantile houses are situated closer to the old hospital. Its position is, therefore, advantageous to the bulk of the population, and it will be more so in the near future when it becomes the centre of greater commercial activity after the construction of the harbour with the introduction of the proposed canal system which latter will provide facilities for the people in the south to have easy recourse by means of water-communication to the old hospital. An additional advantage that may be considered in relation to the proximity of the old hospital to the water-ways is that sick seamen brought by steamers and other vessels can conveniently be landed and taken to the hospital even during monsoons. This will not be the case if the new hospital is to be located on the present site, as during the monsoons, no landing is possible at any point on the beach adjoining it. Further, any accident taking place either in the sea or in any of the factories attached to the mercantile firms demanding immediate medical attention, can be speedily attended to, if the hospital continues to be where it is at present; whereas if it is to be on the new site, the difficulty of attending to such cases will be much greater."

"That expression of opinion, Sir, I submit, is the well considered opinion of a responsible municipal councillor, and I hope you will not rule me out of order if I refer to a concrete instance where the mistake was made of locating a hospital on the outskirts of a town instead of on the most congested quarter. I may point out that the recommendation of the present Surgeon-General is based on experience gained in Western Europe. In London in particular, the big hospitals are not located in sites chosen because they are healthy, but as a general rule located in the most crowded parts of London, in fact, some of them are in the heart of slums. The concrete instance of mistaken location is that of Nandyal. The new Nandyal hospital was erected and it was found necessary in 1907 that . . ."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR (*interrupting*):—"Is a reference to Nandyal and other places in order?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"It is in order."

Mr. F. J. RICHARDS (*continuing*):—"It was found necessary in Nandyal to open a dispensary to cope with the requirements of out-patients. The administration report of the municipality for 1906–07 runs: 'we have retained a dispensary in Nandyal proper for out-patients, as it would cause much inconvenience for the larger number of out-patients that gather daily to walk more than a mile to the hospital for all small ailments'. Another commentary on this is found in the administration report for 1919–20: 'the hospital (at Nandyal) is certainly not efficiently managed" the Sub-Collector writes 'the compound is utterly neglected.

The in-patient's wards seem to be generally deserted'. The Collector writes : 'the hospital lies outside the town, a fact which always militates against the success of such an institution in this country.' It is pointed out that more than two-thirds of the out-patients treated in Nandyal are treated at the branch dispensary in the town—a significant sequel to the location of the hospital on the outskirts of the town."

"I submit, Sir, that this is an instance where the Government should profit by experience, and that the plea put in by the petitioners who do not represent the educated classes deserve consideration. I would point out that the plea put in by the petitioners is in full accord with the carefully considered minutes of Mr. C. H. Pereira, the Municipal Councillor."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I should like to rise to a point of order. I should like to know whether the Honourable Member is in order in referring to papers which are not before the House, more especially in this case where the publication of papers has been asked for. I would invite your attention to Parliamentary practice : 'Finally, it is forbidden to Ministers to quote from documents or State papers without at the same time laying the full-text on the table of the House. The rule is founded on the analogy between the Houses of Parliament and the courts of justice ; the principle that no document must be quoted in court without being produced is held to be applicable to Parliament as well as to an ordinary judicial tribunal."

"Now, I would invite your attention to this matter because in this case my honourable friend asked for the publication of papers and it was refused. Now, Mr. Richards is quoting from those very documents the publication of which has been sought for and I would ask you to give us a considered ruling in view of the importance of this matter."

Mr. F. J. RICHARDS :—"On the point of order, Sir, I submit that the minute of dissent and the proceedings of the municipal council have been published in the District Gazette. I hope I shall not be ruled out of order in quoting it."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I should like to have a considered ruling on the matter."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"I understand the Honourable Member to object to Mr. Richards' quoting from certain documents, on the ground that they have not been put before the House, and that therefore the Government has undue advantage in choosing the quotations. But Mr. Richards has pointed out that this particular document has been published in the gazette."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"But the petition from which he has amply quoted and which has been in the possession of the Government has been withheld from this House."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"Has the document from which Mr. Richards was quoting been published in the gazette ?"

Mr. F. J. RICHARDS :—"The rule quoted by my honourable friend requires that if a quotation is made, the document should *simultaneously* be placed on the table of the House. The document is here, the mahazar petition, and, if desired, I shall place it on the table of the House."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"I think it is somewhat late in the day to do that. The Government have been interpellated on the point, and they were asked to lay the correspondence on the subject on the table. The Government did not

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choose to lay that correspondence. If a Member on behalf of Government begins to quote from the correspondence, naturally the critics of the Government are at a disadvantage, and really they will not be able to deal with the point of view put by the Government. If, as I understand, the minute of the municipal councillor has been published in the gazette, the Government will be perfectly entitled to quote from that document."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"The minutes of the council were not published."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"I am afraid, Sir, that the honourable member for Kistna is putting a further restriction on the rule than what is contained in the passage he read out. The question of interpellations must be distinguished from the question of resolutions. When a question is put, it is open to the member in charge of the department to answer as best as he could or even to refuse to answer. But when a resolution is under discussion it is no doubt open to the opposition to say that a paper which has not been placed on the table and which has been referred to should be placed on the table. Since Mr. Richards is willing to place the paper in question on the table, the force of the objection ceases and he is perfectly in order. It is not a point of order at all. It is only a right to demand that a certain paper should be laid on the table."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"Will the honourable member be content if it is laid on the table?"

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I will be satisfied if he is willing to place all the papers on the table; otherwise I shall have to be getting up and opposing his reading from the other papers which are in his possession. I am suggesting it merely for the sake of convenience and as a practice which has to be followed hereafter. Therefore, I request you to give us a considered ruling on the matter."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"I do not propose to go into the general question. So far as this particular document is concerned, I think it is clear that if the Government want to rely upon a particular document it must be made available to the opposition by being laid on the table. If that is done, I will permit the honourable member to quote from it. Otherwise I shall not."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—"We have no objection to place on table the documents from which quotations are made."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, the other papers which I called for and which are intimately connected?"

Th Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"It is another matter."

Mr. F. J. RICHARDS :—"May I point out Sir, in this connexion, that the particular document, the mahazar, *has not been called for*, and *no* request has been made, as far as I am aware, that it should be placed on the table. As for the minutes, by statute, the proceedings of the municipal council must be published, and I think, Sir, it is for this House to presume that they have been published until the contrary is proved."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"I submit, Sir, so far as the minutes are concerned . . ."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"I have already passed a ruling. I must ask the honourable members to abide by it and proceed with the discussion."

Mr. F. J. RICHARDS :—"I have very little more to say, Sir. The unhealthy environment of the site of the present hospital is a matter which will be dealt with, presumably immediately, by the committee which has been appointed by the municipality for town improvement. It is true that there is a loss as the result of the change of view on the part of the Government, because work has already been done, and at first sight the loss looks rather large. The gross figure is Rs. 24,000. But the work already done can be utilized for other purposes, and the question of so utilizing it is under consideration. The net loss involved will be a very trifling amount. My experience of the poorer classes of this country is that in times of sickness they would rather die than be removed from their friends and relatives. Although the distances in Cochin are comparatively small, I submit that the plea on behalf of the sick poor deserves the strongest support."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, I have heard Mr. Richards with some amount of surprise. I distinctly remember—if it is permissible for me to refer to what has happened in the previous administration—the honourable members who were members of this council in 1916 or 1917 would remember the debate on the general hospital scheme in this city. It was then stated that this present general hospital was in a congested portion of the city with noise all round, that many of the patients have desired a quieter locality and that in the interests of not only patient but of sound medical administration and education it was necessary to remove the hospital from the present site to the Spur Tank."

Mr. F. J. RICHARDS *(interrupting)* :—"Is a reference to the Spur Tank Scheme relevant to this resolution ?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"Quite as relevant as Nandyal."

Mr. F. J. RICHARDS :—"The point of order I raise is that in citing the Nandyal case I drew an inference from facts of the past. The present reference is of a totally different character, as it refers to a project for the future. I submit respectfully that inferences from the past and the future are not on the same logical plane."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"The future is dependent on the past a great deal. I should like to know whether this change of policy is of recent date or when this sudden jump of placing these hospitals in the more populous portions of the town has been taken. Because, I know, as a matter of fact, several schemes as regards hospitals are pending and were considered during the last two or three years."

Mr. F. J. RICHARDS :—"The information has been given. It was October 1918."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Well Sir, I do not wish to refer to the point of order. I wish to impress upon this House three essential factors in the consideration of this question. Firstly, that the scheme has already been started, that a sum of Rs. 24,000 has already been expended and that this change of public opinion seems to have come on after the Government have proceeded with the scheme to a considerable extent. Secondly, that the municipal council which represents the rate-payers has stated that the hospital should be constructed at the place at which it has already been started. I should like to know from Mr. Richards whether against the wishes of the municipal council it is the policy of the Government to listen to the rate-payers. It must be one body or the other. Where there are individual rate-payers or rate-payers who come in with collective petitions, and where there is a responsible authority entrusted with

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the administration of municipal affairs, whether that authority should be looked to or whetherthe petitioners coming in with collective petitions should be referred to."

Mr. F. J. RICHARDS :—" Is my honourable friend in order in asking me to make a general pronouncement as to the policy of the Government on a general question in this connexion ? "

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" He is entitled to make the suggestion though the Government may accept it or not."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" Therefore that is the second point, namely, whether the Government would pay consideration to the wishes of the municipal council which is the accredited representative of the local administration or whether they would act upon petitions presented by rate-payers. On that matter . . . . . "

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—" May I just say, Sir, a few words on this question ? "

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" Is the honourable member rising to a point of order ? If not, he must wait till the honourable member finishes."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU (*continuing*) :—" The third fact is the question when this change of public opinion influenced the Government. It is suggested in this case that the change of public opinion was entirely due, or mostly due, to the fact that this site is required for residential purposes by the European community. Is it, or is not a fact ? I trust that a clear statement will be made on that matter. Of course, with reference to another town we had a similar difficulty where the European community objected to the construction of residences near the European quarter. At that time the scheme came up to Government. The Collector reopened the whole subject and it was again placed before the Government, and the scheme was disapproved again. However, this is a matter which ought to be viewed from a broader standpoint of the requirements of the rate-payers and not of a particular community."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—" Sir, I am afraid on behalf of Government I have to oppose the resolution. The objections which the speakers from opposition benches have raised, had been considered. Whether the site is healthy or not, it is not for the municipal council to pronounce an opinion upon. It is for an expert, it is for the Surgeon-General, to say whether the site is healthy or not. In this case, Government had the opinion of the Surgeon-General taken. He did not object to the site on the ground of insanitary surroundings. This objection therefore does not stand.

" Again, Sir, Mr. Ramachandra Rao asks whether as against the opinion of the municipal council the petitions from the people should prevail. Does the honourable member mean that Government should not hear complaints against the action taken by the municipality ? Sir, a petition was presented to Government and upon the receipt of the petition, Government deputed the Surgeon-General to inquire into the matter. He went to the spot, inspected the place and submitted his report. Thereupon Government came to the conclusion that a reversion to the former site was necessary. The honourable mover said that the site accepted is more costly. If anything, it is an argument against him. The hospital does not require a costly site. The site if utilized for business quarters will more than ten times cover the amount spent upon the site given up. What is chiefly wanted is that the site must be within the easy reach of the poor as well as the rich. Sir, the poorer classes complain that if the hospital is shifted to the shore it would be out of their reach, and Government came to their rescue and even at the cost of Rs. 18,000 reverted to the old site."

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—" Sir, speaking generally, I believe dispensaries ought to be located in places where we have a lot of people, but taking the standpoint of patients, I think it will be well if hospitals are located in places where there will be less noise and din. So, to ignore totally the opinion of the Council in the selection of a site is something which I cannot understand. Here is a site that has been chosen after careful thought and much money has been spent on it and now comes a mahazar requesting that the old place should be occupied again. Sir, from a medical point of view and also from the question of economy, I believe this resolution ought to be supported."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, I am afraid that the general statement made by the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government that it is not for the Municipal Council to give an opinion as to whether a site is suitable or not. . . . "

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—' Sir, I didn't say, 'suitable or not', I said whether the site is 'sanitary or not'".

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" It seems to me that it is still the same statement that whether the site is 'sanitary or not', must always be left to the Surgeon-General. It is too sweeping a proposition to be accepted. If it is to be taken as a settled fact, if in matters concerning medical relief or sanitation, a Municipal Council or a local body is to accept as the final word the opinion of the Surgeon-General, I do not think local bodies can be expected to do useful work. There may be cases in which a local body may make mistakes, there may be cases in which its opinion may have to be re-considered, but it is the local body which must have the final choice in coming to a conclusion as to whether what is proposed to be acquired is in a sanitary locality or not. The Surgeon-General will always be an adviser to the local body, and he cannot be a dictator to the local body. I believe it is also the view put forward by Government, and I hope there will not be any change from that principle that advice may be accepted from local bodies, and if it is found that they have committed a mistake, there may be room for rectification. But I hope this Council will not subscribe to such a broad proposition that the municipality is to be dictated to in such matters."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI :—" Sir, the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government said that the question as to the healthiness or unhealthiness of a site is dependent upon the views of the Surgeon-General, but from the long statement that was read out by Mr. Richards, I believe, he never pointed out to any statement from General Giffard, wherein he stated that the site which has been chosen at present is a very healthy site. But, on the other hand, Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar who moved the resolution has pointed out to this Council various objectionable features to the present site and Mr. Richards in his long reply to that resolution has not touched upon any of the objectionable features, nor has he denied the existence of any of them. Therefore, one has got to take it for granted that these objectionable features pointed out by Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar are really in existence. The only objection which Mr. Richards pointed out was the question of distance. If distance alone were to be the question,—and he pointed out the question of Nandyal,—if anybody knows Cochin and British Cochin, which after all is not a place of great distances, if you will only take that into consideration and also take the other fact, namely, the unhealthy features that have been pointed out, the question of distance in this case at least, which as admitted by Mr. Richards also is not very great, should not be taken into consideration to disturb the conclusion that has been arrived at some seven years back. Moreover, one question we have got to consider and which has not been dealt with

by Mr. Richards is this. That up till now we have spent about Rs. 24,000 upon the building of the hospital, that is, we have nearly met about one-third of the cost and we have got to meet only about two-thirds. Now we are asked to abandon all that we have done up till now, to take up a new position, to choose a new site and acquire a marsh which would cost a lot of money and begin from the foundation again. I put it to you, Sir, whether the members of this House would consider that position as advantageous especially when we are hard-pressed for money, whether it would be advantageous to give up a large scheme upon which we have already spent one-third of the required amount, and to indulge in,—we do not know for what amount, but it will surely be a larger amount,—a very new scheme which after all nobody knows whether with its unhealthy features would be quite profitable to the public. I submit, Sir, that as the objections raised by Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar have not been answered by Mr. Richards on behalf of the Government, nor even by the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government from whom I expected something more substantial when he rose to give a word of explanation,—I am sorry to say nothing resulted out of the word of explanation except a mere dictum that the word of the Surgeon-General should be final upon this matter,—I give my hearty support to this resolution."

Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar :—"Sir, the Hon'ble the Minister for Local and Municipal Department gave great importance to the approval of the Surgeon-General. May I ask for information as to whether the previous site, the first site, was approved by the Surgeon-General or not. If so, why can't we give greater importance to that approval? Why should we give great importance to this approval? With these remarks, I heartily support this resolution."

Mr. K. V. Ramachari :—"Sir, from the statements made here in the Council just now I understand that the Government wants to remove the hospital to a place which had been already selected and upon which a hospital was already standing. When the Government or the Municipal Council thought of removing the hospital to some other place they must have had very good grounds for thinking of such a change, and then the best consideration would have been bestowed by the Government as well as by the Municipal Council. So after a mature deliberation and due consideration they selected a place on which a building had already gone up to a certain extent, and now within a short space of seven years I don't think such a great change in the condition of the town can have taken place to justify its removal to some other place. After all British Cochin is not a very big town; it seems to be a small town. The location either in one corner of the town or in the centre of the town or in another corner of the town will not make any difference at all; it will only be a matter of a few furlongs. So I believe the question of the distance ought not to weigh. "I don't see that the Municipal Council and Colonel Giffard who was the Surgeon-General at the time would have passed an opinion to that effect without taking it into consideration. Why should we be in a hurry and accept the proposition made by another Surgeon-General, the grounds of which have not been made clear after having spent about Rs. 24,000 in the construction?

"Mr. Richards referred to a minute of dissent signed by one person. When the Council itself passed a resolution that the hospital should stand on the place where it is now being erected, I do not see any force in one single gentleman's minute of dissent, that single gentleman being one among the many who formed the Council of British Cochin. In these circumstances, I am constrained to support the proposition which is now before the Council."

Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—"Mr. President, I do not think it necessary to say more than a few brief words by way of reply to what has been said by

Mr. Richards and the Hon'ble Mr. Ramarayaningar. The first objection that has been taken is that this new site which was selected in 1914 by the Government upon the advice of the then Surgeon-General and upon the advice of the then Chief Engineer is a site which is too far away from the heart of the town. Mr. Ramachari has already pointed out that British Cochin is not a city of great distances. It is, I understand, only about a square mile. I don't think it matters much, the question of distance, whether it is at the old site or at the new site. In the second place, I do not agree with Mr. Richards in his view that a hospital like this should be in the most populous locality. I quite agree with Mr. Palmer's distinction between a dispensary and a hospital, and that dispensaries must be in a populous place, whereas hospitals where in-patients have to be housed ought to be selected on sanitary grounds. I have not heard from Mr. Richards or from western experts upon this point that hospitals in London are located in the most populous places even on the edge of a marsh, surrounded by a cooper's workshop and various other buildings. It will be different if the site which is chosen in the heart of a populous town, is a very good one. My objection is not based on the ground that the site should be away from the heart of the town, but my objection to the site which is now proposed by the Surgeon-General is that the site itself is a bad one; therefore that objection is not got over by saying that any site will do if it is in the heart of the town, to which extreme proposition Mr. Richards has committed himself. I am afraid it is a very fallacious argument which he was endeavouring to elaborate.

"Then the Hon'ble Mr. Ramarayaningar laid down a canon for the conduct of his department. Other honourable members have spoken about it, and I do not wish to add to it. Those who have more experience on the subject have spoken upon it, and I dare say the Hon'ble Mr. Ramarayaningar will seriously think over it all. My point is this. A Sanitary Board consisting of Surgeon-General Bannerman and the Chief Engineer sat upon this site and approved it. After that it is idle to say 'the present expert says differently; I am bound by the present expert'. It is not at all right for the Hon'ble Mr. Ramarayaningar to say . . . "

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR:—"May I say a word in explanation? Nobody says that the site chosen on the seaside is unhealthy or insanitary. I only referred to the opinion of the present Surgeon-General in connexion with the healthy condition of the locality where the old hospital was situated."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I quite accept the Hon'ble Mr. Ramarayaningar's explanation, and it relieves me from the task of proceeding any further with the remarks he first made. My point is that the site selected by Surgeon-General Giffard is a very bad one, and Government should pursue a continuity of policy. If a Surgeon-General happens to differ from his predecessor, an equally eminent authority, Government must insist upon the former Surgeon-General's opinion being maintained, unless any very grave reasons are shown. Now, it is perfectly clear that the old resolution was come to after a considerable discussion. It was not disturbed for many years. It was sought to be disturbed only in 1918, and therefore no case has been made out on that score.

"Then, a third point was made by Mr. Richards, that a mahazar came up that caused a commotion in the Secretariat. The Hon'ble Mr. Ramarayaningar said that it was after that petition that the Surgeon-General was deputed and was asked to report. The Hon'ble Mr. Ramarayaningar was not right in his facts. The Surgeon-General's letter to Government is dated the 7th of September 1918—if the Government choose to lay it on the table it will be clear,—and the petition which Mr. Richards referred to is towards the end of September 1918, which

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is after the Surgeon-General's letter to Government. Therefore it cannot be said that the petition influenced the Government to embark upon a new inquiry and to depute the Surgeon-General to visit the spot after which the Surgeon-General came to a revised conclusion. That is the reason why Mr. Krishnan Nayar wanted the whole correspondence to be placed on the table, and I am sorry that the Government put itself in the wrong by not placing the Surgeon-General's letter on the table. The only conclusion that I can draw from these various circumstances is though Mr. Richards repelled the inference which I sought to draw, namely, that the site was required for the purpose of residential bungalows for Europeans, and it is the only reasonable inference the House ought to draw. I am afraid the reasons against my resolution are so unconvincing, not only *prima facie* unconvincing, as Mr. Richards admitted, but, even on an examination of the whole question, remain so unconvincing, that I am bound to say that the only objection is the site on which money has been spent is now wanted by European residents. So, I would urge this House to support my resolution in the spirit in which I have brought it and upon the facts which are more eloquent than any speech which I can make for the purpose of commending it to the favourable consideration of this House."

Mr. F. J. Richards:—"Mr. President, I refrain from giving the date referred to by my friend for fear of being ruled out of order, as the papers are not on the table.

"I am afraid that some of my friends have not listened very carefully to the debate. The net loss will not be anything like the gross loss. It will be comparatively a small matter if the building is used for other purposes. What I beg to point out in this connexion is that it would be more economic to cut our losses than to go forward with a project which is likely to become a white elephant. The choice lies between a hospital on a salubrious site which is empty, and a hospital on a less salubrious site which is popular and well attended. There is behind this the experience of Western Europe. In almost every big city, and fortunately in this Presidency also, we have the experience of hospitals being located for the advantage of the sick poor in the most congested parts. That experience, which is familiar to all, cannot be light-heartedly rejected. I fear that in his closing remarks the honourable mover of this motion betrayed the real cause why the motion has been brought forward, namely, that the alteration in the decision of the Government is influenced by considerations of the convenience of Europeans in Cochin. I submit that such a consideration is entirely irrelevant to this discussion, and the House must with a clear conscience decide the issue irrespective of that question which has not been raised. There also seems to be a suspicion that Government or the Surgeon-General, for the pure pleasure of the thing, wished to dictate and override the decision of the Cochin municipality. Surely such an insinuation will not bear criticism. Neither Government nor the Surgeon-General have anything to gain whatever by overruling or dictating to the Cochin municipality. In fact, the Government stand considerably to lose, and the Surgeon-General has been put to a great deal of administrative trouble in carrying forward what in his conscience and in his expert experience he considered to be the best plan of action. This is a matter in which we have to be largely guided by experts, not merely experts in knowledge, but experts in experience. It is admitted frankly that the opinion of the present Surgeon-General differs from that of his predecessor. I might point out in this connexion that a similar question has arisen, as is well known to many honourable members, in the case of Tuticorin, namely, whether we are to have an empty hospital in a salubrious site, or a hospital which is readily accessible to the sick poor. I think it will be

impossible to provide a hospital conveniently accessible to the sick poor in a location which is from a sanitary point of view, ideal. A similar question has been raised, I am informed, regarding the proposed location of the new General Hospital, which it is proposed to construct in Madras itself. Proposals have been made that it should be located on the foreshore. But the objection has been raised and the proposal negatived on the same ground, namely, that (apart from the question of monsoon winds which, I believe, are as bad in Cochin as in Madras) it will be out of the convenient reach of the sick poor; and solely on the question of [the convenience of the poorer classes in question I base my opposition to this resolution."

The resolution was put to the vote and lost, 29 voting *for* and 35 *against*.

Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao then wanted a poll.

The following voted *for* the resolution :—

1. M.R.Ry. K. Adinarayana Reddi Garu.
2. ,, B. P. Devarajulu Nayudu Garu.
3. ,, Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar Avargal.
4. ,, Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar Avargal.
5. ,, J. Kuppuswami Garu.
6. ,, Rao Bahadur A. Ramayya Punja Garu.
7. ,, A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar Avargal.
8. ,, K. Sarabha Reddi Garu.
9. ,, T. Sivasankaram Pillai Avargal.
10. ,, A. Subbarayudu Garu.
11. ,, A. Tangavelu Nayagar Avargal.
12. ,, K. C. Venkatachala Reddiyar Avargal.
13. ,, Rao Bahadur C. Venkataranga Reddi Garu.
14. ,, P. Venkatasubba Rao Garu.
15. ,, Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai Avargal.
16. M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu Garu.
17. ,, S. Srinivasa Ayyangar Avargal.
18. ,, Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu Garu.
19. ,, Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhacharlu Garu.
20. ,, K. V. Ramachari Avargal.
21. ,, Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. Rama Rao Avargal.
22. ,, Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao Avargal.
23. ,, Sasibushana Rath Avargal.
24. ,, Diwan Bahadur D. Deshagiri Rao Pantulu Garu.
25. ,, M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar Avargal.
26. ,, T. Arumainatha Pillai Avargal.
27. Mr. A. T. Palmer.
28. M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur Govindoss Chathurbujadas Avargal.
29. ,, Rao Sahib M. C. T. Muttayya Chettiyar Avargal.

The following voted *against* the resolution :—

1. The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson.
2. ,, Mr. C. G. Todhunter.
3. ,, Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur.
4. ,, Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
5. ,, Diwan Bahadur A. Subbarayulu Reddiyar Avargal.
6. ,, Mr. P. Ramarayaningar.
7. ,, Rai Bahadur K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu Garu.
8. Mr. R. G. Grieve.
9. Mr. F. J. Richards.
10. M.R.Ry. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar Avargal.
11. ,, P. Subbarayan Avargal.
12. Mr. E. Periyanayagam.
13. M.R.Ry. S. R. Y. Ankinedu Prasad Bahadur.
14. ,, R. Appaswami Nayudu Garu.
15. ,, Rao Sahib P. C. Yatirajulu Nayudu Garu.
16. ,, B. Munuswami Nayudu Garu.
17. ,, Diwan Bahadur Sir P. Tyagaraya Chetti Garu.
18. ,, M. Narayanaswami Reddi Garu.
19. ,, P. T. Rajan Avargal.
20. M.R.Ry. W. P. A. Soundara Pandia Nadar Avargal.
21. ,, S. Somasundaram Pillai Avargal.
22. ,, T. C. Tangavelu Pillai Avargal.
23. ,, O. Tanikachala Chettiyar Avargal.
24. ,, Diwan Bahadur R. Venkataratnam Nayudu Garu.
25. ,, W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliar Avargal.
26. ,, M. C. Raja Avargal.
27. ,, L. C. Guruswami Avargal.
28. ,, R. T. Kesavulu Pillai Avargal.
29. ,, M. C. Madurai Pillai Avargal.
30. ,, S. Muttumanikka Achari Avargal.
31. . . . Rai Sahib E. C. M. Mascarenhas.
32. Khan Sahib Muhammad Abdur-Rahman Sahib Bahadur.
33. Munshi Muhammad Abdur-Rahman Sahib Bahadur.
34. Mr. A. P. I. Saiyid Ibrahim Ravuttar.
35. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
36. Mr. J. F. Simpson.
37. Dr. Gilbert Slater.

The resolution was lost, 29 members voting *for* and 37 *against*.

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The following resolution standing in the name of Mr. K. Gopalakrishnayya was deemed to have been withdrawn under Standing Order No. 56 as the member was absent :—

Construction of a reservoir at the crossing of the Nizam's Railway over Budameru stream.

"56. *That this Council recommends to the Government the construction of a reservoir at or near the crossing of the Nizam's Railway over the Budameru stream near Bezwada in the Kistna district with a view to conserve the drainage water of the said Budameru which tends to serve a double purpose, viz.*, (1) *of irrigating a vast tract of dry land of six villages in the neighbourhood which has of late become unsuitable for dry crops and* (2) *of preventing in a large measure the submersion of lands in the Colair lake.*"

The following resolutions standing in the name of Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar were deemed to have been withdrawn under Standing Order No. 56 as the member was absent :—

Opening of a factory at Tanjore for manufacturing scientific manure.

"57. *That this Council recommends that Government do open a factory in the district of Tanjore for the purpose of manufacturing the necessary ingredients and mixing them up as the manure for paddy lands and for selling them to* bona fide *agriculturists, the factory to be worked for some years and, if successful, to be handed over to a co-operative society or a joint stock company consisting of agriculturists.*"

Bull breeding farm in Tanjore for agricultural purposes.

"58. *That this Council recommends to the Government that provision be made for the opening of a breeding farm for the rearing of plough-bulls in a suitable locality in the district of Tanjore.*"

Free scholarships to children of trained elementary school teachers.

Mr. T. Sivasankaram Pillai moved—

"59. *That this Council recommends to the Government that steps may be taken to have the Madras Educational Rules so amended as to make the children of trained elementary school teachers with ten years of approved service free scholars, whether they be in elementary, secondary, collegiate or vocational classes, in institutions maintained by the Government local bodies, or receiving aid from the Government in any manner, subject to the conditions that it shall be open to the president or chairman of the local body concerned in consultation with the Inspector of Schools to withdraw the concession whenever the teacher is found to be indifferent to his work or the scholar is proved to be undeserving.*"

In doing so, he said :—"In connexion with the other resolution that I moved I made some observations as to why further inducements ought to be given to attract a better class of people to the profession of the elementary school teachers. The object of this resolution is to attract a still better class of people. Yesterday when I was speaking on a similar resolution I submitted that the present set of teachers are at best incompetent or are of very low standard of education. Now we have a number of people in rural areas that have left secondary schools whose services will be very valuable in this connexion. To make them take up

this profession some inducements are necessary. We are not able to increase salaries, because that means a large amount of money. I suggest another devise to the same end. By this, I hope, we shall be able to get a better class of men as elementary school teachers. I also hope that if this were accepted it will make them stick and work steadily also. For these reasons I place this resolution before the Council."

Mr. M. C. RAJA :—" Mr. President, Sir, many words are not necessary for me to commend this resolution for the acceptance of this Council. The other day I explained to the Council the lot, the pitiable lot, of the elementary schoolmasters and also appealed hard to raise their salaries. But, now, my friend Mr. Sivasankaram Pillai has very rightly asked this Council to grant a concession to the elementary schoolmasters by way of granting scholarships to their children studying in schools and colleges. I hope, Sir, this Council will accept the proposal and therefore I heartily second the resolution."

Mr. R. G. GRIEVE :—" Mr. President, as I expected, the mover of this resolution and the seconder base it on the ground that, if this concession is given to teachers, there will be an additional inducement to a better class to become teachers. Now it seems to me that, while we do want to improve the prospects of elementary school teachers, this is not the correct way to do it. Apart from the question of cost of which there is no indication given either by the honourable mover of the resolution or by the seconder, it appears to me that on principle it is not right that elementary school teachers any more than any other deserving class of low-paid officers should have, as a right, free education of every grade. As it is, the children of elementary school teachers, if they belong to the backward classes or if Muhammadans or their girls in the elementary stage, can be admitted into elementary schools free. They can also be admitted in secondary schools half free. Again, the children of elementary school teachers are, like other children, eligible for scholarships if besides being poor they possess capacity. But apart from this my main objections to this resolution are, as I have already indicated, that if you give this concession to elementary school teachers you cannot refuse it to similar low-paid officers of Government and that no indication whatsoever is given of the cost which will be involved in granting such a concession."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—" Sir, the objections indicated to the acceptance of this resolution by the Hon'ble the Director of Public Instruction seem to me to be two-fold. One is, if we are here to grant this concession only to one class of public servants, there are others who are supposed to be labouring under the same difficulty. The second objection is that there is no indication as to what the scheme is going to cost. With regard to the last I beg to invite the attention of the House to the wording of the resolution. I have there stated, 'that this Council recommends to the Government that steps may be taken to have the Madras Educational rules so amended as to make, etc. Now, first of all, if the Director of Public Instruction can only take steps to ascertain what it would cost and, if during the time of the budget he can place the whole thing before the House and give us an idea of the cost that is likely to be entailed, in the meanwhile collecting the statistics as to those elementary teachers who have children and who are ready to take advantage of this proposal, the matter becomes easy. Then with regard to the other objection that there are other officers who are equally situated and who may want the same concession, I am perfectly willing to allow these officers the same concession. But my honourable friend, Mr. Todhunter, will say : 'Where is the money to be found ?' Another thing that I submit is that

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this is not likely to tell upon the resources of the budget of the Government in a tangible manner. There are schools, colleges and elementary schools already existing. If some of the children of the elementary school teachers are allowed to sit in a corner of the bench, it will not add to the cost. If the other resolution is likely to cost some money this would not cost—except for statistical purposes. This is the reply that I wanted to give."

Mr. R. G. GRIEVE :—" I only wish to make two remarks. I understand from the Honourable the Minister that he is prepared to make enquiries as to what the cost would be. But at the same time I would point out that it would be too late to include the necessary funds, if available, this year as the budget has to be presented so soon. But if that could be done the enquiry for the future will not thereby be prejudiced. I am afraid that the amount involved would not be a small amount, but would be a very large one. I will try and find out what it would cost."

The resolution was put and lost.

The following resolution standing in the name of Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar was deemed to have been withdrawn under Standing Order No. 56 as the Member was absent :—

Reserved forests in the Coimbatore district.

'60. *That this Council recommends to the Government that it is desirable to form a committee of officials and non-officials to enquire and report as to portions of reserved forests in the Coimbatore district which can be given to villagers for cultivation, or which may be thrown open for grazing or cutting fuel, or getting tools and manure for agricultural purposes.*'

Indigenous systems of Medicine.

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

'61. *That this Council recommends to the Government to take early steps to encourage the indigenous systems of medicine like the Ayurvedic and Unani.*'

" I do not know if it will be necessary for me to detain this Council for any length of time regarding this question with which every one in this House and outside it is very familiar and upon which Indian opinion has been fairly unanimous. It will be within the recollection of the members of this House that various attempts have been made during the last eight years to induce the Government to take a definite attitude to encourage the indigenous systems of medicine and I find that the day, when definite steps will be taken to place them on a satisfactory footing, is not still in sight. For the benefit of those who may not have followed the early history of the discussion I shall summarise it.

" In 1913 when a resolution was moved in this Council, recommending that certain steps be taken to encourage indigenous systems of medicine by providing facilities for instruction in them or by establishing medical institutions, we met with the reply that while the Government were sympathetic with that desire, it was not possible to find funds for the purpose. One year elapsed and again in 1914 a resolution was moved requesting the Government to encourage the systems of medicine and the official reply was that they fully sympathized with the objects of the resolution, the Hon'ble Sir P. S. Sivaswami Ayyar being then in charge of the resolution. Still there was not an agency to test the qualifications of those indigenous medical practitioners and the Government said that when funds

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were forthcoming steps would be taken in that direction. Again, Sir, we find in 1915 November, after the lapse of one year, I moved a resolution asking for a research and investigation of the Ayurvedic system of medicine with a view to improve and encourage the system and it will be interesting to notice again what the attitude of the Government then was. I was then informed that the Government were in full sympathy with the object of the resolution, that some attempts were being made, and that further attempts would be made when funds would be forthcoming. It will be interesting to notice that when that resolution was under discussion, it was distinctly understood that no time would be lost in conducting an investigation into the system with the eventual object of encouraging it. This was, it will be remembered, in the year 1915. When the resolution was pressed, it was pointed out that the Government had exactly the same object in view and that if a little more time were given, something would be done. On the assurance given, I withdrew that resolution. I believe I may inform this Council of the circumstances under which I had to withdraw the resolution in the previous Council. Because there was practically no non-official majority and because I knew what the result of pressing the resolution to a division would be, because non-officials did not count then for anything, I had to choose the lesser of the two evils and withdraw the resolution. Then, Sir, the question was again raised in this Council on the 2nd April 1917, and a specific resolution was moved requesting the Government to appoint a special officer to investigate the indigenous systems of medicine and it will be interesting to notice the discussion. It will be found that after the resolution was moved the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Cardew, replying on behalf of the Government, was in a position to express his sympathy with the object of the resolution and also said that he would accept it provided some words in the resolution were omitted. It is necessary for me to impress those words upon this Council. The resolution suggested: 'This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council to appoint a special officer to investigate the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine with a view to encourage and improve those systems.' Then, Sir, it was suggested that if I would omit the last nine words of the resolution, the Government would accept it. The last nine words were 'with a view to encourage and improve these systems'. Then I had again to choose one of the two evils because if, according to my intention, I wanted the House to come to a definite decision as to whether they would encourage the systems of medicine, I knew what the division would be with practically an official majority. Thus, in a feeling of practical helplessness I accepted the amendment and I thought it might at least enable us to go a step further. So I consented to the resolution being placed before the Council in that manner. But, Sir, I may point out that I had even then apprehensions as to this investigation being conducted by an officer not accustomed to indigenous systems of medicine and without any sympathy or love for these systems and I venture to refer to the discussion which took place in that connexion. I then said, 'I have added to that portion of the resolution the words with a view to encourage and improve these systems', because it might be suggested that the investigation of Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicines might be taken up not so much to encourage but to criticise. It is for that reason that I wish to have the investigation undertaken in a sympathetic manner. I suggest that after investigation definite steps should be taken to encourage and improve the systems. I am aware that the second portion of the resolution can be taken up only after the first portion. It is only after investigation that Your Excellency's Government can be induced to take definite steps. I want to make it clear that the investigation must be undertaken by one who is not against these systems of medicines, who has not formed any prejudice against them already,

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who is prepared to view them sympathetically, and who really believes with the Hon'ble Sir Pardey Lukis that there is much that is valuable in the systems and that there is much in them to be placed on a scientific basis. If any officer who has sufficient sympathy with the systems of medicine is placed on special duty, I think it will produce incalculable benefit to the rural population.

"While replying to this in March, the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Cardew said as follows:—

'The honourable mover in his speech said that the object might be to criticise and condemn. I can quite assure the Honourable Member that this is not so. The object will be to try and find out what is valuable in the system It is entirely with that object that we hope to investigate it and to put somebody to work on it. It is certain that an Indian will be appointed, and being an Indian he will not be likely to be in any way antipathetic to Indian medicines. I hope he will do what he can to achieve the object of this resolution. Though it may take some time—I do not want the Honourable Member to think that it will be finished in a year—yet in course of time some result may be achieved. The Government of Madras are desirous to enquire sympathetically into the Ayurvedic and the Unani drugs and are trying to find out what is really valuable in those systems.'

"Then the suggestion was made that the nine words might be omitted and in a state of helplessness I had to consent to it. Later on, this resolution was accepted by the Government on 2nd April 1917. Then again in the meeting of April 1918 I asked—one year later—and the Council accused me of impatience. Even then I was told that they were endeavouring to find an expert to be placed on this duty and later on as the Council is aware, Dr. Koman was placed on special duty for this purpose His report has been placed on the Editor's Table which probably some members have yet to see. But it has been reviewed in the press already. A perusal of that report would show that one must be really somewhat careful in regard to these investigations and they should not be undertaken unless we settle the principles beforehand. I agree with the Government in their order upon this report in offering thanks to Dr. Koman for the labour and industry with which he has performed his task and for the result of his investigations. I find that though he suggested that certain drugs should be included in the allopathic system, the Surgeon-General quite naturally advised caution and stated that we must be careful and we must have further examination before we can take steps in that direction. He stated: 'The following drugs have proved to be of considerable value and Dr. Koman considers that they might very well be incorporated into the pharmacopœia of our hospitals, but a good deal of further work should be done and considerably more experience should be gained before they can be universally recommended.' A further attempt was made and the latest attempt was when on the 31st March last year the Hon'ble Mr. T. R. Ramachandra Ayyar moved a resolution asking for the appointment of a committee to investigate and encourage these systems of medicine. I again request the Members of this House to remember the words 'to encourage' appearing in the resolution moved on the 31st March 1920. There was a very interesting discussion on that occasion and I can only rely in support of the position which I have taken on the remarks of my honourable friend Diwan Bahadur Sir Pitti Tyagaraya Chettiyar. His experience in the management of the Ayurvedic institution attached to Pachaiyappa's charities was placed before the Council in vivid terms and he stated that 90 per cent of the people were practically resorting to these systems of medicine, and that the cost of the medicine also was comparatively cheap. What is more, he stated that it was not correct to rely upon English practitioners because they did not understand the systems and therefore they would not be in a position to help us regarding these points. I

would therefore request the attention of this House to this important testimony given by one who not only has had long experience with these indigenous systems of medicine but who also keeps such an institution going and who has stated most emphatically that we ought not to rely upon the English practitioners because they do not understand the systems. He also stated that the resolution should be accepted. But I find, Sir, as the result of the discussion, the Government were not prepared to have the words 'to encourage' retained in that resolution again. They were merely satisfied with the appointment of a committee for the purpose of investigating those systems, and the resolution was accepted in the amended form. As I have already pointed out, even my friend Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar was not so bold as to ask the House to accept the words 'to encourage' because he thought probably they would not be accepted. I find from an answer given at the present Council meeting that in June last a reference was made to the mover of the resolution to suggest the names of the committee and when the original answers were furnished on the 16th instant it was stated that Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar had not yet submitted the names. Later on the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government said that he had subsequently received the names. This, so far as this Council is concerned, is the brief history of the question. Though a definite investigation with the object of encouraging these systems was ordered so early as 1917, though four years have elapsed, I find that the Government are not still in a position to say, 'We will certainly encourage the systems and do something in that direction'. That is where we stand. Probably Government are now going to say, 'Having received the nomination for the appointment of the committee, we shall appoint a committee' and then enquiry and investigation will begin and I do not know when it may end. I may warn this Council that when this resolution was accepted on 31st March 1920 in the amended form, even after the Member for the Government, who is now the Hon'ble the President of this Council, said that the Government accepted the resolution, the Hon'ble the Surgeon-General raised objections and warned the Council, 'You want specialists at considerable cost. I do not know if Government will find funds for the purpose,' and he also warned us that the system must be proved to be scientific before anything could be done. I request this House to consider whether an investigation conducted on those lines unaccompanied by an express opinion that these systems deserve to be encouraged, is likely to produce any tangible results in the near future. I would ask, Sir, whatever action may be taken by the Government, is it too much to ask, that this House should give an expression of its opinion as to whether they would ask the Government to encourage these systems or not? That is the object of this resolution. I have worded the resolution in a general manner because I know that the Hon'ble the Minister who is in charge of the Department will want some time before the details can be worked out. It is with the object of giving more time that I have worded the resolution in a general manner. I hope that this House will not go on ordering more investigations which may take years—several years—but will express an opinion whether it is not desirable and necessary to encourage these systems. If the principle is accepted, then there are several methods by which it may be encouraged. I have a number of suggestions to make. Funds permitting, we may establish institutions, dispensaries and hospitals. There are some established Ayurvedic colleges and facilities may be given for persons who wish to study in those colleges. There are various Ayurvedic dispensaries throughout the country and you may grant funds to local bodies to encourage them. There are various other definite suggestions which I am in a position to make for the purpose of giving effect to this resolution. If, notwithstanding the fact that I am able to

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make these suggestions, I worded the resolution in a general manner, it was because I thought the Hon'ble the Minister had recently taken charge of his department and after this House accepts the principle he would be in a position to impress upon the Members of the Executive Council and get some additional funds for the purpose and thus effect reforms in this direction.

"I note that a resolution was passed for the appointment of a committee merely for the purpose of investigation and report. Well, we are in this predicament so far as this Government is concerned ; but how do we find so far as the Imperial Government or the Government of India is concerned ? I really wonder at the change of attitude which has been adopted by the Government of India and the Local Government. I may be permitted to refer to the interesting discussion which took place in the Imperial Council on the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mir Asad Ali Khan on March 15, 1916.

"The resolution was 'That this Council recommends to the Governor-General in Council that the Government of India, in consultation with local Governments, should investigate the possibility of placing the ancient and indigenous systems of medicine on a scientific basis and increasing their usefulness'. With your permission, Sir, I would read a few remarks from some of the very important pronouncements made by our present Minister for Local Self-Government while seconding the resolution.

"The Hon'ble Mr. P. Ramarayaningar then said : 'Sir, the resolution as it stands, reads as though the honourable mover wants us to understand that the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine are not scientific, but that he does not really do so is amply evident from his interesting speech. The Ayurvedic and Unani systems are not mere empiricisms ; they are undoubtedly scientific. It is true that some of the theories that those systems postulate do not find favour with allopaths ; it is also true that, while the allopathic system is progressing, the Ayurvedic and Unani systems remain stationary. They are as they were centuries ago. This, however, does not mean that these systems are unscientific. That these systems are scientific has been admitted by a great many eminent men.'

"Our Honourable Minister then quoted from Lord Ampthill, Sir William Hunter, Dr. Ray and several others in support of his position and confirmed the view that these systems ought to be encouraged. I do not wish to embarrass the Honourable Minister in his official position. I do not know what he will state now.

"But I will refer to the opinion of the Hon'ble Sir Pardey Lukis, who was the Director-General of Medicine. His remarks are worth reading, because so far as the Local Government is concerned, I find these English medical practitioners, even Indians of high repute, have some sort of difficulty in accepting these systems. I do not know why ; and that is why I refer to the opinion of a well-known Englishman.

"He says : 'Sir, although I cannot agree with the remarks in regard to the alleged unsympathetic attitude of the Indian Medical Service towards the indigenous systems of medicine, it gives me very great pleasure, to be able, on this occasion, to associate myself with the Hon'ble Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjee in supporting the motion of my Hon'ble friend Khan Bahadur Mir Asad Ali Khan. The motion now before us deals with a subject to which I have devoted considerable thought during the 36 years of my residence in the East, and as I said the other day at Indore, the longer I remain in India and the more I see of the country and its people, the more convinced I am that many of the empirical methods of treatment adopted by the Vaids and Hakims are of the greatest value.

I may also state that I do not recognize any fixed line of demarcation between the eastern and western systems of medicine. The main difference between the two is, that whereas the one has advanced the other has remained stationary, and that is why I am an advocate for the placing of the ancient and indigenous systems of medicine upon a scientific basis, thus increasing their usefulness.'

"Later on he says, 'why then should the allopath arrogate to himself the right to appropriate for his individual benefit all new discoveries, denying these privileges to the practitioners of other systems of medicine? This appears to be especially unfair when it is borne in mind that 90 per cent of the Indian population (that is important) live in rural areas where the Vaids and Hakims are—and will be for many years to come—the chief attendants of those dumb millions alluded to in recent speeches in this Council. It was in view of this and in the hope that something might be done to raise the status and improve the education of Vaids and Hakims, that I insisted on a definite standard of education for the new type of vernacularly trained village practitioners.'

"Later on, he says, 'personally if I were ill, I say frankly that I would prefer to be treated by a good Vaid or Hakim rather than by a bad doctor. I resent strongly that spirit of medical trades-unionism which leads many modern doctors to stigmatize all Vaids and Hakims as quacks and charlatans and I shall always be proud of the fact that I was privileged to have the friendship of two such learned men as the late Nawab Shafa-ud-dowlah of Fyzabad and Kaviraj Bijay Ratan Sen of Calcutta'.

"It is not necessary to quote further because, from beginning to end in supporting the resolution moved by the Honourable Member all the members agreed that these systems of medicine ought to be encouraged and ought to be placed on a more scientific basis; that is exactly the position from which I would wish to look at it. We ought not to be satisfied with mere acceptance of the statement. There should be a committee of officials and non-officials to consider and later on we propose to take up that question, and let us commit ourselves to it. To accept it only suggests that the Government will take early steps to encourage the indigenous systems of medicine like the Ayurvedic and Unani and as to the details of working it out the Government are at liberty to take the advice given by the members of the committee and so many other persons and then develop it and make it more useful. After getting advice, it will be open to Government to find funds; what amount of money can be allotted for the purpose and whether to aid the existing schools or open new schools, whether to aid the existing hospitals and what steps should be taken in that direction. It is with that object I place this resolution and I hope you will accept it."

Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar:—"Mr. President, I rise to second this resolution and I do so with very great pleasure. My friend Mr. Krishna Rao has said everything on the subject and he has quoted the opinion of several prominent persons including the views of the Minister now in charge. So I need not now be repeating the same thing and address the Council for the acceptance of this resolution. I have had some experience of the western system though not as a doctor but as secretary in charge of an institution for about 25 years. I have also had a little bit of experience in the Ayurvedic system and I must say that the Ayurvedic system is a system that is capable of and has been doing a great deal of good. In fact, 90 per cent of the population are healed by this system and it is a well-known fact that that system cures our diseases at a very much cheap rate and that is what poor people can afford. Sir, that one thing would be enough to convince the gentlemen here to support the resolution.

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"I know that Mr. T. R. Ramachandra Ayyar was asked to form a committee to investigate this question and I now understand that he has just recommended the names and that a committee will soon be formed. I am sure that the Government will help the progress of that committee as much as possible. All that I insist upon is that we should pass this resolution to say that Ayurvedic and Unani systems must be encouraged. That is the one thing that we want and I put it in this form that you will unanimously pass it."

Mr. S. SOMASUNDARAM PILLAI:—"Mr. President, this is a very important resolution. Generally an English-trained physician cannot agree and approve of the indigenous medicine and an Indian physician cannot approve of the English medicine. But generally those who are treated by both can give their opinion regarding these. As a patient who was treated both by the English physicians as well as by Indian physicians I can give very good certificates to each. There are some excellent medicines in the indigenous system. But they are in the hands of quacks who have no scientific knowledge of the medicine. They believe that their medicine was given by Father so and so. It all ends in fatality. If it is given to a trained man who has got scientific knowledge of that medicine it certainly cures the diseases. It seems to me that an English physician who is scientifically trained is an excellent one. This resolution is making these English physicians to obtain scientific knowledge of the Indian systems and then to administer them. For, many of the Indians are willing to be treated only by the Indian physicians. Many of the Indian physicians with very rare exceptions are quacks. They are the agents of death. They are doing their service in one way by depriving the earth of its burden. So to prevent this it is necessary that we should organize and encourage the scientific side of Indian medicine by training the Ayurvedic and Unani doctors. Of course, none of these doctors are considered useful.

"I was told that when an English gentleman asked his servant who got ill if he could send for a doctor, the latter said that he could afford to die without the help of a doctor. However, it is necessary that indigenous medicine should be encouraged through physicians who are trained and whose knowledge is derived from scientific research. These people do not know the nature of the ingredients of the medicine. They blindly follow their parents who are not scientifically trained. With these words I strongly support the resolution."

Diwan Bahadur D. SESHAGIRI RAO:—"Mr. President, I have much pleasure in supporting this resolution. My experience of over 30 years confirms me in giving my testimony to the efficiency of the Ayurvedic and Unani systems—both in my public capacity as chairman of the Cocanada municipality and as President of the district board of Gōdāvari. The medical aid given by our hospitals and dispensaries is very limited indeed. As remarked by the previous speaker 90 per cent of our population go to these Ayurvedic doctors for medical relief. In many villages there are eminent doctors who have to my personal knowledge cured cases declared incurable by eminent English doctors and we cannot say that it is all due to chance. We must attribute it to the efficiency of the medicine. The Government will be conferring a great boon upon the people if Ayurvedic medicines are distributed and some system is adopted to utilize the services of these vaidyans. No doubt they may not have the scientific knowledge which European doctors wish that they should have. But all the same we want the results and we want the people to have the satisfaction of having medical relief extended to them.

"In the late epidemic of influenza which ravaged the Gōdāvari district, I may say from my own personal experience—it is reported and I have seen it too—that 90 per cent of the patients treated under the English treatment succumbed.

You will also be glad to learn that 90 per cent of the patients treated under the Ayurvedic system recovered. That is the result of your scientific knowledge. I therefore place it before the Council in order that they may be pleased to brush aside scientific knowledge for a time, and have sympathy for the poor who will get some relief if the Ayurvedic system is encouraged and after all, if only on the ground of economy, we should encourage the Ayurvedic treatment. In a rich district like Gōdāvari we have been able to start only twelve dispensaries and hospitals for a population of over 14 lakhs of people and these dispensaries are at a distance of about 15 to 20 miles from one another. It is simply ridiculous for the people to be expected to go to these dispensaries for medical aid. On an average, these dispensaries cost us from Rs. 200 to Rs. 250 a month and if Ayurvedic treatment is properly organized and extended to these villages I think that with Rs. 40 a month you can run a good dispensary which gives Ayurvedic medicines. I feel strong on the point and the strength is due to the experience that I have gained all these 36 years."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"Sir, I beg to support this resolution. I am afraid that there was a feeling in the minds of some of the Honourable Members of this House that any resolution coming from the quarter wherefrom this resolution has come is not rightly treated. I am very glad indeed that the result of this resolution will soon dispel—and I hope once for all—such gloomy forebodings. East and West perhaps may never meet, at any rate, North and South are soon going to meet. The Western system of medicine is after all a foreign system to which we are not constitutionally accustomed. Apart from that the cost is far too great to admit of its ready expansion to rural areas. On the ground therefore of utility, of economy, and I wish to add of sentiment also, I am strongly of opinion that our indigenous system should be encouraged as far as possible. I am therefore very happy to support this resolution."

Rao Sahib M. C. T. Muttayya Chettiyar :—"Mr. President, I think this question has been discussed again and again with no practical result. When a similar resolution to appoint a committee was brought forward last year in this Council, I think the Surgeon-General stated that he could not find experts to serve on the committee and that the cost will be heavy and prohibitive. I may say that there is a feeling in this country that there should be a scientific inquiry as to the efficiency of these indigenous systems of medicine. There is one advantage in such an inquiry which has not been placed properly before this Council. A villager was once asked by a visitor whether there were any doctors in his village. He said 'no, we have no doctors in our village. We all die natural deaths.' If the inquiry proves that these systems are not based on scientific basis we will not have wasted any money. Because that if these systems are found inefficient the people will not resort in large numbers to indigenous treatment, but will die only a natural death in the usual course, therefore I feel that we should, once for all, go into this question. With these words I support this resolution."

Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao :—"Mr. President with your permission I propose to move an amendment to the resolution. My amendment is after the word 'steps' to insert the following words :—'To investigate the use and preparations of indigenous drugs used in Ayurvedic and Unani treatment'. I object to the word 'systems'. If I have got your permission I would speak."

The Hon'ble the President :—"Under Standing Order No. 60 if an amendment to a resolution is moved, two days' notice has to be given to the Secretary. But in this case it has not been done."

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I am prepared to object to the amendment."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" I wish to read the amendment. Any Honourable Member who wishes to object may object afterwards and then I will say whether I will allow it or not."

The amendment was then read by the President. The amended resolution was :—" That this Council recommends to the Government to take early steps to investigate the uses and preparations of indigenous drugs used in Ayurvedic and Unani treatment."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I take objection on the ground that adequate notice has not been given."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" I have got my right of speech."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" It is now for me to decide whether I allow the amendment to go forward. I do not allow it. The Honourable Member may now speak on the original resolution."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" There is an impression going round that physicians who are trained in the allopathic system are always against any investigation about the Ayurvedic and Unani treatment. I say on purpose Ayurvedic treatment, because, I do not recognize that there is any system called Ayurvedic system. I on behalf of the members of our profession most emphatically protest against the remark that doctors belonging to the allopathic system of medicine are always against the indigenous system. It is our professional duty to relieve human suffering, whether it is by Allopathy or Homœopathy or Ayurveda, our duty is to alleviate human suffering. If a drug is given to me and if I am convinced of its efficacy it is my duty to try it. Therefore that charge falls to the ground. Apart from that, every day we are encountered with all sorts of new diseases for which we are trying to find out some remedy. If our allopathic system is not found to give a remedy, it is but natural that we must get it from the other treatments.

" As far as the system is concerned, Mr. President, this Ayurveda is not a system at all. The whole system is based or constructed on a wrong foundation. The whole system is based on *vatam*, *kapam* and *pittam*. Those who practise the Ayurveda do not know specifically the functions of the heart, the functions of the lungs, the functions of the liver and so on. There cannot be two systems and two different functions of the heart, lungs, etc.—one according to Ayurveda and the other according to Allopathy. The functions are all alike whether under Indian or European systems. So far as the Ayurveda is concerned the whole treatment is based on a wrong system and therefore that system which is encouraged and built by Ayurvedic physicians must be perfectly unsound.

" Unfortunately, this treatment of Ayurveda is brought in as a political weapon. In the old Council officials and non-officials used to fight. Now it is merely a question of party politics. In fact we ought not to bring in this Ayurveda under party programme. A man is considered unpatriotic if he does not encourage Ayurvedic system. I may tell you that I have no contempt for Ayurvedic treatment, but I have the greatest respect for those drugs which are capable of curing diseases when given in a scientific way. When a particular drug is given to a patient the physician must have a clear idea as to where it acts—whether on the liver or the heart—and also what dose of medicine is to be given. He must know what a particular drug is made up of before administering it.

Drugs contain different kinds of ingredients. These ingredients when given to a healthy man will produce important physiological effect. After knowing the physiological effect of a drug, we can use it in diseased condition of the body.

"In my own experience I have come across important Ayurvedic and Unani drugs which are simply excellent in the case of diabetes and such other diseases. I have tried them and they act exceedingly well. We do not know what these drugs are made up of. But in another case that drug will not act, because that drug must contain something which will act on a particular disease and a particular complication.

"This will clearly indicate that unless and until a drug is investigated scientifically by a great chemist and until he gives out his experience from his investigation that this particular drug contains so many ingredients, so many alkaloids, and that these alkaloids are tried on healthy lower animals and the dose fixed and its effect ascertained, I do not think it is justifiable for us to accept any and every empirical drug and to use it for all sorts of diseases. I know Abraka Sinthuram is said to be a specific for diabetes. No doubt in diabetes, if you administer it, the urine will be decreased. But then it brings on another disease, called albuminaria. The hakim says that it is very good for diabetes; but if it is good for diabetes, it brings on some other disease which is worse. So unless and until it is thoroughly investigated by a committee of experts who are capable of analysing each drug, it is perfectly useless to hand over these to us. For instance, Doctor Koman, who is one of our best physicians, even in Southern India, has been asked to investigate these drugs. Certainly he has done his very best. As a general practitioner he has tried all these drugs in very many diseases, and he says in his report that some are useful, some are good, some are bad and so on. Of course as a general practitioner as myself he has not got the opportunity to investigate them in a laboratory. As I said, a drug ought to be thoroughly investigated, its ingredients found out after which it should be tried on lower animals and its effect ascertained and with that knowledge we have to administer it on human beings in small doses first. That is the only way in which we can come to a definite conclusion. So the best thing will be to investigate everything and to entrust it to a committee of experts, not to a committee of the Legislative Council; we cannot do anything in the matter; we cannot investigate the drug, but great scientists, analytical chemists, should be appointed to go into the analysis of these things.

"The mover said it is an indigenous system. There can never be any system called indigenous system or foreign system. Systems are systems all over the world. Another gentlemen that followed said that the work has been entrusted to a man who has no sympathy. Doctor Koman is one who has done a good deal for the suffering humanity in Madras and also for the Ayurvedic and Unani drugs. He has given them a fair trial as a practitioner. It is quoted as the experience of a layman here in the House. As for the efficacy of the Ayurvedic medicine, what does the layman know about it except to provide funds for it? His knowledge of medicine is absolutely nil. So, that will go no way.

"Reference has also been made in this House about the existing Ayurvedic institutions. It is perfectly true that these existing institutions are doing very good work, but in those institutions the teaching staff should be improved by getting men who know physiology, anatomy and pathology. Unless we supplement these institutions in Mylapore and other places, there is no use of asking these institutions to continue and allowing them to manufacture more quacks. I have heard that Sir Pardy Lukis has paid a compliment to the system, but I

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don't think he would have said that this system is entirely good, and he can never call a system of that nature perfect. With these few words, Mr. President, I heartily support this resolution but omitting the word 'system' from the resolution."

Mr. J. F. Simpson :—" I ask for a closure."

The President then put the motion for closure to the Council and declared the motion lost, and asked the Council to resume the discussion on the resolution.

Mr. M. D. Devadoss :—" Sir, it is not my object to cry up one system and cry down another. Sir, it is a matter of common knowledge that for every single person treated under the Allopathic system there are at least ten persons treated by the ordinary vaidyans and Unani doctors. But unfortunately, Sir, the Ayurvedic physicians are persons who in most cases are not scientifically trained. The practice of medicine has fallen into the hands of barbers and other persons. In India it was not considered a very respectable thing for a respectable person to take to medicine in the olden days. But, Sir, in the west a surgeon who began as a barber now occupies a very exalted position. We want also the Indian system of medicine, whether you call that Indian system, Unani or Ayurvedic or any other system, to be encouraged. The Indian system, Sir, has got a number of specifics for various diseases. In fact, the pharmacopœia of the Indian system is replete with various medicines, but the difficulty is, as Doctor Rama Rao very well said, in ascertaining the exact properties of these specifics and medicines. The Indian physicians and vaidyans practise their profession in an empiric sort of way. If that system is only placed on a scientific basis, I, Sir, for one would say that it will confer a great boon upon the country, for the system as practised is very cheap. Where we have to pay at least 20 to 25 rupees for an English doctor we have to pay only one rupee for the Ayurvedic or Unani doctor. That is a well-known fact. That is the reason why it has fallen not only into desuetude but also into disrepute. If only a vaidyan can claim, provided he is a qualified person, to be on the same footing as the English doctor and is prepared to ask for a higher fee, he will be respected. I know a number of cases where persons who were given up by eminent English doctors as incurable were cured by the vaidyans. I do not say that the vaidyans did it on a scientific basis. It was a leap in the dark. It might be, they applied a particular specific for a particular disease. But whatever that may be, the very arguments advanced by Doctor Rama Rao against the use of the system or against the profession as it obtains now, I think, are the very reasons why this House should ask the Government to make a proper investigation into the matter and place the whole thing on a scientific basis. Sir, it cannot be very difficult to systematize the Indian system of medicine and train people who would be able to practise the profession properly. You know, Sir, as well as others that almost all of us are accustomed to taking to our Indian doctors long before we called in a doctor for any serious disease. It is ingrained in us that we should respect the system which we were accustomed to from our infancy. But the only question is whether we have been doing it in a proper way or in an empiric sort of way. All that this resolution wants is that this House should ask the Government to place the whole thing upon a scientific basis whatever the cost may be, because ultimately, Sir, it will certainly be a boon to the country."

Mr. A. T. Palmer :—" Sir, I am opposed to this resolution, not because I don't love my country but because I love it very dearly. Sir, in the first place, encouraging the indigenous system of medicine is not the same as encouraging indigenous industries ; for, the former means fatal experiments on human lives.

Now, Sir, I appeal to this House to think for a moment which system of medicine is reliable—a system which has grown on an empirical pharmacopœia, or a system that had its foundation on a scientific basis. Sir, it is very well to be patriotic, but at the same time one must have common sense. Now, shall we abandon the railway because it belongs to the Western system and follow our old bullock carts? Now, Sir, this is the twentieth century, and it will do very well for us to abandon the old indigenous system of medicine and accept the new. Some have said here that the Indian medicine is cheap. I doubt very much, Sir, if this is true. For if the English doctor sends in a bill for Rs. 25 for a case, the Indian doctor sends in the same bill but by instalments. He takes perhaps Rs. 2 to-day, Re. 1 to-morrow, Rs. 10 the next day and so on for an endless number of days, and if the bill is totalled up I fear this Indian system is much more dear than the English or the Western system.

"Now, Sir, I don't understand what is meant by placing the indigenous system of medicine on a scientific basis. A system has to grow and not to be placed on any scientific basis. It is not like propping up an old building on new pillars. It must be built up from the very bottom upwards. So I am very sorry I cannot understand the meaning of this expression 'placing the indigenous system of medicine on a scientific basis.' So, Sir, I am very strongly opposed to this resolution."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR:—"Whether the theory of humours finds favour with the allopathic doctors or not, whether the pathology of diseases according to ayurvedic and the unani systems is perfect or not, there is no denying the fact that all classes of Indian people resort to these systems for treatment. Nor is there any doubt that these systems are held in the highest esteem by Indians, educated as well as uneducated. Speaking for myself, Sir, I do believe in the efficacy of some of the ayurvedic and unani medicines, and if in holding this opinion I err my consolation is that I stand in the company of eminent men some of whom at all events can be in a position to pronounce an opinion on the subject. The Honourable mover has taken great pains to make out a case for the acceptance of the resolution. I must say personally I am in full sympathy with the mover, so many times has this question been raised in the Council, but not in one case has the Honourable Member who moved the resolution pointed out the line of action to be followed by the Government. Government have been placed in rather an awkward position. They are frequently asked to take steps to encourage indigenous systems of medicine and no indication is made as to what line they should follow in encouraging these systems. Sir, in accepting the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mr. T. R. Ramachandra Ayyar, Government proposed to have a committee formed to investigate and indicate the line of action to be followed. Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar was asked to suggest names for the constitution of the committee. He has submitted some names. Government have no objection to have the committee formed as early as possible and to take such action as they find it feasible when the recommendations of the committee reach them. With this assurance, Sir, I have no objection to accept the resolution."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. President, I have much pleasure in supporting the resolution moved by my friend, Mr. Krishna Rao. To some who oppose this proposition whether they be doctors or laymen, I would only say there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in your philosophy. For I am here able to testify to the efficacy, the superior efficacy, of at least the unani system over and above the allopathic system. I am able to say from personal experience that I heard the very lessons that were told us about ten minutes ago,

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repeated in my ears eighteen years ago when the life of one who was dear to me was hanging in the balance. The allopathic doctor was not able to give relief and then the unani doctor was called in, later on when the allopathic doctor came I told him that somebody else was in charge of the case, 'may I request you not to take offence', and his only reply was 'I don't mind so long as you can get English-trained doctors to treat the case; don't place her in the hands of quacks.' That was not a time for argument. That was a time for prayer. Need I say that the unani doctor whom the allopathic doctor despised saved the life which lived for another 17 years? So that is testimony No. 1.

"There was another case when a kind friend sent a very clever maternity doctor to give relief to a lady in great pains in the fifth month of conception. The doctor prescribed something. Some little student near by who read the prescription said 'No, this might bring about a miscarriage. Try another hand' and the unani doctor was called in. He said 'let us make an effort to try to save both the lives; if one cannot be saved, the other might be sacrificed.' So he tried. I am glad to say that the mother lived and the child too lived and is leading a happy life and is 16 years now. This is testimony No. 2. About two months ago an allopathic doctor who was treating a child, ten years old, pronounced after eight days of illness that it was enteric. The child's people got alarmed. They sent for the unani doctor. He said that it was due to trouble in the stomach, disorder of the stomach, and that he would try. Within seven days the child was all right. No ice bags were applied to the head. This is testimony No. 3. Therefore from personal testimony I am able to say that, though I do not say how a system can be built up, because it is not in my province layman as I am, all that is required is proper encouragement to be given to these indigenous doctors to bring out the secrets which they keep locked in their bosom, to expose them to the public gaze or to the gaze of those who will benefit by them. Recently, during the last two or three days, we have had put in circulation the Surgeon-General's order on the work done by Doctor Koman. I have the greatest respect for Doctor Koman; he has however in his report, which I have before me, stated, or at least the Surgeon-General summarises that Doctor Koman is of opinion, that several of the medicines in the unani system and in the ayurvedic system are much more costly than in the allopathic system. No doubt, there are very costly medicines made out of gold, made out of pearls and made out of very costly things. Barring them, all the others are very much cheaper. A good deal of the cry raised by the non-gazetted officers that they are unable to make both ends meet is due to the fact that they have to pay very dearly for doctor's bills for sickness in their houses of their children, of their wives, or of themselves. As everybody knows one has to pay Rs. 1-8-0 for a bottle of medicine which lasts for not more than 24 hours, a good deal of which is *aqua*. But the unani and the ayurvedic doctors have been content with Rs. 2 and Rs. 3 for a whole course of treatment. They take payment after they have cured, whereas in the other case every time you go to the doctor you have to pay. No doubt it is said of some kind doctors that they don't charge for consultation if you go to their rooms; but this exemption is made up by *aqua* in their medicine which is only Rs. 1-8-0. Therefore I do say that both in the interest of the poor people and in the interest of science itself a good deal of encouragement should be given to the unani and ayurvedic systems. Much of the cry raised against them is due to vested interests. Therefore those who have interest in their own country and who have any interest in the exploitation of the various systems should give every encouragement to the systems and must make it worth while to really capable men to come and take up pupils under their guidance and teaching."

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Dr. C. B. Rama Rao :—" Sir, I think a few words from one belonging to the profession are due at a time when a sort of general charge is being laid against the allopathic doctors. We have been called medical trade union members and are said to be opposed to other systems. It is feared that we as a lass are opposed to the advance of the unani and ayurvedic systems. I don't quarrel with the word 'system'; because there are old systems and new systems, good systems, and bad systems ; that is a small matter. The question is whether, I would ask, any of those members who have spoken on this subject would prefer to travel to Bangalore or Ootacamund in the old fashioned bullock carts or in railway carriages. When modern and highly cultivated and enlightened methods are available, why do you think of going back to primitive ways. We have no quarrel with any particular system. We welcome medical men and chemists from any source or from any quarter. True physicians and chemists cannot be different in India from what they are in the West. So any addition of good medicines or appliances from any system whatsoever is welcome. But to say that, is not to concede that the encouragement of indigenous systems and their practical application should be left to district board members and chairman of municipalities. I mean no disparagement to them or to their interests. They are all honourable men actuated by the best of motives, but they are liable to commit this mistake, viz., the mistake of encouraging wholesale, indiscriminately, and without knowing whom to trust and whom not to trust. The same charge has been laid at our door, but we have a university qualification, we have gone through a certain course, we are subject to certain laws, conditions and regulations, whereas an ayurvedic doctor or a unani hakim is a gentleman who is not responsible to anybody except his own conscience. I do not for a moment doubt that there are very honourable men in both the systems and I do believe all that has been said in praise of particular individuals whose treatment has been referred to in this Council. I am myself aware that there are many medicines in the ayurvedic and unani systems which are well worth borrowing and of which we have not the benefit in the allopathic system, and it is for that reason that when I was District Surgeon of Tanjore I was in favour of the Chatram Department taking over one of the gardens in that place for the cultivation of indigenous drugs and I showed by figures to the head of the District Board that as much as Rs. 25,000 could be saved in that one district if only certain drugs could be cultivated and utilized in the various local fund and municipal dispensaries in the district. I am not at all against the systems, therefore, but there is the danger that owing to the paucity of really good men among those who profess them, any body and every body will come forward to claim the patronage of the district boards and municipalities, and the system instead of being encouraged will, I am afraid, be brought into disrepute. But there are other ways of improving it and protecting it which of course I leave to the Member in charge to suggest to the committee. I am not at all for opposing the resolution, but I thought a word of explanation was due from me."

Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" I have very great pleasure in thanking my Honourable friend the Minister for Local Self-Government for having accepted this resolution and thus identifying himself with popular feeling. He has to-day shown himself to be a people's man. Such a resolution has been thrown out in the past. But I am glad that the angle of vision has now changed and the Hon'ble the Minister's acceptance of this resolution to-day is a very very significant thing. I don't want to enter into the merits of the Western and Eastern systems of medicine because to my mind both the systems are good and in the interests of our country I think both these systems should be encouraged. Now, Sir, it is an open secret that the majority of

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the people are for the unani and ayurvedic systems. Therefore it is right that Government should not only encourage these systems, but should open hospitals and dispensaries where people can get medicines according to their own taste. I have nothing more to add, but once again to thank the Minister for accepting the resolution."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, I have very great pleasure in supporting this resolution. My friend Dr. Rama Rao said that persons who want to travel by train or other means should not be prevented from doing so. Certainly, I agree with him. There is no attempt whatever to prevent any person from going by train or by aeroplane to Bangalore or to Ootacamund or to any other place. There is no attempt whatever made in any direction either through this resolution or in any other way to prevent people from adopting the Western system of medicine. On the other hand, I think that everyone in this assembly is for continuing the Western system. The Western system has come to stay in this country, and I thank God that it is so. Its benefits are immense. What is sought in this resolution, however, is to allow the poor Indian systems, the Unani system and the Ayurvedic system to supplement the Western system. The Western system touches only *a very small* fringe of the population of the country, and I venture, Sir, to say very boldly that whatever amount the Government or any local body, municipality or district board, may be able to spend upon the Western system, you will never be able to bring the aid under this Western medical system to the door of every man in the country. On the other hand, people living in all nooks and corners of the country would be able to avail themselves of the Unani and Ayurvedic systems. Well, Sir, with your kind permission, if you will not rule me out of order, I may be permitted to say that I know a State where this system—I am speaking with reference to the Ayurvedic system—has not only been encouraged but has been established as a Government departmental system. I refer, of course, to Travancore. There, there is a Government Ayurvedic Department manned at its head by an Indian graduate who is a practical and theoretical Ayurvedic physician. There is an educational institution there, an Ayurvedic pathasala, where in addition to the teaching that is imparted in the Ayurvedic system, professors who are graduates of the Medical College are employed to give lectures on physiology and anatomy. There is a course of about four or five years and after students pass certain prescribed examinations, they are allowed to practise as Ayurvedic physicians, and there is a network of these Ayurvedic institutions spread throughout the State which render immense medical aid to all the population of the State. I do not want to dilate upon this. But I refer to that, Sir, only for the purpose of showing that the system has not only been encouraged but introduced with success in a part of the Presidency. There is no reason whatever that a system that has been found successful in one part of the Presidency will not be found successful in other parts of the Presidency.

" There is only one word more to say, Sir, before I sit down, and that is this. We have heard instances referred to by several speakers in this assembly to-day within their own personal experience of benefits conferred by treatment under the Unani or Ayurvedic systems. I also know several instances. If I may be permitted to say so, in my own case, when I was ill and when I was not benefited by my friends, the English doctors, I was assisted and cured by Ayurvedic physicians.

" With these words, I have very great pleasure in supporting the resolution with all the emphasis that I can command."

Diwan Bahadur Sir P. TYAGARAYA CHETTIYAR:—"I ask that the question may now be put."

The House was in favour of the closure being applied.

The resolution was then put to the vote and carried.

The following resolution which stood in the name of Mr. P. Siva Rao was considered to have been withdrawn under S.O. No. 56, the Member being absent:—

Mendicant problem.

"62. *That this Council recommends to the Government that a committee may be appointed to enquire into the condition of the mendicant problem in the Presidency and suggest practical measures to cope with it.*"

The following resolutions which stood in the name of Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar were deemed to have been withdrawn under S.O. No. 56, the Member being absent:—

Construction of additional flood ventways.

"63. *That this Council recommends to the Government that a committee be appointed to report on the advisability of constructing additional flood ventways for the purpose of draining water in times of flood wherever there has been an erosion of the railway embankments in order to avoid damages to life and property on account of the embankment acting as a dam in several places.*"

The Vettar river.

"64. *That this Council recommends to the Government* (1) *that the flood banks of the river Vettar be restored and maintained every year and* (2) *that a surplus weir be constructed to draw off the increasing drainage water of the river Vettar.*"

Col. Smart's schemes for the improvement of the Cauvery delta.

"65. *That this Council recommends to the Government that effect may be given to Colonel Smart's schemes for the improvement of the Cauvery delta to be adapted to the present conditions of the delta and that a systematic programme be laid and worked completely in the course of three years.*"

Improvements in the Harichandranadi river.

"66. *That this Council recommends to the Government that necessary improvements may be made in the river Harichandranadi to avoid the recurring breaches to the east of the railway line.*"

Board for advising the Engineering Department in irrigation and drainage schemes.

"67. *That this Council recommends to the Government that an Advisory Board be formed for each district where there is delta for the purpose of advising and helping the Engineering Department in the matter of launching schemes for the improvements for irrigation and drainage and that the said system be introduced experimentally in the district of Tanjore.*"

The Council rose at 2-10 p.m. and was adjourned to 5th March 1921.

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

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, the 5th day of March 1921, the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., presiding.

I

New Member.

M.R.Ry. CHINNAKAVANAM NATESA MUDALIYAR Avargal made the prescribed affirmation of allegiance to the Crown.

II

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.]

Removal of sand from Cooum river.

357 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur C. ARUNACHALA MUDALIYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(*a*) to state which are the villages in the Chingleput district that have suffered in point of water-supply for irrigation owing to the removal of sand from the Cooum river ;

(*b*) whether the Government have received any petition from the villagers of Tyanambakkam, Vanagaram, Maduravoyal and Nekkundram objecting to the removal of sand ; and

(*c*) to state what steps they have taken or propose to take on these petitions.

A.—(*a*) The Government are not aware that any villages are suffering as described.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Government have received no such petitions.

The issue of Government loan.

358 *Q.*—RAJA OF RAMNAD : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance whether the Government have under consideration the issue of a loan in the near future ; if so, whether they would kindly give the following particulars among others :—

(i) whether they intend allowing conversion of Government promissory notes by putting new money in certain proportion like what was done when the War Loan was issued ;

(ii) whether they will as a special case allow conversion at least in the case of money belonging to Trust institutions, local boards and municipalities ;

(iii) what is the amount belonging to various local boards and municipalities locked up in Government promissory notes ;

(iv) if conversion is not to be allowed, how the Government propose to save the enormous loss that would result to the Trust, local boards and municipalities, the value of Government promissory notes having fallen by over 50 per cent.

A.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to question No. 22. The Local Government cannot undertake to make good at the expense of the general tax-payer losses sustained owing to the depreciation of securities.

For the information required in clause (iii) of the question, the Honourable Member is referred to the notification published on pages 166–189 of Part II of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 25th January 1921.

Programme of work in Council for one year.

359 Q.—RAJA OF RAMNAD: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member to state the programme for the work of the Council for one year or at least six months and what legislative measures are likely to be introduced by the Government in the immediate future.

A.—The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to His Excellency the Governor's speech at the opening of this Session about the programme of legislation.

Treatment of the Bar by Mr. J. F. Hall, I.C.S., in Tinnevelly as per the "Hindu" report.

360 Q.—MR. M. D. DEVADAS: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member—

(*a*) whether his attention has been drawn to the report published on page 6 of the *Hindu*, dated 26th January 1921, of a special meeting of the Tinnevelly Bar Association held on the 20th instant to consider certain allegations regarding the treatment of the Bar by Mr. J. F. Hall, I.C.S., the District and Sessions Judge of Tinnevelly; and

(*b*) whether it is proposed to call for a report from the District and Sessions Judge whether the statements attributed to him were really made by him; and what action is proposed to be taken if it be true that the said District and Sessions Judge made the remarks that "the advocate is the natural enemy of the Judge" and that "I care two pins for Judicial decisions even of the Privy Council that 'Void' means 'Voidable'".

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Government do not propose to call for a report.

MR. M. D. DEVADAS:—"With regard to question No. 360 (*b*), the answer to the first portion is that the Government do not propose to call for a report. With reference to the latter part will the Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take if it is true?"

The Hon'ble MR. K SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I am not prepared to answer the question without notice."

Pay of village munsifs.

361 Q.—Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Revenue Member to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that, while village karnams and menials are paid at Rs. 15 and Rs. 8 per mensem, respectively, village munsifs are given only Rs. 6;

(*b*) whether the Government have received telegrams and mahazars from the village officers of the Salem district that their pay be raised to Rs. 30 and that, in case the increase asked for is not given, they (the officers) propose to cease performance of their duties after the 14th February 1921;

(*c*) what action has been taken in the matter; and

(*d*) whether the Government cannot consider favourably the abovementioned petitions and increase the pay of the village munsifs, fixing the same at least on a level with that of the karnams.

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A.—(*a*) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the detailed account of the budget estimate under the head 3-E. Land Revenue—Allowances to district and village officers.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government are not prepared to reconsider the orders already passed.

Lawley Hospital at Coonoor.

362 *Q.*—Mr. R. T. KESAVALU PILLAI: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state whether the Government have undertaken the entire management of the Lawley Hospital at Coonoor after the 31st March 1921.

A.—The answer is in the negative.

Proposed legislative measures in the present session of the Council.

363 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member what Bills are likely to be introduced in the present session of the Council and what progress has been achieved in the preparation of each of those Bills.

A.—The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to the answer to question No. 359.

Mopad project in Nellore.

364 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue whether apart from the Mopad project (which is a protective work of irrigation), the irrigation sources in the Nellore district have been improved and extended during the last ten years, and if so, what irrigation sources, in what respects and with what results.

A.—A statement * of estimates for improvements to the irrigation works in the Nellore district sanctioned during the past ten years is laid on the table. The Government believe that the purposes for which the several works were sanctioned have been fully served as there is no information to the contrary.

Committee on Hindu-Muhammadan disturbance.

365 *Q.*—Mr. K. KUNHAMMAD KOYA: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member to state—

(*a*) whether he has received the report of the Committee of Hindus and Muhammadans appointed last year to recommend the best means of preventing disturbances between Hindus and Mussalmans in connexion with the playing of tom-tom and other music on public roads in front of mosques; and

(*b*) if the reply is in the affirmative, to lay the report on the Council Table.

A.—The report has not yet been received.

Floods in South Arcot.

366 *Q.*—Mr. A. T. MUTTUKUMARASWAMI CHETTIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(*a*) how much damage has been caused to the lands in the South Arcot district by the recent floods;

(*b*) how many acres of lands have been washed away near the railway lines;

* Vide Appendix 1 on page 559 infra.

(*c*) whether it is a fact that Chidambaram town was two or three feet under water; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the traffic from the railway station to the town was completely stopped for two days.

A.—The Government have so far received only a preliminary report from the Executive Engineer, South Arcot Division, on the floods in the district. In this it is stated that the Lalpet weirs and the irrigation sluices of the Veeranam tank had to be kept fully open to save the tank during the heavy continuous rains in November last and that these conditions resulted in the flooding of Chidambaram town and taluk, the immediate cause of this flooding being a breach in the Khan Sahib's canal just above the railway station at Chidambaram. No information regarding the nature and extent of damage to lands, if any, or the stoppage of traffic is yet available, but will be called for.

Municipal electoral roll in Dindigul.

367 Q.—Mr. C. PONNUSWAMI NAYUDU: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state if a petition was received by the Government from one Dr. S. Devaraj, Dindigul, complaining that his name as well as that of almost all the arts tax-payers of IV ward of the Dindigul municipality have been omitted from the new municipal electoral roll, though their names were found in the Legislative Council electoral roll prepared by the same Registration Officer in the same year.

A.—The answer is in the affirmative.

Question No. 38 *put on* 28*th September* 1920.

368 Q.—Mr. C. PONNUSWAMI NAYUDU: To ask the Hon'ble the Revenue Member—

(*a*) with reference to the answer given by the Government to question No. 38, put by the Hon'ble Mr. V. Madhava Raja, on the 28th of September 1920, whether the detailed proposals referred to therein have been received from the Board of Revenue, and, if so, whether the Government will place them on the table;

(*b*) whether the opinion of the High Court has been received and whether the Governmet will lay the same on the table.

A.—The Board's proposals have not yet been received. The High Court will be consulted after the Board's report has been received and considered.

Law officers on and above Rs. 100 *in the High Court.*

369 Q.—Mr. M. C. RAJA: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member to lay on the table a statement showing the number of persons, including the Law officers employed in the High Court on a salary of Rs. 100 and above, classified according to the various communities.

A.—Excluding the gazetted officers, there are 70 posts carrying a *salary* of Rs. 100 and above in the High Court and three such posts under the Law officers. The Government have no information as to the communities to which the incumbents of these 73 posts belong. For a list of the gazetted officers in the High Court, including the Law officers, the Member's attention is invited to pages 311 and 312 of the latest Madras Quarterly Civil List.

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Nomination of Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyar to the Mannārgudi Taluk Board.

370 Q.—Mr. M. C. RAJA: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government whether—

(*a*) with reference to the answer given by Government at the meeting of the Legislative Council on 28th September 1920 to my question No. 102 regarding the nomination of Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyar to the Mannārgudi Taluk Board, Tanjore district, the Government will be pleased to lay on the table the result of their inquiries; and

(*b*) it is a fact that there is no Adi Dravida member in the said Mannārgudi Taluk Board now.

A.—(*a*) A copy * of the report of the President, District Board, Tanjore, on clauses (*c*) to (*g*) of question No. 102 asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council, dated 28th September 1920, is laid on the table.

(*b*) There is no Adi Dravida on the taluk board.

Treatment of third-class passengers on the South Indian Railway.

371 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member—

(*a*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the communications—

(i) which appeared in the *Hindu*, dated the 3rd January 1921, about the 'disgraceful' manner in which the third-class passengers are treated at the Egmore railway station, and

(ii) which appeared in the *New India* of the 6th January 1921 from Mr. B. Gururaja Rao, District Munsif, Dindigul, and another under the heading 'Callousness' of the South Indian Railway;

(*b*) and if so, what action the Government propose to take or have taken to prevent such occurrences in future.

A.—(*a*) The attention of Government was not drawn to the communication appearing in the *Hindu* of the 3rd January until the receipt of the Member's question. Their attention had been drawn previously to the letter appearing in the *New India* of the 6th January, and the statement made in that letter formed the subject of correspondence with the Railway Administration. The Agent was also cross-examined in regard to the same incident by the Railway Committee at its sitting on the 25th January.

(*b*) It is not within the power of the Local Government to take preventive action.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—"With reference to question No. 371 (*b*), will the Government report the matter to the Government of India?"

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"The question has already been brought to the notice of the Railway Committee when it was down here in Madras, and I have not the least doubt that they will take it into consideration, because the President of the Railway Committee, if I remember aright, specially cross-examined the South Indian Railway officer on the matter."

* Vide Appendix II on page 560 infra.

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Construction of houses for Government employees in Madras.

372 *Q.*—Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance to state if any action has been taken in regard to the suggestion of M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur T. Namberumal Chetti Garu in the Salaries Committee Report urging the construction of houses for Government employees in Madras.

A.—While sympathising with the proposal of M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur T. Namberumal Chetti, the Government were of opinion that the proposal of the majority of the Committee in paragraph 61 (3) of their report was more practical, viz., that Government should encourage the extension of tramways in the suburbs and particularly to Saidapet, which would inevitably result in the erection of houses along the route, and also that Government should liberally support house-building on a co-operative basis by the grant of loans and in exceptional cases by acquiring land under the Land Acquisition Act and making it available for house-building. The Member is doubtless aware that the question of the extension of the tramway to Saidapet has been under examination, that the Government have provided in the budget for 1920-21 a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 for the grant of loans to co-operative house-building societies and that they are acquiring large areas of land of which a considerable portion is adjacent to the road to Saidapet which will be made available in due course by the City and Suburban Town Planning Trust.

Reorganization of Provincial services.

373 *Q.*—Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education to state from what date effect was given to the reorganization schemes of—

(*a*) Provincial Educational Service.
(*b*) Provincial Civil Service (Executive).
(*c*) Provincial Civil Service (Judicial).

A.—(*a*) & (*c*) 1st December 1919.

(*b*) Effect has not been given to the scheme pending settlement of certain questions in connexion with the application of the new scale, which are under correspondence with the Government of India.

Religious endowments by the Zamindar of Mohuri.

374 *Q.*—Sriman Sasibhushana Rath : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government—

(*a*) to state by whom the religious endowments granted by the late Zamindar of Mohuri in the Ganjām district are being now managed ; and

(*b*) if it is a fact that some of these endowments have been sold and alienated to private parties.

A.—The Government have no information.

Union of Oriya tracts under one administration.

375 *Q.*—Sriman Sasibhushana Rath : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(*a*) whether the opinion of the Government of Madras has been called for by the Government of India on the subject of the union of the Oriya-speaking tracts under one administration in response to the resolution of the Hon'ble Mr. Sacchidananda Sinha in the Imperial Legislative Council last year ;

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(*b*) whether any opinion has been formed and forwarded to lay the correspondence on the table ; and

(*c*) if no opinion has been forwarded, to state whether the Government intend investigating into the matter before giving any opinion and whether they intend deputing any officer for such investigation and report.

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Government have not yet formed any opinion on the subject.

(*c*) The Government have instructed the Agency Commissioner to examine the question and submit a report.

Head quarters treasury at Chatrapur.

376 *Q.*—Sriman SASIBHUSHANA RATH : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state whether—

(*a*) there is any proposal to transfer the headquarters treasury from Chatrapur to Berhampur ;

(*b*) the Ganjām District Collector's office is proposed to be transferred from Chatrapur to Berhampur ; and

(*c*) it is a fact that Chatrapur is growing unhealthy for the people.

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) These proposals are under consideration.

(*c*) The Government are not aware that Chatrapur is becoming unhealthy.

Village accounts.

377 *Q.*—Sriman SASIBHUSHANA RATH : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state whether the Government intend directing Revenue officers to pass their remarks on village accounts in the vernacular.

A.—The Government have no such intention.

Salaries of village establishment in proprietary estates.

378 *Q.*—Sriman SASIBHUSHANA RATH : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(*a*) to state whether the Government have received any representation from the Board of Revenue on the subject of improving the pay and prospects of the village establishment in proprietary estates ; and

(*b*) if so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what steps the Government propose to take and when.

A.—The Board of Revenue is examining the question of the revision of pay of the village establishments in proprietary estates and its proposals are awaited.

Court copyists.

379 *Q.*—Sriman SASIBHUSHANA RATH : To ask the Hon'ble the Members for Law and Revenue—

(*a*) to state whether the Government have completed examination of the case of the copyist establishments in courts with regard to their pay and prospects ;

(*b*) whether detailed proposals have been received from the Board of Revenue and whether the consultation with the High Court has been completed ; and

(*c*) to state when final orders are likely to be passed.

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) It is not possible to say when final orders will be passed.

Out-of-pocket allowance to village headmen.

380 Q.—Sriman SASIBHUSHANA RATH: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state whether the Government propose to increase the scale of the out-of-pocket allowances now allowed to the village headmen in view of the high cost of living.

A.—The Government have no such proposal under consideration at present.

Maistris' appointments in Erode.

381 Q.—Mr. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state whether it is a fact that an order has been issued by the Engineer of the Coimbatore District Board not to appoint "low caste men" as maistris in the Erode division; and whether the Government will issue instruction to cancel the order and remove the injustice done to the so-called "low caste men".

A.—The Government have no information.

Reorganization of the Provincial Medical Department and the Department of the Sub-Registrars.

382 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state when the final orders have been passed regarding the reorganization (*a*) of the Provincial Medical Department and (*b*) of the Department of the Sub-Registrars.

A.—(*a*) The pay of officers of the Provincial Medical Service was revised as a temporary measure in G.O. No. 703, Medical, dated the 15th December 1920, which has been placed on the Editors' Table. The final revision depends on the orders of the Secretary of State on the recommendations of the Medical Services Reorganization Committee.

(*b*) 6th January 1921.

Headquarters of Ramnad.

383 Q.—Mr. W. P. A. SAUNDARA PANDIA NADAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Revenue Member if it is a fact that Pasumalai which is in the Madura district has been selected for the headquarters of the Collectorate of the Ramnad district.

A.—No.

District and taluk board presidents who are Members of Legislative Council.

384 Q.—Mr. W. P. A SAUNDARA PANDIA NADAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government—

(*a*) to place on the table a list of district and taluk board presidents and of chairmen of municipalities who have been nominated or elected to this Council; and

(*b*) to state how many of the above members have been nominated.

A.—(*a*) A list is placed on the table.*

(*b*) One.

* Vide Appendix III on page 561 infra.

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District Board Presidentship, South Arcot.

385 Q.—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government--

(*a*) if the attention of the Government has been drawn to an article entitled " District Board Presidentship, South Arcot " published in the *Hindu* of the 26th January 1921 ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact—

(i) that till September 1917 the presidents of district boards were District Collectors possessing administrative experience and training ;

(ii) that the persons nominated as non-official district board presidents from and after September 1917 were gentlemen having had experience as vice-presidents of the district boards, presidents of taluk boards, chairmen of municipal councils, retired high revenue officers or members of the Legislative Council ;

(iii) that the presidentship of the district board is the highest post in a district in the field of Local Self-Government carrying with it the status and dignity of a district officer ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact—

(1) that the recently nominated president of the District Board of South Arcot, Mr. K. Sitarama Reddi, is rather young and a vakil of eight years' standing ;

(2) that he had not managed any minor local self-government institutions ;

(3) that in October last he stood as a candidate for election to the presidentship of the Taluk Board, Cuddalore, and was defeated ;

(4) that when his term as a nominated member of the district board expired on the 10th December last, the Rev. Father Verdure was recommended and appointed in his stead ;

(5) that he was the election agent of Diwan Bahadur (now Hon'ble) Subbarayulu Reddi Garu at the council election held in November last ;

(6) that the vice-president of the district board is a non-official senior in age and standing at the bar to the nominated president.

A.—(*a*) The Government have perused the article referred to.

(*b*) (1) The answer is in the affirmative.

(2) It is not a fact that all the persons nominated had previous experience of the sort indicated in the question.

(3) The answer is in the negative. Chairmen of Municipal Councils are not subordinate to District Board Presidents.

(*c*) (1) The Government do not consider M.R.Ry. K. Sitarama Reddiyar Avargal to be too young for the office of President of the District Board. They have no information as to how long he has been a vakil.

(2) The answer is in the affirmative.

(3) The answer is in the affirmative.

(4) There were three vacancies on the District Board. The Rev. Father Verdure and M.R.Ry K. Sitarama Reddiyar were appointed to two of the vacancies at the same time.

(5) & (6) The Government have no information.

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Regulation of land revenue assessment.

386 Q.—Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue whether the Government will introduce at an early date legislation for the regulation of land revenue assessment in this province as advised by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on reforms.

A.—The necessary legislation will be introduced as soon as possible.

Labour unions.

387 Q.—Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member if the Government intend to introduce at an early date legislation for the full recognition, protection and regulation of labour unions in this province.

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

Vacation of Council seat by acceptance of office.

388 Q.—Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member—

(*a*) whether the Government had ruled that M.R.Ry. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar Avargal did not vacate his seat as elected member of the Madras Legislative Council by his acceptance of the office of Advocate-General but only by his subsequent resignation of his office as elected member; and

(*b*) what the reason is for the distinction made by the Government between that case and the case of M.R.Ry. Muttayya Chettiyar Avargal who was declared to have vacated his seat by his acceptance of the office of Sheriff.

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) The Government made no such distinction.

Travelling difficulties in South Indian Railway.

389 Q.—Mr. A. Tangavelu Nayagar: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member—

(*a*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to an article in a recent issue of the *New India*, dated 6th January 1921, by Messrs. P. Gururaja Rao, District Munsif, and Chidambara Ayyar, High Court Vakil, of Dindigul, concerning the difficulties in travelling on the South Indian Railway; and

(*b*) what action the Government have taken or propose to take to relieve the difficulties.

A.—The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer to question No. 371.

Sale of sovereigns at premium.

390 Q.—Mr. T. C. Tangavelu Pillai: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance whether it is a fact that sovereigns are sold at a much higher rate than its face value; if so, what steps have been taken to check them.

A.—Currency is not a subject with which the local Government are concerned. They would, however, suggest that the question indicates a misapprehension of the purport of the Indian Coinage (Amendment) Act, 1920. If the Honourable Member will read the debate that took place in the Imperial Legislative Council on the occasion of the passing of that Act, he will see that, at the time that legislation was undertaken for the alteration of the sovereign ratio of the rupee from Rs. 15 to Rs. 10, it was contemplated that there would be nothing anomalous in the fact that, when the supply of gold for general purposes was restricted, the Indian price of gold should be above the Rs. 10 rate

and that it was further decided that the check on such increases was a matter to be left to the laws of supply and demand and not to be dealt with by Government action.

Registration department.

391 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. VENKATARANGA REDDI Garu : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Public Works (Registration)—

(*a*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to an article entitled 'District Registrars' published in the *Madras Mail* of October 1920;

(*b*) whether the Government will be pleased to take early steps to render the Registration department as attractive as other departments of public service by improving the pay and prospects of sub-registrars and by placing the district registrars on par with the deputy collectors and district munsifs in the matter of pay, prospects and promotion;

(*c*) if it is a fact that district registrars have recently submitted a memorial to the Government as regards the improvement of their pay and prospects; and

(*d*) what action they have taken or propose to take on this memorial.

A.—(*a*) Yes; to the article which appeared in the *Madras Mail* of the 11th October 1920.

(*b*) Orders sanctioning a revised time-scale of pay for sub-registrars were issued in G.O. No. 25, Law (Judicial), dated 6th January 1921, which has been placed on Editors' Table; the Government do not consider that the work of a district registrar can be favourably compared with that of district munsif or a deputy collector.

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

(*d*) Orders for district registrars were issued in G.O. No. 349, Law (Judicial), dated 18th February 1921, placed on Editors' Table.

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 364 asked by M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu Garu at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 5th March 1921, page 551 *supra*.]

Statement showing the estimates for improvements to the irrigation sources in Nellore district during the ten years commencing 1910–11.

Serial number.	Name of estimate.
	Class I Works.
1.	Improvements to the Duvvur canal, Penner river canals system.
2.	Acquiring land for Thotapalli-Gudur tank supply channel.
3.	Improvements to the Kanigiri reservoir, Penner river canals system.
4.	Constructing a weir in the left bank of the sixth mile drain of the eastern channel from Kanigiri reservoir, Penner river canals system.
5.	Improvements to Thollagunta vagu drain, Penner river canals system.
6.	Providing a supply channel to the Mudivertipalem tank, Penner river canals system.
7.	Excavating field channels from the branch channels of the Uyyalakalva, Nellore tank, Penner river canals system.
8.	Improvements to the Kudithipalem channel, Penner river canals system.

Serial number.	Name of estimate.
	Class I Works—cont.
9.	Constructing a new weir in the Nelathur large tank, Penner river canals system.
10.	Improvements to the Utkur supply channel, Penner river canals system.
11.	Providing surplus arrangements to Thotapalli, Gudur and Varakavipudi tanks.
12.	Improvements to the masonry works of Uyyalâkalva and its branches, Penner river canals system.
13.	Constructing two sluices on the left bank of the southern channel, Penner river canals system.
	Class II Works.
14.	Excavating minor distributaries from channel, Nos. 1 and 2, Hajipuram tank.
15.	Constructing six sluices to the Yerur tank.
16.	Constructing surplus weir, clearing the supply channel, remodelling channel No. 2 and excavating distributaries therefrom, Ponnalur tank.
	Class III Works.
17.	Remodelling the head of low level sluice of Anantasagaram tank.
18.	Constructing a dam across the Ubbali vagu at the head of the supply channel to the Brahmanakraka Krakamma tank.
19.	Improvements to the Karedu tank and supply channel.
20.	Constructing a head sluice to the Rattepad channel and excavating a branch channel.
21.	Improvements to the Karedu tank supply channel.
22.	Constructing an outlet in the right bank of Mungamur tank supply channel.
23.	Constructing a dam at the head of the Pulikalva taking off from the Swarnamukhi river.
24.	Raising the bund, improving the weir, constructing a new sluice and excavating a channel therefrom in Timmasamudram tank.
25.	Improvements to the irrigation works in Rapur village, Rapur taluk.
26.	Improvements to the Pokur tank.
27.	Converting the calingula of the Aviyanur Hissa tank into a flush weir.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 370 asked by M.R.Ry. M. C. Raja Avargal at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 5th March 1921, page 553 supra.]

From the President of the Tanjore District Board, dated 14th February 1921, *Camp No.* 3.

* * * * * *

2. Information is furnished under each sub-clause —

(*c*) It is a fact that Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyar stood for election to the taluk board ; but he was not defeated. He was declared duly elected.

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(*d*) It is a fact that I nominated Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyar to the Taluk Board, Mannārgudi. The nomination was made on the day that I took charge. The seat had been vacated by a Muhammadan gentleman. On the occurrence of the vacancy, inquiry was made if a suitable non-Christian Panchama could be found. The Revenue Divisional Officer stated that he could not find one, except one Kulandaivelu Nayanar, whom he proposed to recommend for a seat on the Municipal Council, Mannārgudi. The Revenue Divisional Officer added that the nominee might first be tried on the municipal council. He recommended three Indian Christians, of whom one Ratnaswami Pillai was selected, and his consent was asked for. In the meantime the election of Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyar was set aside on the objection of the defeated candidate on a technical ground. He is the most influential gentleman in the Tiruturaipundi taluk and was once its vice-president. There was the probability of his not contesting another election and I did not like that the taluk board should lose his services. I therefore nominated him for the existing vacancy, and the Christian gentleman, Mr. M. Ratnaswami Pillai, was informed that he would be nominated at the next vacancy which occurred in two months. He was accordingly nominated and he is now a member of the taluk board.

(*e*) It is a fact that there were six Brahman members—one nominated and five elected—on the date of Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyar's nomination. The nominated member vacated his seat since, and the Christian gentleman has taken his place.

(*f*) It is a fact that there are no Panchama Christian representatives on the taluk board in spite of my efforts to find one. The Revenue Divisional Officer said that he could find no suitable candidate.

(*g*) The fact is correctly stated. The Christian gentleman recommended by the Revenue Divisional Officer had only to wait two months. He was nominated to the next vacant seat.

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to question No. 384 asked by M.R.Ry. W. P. A. Saundara Pandia Nadar Avargal at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 5th March 1921, page 556 supra.]

List of Legislative Council Members who are presidents of district or taluk boards or chairmen of municipal councils.

M.R.Ry. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju Garu.
„ Diwan Bahadur D. Seshagiri Rao Pantulu Garu.
„ Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu Garu.
„ Rao Sahib P. C. Yatirajulu Nayudu Garu.
„ Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu Garu.
„ Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhacharlu Garu.
„ Rao Bahadur C. Venkata Ranga Reddi Garu.
„ Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai Avargal.
„ W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar Avargal.
„ T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar Avargal.
„ Diwan Bahadur T. Desika Achariyar Avargal.
The Raja of Ramnad (Bhaskara Raja Rajeswara Setupati alias Muttu-ramalinga Setupati).
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro Garu.

M.R.Ry. M. Suryanarayana Garu.
„ Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu Garu.
„ B. P. Devarajulu Nayudu Garu.
„ P. Siva Rao Garu.
„ C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar Avargal.
„ S. Bisvanath Das Mahasayo.
„ T. Sivasankaram Pillai Avargal.
„ M. Narayanaswami Reddi Garu.
„ Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar Avargal.
„ M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar Avargal.
„ C. Ponnuswami Nayudu Avargal.
„ K. Sadasiva Bhat Avargal.
Khan Sahib Saiyid Diwan Abd-ul-razzaq Sahib Bahadur.

III

Assent of His Excellency the Governor to the Deputy President's Salary Bill, 1921.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT then informed the Council that the Deputy President's Salary Bill, 1921, which was passed at the meeting of the Council held on the 14th February 1921, received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on the 28th idem.

IV

Budget Speech.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER then presented the budget for 1921–22 and, in doing so, said :—" Mr. President, I beg to introduce the budget for the year 1921–22. If I do so at some little length, I hope that I shall have the indulgence of the members of this Council.

" The first budget of the new Government of Madras must for several reasons be a 'carrying on' budget. The greater part of the Government has only taken charge within the last three months, and the Honourable Ministers and Members have not yet had time to make themselves fully acquainted with the departments committed to their control. At the same time, as Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar has announced to us at a recent meeting of this Council, the Ministers have no intention of commencing their term of office by making radical changes and disturbing the continuity of the policy that has hitherto been pursued. To these reasons against anything like violent change has to be added the cogent reason supplied by the high prices of commodities, and especially the high price of rice, which have made themselves felt in every department of Government. This being the case, the function that I can best fulfil in introducing the Financial Statement for the first year of the new Government will perhaps be to explain, for the benefit of those members of the Council who have not studied the matter in the past, the nature of the resources available to the Government and the services which it is proposed during the coming year to carry on with the aid of those resources. I will, however, first try to explain in language as little technical as possible what the resources of the Provincial Government are and in what manner we propose to expend them.

" While, however, there is very little that is new in the matter of the budget, members will observe that there is a great deal that is new in the manner of it. We have not only to reckon with an entire redistribution of the heads of revenue and expenditure between ourselves and the Imperial Government, but we also have to divide these new heads under 'transferred' and 'reserved' and again we

have to divide them into 'voted' and 'non-voted' items. Meanwhile the old financial codes to which we are accustomed have been replaced by new ones, while there are several new duties imposed upon the Finance Department by the Devolution Rules. Meanwhile again the whole of our proposals relating to Local Self-Government, which will be found scattered throughout the budget, have had to be altered with reference to the proposals of the Financial Relations Committee. More important than any of those is the fact that we have recently gone through a revision of the staff in every department of Government. This revision was made after the departmental budgets were prepared, and in order that we might place the details of the revision under the scrutiny of this Council, we have had to recast each departmental budget. These factors, coupled with the necessity for making a most minute scrutiny of every departmental budget in the search for economies, have imposed such an amount of labour upon the Finance Department that it has been with the greatest difficulty that the budget has been got ready in time at all. It is possible that there may be defects and errors in it and I hope that honourable members of this Council will excuse them. I should here mention that, in view of the reasons I have above given, we have not been able this year to present the larger memorandum known as the Chief Secretary's memorandum. I have introduced the budget in a single and much shorter memorandum for this year, and hereafter we shall have the Committee of Public Accounts which will, in the course of the year, acquire familiarity with the accounts, and I propose before introducing another budget to ask them what form it would be most convenient to the Members of the Council to have the budget presented in.

"To come now to the question of our resources and the way in which we propose to spend them, it is hardly necessary for me to remind this Council of the division between the Imperial and Provincial Governments, which gives the former the realizations from customs, income-tax, salt and opium, while the rest goes to the Provincial Government. I propose in the following remarks to adhere, as far as possible, to that division and not to go back to the old system of divided heads, happily now at an end.

"It will be observed that the Government of India's taxes are to a very large extent the rich man's taxes, and they are very properly the taxes that have been increased to cover the cost of the war and of the trade crisis that has followed the war. The import tariff was reintroduced in 1894 on a 5 per cent basis and increased to a $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent basis in 1916. It has now been increased to an 11 per cent basis, with the addition of heavy taxation on luxuries. The man who is going to pay for the Government of India's necessities in the ensuing year is the man who rides in luxurious motor-cars, smokes fine imported cheroots and drinks champagne. The income-tax was similarly raised from the old 5-pie basis to a 12-pie basis in 1916 and is now raised to a 16-pie basis, in addition to which there is the super-tax. On the other hand, the salt tax, which is a poor man's tax, was reduced from Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 2 in 1903, to Rs. 1-8-0 in 1905 and to Re. 1 in 1907, and though it had to be raised on account of the war, it was raised only by 4 annas in 1916. The total yield of these imperial taxes in this Presidency, which amounted to 218 lakhs in 1911-12, is expected to amount to 515 lakhs in 1920-21. Owing to the increase just made in the rates, no estimate of what we have to pay to the Government of India for 1921-22 has yet been arrived at.

"The Provincial resources are derived partly from taxes, partly from return on capital invested and partly from payments for services rendered,

What is remarkable about the Provincial taxes is that, except in the case of Excise, there has been, with the exception of a small increase in the stamp duties on transfer certificates, no increase in the rate of taxation for the last thirty or more years. The land revenue has expanded with the rise of price of agricultural produce and the stamp revenue with the growth of litigation and of business. Receipts from Registration have grown with the increasing popularity of the department, those from Forests with the adoption of a more forward policy of exploitation. In the case of Irrigation we have altogether a sum of 9 crores invested and its yield gives us a general return of 6½ per cent. The one item in which there has been a deliberate, continual and remorseless increase of rate is the Excise, which from 30 per cent of the land revenue thirty years ago is now equal to 90 per cent of it, and has increased from 121 to 556 lakhs. Members of the Council will find in paragraph 3 of the memorandum a table showing what would have been the yield of the sources of revenue now made over to the Provincial Government if the present division of taxation had been in force 30 years ago, 20 years ago and 10 years ago, and what is expected to be the yield in the year to come. It will be seen from this table that the Provincial resources have, as I have said, with no substantial increase in taxation, except in the case of Excise, grown from 671 lakhs to an estimated figure of 1,634 lakhs, and members who remember how even as late as 1901–02 our whole budget for expenditure did not exceed 338 lakhs, will realize what a very large expansion in our resources we owe to the abolition of the Provincial contracts and to the introduction of the Reforms.

"Another feature of the Reforms which has in a way increased the resources of the Local Government is the grant of permission to borrow, subject to the orders of the Government of India. We propose to take advantage of this permission this year, but, owing to the stringency of the money market and to the necessities of the Government of India themselves, it has not been possible to do so to the extent to which we expected. The Government were advised that it would not be possible for them to raise money until July or August and that, if they went to the market then, they would have to do so immediately after the raising of a large Government of India loan; nor were the Government of India prepared to guarantee that they would be allowed to offer so high a rate of interest as was locally thought to be necessary. In these circumstances, we asked the Government of India to assist us by embodying our provincial loan in the Government of India loan. The Government of India have consented to this, subject to a limitation of the amount to be raised on our behalf to 70 lakhs. This amount will be lent at one-half per cent in advance of whatever rate is paid for the Government of India loan and will be repayable by the Local Government in equated payments spread over fifteen years. The charges for interest will not commence to run till the 1st April 1922. Another advantage of our sharing in the Government of India loan is that we shall be able to get the use of the money from April onwards, whereas if we raised our own loan, we could not get it till the latter half of the year.

"In this connexion it may be useful very briefly to refer to the question of the resources of the local bodies. The chief feature of the report of the Committee on the adjustment of Provincial to Local finance is the recommendation that the main basis of grants should be a share of the payment for services rendered The committee have also recommended the establishment of something in the nature of a local loans fund. This is a matter upon which they consider that expert

advice is needed, and they have not been able to work out the details. Meanwhile, however, orders have been issued in regard to the resumption of the balances of grants given for works in respect of which no commitments have been made and these sums will be added to the opening balance, subject to an understanding that in dealing with them preference will be given to demands from the Ministry of Local Self-Government. At the same time it is hoped that, as the Imperial Bank extends its branches to a number of places in the Presidency, the facilities for dealing with the funds of local bodies on a business basis will be increased and that there will arise in a short time out of these facilities means for making available for loans to other local bodies such funds as would under present conditions be invested in Government securities.

"Owing to the change of system from divided heads to the new division of revenue it is difficult to present a clear comparison of the figures of 1920–21 and 1921–22. On the old basis, we opened the year 1920–21 with a sum of 206 lakhs in hand: we received a sum of 976 lakhs: we expect to spend a sum of 1,151 lakhs and to have a balance in hand at the end of the year of a sum of 31 lakhs. In 1921–22 we open with this sum of 31 lakhs and expect to receive a gross revenue of 1,634 lakhs, of which a sum of 348 lakhs goes to the Government of India, leaving a sum of 1,317 lakhs, out of which we propose to spend a sum of 1,282 lakhs and to retain in balances a sum of 35 lakhs. These figures do not take into account the loan of 70 lakhs from the Government of India and the expenditure therefrom.

"To come now to the expenditure side of the budget: as I have indicated, up to and, of course, during the war the Government of Madras were inured to parsimony. Our total expenditure under the old heads of revenue and expenditure amounted in 1891–92 to 285 lakhs, in 1901–02 to 338 lakhs and in 1911–12 to 672 lakhs. When it fell to me to open the debate on the budget for 1919–20, the first after the war, with an amount of 961 lakhs set down for our expenditure I was able to say that it was the largest budget on both sides of the account ever presented to this Council. When we faced the budget for 1920–21, we had a hope in front of us of starting the Reforms with 14 crores to spend and a steady expansion of even that sum to follow, and we decided, after careful consideration with the Finance Committee, to bridge the gap between the 961 lakhs of 1919–20 and the much larger figure expected in 1921–22 by adding 150 lakhs out of the balances that had been accumulated during the war to the 974 lakhs revenue of the year. We therefore estimated not only for normal advance in the established services but also for several new developments, most of which had been under consideration for many years past.

"Before touching on these new developments I should like to give the Council a few figures of the increases that have occurred in the established services in the last ten years. The only department which shows an increase of less than 50 per cent is Land Revenue, followed by Forests, Stamps, Registration, Excise and Jails, with increases varying from 65 to 103 per cent. Police shows an advance of 126 per cent, the actual increase in the pay of constables having, as will be seen from the table in paragraph 19 of the printed memorandum, increased by 100 per cent. Under General Administration, which includes the charges for the Reforms and for this Council, there is an increase of 153 per cent. Under Medical, the increase rises to 205 per cent and under Education to 246 per cent. The largest increase of all is in the new departments, in which case it is hardly fair to reckon percentages. The expenditure on Agriculture has advanced in ten years from 6 lakhs to 32 lakhs and that on Industries from 1 lakh to 25 lakhs.

"The new services embarked upon in the year which is coming to a close were very briefly the following:—Under Industries a great step forward was taken by the establishment of a district staff consisting of five officers as well as by the employment of an Industrial Engineer. This will, it is hoped, form the nucleus of a regular organisation on the basis of that recommended by the Industrial Commission. In Co-operation a largely increased staff was employed with the declared intention of enrolling not less than 4,500 new societies within the next few years. Under Forest, exploitation operations were begun in the Chenat Nayar forests. The important changes in Local Self-Government were the passing of the Town Planning Bill, which has been followed by proposals for extensive town-planning operations in Madras and elsewhere, and in the taking over by the Provincial Government of responsibility for trunk roads at a cost of 16 lakhs per annum. Another important factor in the question of communications was the inquiries set going in the matter of harbours. The report of Messrs. Sir John Wolfe Barry, Lyster and Partners on the ports of the Presidency, was received in the year and the services were secured of a harbour engineer, who has since been engaged on detailed working out of schemes for the improvement of the important harbours of Tuticorin and Cochin. Under Administration of Justice we were at last able to render permanent 25 out of the many courts which have so long been on a temporary basis. In the Agency tracts a new policy of development was instituted by dividing them up on a language basis and placing them under the control of a Commissioner of long Agency experience. The Labour Department was largely engaged with industrial disputes, but a good deal of work for the depressed classes was also done. The Publicity Department, which was instituted in 1919, proved its usefulness and established itself in the confidence of its honorary correspondents who become more numerous every week.

"The year had hardly opened, however, before it became obvious that very large reallotments would be necessary owing to the general revision of salaries which was in progress. And here I should like to remind the House, with reference to the remark of the Committee that has just sat, that they deplore our failure to hold up all revisions until that relating to the subordinate services had been dealt with, that by the time the financial year 1920–21 had commenced we were already committed in respect of revisions which had been dealt with for India as a whole by the Secretary of State and had made a provision of 24 lakhs for them in the budget. In regard to the others, we made, in consultation with the Finance Committee, a provision in a lump sum of 54 lakhs, in addition to the allowances already granted, and if we miscalculated, we did so in good company. As soon as we found out our mistake, we began to make revisions which involved a total reappropriation of 87 lakhs, and this has been responsible for the curtailment of several schemes of development which we had in contemplation. I may here illustrate the crippling effect upon our finances as a whole of the enormous increase in the cost of salaries by saying that our total salary bill between 1913–14 and 1921–22 has risen from 373 lakhs to 598 lakhs.

"Nor is that all. With salaries there have had to be raised also the travelling allowances of all classes of officers, as those in force have been found not to meet the actual expenses of travelling, a fact which is apt to react upon the villager, who supplies his carts at a fixed tariff which may be less than what he could secure by hiring them out for other purposes. It is hoped that the increase in the payment to the travelling officers will enable a corresponding increase in the tariff for carts and relieve the pressure which is sometimes complained of upon the village officers who are asked to produce them.

5th March 1921] [The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter]

"To turn now to the expenditure proposed for 1921–22: although, as I have said, what we propose in the main is just to carry on, the expenditure will show an increase over the revised estimate for 1920–21 under every head but three. In the case of two of these, namely, Jails and Stationery, the variation is very small, Rs. 20,000 in one case and Rs. 4,000 in the other. The other head is that of Public Health, and the only reason for the decrease in that case is that, in accordance with the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee, we propose hereafter to pay contributions in arrear instead of in advance. The following are some of the increases provided for as between the revised estimate for 1920–21 and the budget for 1921–22:—

	Revised estimate 1920–21 in lakhs.	Budget estimate 1921–22 in lakhs.
Land Revenue	191	200
Excise	27	33
Forest	47	56
General Administration	24	31
Administration of Justice	122	128
Police	179	192
Education	137	158
Medical	46	50
Agriculture	23	32
Industries	15	25
Civil Works	119	143
Famine Relief and Insurance	1½	25
Superannuation and Pension	40	44

"In regard to Civil Works I should say that the last year's estimate was 144 lakhs: we had to cut it down to 119 in order to provide for salaries. It should also be noted that a large part of the 143 lakhs provided for 1921–22 is loan money and not revenue.

"The main items of new expenditure will be found detailed in the memorandum and it will perhaps be sufficient here to give a brief catalogue. Under Forests provision is made for the Russellkonda saw mill. The head General Administration includes 3·18 lakhs for a fourth Member of Council and three Ministers and three Council Secretaries, 1·28 for the President of the Council and his Secretary and office and the shorthand writers, and 1·20 for travelling allowances for members. In addition to this, an expenditure of 2 lakhs has been imposed newly upon this Government on account of the pay of the Military Secretary, Aides-de-Camp and the bodyguard of His Excellency the Governor. The institution of the Agency division is an important change, but does not impose any very large increase in expenditure owing to the fact that reductions have been made in the staff of the districts from which the Agency was previously controlled. After prolonged correspondence the Government of India have agreed to hand over the Lawrence Memorial School at Lovedale with an assignment to meet the cost. The Government have accepted the resolution of this Council regarding the remission of the contributions which local bodies agreed to pay for the maintenance of headquarter hospitals when they handed over the hospitals to the Government, which in consequence will bear the full expenditure of 9 lakhs on these hospitals. The important change under the head Civil Works is the transfer of a large part of the expenditure, which is of the nature of permanent improvements, to loan funds, thus increasing the amounts

available for ordinary expenditure. The greatest part of the 70 lakhs which we propose to raise, 25 lakhs, goes to famine relief.

"Perhaps the most serious problem of all those facing the Government and the Council is that of the pay of schoolmasters. This is a matter which was dealt with by the Salaries Committee of 1920, and the Government in passing orders on their report gave a temporary subsidy of Rs. 4 a head to enable local bodies to carry on for the current year. They accompanied this with a very distinct warning that the subsidy would not be repeated, and that it was necessary for local bodies to take steps to deal with the situation themselves. To facilitate this, the Government pushed on with the Elementary Education Bill, which enables these bodies to levy a cess for the purpose and entitles them to claim from the general tax-payer a sum equivalent to the amount levied from the rate-payer in the shape of cess, in addition to securing the passing of other laws which put it within the power of local boards and municipal councils to improve their finances considerably. They had hoped before the time came for the preparation of the budget to have seen some indication of the action local bodies were taking in the matter and of the direction in which they could assist them, if necessary. No such indication has yet been received, however, and the Government regret that they are quite unable to recommend the placing of the whole responsibility of this enormously increased charge upon the shoulders of the general tax-payer. For the present, they have continued provision for grants and subsidies on the usual basis and for a normal increase in the same. They commend the matter, however, to the very early attention of the local bodies, who are primarily concerned.

"To sum up, the resources available to the Government are resources capable of great expansion, as will be seen from their increase by nearly 10 crores of rupees in the last thirty years. The expansion in expenditure is very much greater, since what the old Government had to spend in 1891–92 was not 672 lakhs, which would have been available under the new dispensation, but something less than half that sum.

"Even so it has been found possible, not only to expand all the existing services, but to open up the new departments of Co-operation, Agriculture, Industries and Fisheries without imposing any addition to these taxes except the addition to the Excise. Meanwhile the Imperial Government propose to take from us our share of the taxes which are common to all India and which would on the new basis show an advance from 218 lakhs to 515 lakhs in the last ten years. There is no doubt that the new taxes on income have been burdensome, but they are a small price to pay for the protection received during the war, while the total taxation as compared with the 27 per cent on income that is being taken in England is insignificant. There is no doubt also that the increase in the price of rice has caused much hardship, but, while it is doubtful if this is comparable with the hardship suffered in the countries more directly engaged in the war, we must remember that we have been saved by the Government of India from the full effect of the world increase while we also have a distinct ray of hope in the fact that the price has already fallen by 25 per cent. Another very hopeful feature in the speech of the Hon'ble the Finance Member of the Government of India is his statement that one purpose of the imposition of fresh Imperial taxation is to begin to make an end of the subsidies from the Local Governments.

"While, however, the budget thus presented provides for a total increase of expenditure over that of the current year of 130 lakhs from revenue, in addition to 70 lakhs from loans, the Government are conscious that it will not come up to the expectations of Members of this Council, and that mainly because the spirit of the times demands development under almost every head. This is a spirit to

be encouraged in every possible way, but it is to be feared that there is no escape from the discouraging fact that development has to be paid for. That is a fact which was fully recognized when the Reforms were in embryo and cannot be ignored now that they have come into being.

"It has been urged that retrenchment should go with reform, and on this point the remarks of a newspaper writer on the budget of a sister province are very much to the point. 'Neither this nor any other province', he says, 'could possibly afford to pay adequate wages to their present establishment. In view of the rise in the cost of living, demanding in turn the substantial increase in the cost of personnel, Government must do what every other business concern has done, overhaul its administrative machinery with a view to economizing labour, securing a higher individual output, and thereby finding some compensation for the much higher cost.' He adds further: 'Economy cannot begin and end at the reduction of a few clerks and pattawallahs. It must go right through the machine.' As to this I can only say that the Government have already had special inquiries made regarding the methods available of improving the machinery and have already made several substantial economies. One of these is the provision for a reduction by 15 per cent in the strength of the Police. Other instances might be cited in the reduction in the number of peons (chiefly among personal attendants on officers) and of clerks in the Settlement Department of the Board of Revenue. Again the bifurcation of the Kistna district has been, for the present at any rate, postponed, and inquiries are in progress as to the possibilities of reduction in the numbers of the village staff and the Salt and Excise preventive force. In the ensuing year it is proposed, under the direct personal guidance of His Excellency the Governor, to continue investigations of the same sort right through the machine. To quote the same writer again, the Government fully recognize that 'the most rigid economy will reduce expenditure by comparatively little, but that the beneficial effect of such economy is less in the sums immediately retrenched than in the spirit they produce, which, reacting throughout the administration, effects savings out of all proportion to the actual sums saved under specific heads'. The Madras Administration has had long experience of the practice of parsimony, and if this has been somewhat relaxed in the last two or three years, the Government have no doubt that their officers will respond to the call for economy now as readily as they did in the past.

"While, however, the Government are cordially in favour of retrenchment, they feel that it will be impossible to meet the demands of this Council by that means alone. This is apparent from an examination of the resolutions proposed at the first meeting of the Council. Had all the demands put forward been accepted, the province would be involved in an increased expenditure of something like 7 crores, or at least 50 per cent of the total sum now provided for the expenditure in the whole Presidency. It must be quite clear that no campaign of economy, however drastic, could by any possibility provide for demands on a scale like this, and it is therefore necessary to see also what can be done to increase the resources of the Government.

"And in examining this aspect of the question, it will obviously be best to examine the possibility of using the powers already given by the legislature before fresh legislation is undertaken. The taxes in respect of which it is possible to impose an increase without legislation are the Excise and the taxes levied by local bodies. In the case of Excise, never a year passes but the Government examine carefully what are the possibilities of increasing the income by raising the duty on country spirits, ganja or opium, or by raising the rate of tree-tax. The rates have been in fact pushed up under these heads to such an extent that they have already

led to refusals to bid at the auctions, so that a retardation in the growth of the revenue is anticipated on this and other grounds. There remains the possibility of enhancing the local rates, and in this matter, if we make a comparison with the conditions in England, we find that, wherever local bodies in that country are most democratic, the rates are highest, and that the maxima levied in this Presidency are out of all comparison insignificant beside the rates actually levied in numerous municipal and county boroughs in the United Kingdom. It is the local bodies that need development more than anyone else, and they need it for the benefit of local persons who will see to the application of the money collected to proper uses. It is to be hoped that the first step towards finding ways and means for the Reforms will be by the local bodies, not only imposing the cesses which they are empowered to impose under the Elementary Education Act, but raising the other rates so as to enable them to increase the pay of their staff and to carry out their programme of development.

"To conclude, Sir, we have just succeeded in making revenue cover expenditure for a year in which the Government of India have been faced with substantial additional taxation while some of our sister provinces have had to budget for heavy deficits. But in order to meet the largely increased charges on account of establishments we have had to make a drastic curtailment of the programme of development. This is a state of affairs that cannot continue, and the first task of the year 1921-22 will be a complete overhauling of the administrative machine with a view to economy and an exploration both by local bodies and by the Government of the possibilities of increasing the resources available. This exploration will commence on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next, when the general criticism of the principles embodied in the budget will be made by Members of the Council. There will then be an adjournment for ten days in order to allow time for an exhaustive examination of the figures and for the preparation of resolutions proposing specific reductions. Notice of these has to be given on or before the 14th instant and the discussions will commence on the 21st and will continue, if necessary, with intervals for Good Friday and Easter Sunday, to the end of the month."

V

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

Levy of fees on certain lands in Kistna district.

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Mr. President, Sir: the resolution which stands in my name reads as follows:—

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

"Before I read the notification and explain its general contents, it is perhaps necessary to inform this Council that this matter is not merely of local interest, but that it raises very important questions of principle and of administrative expediency. I would invite therefore the attention of the Honourable Members to a few broad facts relating to the administration of the Gōdāvari and Kistna deltas, before I proceed to deal with the objectionable features of this notification. Honourable Members who have been in the old Council are aware that the various questions relating to the improvement of the administration of these deltas came up from time to time, that the Kistna and Godavari deltas were constructed out of borrowed capital and that they are paying at present 20 to 21 per cent on the capital outlay. These systems have been

5th March 1921] [Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu]

developed from time to time by inducements offered to the ryots to speedily extend wet cultivation, and at re-settlement what is known as the 'inducement rate' has been introduced with a view to encourage ryots to permanently classify their lands as wet. The earlier policy with regard to these deltas has, therefore, been one of rapid expansion of wet cultivation and the conversion of dry lands into wet encouraged by the Department of Irrigation. The canal system is not a perfect system and various improvements for remodelling the existing channels have been made from time to time at the cost of the State. We arrived at a stage two years ago when the Government thought it necessary to adopt a policy of reducing the areas already under irrigation. These are the broad facts which have to be remembered before I deal with the exact terms of the resolution. Perhaps I may also say in this connexion that the Government have from time to time fixed what is known as the 'irrigable area' under each of these deltas. That is for the purpose of finding out what is the extent of lands which may safely be allowed to be registered as 'wet', consistently with the supply of water available under the canal system. Therefore in regard to the Kistna eastern delta and the Gōdavari western delta which forms the present Kistna district what is known as the irrigable area has thus been fixed and a Special Officer who was appointed in 1917 has been charged with the duty of reduction of the extent actually irrigated so as to accord with the figures of the ultimate ayacut. The Council will note that from time to time irrigation has been extended though this ultimate area has been fixed, and we have now arrived at a stage when it is found necessary to cut down the area actually under irrigation—a circumstance which is greatly resented by the ryots whose lands have already been placed under wet cultivation. The area, so far as the Kistna eastern delta is concerned, is about 350 thousand acres and the ultimate area which has been accepted by the Government with regard to the Kistna western delta is I believe 337 thousand acres. In 1917 Government appointed two special officers for the purpose of settling and localizing what is known as 'wet ayacut' and these two officers proceeded to notify 17,000 acres as the area which should be thrown out of cultivation. Well, Sir, at that time I moved a resolution in this Council, and without wasting the time of the Council I may say that it was then stated that this reduction, as far as possible, would be minimised and that the interests of the owners of lands already under irrigation would be safeguarded. These special officers were asked to go into this question and to examine block by block and see which areas had to be excluded from wet irrigation and which areas had to be included and it is now estimated roughly, that the lands which are now proposed to be included in the wet ayacut of the Kistna eastern delta is about 60,000 acres or so. It is proposed by the terms of this notification that in regard to the lands which have already been under irrigation for 5 years and more a sum of Rs. 25 per acre should be collected for the purpose of registering these lands or putting these lands in the register known as ayacut register of the delta, and with regard to the lands which have been under irrigation for 5 years or less a sum of Rs. 12–8–0 is proposed to be charged. It will be seen therefore that the sum which is now proposed to be realized from the ryots comes to about 10–12 lakhs of rupees and the question arises as to whether this levy is justifiable and whether it is in consonance with the existing practice, or whether there are any reasons as to why this notification should at all have been issued. I submit, Sir, that but for the fact that I read the notification in the District Gazette, I should never have believed that the Government would have issued this notification with the conditions which are to be found in this notification. I will draw your attention to these conditions a little later. Honourable Members are aware that in

each delta area there are water-rates which have been levied under the Water Cess Act, and in the Gōdāvari and Kistna delta the ryots are paying Rs. 5 per acre for the water which they appropriate from the Government source. This new levy is really a kind of premia paid by the ryots for bringing the lands which have already been under irrigation for 10 or 5 years on the ayacut register and they will have to continue to pay their water-rates in the years to come. There is no justification whatever for this levy. I tried my best to find out on what grounds this proposed levy is justified and as usual in these matters the Government declined to place the correspondence between themselves and the Board of Revenue and the Collectors on the table. I trust the Hon'ble Mr. Habib-ul-lah will not again surprise me by reading the correspondence between the Collector and the Board of Revenue. Well, Sir, the only clue, I have is based on the answer to an interpellation at the last meeting of the Council. The reasons as stated are these : 'that this is a change, the object of which' the answer states, 'is to meet the cost of the localization operations which is considerable. The expenditure includes (1) cost of the special staff, (2) the amount of compensation payable to the owners of settlement wet lands which have been excluded from the ayacut, (3) the cost of re-modelling the channels so as to suit the wet ayacut.'

"All those reasons are untenable and are contrary to the present administrative practice—a practice which has been in vogue for several years.

"Now taking the last of those relating to the cost of remodelling of the channels, I would seriously ask the Hon'ble the Revenue Member whether the cost of remodelling of the channels in the deltas should be recovered by a special levy from the ryots concerned. I must perhaps remind the Honourable Members who may not be familiar with this question that this is a very old topic, and it has been brought up in this Council very often. In 1909 instructions have been issued for the remodelling of channels of the Gōdāvari Delta. Extensive remodelling was recommended by a Committee and a Special Executive Engineer was appointed for the purpose of carrying out the remodelling works relating to several channels in the Gōdāvari and Kistna districts. Several channels have been remodelled in this way. Rupees 65,000 has been spent in remodeling the Chinchinada channel and effecting improvements for Razole channel. The cost has been debited to capital either as extensions or improvements. All these remodelling operations have always been debited to the system. Now I ask this House, Sir, what justification there is to lay down this new principle, *i.e.*, that the cost of remodelling of the channels (which may eventually come to 20 to 30 lakhs of rupees) should be recovered by a special levy from the ryots. There is no precedent for this. The practice for the last 15 years is against it and I submit it is altogether unjust to levy the cost from the ryots. I therefore submit with great confidence that in putting forward this ground of justification a serious mistake has been made by the Government and I trust that the Government will quickly retrace their steps.

"The second ground on which the levy is justified is the cost of the special staff employed on these operations. Even in regard to this I submit that those who are familiar with the administration of the deltas like the Periyar or Tanjore will see that special officers have been appointed from time to time not only for remodelling but for other improvements. Is it seriously contended that the ryots of these deltas are paying for the cost of the special staff thus employed? Does the House propose to impose any special levy on the ryots for the purpose of the cost involved in the improvement of the channels? I am really unable to see the justification for this charge on the ground that the cost of a special staff should be paid by the ryot.

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"The last ground is that compensation is payable to owners of settlement wet lands which have been excluded from the ayacut. Even on this ground, I do not see the slightest justification for any levy from the ryots. Honourable Members are aware that there are settlement lands in the deltas on which a consolidated rate has been imposed. We have also zamindari lands and inam areas where water-rate is paid for separately to the Government. Now in regard to the settlement wet lands, it was proposed in 1917 to throw out 4,000 acres. Why should the ryots pay for the compensation payable for these lands? These wet lands are being thrown out for the reason that they are not commandable by the delta channels and that they are high level lands situated in such a way that the existing channels cannot serve them. They are thrown out rather in the general interest of the irrigable areas and not on account of any special benefit conferred on the persons from whom this levy is proposed to be made. There is therefore no justification whatever for the course proposed and the grounds mentioned are altogether unsupportable.

"Then the last point to which I would invite the attention of this House is the fact that a fee of Rs. 25 is prescribed on the following basis: (i) 'the expenditure which has already been or will be incurred by the Government, (ii) the rates offered by ryots for transfer to them of the irrigation rights of others and (iii) the rates paid by ryots to a private pumping installation for providing irrigation facilities.' These are the three grounds on which it is stated that the Government have fixed the amount of Rs. 25 per acre.

"Taking the last point first, the rates paid by the ryots are the rates for actual irrigation. I take it for the actual supply of water. Here in this case, in addition to the special levy of Rs. 25, the ryots will continue to pay the water-rate of Rs. 5 per acre. I really do not see why this special levy is proposed for placing these lands in the ayacut register. I am really surprised that this proposition has been put forward. I trust that the Honourable Member will appreciate the force of my remarks and will see that this notification is cancelled. Before I conclude, I wish to state that there are four conditions in this notification which are so one-sided and so unjustifiable to the ryots that I must invite the attention of the Council to them. In addition to the payment of fees the ryot is compelled that the whole extent comprised within the block mentioned above should be brought under wet cultivation and water-tax, cess, etc., should be paid on it from the appointed day whether or not the whole extent has been brought under wet cultivation from the year fixed.

"May I ask, Sir, whether this is just. A man may not be able to bring all lands under cultivation for various reasons. It is no easy thing to alter a dry land into a wet one and yet it is seriously suggested whether he does it or not, whether he takes the water or not the whole inclusion fee should be paid or that they should be penalised. I cannot imagine how any responsible officer could have suggested this one-sided condition in the notification issued by the Collector.

"The Government say that they are not going to refund the fee of Rs. 25, and that they would take steps to transfer it to dry.

"The fourth point is that the level of the block should be raised if necessary by the party consistent with that of the wet cultivated area in the vicinity to ensure safety from submersion, within a stipulated period, on pain of the exclusion of the block from the wet ayacut in the event of failure. In a particular block there may be 400 acres or 500 acres, out of which each man may own 4 acres or 5 acres, and is the whole block to be thrown out because something else has not been done?

"It is stated in the Gazette that necessary *bodis* should be provided by the parties at their own cost, and that the parties concerned should hold themselves responsible for the payment of the conversion or inclusion fee specified in condition No. (1) above and of water-tax, cess, etc., on the entire block. Here, again Sir, I ask the Hon'ble the Revenue Member whether it is right that in a block of 400 acres, a man possessing 4 acres should be asked to make himself jointly responsible for the payment of Rs. 25, for the payment of water-tax, and all the cesses, for the whole block I am very much surprised at this position.

"I trust therefore that Honourable Members will see that the questions raised are of immense importance not only to the Kistna and Gōdāvari deltas, but to every delta and to every irrigation project in which there is irrigation now going on. I am not now fighting for any principles. The Government are bound down by a certain policy in regard to delta administration, and I ask the Honourable Member for Revenue whether it is right that they should deviate from this principle, because they wish to make a sum of a lakh of rupees by levying a fee on lands to be included in the ayacut registers of those lands. I trust, Sir, that the Council will accept this motion and that the Hon'ble the Revenue Member will see the reasonableness of my request."

Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Naydu:—"Mr. President, I beg to second this resolution moved by Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao Pantulu. There is much to be said in support of the resolution, but I shall now deal succinctly with the matter and confine myself to one or two points. When the last settlement was made, the consolidated rate of wet assessment was fixed. In cases where the ryots did not agree to the consolidation, they were charged some amount extra over the water-rate, just to induce them to convert their lands into wet and get the rate consolidated. Moreover, when the Settlement Department originally classed a land as consolidated wet, it must have been done after personal inspection. When this has been once done, I see no reason for the present special officers converting such lands again into dry any similar land elsewhere being given in exchange and so on. I suppose the officers of the Public Works Department are not in a position to take water to places where water cannot flow. It is only lands, which are in a lower level that would enable water to run easily, that can be classed into wet. The only question now is whether there is sufficient water to let out, so as to irrigate 500 or 5,000 acres and so on. That is the only point we have to look to and settle. I do not see why there should be a reclassification and all that kind of business now undertaken. If the ryots of lands which are high and the level of which the owners want to lower, are not given water, and others whose lands are low are given water on their applications to the extent to which the particular channel can supply water that would save all difficulties. This levy of Rs. 25 which is now sought to be made is quite novel under the British Government and is the system in which the Zamindars and Rajas are accustomed to levy from their tenants. Under the Government, there can be no such thing as levying a premium. For the matter of that, we may as well say, raise the water-rate if that is considered reasonable. The original expectation in starting these anicut irrigation projects was that they would pay only 3 per cent interest. But now the Kistna and Gōdāvari anicut system is fetching already about 21 per cent, or seven times more than what the Government wanted. There is thus no justification for levying any premia or raising the water-rate. With these few words, I beg to second this resolution."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur:—"Mr. President, I think I have listened to the very persuasive arguments of the

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honourable mover of this resolution with great interest hoping that he might advance arguments which would convert me to his view. But I must confess that the opinion which I formed after examining the question from various standpoints remains the same. He has no doubt told the House that these localization operations commenced about a couple of years ago and that their sole aim and object was not so much for the purpose of determining what lands should be included but more for the purpose of determining what should be excluded. These operations as a matter of fact began so long ago as in the year 1916. They were first intended to be confined to the Kistna Eastern delta, but it was found necessary to extend them subsequently to the Gōdāvari Western delta as well. As I said, Sir, the object was more a determination of how best the canals and channels comprised within those two deltas could discharge their duty without detriment to the interest of the landholders concerned. The work of exclusion therefore had to be taken up to determine what land should be eliminated from these two deltas. Now that fact having been determined in the year 1919, the localization officers had necessarily to set about an investigation as to whether, after these exclusions had taken place, there was room left for more lands being brought under cultivation through the same canals and channels which comprised the two deltas. Before I go to the legality or the equity of the proposed charge, which the honourable mover mentioned, I may probably state very briefly what the process was for the purpose of carrying out the exclusion proceedings. The exclusion proceedings involved the elimination from the ayacut of various types of lands which before then had been irrigated through the same sources. They involved the exclusion of what we call the 'settlement wet'. They also involved the exclusion of what we call the 'mamul wet.' They also involved the exclusion of lands of a mamul wet description situate in the zamindari areas. Now as soon as a determination was arrived at as to the exact extent of land which had to be excluded, those people whose lands were directly concerned in the elimination process had necessarily to be consulted. Various individuals of course raised objections to the exclusion; some acquiesced for reasons which I shall explain later and some did not even choose to appear to say either aye or nay, so that the localization officer had no opportunity of knowing whether they would agree to the exclusion of their lands and when steps had to be taken for the purpose of depriving individuals, who until then had been enjoying a certain right, it was but fair and equitable that those individuals whose rights were going to be taken away were compensated for. This compensation, for which we have only rough figures at present, amounts to no less than two lakhs. Nor is this all; for we recognize that if we should include within the two ayacuts all the extent of land for which we expect there will be applications, it will be absolutely necessary for us to remodel the existing channels so that they may serve the purposes for which they are intended, without detriment to the interest of those landholders with whom we would in future contract to supply water. Now this again, according to rough figures which I have got in my hands at the present moment, is estimated to cost no less than ten lakhs. But, Sir, the estimate of ten lakhs of to-day may for aught we know rise in value by the time probably we put the work into actual execution, for we are familiar with the fact that estimates have constantly to be revised on account of the varying prices in the market. Well, these two are important factors to be borne in mind."

"Then again, Sir, my honourable friend on the other side took objection to the fact that we have all along been spending State funds for the benefit of the landholders and why this change of policy now. Let me make it sufficiently clear that the stage at which we have now arrived is not the stage of the introduction

of anything like a deltaic scheme to any district, but it is merely a question of the readjustment between lands which might well go out of it and lands which might well claim to come into it. Now, so far as lands which have to go out of it are concerned we have agreed to compensate for them. So far as lands which claim to come into it are concerned, it is perfectly open to the Government to make their own condition. It has to be realized that the lands in respect of which these conditions are proposed to be introduced are lands which are called dry. In no country in the world has the State undertaken the responsibility of supplying *gratis* water to lands which are called 'dry'. Here, in this case, if the dry landholders want to enjoy the benefit, they are merely asked to pay a premium, so that the expenses incidental to the various proceedings which will eventually culminate in their enjoyment of the privileges which they want might be borne. This is in no way an obligatory charge. It is merely an optional charge, for the notification itself would have amply made it clear that it is only those landholders who at the present moment own dry lands and who wish to claim the benefit of these irrigation sources who will have to pay. It is only those who apply for this privilege that have got to pay a premium of Rs. 25 per acre. It is perfectly open to those landholders to refuse to pay the premium and refuse to get the benefit of water.

"Then, Sir, my friend referred to the reply that had been given in answer to an interpellation on this very matter. These were really the reasons which induced the Government to fix the premium at Rs. 25. Of the three reasons, of course, I have already mentioned two, viz., the necessity to pay compensation and the necessity to spend a very large sum of money for the purpose of remodelling the existing channels so as to enable them to get the work expected of them in the future. My friend of course referred to item 2 of the answer in which it was stated that similar payment had been made by other ryots in another installation. I believe my honourable friend must have gleaned from that answer what the installation was to which reference had been made. I think he is already aware of the Atmakur installation. It is that to which reference had been made. What happened there was the ryots paid so much as Rs. 50 per acre as premium and are to-day paying not merely the land-cess but are also paying Rs. 3-12-0 per acre for what they call the 'lift charge' to the company which supplies them water and on the top of it, they pay the Government Rs. 8-8-0 per acre for water. Well, I state these facts simply to convince the House that ryots are very keen on securing water to their dry lands, for it is obvious that on dry lands they could raise no other crop than a dry crop."

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu :—"May I explain to the Honourable Member that these lands have been already for 10 or 15 years under wet cultivation and they have been so classified on applications made to the department and accepted by the department? They are not dry lands at all."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur :—"I dispute the statement absolutely, for the intention of the notification, Sir, to recover Rs. 25 per acre is wholly confined to lands which yet continue dry. The Rs. 12½ favourable rate, which my honourable friend has already quoted, refers to what we call Eksal lands, which are lands for which the landholders secure annual permit from the authorities concerned to enable them to take a little water from the channel and cultivate them."

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu :—"A little water?"

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur :—'Of course sufficient water for the lands, the grant of licence being, however, entirely optional. In one year it may be granted ; in the next five years it may be

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refused if there is no water to give. In the case of that land, Sir, Rs. 12½ rate has been specially granted to those Eksal landholders who have been given similar permits from year to year for the last five years continuously. There is certainly no question whatsoever of all lands in respect of which Rs. 25 is demanded having at any time enjoyed the benefit of this delta or having at any time claimed any benefit or having been refused those benefits. They will be getting these benefits now for the first time. They will raise wet crop over lands which all along had been dry. They are thereby not only raising wet crops, Sir, but raising the value of those dry lands from almost a nominal one to several times the present market value. We have cases to show that in this very delta, when our officers were conducting the investigation for the purpose of determining which land should be excluded, those interested in the matter had made private arrangements with the owners of lands which had to be excluded, by purchasing, as it were, their water right at a rate varying from Rs. 10 to Rs. 50."

"We have often received applications from individuals who possess dry lands requesting that facilities might be created by opening new and additional channels and offering to pay the whole cost and in several cases it has even surprised the Government to find that before any such scheme was sanctioned, the money had been forthcoming. That, I would emphasise, indicates the value which the ryot attaches to water. It will certainly not be a burden under these circumstances to expect them to pay no more than a premium of Rs. 25 per acre. What is happening now? In cases in which the land is not entitled to water the ryot applies, but in some cases it so happens that he is refused the licence and when he is so refused the licence, he is determined to take the water and when he does take the water, he has to pay a penalty of Rs. 20 per acre and in cases in which he did it either without permission or against the permission he is bound to pay Rs. 20 per acre. In future he will be absolutely free from this sword of Damocles hanging over his head. He will be entitled to his share of water and he will pay no more than an annual water-cess which his other brethren who have been claiming the benefit of this ayacut have been paying until now. Is it therefore very reasonable to say, Sir, that this Rs. 25 premium which we ask the ryot to pay, leaving it entirely optional with him to pay or not, should be regarded as an iniquitous levy?

"Well, my friend has tried to show by reference to the past history and by also reading to us certain extracts from documents which presumably he thinks I am unaware of, that the policy all along has been for the Government to make all these improvements. But, Sir, may I at the same time venture to say that in this case the principle involved is absolutely different from the principle involved in the other cases which he refers to. For in this case, as I have already said we have to remember this fact that we are offering certain facilities to holders of *dry* lands. We are in no way bound to supply them water. We will make it possible for them to get the water by incurring the necessary expenditure only if they will reimburse us. This will be only once and not annually, for Rs. 25 is going to be only a premium. The ryot is not going to repeat this as in the case of the Rs. 20 per acre which he has to pay if he takes water without permission or against permission. This aspect of the matter I wish the House will kindly bear in mind.

"These in brief are my reasons for declining to accept this resolution in the present form and I hope the House will agree with me."

Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar:—"Sir, I have very great pleasure in supporting the resolution now before the House. I have listened with careful attention to the speeches of the mover and the seconder of this resolution and of

the Hon'ble the Revenue Member. After listening to their arguments, the principle embodied in this notification seems to me absolutely indefensible. I shall refer only to the admitted facts brought out in the discussion and not to the disputed facts. With reference to some of these lands that are under discussion it is admitted both by the Hon'ble the Revenue Member and of course by the mover of this resolution that they have been paying for five years and more an irrigation cess of Rs. 5 per acre per annum. No doubt, they have not been brought under permanent wet lands. The ryots have to apply every year and are allowed to pay an irrigation cess of Rs. 5, and in respect of these lands which have been paying Rs. 5 it is most odd to levy a sum of Rs. 12½ per acre. It has been stated by the seconder of this resolution and it has not been denied . . ."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :— " May I rise, Sir, to make a correction. It is not quite correct to say that in lieu of Rs. 5 per year per acre cess is now sought to be levied at Rs. 12½ per acre. That would mean that the Rs. 12½ is a yearly charge, but I have made it sufficiently clear that it is a premium to be paid once and for all."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I beg my honourable friend's pardon. That is exactly what I said. I am very sorry that I was not very clear. What I stated was that for the benefit of getting water every year, a payment of Rs. 5 is being made and that is being repeated year after year. That has been repeated for more than five years in respect of portions of these lands which have been paying for more than five years at the rate of Rs. 5 per acre in order that they may be brought permanently under the wet ayacut, they being only temporarily under wet ayacut in the sense that it is necessary to renew these licences year after year. It is now sought to levy a lump sum of Rs. 12½ per acre in addition to the Rs. 5 irrigation cess which will continue to be paid even after these lands are brought permanently under the ayacut system. That is the way in which I have understood the whole question and that is confirmed by the Honourable Member in charge.

" I wish now to say, Sir, that it has been assented by the seconder of this resolution, and it has not been denied from the Government side, that the Government was deriving a profit of 21 per cent on the capital cost incurred on this delta system. That is a profit with which the most voracious of private persons must be content.

" That is, by levying Rs. 5 per acre the Government have been able to derive this profit of 21 per cent and now simply for the purpose of bringing these lands and other lands in respect of which a higher rate is demanded under a permanent wet ayacut system, a sum of Rs. 12½ is said to be levied. I have heard, Sir, some private landowners claiming such rates : but I have never heard of Government doing so. The ryot should continue to pay an irrigation cess of Rs. 5 every year and so long as he pays that amount, so long as that amount is levied from him, there is so far as I can see no reason why the Government, in addition to that annual tax, should require a lump sum contribution of Rs. 12½, and in the case of certain other lands which have not been irrigated for more than five years, Rs. 25 per acre. It is stated that some money will have to be expended on remodelling the channel. May I ask, Sir, whether this contemplated remodelling is in respect of these lands alone, of these lands which are now paying Rs. 5 per acre and which have not yet been brought permanently on the ayacut system or whether this contemplated remodelling will benefit other lands as well. I hope the Hon'ble the Revenue Member in his final reply will please answer this question of mine. Then it is stated that the cost of a special set of officers who have been appointed

is also to be covered by this lump sum contribution of 12½ per cent and 25 per cent. We hear very often of special officers being appointed in other departments temporarily for special purposes. We never hear of any special contribution from the people concerned for the purpose of paying these special officers. That seems to me to be a novel principle in the revenue system of this Presidency. It seems to me again, Sir, that one provision in this notification is extraordinarily hard, I may say, extremely unjustifiable. A block may consist of many acres. The notification specifically says that it is absolutely necessary in order that these lands may be brought permanently under the wet ayacut system that for all the lands in that block, whether owned by a single individual or by hundreds of individuals, a contribution of 12½ or 25 rupees per acre should be paid in respect of the whole area included in that block. The block may consist of five hundred or a thousand acres, owned by five or by ten persons; it may be that one person is either unwilling or unable to pay the contribution that is sought to be levied from him at the rate of 25 or 12½ rupees per acre, though all others are willing. But it is very hard, extremely unreasonable, that because one or more than one of these owners are either unwilling or unable to pay the contribution in question, all the other owners should suffer . . . . "

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur (*interrupting*) :—"I am sure, Sir, that that was never the intention of the Government."

Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar (*continuing*) :—"May I read, Sir? 'It is hereby notified for the information of the public concerned that in the Kistna (Eastern) and Gōdāvari (Western) deltas lands, which are not classed as dry and for which water has not yet been sanctioned permanently and which are recommended by the localization special officers to be included in the wet ayacut will be incorporated into the ultimate wet ayacut, only subject to the following conditions :—(1) a fee of Rs. 25 per acre should be paid into the Government treasury on each block in full before the date appointed for it on pain of the whole block being excluded from the ayacut in the event of failure.' If I have not been able to understand this passage clearly, I should say, it is not entirely my fault; it is the fault of the officer who drew up the notification. In the case of all lands which had been under irrigation for five or more years, the rate of fee payable is to be Rs. 12 per acre. As I understand it—I should be very glad to be corrected—it means that in case the prescribed payment is not made for the whole of the block in question before a particular date, no portion of the block may be benefited by the payment of a part of the contribution. That seems to be an extremely unjustifiable provision. It is not necessary, Sir, for me to refer to the various other aspects of this notification which have been placed before this Council. It seems to me, as I submitted at the beginning, that the principle of the notification cannot be defended at all."

Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju :—"Mr. President, the Hon'ble the Revenue Member stated that he gave his best consideration to the resolution from various standpoints and that he was not able to accept the resolution. I expected him to criticise it from these various standpoints, but throughout, he attacked it only from the commercial or business standpoint. As far as that is concerned, I am not going to dispute. But the case now before the House involves the general principle of irrigation cess; and the question as to how far the Government is justified in deviating from the existing principles of levying water-cess is to be considered by the House by a vote on the resolution. Sir, as far as I understand the system of irrigation in Gōdāvari and Kistna districts, the lands may be classified into

three classes. The first is what is generally known as the bapat wet or dry lands for which irrigation facilities were permanently granted ; or, in other words, the landholders need not put any application for water-supply. Regarding this class of land there is a dispute between the honourable mover and the Honourable Member for Revenue. The honourable mover says that this class is also included in the notification, and if I have heard correctly the Honourable Member for Revenue, he stated that this class of land is not included in the notification. I am inclined to believe that, by a reading of the notification, that class of land is not at all included. Because the notification says lands which are now classed as dry for which water has not been sanctioned permanently and which are recommended for inclusion in the wet ayacut will be incorporated in the ultimate wet ayacut and so on. From this it is clear that this bapat wet lands are not contemplated by the notification and no extra premium will be collected from them. Then, Sir, we have got two more classes of dry lands. First is the Eksal lands or lands for which water-supply has been granted temporarily from year to year on application. Regarding these the notification says that only a premium of 12½ per cent is to be collected from the ryots. Now, from the concession shown it is clear that the Government wanted to put this class of land on a better footing in the matter of demanding premiums. The third class of lands are the dry lands which were hitherto not in the practice of receiving water-supply and which are yet to be brought under irrigation. Now, Sir, it was stated by the Hon'ble the Revenue Member that on account of the compensation that is to be paid to the mamul wet, the settlement wet lands, and on account of the cost of remodelling, the Government have determined to levy this extra charge. Sir, hitherto the practice has been to levy a certain rate of water-cess and not to levy any premiums. If premiums were to be levied in the past, perhaps the cost of the irrigation projects would have been recovered long ago. I do not see therefore any reason why special treatment should be given to individual landowners under the new system of inquiries now going on in Kistna (eastern) and Gōdāvari (western) deltas. In the course of his speech the honourable mover made reference to the extra rate of water-cess that was being collected from irrigation process or lift project—I do not remember the name, Sir,—but this is a new policy which was contemplated some three or four years ago by this Government. They ask the various landowners in various places that the cost of irrigation works would be so much and that the Government could not pay the interest on borrowed capital and hence could not take up the construction of irrigation projects, unless the landholders came forward with a consent that they would bear the extra rate of the irrigation cess to cover the whole increase. In cases where the extra rate of irrigation cess was agreed to by the landholders, the irrigation works are being taken up and pushed through. That is a special case, and it has nothing to do with the irrigation systems already in existence. So far as we know from the figures, the Kistna irrigation system is paying an amount of 16½ per cent and I do not see any reason why the Government should be anxious to collect the extra amount. Besides, supposing that there will be an additional cost of 12 or 15 lakhs in the way of compensation and remodelling, the new lands that get the benefit pay the usual water-rate of five per cent and will it not cover the cost ? If the Honourable Member is to convince us that even if it were to levy the five rupees ordinary rate on the new lands that are to be brought into wet cultivation, it does not cover the interest on the capital outlay, I think the proposition would stand on a different ground. But, Sir, as long as he is not able to convince, I do not think we can view the proposition entirely on a business point and say that because there are so many applications we can draw

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as much money as possible from the individual ryots. Sir, in the course of his speech he was not able to justify the remaining portion of the notification. I do not think that he ever tried to justify it. Then, Sir, as regards the block system: if I had understood the term block system correctly, it means a block consisting of various survey numbers owned by various individuals. If we read the notification carefully, it means that all the landowners, each one of them shall be responsible for the collective liability of all the owners of the block. With these words I strongly support the resolution."

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu:—"Sir, in the first place I must refer to the statement made by my honourable friend, the seconder of the resolution, and that is, if it was necessary at all to levy an additional sum, it must be by way of increasing the water-rate. I should not be understood as accepting the position that the Gōdāvari and Kistna deltas are in need of an increase of the water-rates. Both these deltas are now paying about 19½ per cent over the capital outlay and there is absolutely no justification whatever to recover anything more by way of increase of water-rates. I must make that position clear. First, I must clear the ground by saying that neither myself nor he suggested an alternative method of raising funds by levying water-rates. Then, Sir, the Hon'ble the Revenue Member referred to the Atmakur installation. So far as I know of the history of that installation, the premium of Rs. 50 per acre is intended to cover the capital cost of the pumping installation. That stands entirely on a different footing. I do not suppose the Honourable Member will go so far as to suggest that we would recover the cost by a special levy of the Kistna and Gōdāvari delta systems which are already paying, as I have pointed out, about 19½ per cent of the outlay. Therefore the analogy is altogether beside the point. The Honourable Member said that the proposed levy stands on a different principle, different from that adopted in the case of other schemes of remodelling in the deltas. I did my best to understand the difference in principle now suggested. All that I can see is that the Government are very anxious to levy a cess. Lands have been brought under wet cultivation and have been under irrigation for ten or fifteen years. My honourable friend speaks of these lands as dry lands. But that is not so. They have been classed as dry at the time of resettlement but since the resettlement, the ryots have been applying for water for a series of years, they have been wet and converted into wet lands. It is futile to suggest now that it is open to the ryots to accept or reject the offer of the Government. They cannot do anything but grow wet crops on these lands. It is impossible to exclude water from most of these lands. There is such a volume of water coming from the neighbouring lands that these lands must be cultivated with wet crops and therefore my friend was playing with the words 'dry lands' and that it is perfectly open to the ryots to pay or not. They have no other course except to pay the fee. I merely contend whether this principle of levying an inclusion fee is justifiable, whether it is not a thin end of a wedge for the extension of such a system not only for these lands but for all other lands in other deltas as well. I submit my honourable friend has not converted me; I have not seen any new light thrown on the matter."

Sir P. Tyagaraya Chetti:—"Before putting the matter to the vote I would like to have some information on the matter. What is the price of dry lands in those places and of permanent wet lands also? Supposing dry land is converted by registration into wet land, may I know what the price per acre of such land would be? There is a good deal of difference between the two, I believe, and why should it be supposed that the taking of the twenty-five rupees

is unjust if by Government water the land is converted into wet land and its value is thereby increased enormously. Why should the general tax-payer be benefited by a small portion of that profit?"

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—(Rising to speak).

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"It is not open to the honourable member to speak again. The Hon'ble the Revenue Member will give the information."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB:—"Mr. President, I was already told by the honourable Mr. Narasimha Raju that I had viewed this question from the standpoint of a business man. I do confess that I did so and I shall show that this aspect must be kept in view by the House as a whole. Sir Tyagaraya Chettiyar as expected has raised a very relevant issue which I thought I would mention in reply to the arguments to which I have listened. I believe he does not want anything like convincing proof of the fact that a dry land is no more than a dry land and that a wet land is more valuable than a dry land. As regards the exact proportion which the respective values of these two classes of land will bear, it will very largely depend upon the surrounding circumstances. Here we have got the deltaic land to think of. From the information that I have got—I am not quoting the exact statistics from documents of sale, registration or anything like that—but from the information that I have got I can venture to state that the value of dry land, after it gets the benefit of water from the deltaic area, will rise to no less than four to five times. At the lowest, we have got cases in which lands which were worth almost nothing are reported now to be offered at one thousand rupees per acre.

"The general question I would ask, repeating Sir Tyagaraya Chetti is,—is it fair that a particular class of lucky people in the deltaic area, bounded by the Kistna (East) and the Godavari (West), that those few lucky people should get the benefit of having their dry lands converted into wet, enjoy the whole of the increment which would result by such conversion, not out of any additional farthing spent out of their own pocket but out of money wrung from the general tax-payer of the provinces. That I repeat is a matter which the whole House must consider and whether they would allow a scheme which benefits a particular tract of country and a particular class of individuals and which enables them to enjoy the excess profits over and above what they would in a normal condition of things be entitled to. It is again for the House to consider whether they would allow the general tax-payer's money to be spent for that purpose, under such circumstances and with this ulterior object. No doubt, some attempt has been made to find out the exact definition of the word 'block.' I confess, Sir, when I said 'block,' I understood the term according to the notification and in consonance with the previous history of the matter. I understand the word as meaning a block as entered in the registers of the localisation officer. In the registers of the localisation officer, a block is certainly entered *individualwar* and if any individual should possess more than one acre he will certainly have to pay as many twenty-five rupees as he has number of acres My learned friend on the other side asks me to imagine a block consisting of four to five hundred acres in which the owner may be willing to take advantage of water only for a few acres and may not be willing to avail himself of a similar advantage in the case of other lands. In such a case is he bound to pay Rs. 25....."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU (*interrupting*):—"The Honourable Member has misunderstood me. A block consists of a number of

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owners, of small individuals owning four and five acres, and the localisation officer proceeds with reference to levels. It is a small area where water can be supplied to the whole block of four or five hundred acres from a particular level. The notification proceeds to say that unless Rs. 25 is paid in respect of the whole block, the land will not be classed as wet."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—" I think I understood my friend in the sense in which he has explained the term. I was trying to show that I can hardly imagine, nor has my honourable friend on the other side given me anything like concrete instances of cases where there are blocks of four and five hundred acres and where individuals will not be willing to pay for the whole. Even so I would simply suggest that if the owner refused to take water he would have nothing to pay for. It is, as I repeat, merely an optional matter. Those who pay get the benefit and those who do not deny themselves of it. And I have made it sufficiently clear to the House that this sum upon which so much emphasis has been laid will be only a premium to be paid once and for ever and it will not be repeated. It will not be an addition to the cess that they will have to pay every year and the payment of this very small sum of 25 or 12½ rupees, as the case may be, will have the inevitable consequence of raising the value of his land, probably eight to ten times more than what it is at present."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" Does the Honourable Member wish to make any personal explanation ? He cannot make a third speech."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" I cannot say whether it is a personal explanation or a third speech. I am in that position. If you, Sir, will allow me just a few words—the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue said that I am trying to get it out of the general tax-payer. I have been trying to explain that this delta system has been built out of Capital and the general tax-payer pays nothing ; it is paid for by the water-rates which —".

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*interrupting*) :—" May I ask whether this is in the nature of a personal explanation ?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" I now put this resolution to vote."

The resolution was accordingly put to the vote and lost.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu demanded a poll.

A poll was taken with the following result :—

For

Mr. K. Adinarayana Reddi.
,, T. Balaji Rao Nayudu.
,, B. Munuswami Nayudu.
,, J. Kuppuswami.
,, C. V. S. Narasimha Raju.
,, V. C. Vellingiri Goundar.
,, K. C. Venkatachala Reddiyar.
,, C. Venkataranga Reddi.
,, A. Subbarayudu.
,, P. Venkatasubba Rao.
Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai.
Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao.
,, M. Krishnan Nayar.
,, L. A. Govindaraghava Ayyar.
Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao.
Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao.
Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar.
,, C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar.
,, M. Suryanarayana.
,, K. Prabhakaran Tampan.
Muhammad Abdur-Rahman Sahib.

Ayes 21.

Against

The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson.
,, Mr. C. G. Todhunter.
,, Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ullah Sahib.
,, Diwan Bahadur A. Subbarayulu Reddiyar.
,, Diwan Bahadur P. Ramarayaningar.
Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell.
,, F. J. Richards.
,, P. Subbarayan.
,, S. Ellappa Chettiyar.
,, A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar.
,, Periyanayagam.
Diwan Bahadur Sir P. Tyagaraya Chetti Garu.
Mr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar.
,, M. Narayanaswami Reddi.
,, R. K. Shanmukam Chettiyar.
,, S. T. Shanmukham Pillai.
,, S. Somasundaram Pillai.
,, T. C. Tangavelu Pillai.
,, O. Tanikachalam Chettiyar.
,, D. Seshagiri Rao.
Mirza Abdul Hussain.
Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib.
Mr. J. F. Simpson.
,, A. M. MacDougall.
,, P. Venkatarangayya.
,, T. Richmond.

Noes 26.

Racial distinction among railway passengers.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I have the honour to move the following resolution :—

'2. *This Council recommends to the Government that immediate steps should be taken to put an end to all racial distinctions among railway passengers as regards accommodation, retiring rooms, etc.*'

" I may begin by saying that from a business point of view, the Government cannot object to this : nor can the Financial Member threaten us with any additional deficits, if this proposition is carried. Probably I may be able to show, before I sit down, that if this proposition is carried and given effect to, the Government may get some more money. Apart from the word 'etc.' the proposition deals with two points, namely, accommodation and retiring rooms. So far as accommodation is concerned, though we have often heard and read about it in newspapers and elsewhere, the matter has not been brought before this Council, I believe ; but so far as the question of retiring rooms are concerned, we had a resolution unanimously passed here, not that there shall be no distinction, as regards persons who should occupy particular rooms, though, in the matter of supply of separate rooms, there should be no such distinction. I suppose nobody on the right side will in any way threaten us for the use of the words 'immediate steps' in the resolution. The words 'at once' and 'immediate steps' are likely to scare people because they think that Government is bound to take action in the matter as soon as the proposition is carried. Supposing the President declares that this resolution is carried at 1-56 p.m., 'immediate steps' does not mean that Government or Member in charge of the Railways should go to his room at 1-57 and despatch an order. We know how the unanimously carried resolution that the Indian passengers should be given retiring rooms as well as the European passengers has practically, so far as the public are concerned, not been given effect to till now. There may be some confidential correspondence going on between the Railway department and His Majesty's Government here, but so far as we know nothing actually has been given effect to. It is only to remind the Government that if once they agree to a resolution they should act up to see that the resolution be given effect to as early as possible, that the words 'immediate steps' are put in. Nothing more. Then to go into the merits themselves, as I said, I may divide the proposition into two classes, viz., accommodation and retiring rooms. So far as the third-class compartments are concerned, labels are put up,

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we see everywhere, as European and Eurasian reserved compartments, sometimes one, sometimes two, for a particular favoured community. I suppose we will not hereafter hear of prestige, racial distinctions and all those things. We have just now heard the words of the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue still ringing in our ears. We will then look from a business point of view. Why should this particular compartment, one and at times two, go practically vacant? Of course, it may be said that only one compartment is reserved, but we know cases where two compartments are reserved. Suppose, some guard or engineer or some relations of his have to travel from, say, Mēttupālaiyam to Coimbatore, then two compartments are reserved with prominent boards; that is, from Coimbatore up to Madras these are reserved with the result that they go practically empty from Coimbatore to Madras. You know, Sir, that it is a matter of every-day knowledge, that only one, two or three people are travelling in these compartments, whereas people are crowded in the next compartment by twenties and thirties. We also know in these days how many third-class passengers are left without accommodation in any particular train. Take my own town Coimbatore into consideration. It is the next station from Mēttupālaiyam for the mail train and yet before the train comes, intimation is received as to how many tickets are available for first class, how many for second class and how many for third class, etc. In this calculation, the reserved compartments for Eurasians and Europeans are excluded. So that the third-class tickets available for sale are only taken into consideration after excluding these compartments with the result that more often than otherwise many passengers are refused tickets, because the limited number of tickets already wired for has been given. A number of people who might travel in these compartments are detained behind and probably will never travel afterwards, for they might not be able to attend to the particular business for which they were called. So much from the business point of view. We thus see that this reservation is affecting the finances of the railway company which of course affects the finances of the Government. No doubt we know that racial distinctions are observed in various Acts such as Vagrancy Act and so forth, but they are not so apparent; these are the things which are seen by everybody every day. Therefore in this matter this distinction should at an early date be removed.

"I have heard it said sometimes that these Eurasians will create a row if they are mixed up with ordinary peasants. I may say from the intimate knowledge I have had of my Eurasian friends, that it is an insult to say so. It is an insult to the community. I have shown how this reservation affects the third-class passengers. In another way it also affects the income of the railway company. I have got a European friend of mine who travels by second class. But when we were discussing the ways and means of his travelling once from Coimbatore to Bombay, he said: 'The second classes are more crowded; why should I pay more money; if I only get into a third-class European reserved compartment, I can have an easy journey and at the same time be a gainer.' If this reserved compartment was not there, this gentleman would have got into the second class and the company would have got more money.'

"So far as the retiring rooms are concerned, I know that a unanimous resolution was come to in the last Council that retiring rooms should be provided for Indian passengers as well as English passengers. My own opinion is that reservation either for Indian or European is waste of money at the cost of the tax-payer. But in all important stations, like Mēttupālaiyam, Podanur, Erode, etc., retiring rooms have been provided at very great cost for Europeans. I know very often these are not used at all. Of course, we sometimes hear that people of very

suspicious character have recourse to these places and these are things which are well known to many of our people. My point is if the statistics are looked into we can see that many of the retiring rooms are very rarely used after all and no European has any necessity to use any of them, except on very rare occasions when he wants to stop in the railway station at nights. Therefore, none of our retiring rooms which have been already erected at very great cost for the sake of Europeans only have to be there, and if the last year's resolution is given effect to, it means that more retiring rooms will have to be provided for the sake of Indians. But if my resolution is given effect to, there will be a great deal of economy. Many of our friends know that many of these retiring rooms are not at present occupied and the whole establishment is a waste. If they are thrown open to Indian passengers, there will be no difficulty at all in getting some more income by way of payments from these people. Therefore it is a question of business and also of financial income, if the present retiring rooms (and not new retiring rooms) are opened to Indians also.

"To take a concrete matter, I had a motor-driver named Jnanamuttu. I wanted him to arrange for me a retiring room at Erode. He went and asked the stationmaster. He said 'No.' Five minutes after, he again went to him with his hat and gave out his name as John Mathew. The stationmaster said 'Here is a room'. Of course as you know, I had the benefit of the room though it was in my driver's name. Such things do happen and such instances can be multiplied like anything. Therefore to make invidious distinctions does not look well. The question of prestige, racial distinctions, whatever they may be, will be forgotten hereafter when among Honourable Members Europeans are two against five on the right front bench.

"I am afraid I have occupied the time of the House a little longer than I expected. The word 'etcetera' is there. I am sure the Honourable Member in charge of the Railway department will come and say 'etc.' is there, and so drop the whole proposition. So far as 'etc.' is concerned, it may be a small point. But if you go to a railway station, there are boards hanging with the letters 'Indian men' and 'Indian gentlemen'. I have looked into the lexicon of the railway company. I have consulted a number of friends also in the Railway department as to the definition of the word 'gentlemen'. According to the Railway Dictionary, 'European' has got a meaning which is different from the meaning given to it according to the Criminal Procedure Code and some other Codes. The railway authorities are not able to give a definite answer as to the definition of either the word European or the word gentleman. Very often when I go to a railway station, there are two boards called Indian men and Indian gentlemen. I am at times very doubtful whether I am a man or a gentleman; because the distinction is made there as here, as some members being honourable while others are not. Similarly with European gentlemen. There is no class of 'men' among Europeans. Therefore, Sir, so far as these public places where everybody has access are concerned, it is desirable that such apparent, visible, invidious distinctions are removed I may be probably a democrat. I am even against the reservation of compartments for first-class and second-class passengers. Sometimes these compartments are crowded, sometimes they are absolutely vacant. Last time when I came, the first-class compartments were all vacant. From the point of view of a business concern, I say that in the Railway department there should be no racial distinction. It is like Orr & Sons or Wrenn, Bennett, quoting one price for Europeans and one price for the Indians. That a man wearing boot and hat and calling himself John Mathew should be able to travel in a whole compartment by paying a third-class fare and

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another man who is not John Mathew but is Jnanamuttu and pays the same third-class fare is to be crowded with 20 others in the next compartment seems to be a little unreasonable. Therefore apart from the words 'immediate effect' I hope that Government will take some steps to remedy these grievances."

SAIYID MUHAMMAD PADSHA SAHIB Bahadur:—"I have great pleasure in seconding this resolution. To me it looks scandalous why the same fare should be collected from two different people and yet preference should be shown to one. It is a system which obtains in no other part of the world, even in parts which are much less civilized than this part of the British Empire. This reservation in favour of one class imposes a great deal of hardship on the other class. As the Honourable Mover was saying, it often happens that while every third-class carriage carries nearly double the number of passengers, that is while the third-class passengers are in the ratio of 2 to 1 to the space capacity, the privileged third-class, that is the third-class carriages reserved for Eurasians and Europeans, very often carry each one passenger or two. Even passengers in third-class compartments are prevented from setting their foot into the compartment which is reserved for the privileged class. It is hardly necessary for me to recount all the hardships that result to the unprivileged class on account of this reservation. It is nothing short of a sin to cause such discomforts to the passengers who have very often to go in overcrowded compartments. Now, Sir, there is yet another and a more important ground on which I object to this reservation. This reservation is a standing insult to the other communities. There is no reason why one community should be given general preference, when it does not care to pay one pie more than any other. It is on these grounds that I object to this reservation and support the resolution."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"Sir, the mover of this resolution concluded his remarks with an appeal to Government to give him some hope that steps would be taken to give effect to what he has at heart. I am afraid, Sir, so far as the Local Government is concerned, I can give him no comfort in that matter, because the attitude which the Local Government is bound to take up in a discussion of this description is the standpoint of being somewhat aloof. Our business in this Council is to deal with matters which are primarily the concern of the Local Government. Now the issue raised in this resolution is not restricted to the conditions of the Presidency of Madras; it is not restricted to the South Indian Railway or to the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway; it is perfectly general. The administration of the railways of India in general and the administration of the railways in the Madras Presidency are not under the control of the Government of Madras and, strictly speaking, the matter at issue could hardly form the subject of questions addressed to me. I might justly claim, Sir, that the President would be entitled to disallow such questions on the ground that they are not within my special cognizance and on another ground, viz., that they are not a matter of administration for which I am responsible. On some such considerations as these, I asked His Excellency whether he would not prefer to disallow this resolution on the ground that it related to a matter which is not primarily the concern of the Local Government. His Excellency however thought it better, knowing how deeply at heart Members have the subject at issue, not to disallow the resolution. This is a matter entirely within his discretion under rule 22, and the resolution therefore appears on the agenda of the Council to-day. But the fact remains that these issues are not within the control of the Local Government. They are not details within their special cognizance, and it would clearly be unfitting for a Member of Government who is only remotely connected with the issues to take up any definite standpoint with regard to them.

"Nor is it in any way incumbent on me or on the other Members of Government to enter upon a discussion of the merits of the case. With regard to the attitude of the Government, not only towards this particular resolution but also towards resolutions generally which do not primarily concern the Local Government, my conception is that the Government are here to sit by and hear what members have to say on such matters, and thereafter should consider what action to take on each particular matter. In regard to the question now before the House the action which the Local Government intend to take is to furnish the Railway Board and the Government of India, for their information and action, with a complete record of the proceedings in connexion with this matter here to-day. That is the step which the Local Government propose to take on this resolution and indeed it is the only action open to them. I do not think, Sir, that there is anything I can add to that."

Mr. M. C. Raja:—"Sir, I wish to say a few words on this resolution. The Members of my community find it very difficult to get a morsel of food from the Indian refreshment-rooms attached to the railway stations. I must thank the Honourable Mover for bringing this resolution to put an end to all sorts of racial distinctions, and if this resolution is passed I am sure it will put an end to all the differences between the various classes, castes and communities. I therefore heartily support the resolution as it will be of great benefit to my community also."

Mr. S. Somasundaram Pillai:—"Sir, I think it is a very invidious distinction between man and man and it must be removed wherever it is found. In the Indian Railway refreshment rooms I suffered a great deal in getting meals. There are two compartments, one for the holy class and the other for the inferior classes. We should try to remove all these restrictions at least in the railway refreshment rooms. Anthropology and religion have established that all human beings are of one species but in the Indian refreshment rooms and other places we find differentiation is made. So I support strongly this resolution and urge that immediate steps should be taken to remove all these distinctions not only in the railway compartments but at all other places as well."

Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu:—"Sir, we all feel thankful that His Excellency has not accepted the invitation of the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson and disallowed the resolution. He has thus given us an opportunity of expressing what we have to say on this important question. I do not think that on this question there can be any difference of opinion at all, though I find it difficult to follow the reasoning of the Hon'ble the mover of the resolution in its entirety. The resolution is very simple and it merely recommends that steps should be taken to put an end to all racial distinctions among railway passengers. I do not think that either the Government or the Honourable Members of this Council can say anything to the contrary. I am sure that, without any difference of opinion, we may all unanimously pass the resolution."

Mr. T. Sivasankaram Pillai:—"Sir, of late I have been myself a victim of these distinctions. I was travelling from Penukonda and the train arrived at Guntakal junction at six in the evening, not in the night. I wanted a place to sleep in. I had none. Just a week or two previously I had read in the papers that the railway administration had done away with these distinctions. That piece of information I got from the *Madras Mail* and there is one Honourable gentleman of this House who wrote both to the Government and the Railway administration congratulating them on it. It was fresh in my mind then and I went to the stationmaster and asked him 'will you please allow me the use of

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the retiring room? I saw an article in the *Madras Mail* that we are allowed to use such rooms'. The stationmaster replied 'no, I did not see any and I cannot allow'. So I had quietly to go into the waiting hall outside. I wrote to the Agent of the Southern Mahratta Railway the next day asking him as to how it was that I was not allowed the use of the waiting room in spite of the announcement in the *Madras Mail* that these retiring rooms had been thrown open to Indian passengers also. He wrote back to say that he regretted very much the inconveniences that had been caused to me and said distinctly that all retiring rooms were going to be closed; apparently they are to be used neither by the Europeans nor by the Indians. He said that they were going to be converted into quarters. I do not know what it meant."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"May I, with your permission ask, Sir, whether the correspondence referred to alludes specifically to Guntakal or generally to all railway stations?"

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI:—"I am talking about my experience in Guntakal. Then I got the reply that even Guntakal is to be deprived of retiring rooms both for European and Indians. I need not trouble the Council with further details.

"There is another point in connexion with reservation. The question is who has got the power to reserve. Is it the servants and underlings of the Railway Company? I have seen very often in Bangalore junction the railway stationmaster or even a ticket collector cutting a ticket and putting it up to say the compartment is reserved. I do not know what authority these people have for doing so. Even if there is one European or Eurasian in a compartment the whole compartment is reserved in this fashion. This looks something like a farce after all. With these few remarks I support the resolution."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"Mr. President, I also rise to speak in favour of this resolution, but at the same time as the Government have declared their intention not to speak on the subject, it is also well to consider that in the first place the companies have got a right to dictate their own terms as regards any particular class of passengers. That point has been legally settled though some people yet seem to doubt it. I am not opposing this resolution but I am only bringing to your notice the other aspect of the question also.

"Secondly, it is said that there are differences in the social habits of different classes of persons. For instance there is difference in customs between a Hindu and a Mussalman, a Christian and a European and so forth. The way in which we conduct ourselves in the compartments may not be agreeable to others, and the way in which they conduct themselves may also not be agreeable to us. So if the Railway Companies want to make any distinction if they could make a distinction between different classes of people and provide separate compartments for separate races that will be a very good thing indeed. But the companies cannot do so for all classes of people and they do it only for the most favoured class. On principle the system of reserving compartments to particular races is indefensible. It is annoying and it is also, as the mover put it, not commercially beneficial. So the point to be considered is whether the resolution is also practical. I believe it is practical because, it aims at removing all racial distinctions and every man is left to shift for himself. You must either reserve compartments for all classes or not at all. As you cannot reserve compartments for different races, the best thing will be to abolish all reservations altogether. With these words I beg to support the resolution."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" Mr. President, it is now time that the question be put."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" I will take the sense of the Council on the question."

The motion for closure was put to the Council and carried, 48 voting for it and 3 against.

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" May I venture to submit, Sir, that the closure is being applied even before the member for Government has spoken. This has been deprecated in the Indian Legislative Assembly."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" I am very sorry that the standing orders give the right to any member to move for a closure. They also give the right to the Council at any stage of the debate to close the discussion. It is left to my discretion to accept a motion for closure, but ordinarily I leave it to the Council. I do not want to sit as an authority in this matter over the Council, but here it so happens that the closure has been carried by 48 votes against 3, at the most. That shows that the House is pretty strongly of opinion that there has been enough of this debate. I will now put the main proposition to the vote."

The resolution was put to the vote and carried, one member voting against it.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" The agenda is very heavy and the Honourable Members know that there is a good deal of pressing business before them. A large number of resolutions have to be discussed and my proposal is that the Council should go on with these resolutions and finish them. It should be our effort to finish one current work before the recess begins. Therefore if the House agrees to go on with the work now without adjourning for lunch, leaving Honourable Members to go out for lunch in batches, I am prepared to go on."

The House signified its assent to the proposal and the business was continued.

Postponement of the bifurcation of Kistna district.

Mr. C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Mr. President, the resolution which I move runs thus—

'3. *This Council recommends to the Government that, in view of the creation of the new Agency District, the bifurcation of the Kistna district be postponed and the districts of Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Godavari and Kistna be redistributed into four convenient districts.*'

" Sir, regarding the suggested bifurcation of the Kistna district, it has been stated by the Hon'ble the Finance Member that the proposed bifurcation has been postponed for this year. The reasons why the Government were pleased to postpone the bifurcation are not known. It may be on account of financial stringency or for other reasons. The reasons why I propose the postponement of the bifurcation of the Kistna district are firstly, financial, and secondly the new circumstances that have come into existence by the creation of the new Agency division. Sir, we have got large portions of the Agency tracts separated from the districts of Ganjam, Vizagapatam and Godavari and we have classed into a new division. From this it is clear that these three districts have become smaller in size.

" There is another question that is under consideration, viz., that of separating the Oriya speaking population of the Ganjam district and bringing them into one administration under another province. In answer to a certain question put by Mr. Sasibhushana Rath it was stated that this question also is under consideration. If this is to be given effect to, a large portion of the Ganjam district will go into

the Oriya province. Therefore the question of the necessity for the creation of an additional district becomes problematical as also whether it is desirable that we should go on increasing the number of districts and increasing our administrative charges instead of redistributing the existing districts into four more convenient areas. I hope therefore that the Government will see their way to accept this resolution and examine the question whether the existing districts can be redistributed into four more convenient districts without entailing any extra cost. With these words, I commend this resolution for the acceptance of the Council."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—" Sir, I beg to second the resolution. As Mr. Narasimha Raju has said, portions of the Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Godavari and Kistna districts have been formed into an Agency division, probably at a cost of more than what an ordinary district would cost. Then out of the Kistna district, with which I am more concerned, and which is proposed to be bifurcated, some taluks which belonged to the old Godavari district may be restored to Godavari district. Out of the present Godavari district five taluks have been included in the Agency division. So Godavari has become much less in its extent as well as in administrative work. The present Kistna district has got now five Godavari delta taluks. If, out of the above five taluks, three taluks are retransferred to the Godavari district, the Kistna district will be reduced to the size of a normal district, and both Kistna and Godavari can conveniently be administered by one Collector each. Bifurcation ordinarily means about 20 lakhs of initial expenditure and at least one lakh of recurring annual cost, for putting up a new district and its establishment. A recurring charge of one lakh and initial cost of 20 lakhs is quite unnecessary in view of the fact that Godavari has lost five of its taluks, and three or four taluks of the Kistna district can be very conveniently restored, as it were, to the Godavari district. With these remarks I second his resolution."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB :—" Mr. President, I think, I have very little to say in answer to this resolution. The Honourable Mover has already confessed the fact that my Hon'ble colleague the Finance Member has made reference to the fact, in his opening speech, that the bifurcation of the Kistna district which was decided upon some time last year had been postponed for the present. The Honourable Mover was anxious to know the reason why. Well, all I can assure him at the present moment is that we have postponed it on account of financial considerations and that no budget allotment has been entered in the following year for the bifurcation of the Kistna district.

" As regards the other proposals relating to Ganjam, Vizagapatam and Godavari, the Government are fully aware of the fact that the creation of a separate Agency district, which has certainly been carried out of these three districts, has resulted in making these three districts lighter than they were before and the question as to how they should be dealt with in the future, the question as to whether these districts should be redistributed between themselves in the matter of division charges and other charges only or whether all these three districts should be reduced in number and divided into two are yet being investigated by the Government through the Board of Revenue and we are not yet in possession of the necessary details to come to any decided conclusion as to whether the formation of Ganjām, Vizagapatam and Gōdāvari into two districts and the bifurcation of Kistna into two separate districts will be more profitable or whether Ganjām, Vizagapatam, Gōdāvari and Kistna are to be put into the melting pot and carved out into four districts. At the present moment we

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are not in a position to say anything definitely on the matter. Without prolonging the discussion before the House, if the Honourable Member who moved this resolution will be willing to drop out the word 'four' I am prepared to accept the resolution on behalf of the Government, for there is no significance in retaining the word 'four,' inasmuch as the matter has yet to be investigated. The administrative convenience, the efficiency of administration, geographical limits and all these matters will have to be taken into consideration. I cannot say at this moment whether the future districts should be four, or more, or less. I shall not commit myself to the proposed 'four'. If the word 'four' is dropped, I have no objection to accept the resolution."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"Mr. President, I wish to move an amendment at this stage. It is in these terms :—

Omit the words 'in view of the creation of the new Agency district', and

Omit the words 'and the districts of Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Godavari and Kistna be redistributed into four convenient districts.'

"The amended resolution will read thus :—

'*This Council recommends to the Government that the bifurcation of Kistna district be postponed.*'"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"Has the Honourable Member given notice of his amendment under the standing orders?"

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"I shall explain."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"It is not a question of explanation. Has he given notice according to the standing orders? Two days' notice is required under the standing orders."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"I wished to give the notice required; but the agenda was communicated to me only yesterday and it was physically impossible to give notice as required by the standing orders. I therefore request you, Sir, to exercise your discretion in the matter in my favour. The earliest date on which I could give notice is this day, as I received the agenda yesterday at Nellore. So I request the President to permit me to move the amendment now."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"The Honourable Member had better speak on his amendment first."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"The first amendment merely suggests that we need not necessarily make as a part of the resolution the fact regarding the formation of the new Agency district. On financial considerations the Government have taken up this question and for the same reasons I would suggest that the bifurcation of the Kistna district be postponed. I need not say anything further so far as the first amendment is concerned because we are not still in possession of full information regarding the circumstances under which the Agency district has been formed. I do not therefore want this House to say anything specifically so far as the formation of the Agency district is concerned. We do not know what proposals may crop up in the course of the discussion of the budget; and therefore, without the House committing itself specifically on that question, the resolution as amended by me may be adopted.

"The second portion of the amendment is this. It is not possible now to state whether the question of the redistribution of these four districts can alone be taken into consideration. Taking into account the circumstances under which the

Guntur district was formed, there was necessarily a readjustment of the Godavari and the Kistna districts. If the Government should think it fit to take up this question of redistribution, I venture to suggest that not merely these four districts but three other districts also should be taken into consideration. I will add Guntur, Nellore and Chingleput also (laughter) to these districts, because when once we begin to examine this question we shall find that possibly other districts . . ."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—"May I rise to a point of order, Sir? I rise to inquire whether a discussion of the redistribution of Nellore and Chingleput is relevant to a resolution which merely recommends the postponement of the bifurcation of the Kistna district. I may at the same time remark that it has already been stated on behalf of the Government this morning that the bifurcation of the Kistna district has been postponed."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"I would advise the Honourable Member to confine himself to the Kistna district."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"Probably the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson has not understood my point. The amendment I move is to the effect that these four districts be omitted. The mover of the resolution has informed the Council that the redistribution should be among those four districts. I must satisfy the Council as to why we should not confine ourselves to those four districts. An examination of the question would necessarily take us to the adjoining districts; when once we find that Kistna district should be bifurcated, we should examine the condition of the Guntur district. This would necessarily lead us to consider the position of the other districts. It is the only reasonable course. At the time of the formation of the Guntur district some portions of the Nellore district such as Ongole and some other places were tacked on to the Guntur district. Even if we look at the map we will find that there is something absurd and anomalous in the position of the Nellore and the Guntur districts."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"I can quite understand that some reference to other districts may be necessary to enable the Honourable Member to prove his case. But when once the honourable member begins to give details of other districts, he may be travelling very far indeed."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"I will not enter into details. But I must satisfy the Council that if we take the Kistna district we must take the adjoining districts also into consideration. Kistna adjoins Guntūr, Guntūr adjoins Nellore, and Nellore adjoins Chingleput. Therefore if we examine one district it would take us to the other districts also. So instead of committing ourselves to the course suggested, we can take up the principle alone and work it up."

Mr. M. SURYANARAYANA PANTULU :—"I second the amendment."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, may I suggest to the Hon'ble the Revenue Member whether he would consent to the appointment of a committee to go into this question? It seems to me that the statement he has made that the question is now occupying the attention of the Board of Revenue and the local authorities, and as has been done in the case of the Ramnad and Madura districts quite recently, I would suggest the formation of a committee on which the local officials and some non-officials also may be co-ordinated and their proposals can then be submitted to Government. With that intention I sent up an amendment as soon as I received the agenda paper. But apparently it has not yet reached the Secretary."

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The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"The Honourable Member may move it now."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"My amendment is that, after the words 'be postponed' the following words may be added 'and that a committee be appointed to redistribute the districts of Ganjām, Vizagapatam, Gōdāvari and Kistna into more convenient districts,' and that the following words may be omitted from the resolution: 'and the districts of Ganjām, Vizagapatam, Gōdāvari and Kistna be redistributed into four convenient districts.' I omit these words for the reasons suggested by the Hon'ble the Revenue Member."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"It will be convenient if the Honourable Member will write down his amendment."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"May I, with your consent, Sir, say one thing quite unconnected with the resolution?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"Then I think the Honourable Member had better not say it."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I will not take more than a minute, Sir."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"Not if it is unconnected with the resolution."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I wanted to say something about lunch, Sir."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"Even lunch is unconnected with the resolution."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"I will read the amendment: *add* the following words between 'and' and 'the districts': 'that a committee be appointed to redistribute.' The resolution as amended, and after omitting the words 'be redistributed' and 'four' occurring in the last line, runs as follows:—

'This Council recommends to the Government that, in view of the creation of the new Agency district, the bifurcation of the Kistna district be postponed and that a committee be appointed to redistribute the districts of Ganjām, Vizagapatam, Gōdāvari and Kistna into convenient districts.'"

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU:—"I second the amendment."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"May I, Sir, before the amendment is formally put to the Council, object under Standing Order No. 60 to the moving of the amendment?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"I will read the amendment to the Council."

The amendment was then read.

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"I do not want to discuss the merits of the amendment; but I object to it because it is hardly in the nature of a mere amendment."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"I can quite understand the inconvenience caused to the Honourable Member. At the same time there is the point raised by the Hon'ble Mr. Krishna Rao that the agenda did not reach Members in time. In this particular case Mr. Ramachandra Rao had sent in his amendment. I allow the amendment to go forward. But we had better have the discussion on the original resolution and the amendments all together."

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The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB:—"Mr. President, Sir, so far as the second amendment is concerned, I should refuse to admit it. I should have expected previous notice of the fact that Mr. Ramachandra Rao was going to propose the appointment of a committee. I do not find fault with him, as he probably got the agenda late and therefore he could not send a copy of the amendment earlier. Inasmuch as it raises an issue which, while considering this resolution, we have not at all taken into consideration, I should at this stage not be prepared to accept the proposed amendment. As regards the other amendment, Sir, I think it is merely a repetition of what the Government have already expressed twice in this case. My Hon'ble colleague Mr. Todhunter has said, and I have repeated, that the Government have already decided to postpone the bifurcation of the Kistna district. If that alone is going to be the main resolution, I have no objection to accept the resolution."

Mr. C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Regarding Mr. Krishna Rao's amendment I am not in agreement with it and I oppose it; because it opens a general question. One district is tacked on to another district. If we examine the Nellore district to-day, the next day we shall have to examine the Cuddapah, Kurnool and Bellary districts and so on. Regarding the amendment of Mr. Ramachandra Rao, I do not oppose it. But in view of the fact that my resolution with the omission of the word 'four' is acceptable to Government, I think Mr. Ramachandra Rao will not press his amendment. I consent to drop the word 'four'."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I am prepared to accept it."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"I withdraw my amendment."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"What does the Hon'ble Mr. Krishna Rao say? Does he press his amendment to a division?"

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"At this stage I can only suggest that, in view of the announcement made by the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue, the resolution itself need not be pressed to a division."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"The Honourable Member has to say whether he wishes to press the amendment to a division."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Yes."

The amendment of Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu was then put to the Council and lost.

The amendment of Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu was by leave withdrawn.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"I understand that the Honourable Member for Government is prepared to accept the resolution if the word 'four' is omitted. I think he had better formally move an amendment to that effect."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I formally move that the word 'four' be omitted."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"I second the motion."

The resolution, as amended by the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur, was put and carried.

[Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju.] [5th March 1921

Administration of the Agency Tracts.

Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju :—" Mr. President, Sir, the resolution I have the honour to move runs as follows :—

'4. *This Council recommends to the Government that effect should be given to the recommendations of the committee appointed for revising the rules for the administration of the Agency tracts.*'

" The question as to what should be the rules of procedure for the administration of civil justice in the Agency tracts is an old one to this Council. In the year 1915 the Hon'ble Mr. B. N. Sarma moved a resolution that such portions of the Civil Procedure Code which were extended by section 192 of the Estates Land Act to the Agency tracts should be generally adopted in regard to the procedure in the Agency courts. During the course of that debate the Member for the Government undertook to examine the inconvenience in practice of the existing rules. Most of the points of inconvenience that were pointed out were in regard to the non-provision as regards appeals against orders and decrees passed in the Agency courts, and regarding the inconvenience of transfer of suits. Subsequently, in the year 1916, a resolution was moved by Mr. Ramachandra Rao that the Agency rules should be modified in order to give effect to some of these points. A committee was appointed in the year 1917 to consider in what manner the Agency rules had to be modified. Of course, it was admitted that on certain points of procedure the existing rules were working a hardship and that they required a modification. I believe the committee then constituted did make certain recommendations and as recommended by the committee it was agreed that the rules should be sent to the Hon'ble the High Court for consideration. Now, after the constitution of the Agency tracts in the month of November, the rules for the Agency tracts were published ; but I am not able to find any change between the two sets of rules. That shows that the report of the committee or the recommendations of the committee were shelved. That is the reason why I bring forward this resolution. As admitted on behalf of the Government in those two previous debates, there are certain inconveniences that are being experienced, and I hope Government will see their way to put into practice the recommendations of the committee in regard to the alterations in the Agency rules. This becomes more necessary as it is under contemplation to appoint a Deputy Judicial Commissioner for the Agency tracts who has got experience of civil administration. With these words I commend this resolution."

Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu :—" I second it."

The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson :—" Sir, I should like at the outset to disabuse the mover of any idea that it is the intention of the Government to shelve the recommendations of the committee. The facts of the case are these : The report of the committee was received somewhere about August 1918. It was then referred for examination to the Agents of the three districts—Ganjām, Vizagapatam and Gōdāvari. Their remarks were duly received and examined at very great length by the Government of Madras. I have before me forty pages of detailed examination of the various provisions contained in the draft rules drawn up by the committee. But before that consideration was completed, the reforms became a practical issue and the future of the Agency tracts was an uncertain item. The consequence was that while towards the end of 1919 or the beginning of 1920 the Government of Madras—my Hon'ble Colleague Mr. Todhunter—had practically come to a decision on many points of detail, it was thought inexpedient that any attempt should be made to issue revised rules until it was certain what

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the future of the Agency tracts would be and under what provisions of law they would be administered according to the new scheme. The Agency Commissioner, Mr. Harris, was consulted on this point and his opinion was very emphatic in the direction of counselling delay, as the honourable mover will see when I come to read a few lines from his letter. It was only an unofficial communication, but it contains the essential portion of the advice given to us by Mr. Harris with regard to the rules which have actually been published and to which the honourable mover referred. Those rules are a mere repetition of the pre-existing rules with slight differences in form, and very little change in substance. Mr. Harris' advice was that they should be regarded as provisional, without of course suggesting any doubt of their legality.

"His exact words were: 'We should put up proposals for recasting and amending them, where necessary, after we have had some experience of the Agency division as a whole and can command the advice of an officer with judicial training who will have had similar experience—I mean the Judicial Assistant Commissioner. The experience of those who have expressed opinions on the subject hitherto has been either slight or confined to a particular part of the Agency. It is quite possible that, on a consideration of the new conditions and with the wider field that the combined Agency division will offer, it may be found possible to extend further provisions of the Civil Procedure or necessary otherwise to reconsider the rules as they now stand.'

"That was written in October 1920. Again, a little later, Mr. Harris repeated and emphasized this view. I need not trouble you, Sir, or the Council with the whole of his second letter on the subject but I may say it ended with these words:—

'If all that we claim to do now is to put together the existing rules so as to enable the combined Agency staff to function, it will be quite open to us to revise them as soon as we feel sufficiently sure of our ground to do so . . . I think it quite possible that we may be able to go, in some respects, further than the proposed revised rules.'

"The position, therefore, Sir, is that while the Government cannot accept this resolution, the terms of which would commit them to approval of all the recommendations of the committee—a position which I, for one, could not take up for a moment, for I have yet to consider them in detail—they desire the Council to know that the rules, as recently published, are in one sense provisional and that there is every intention of modifying or revising them as soon as the Judicial Assistant Commissioner who has yet to be appointed has gained practical experience and the Agent in consultation with him is able to put up concrete and definite proposals."

Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar:—"Mr. President, Sir, I feel bound to say a few words on this subject. I was the chairman of the committee that was appointed to revise the rules for the administration of the Agency tracts in the year 1918. I cannot say when the report was published. It was an unanimous report. All the rules were carefully gone into. I happened to be the Advocate-General at that time and that was why I suppose I was put in as chairman of the committee. In those circumstances, I should have thought that in a purely judicial matter like this where the question of administration of justice in the Agency tracts was to be considered and a special committee was appointed in compliance with an accepted resolution of the Legislative Council, the Government would give effect to the recommendations of the committee. It was a fairly strong committee. Mr. Macmichael was a member of the committee. Mr. Paddison was also a member of the committee and he also had plenty of experience. Mr. Akella

Suryanarayana Rao was another member of the committee and I think there were others. I think that everything that was required to be considered into was gone into very carefully. Under those circumstances, when an official of the Government was appointed chairman and when two Agency officers were put in as members of the committee and when the chairman of the committee was expected to know something about law, I think it is the plain duty of the Government to accept the suggestions. Recently I heard—and the Hon'ble Mr. Davidson confirms—that the old rules themselves were republished practically as the rules which were quite sufficient for the purpose. I quite accept the Hon'ble Mr. Davidson's statement that there is some intention of revising them at some time. But very little by way of reasoning has been said in justification of the position taken up by Government. It may be that the rules are not acceptable to some of the Agency officers. But that is the very reason why a committee was specially appointed for the purpose wherein there were two officers of considerable experience, viz., Mr. Paddison and Mr. Macmichael. In those circumstances, Mr. President, I should think that the Council owes a duty to itself to pass this resolution without any dissent. Nothing like an adequate reason has been given for rejecting it. My difficulty is that I am not in a position to speak more effectively because really no answer has been given. All that has been said is: 'a committee was appointed; rules were framed and Government are not prepared to give effect to them at present.' The Government ought to take a more practical attitude in this matter. I say it entirely in the interests of the administration of the Agency tracts. I did take some interest in it. That may be a disqualification for me to speak on this matter. But I am not really interested very much in it one way or the other. For my part I should prefer for obvious reasons that it is not accepted by the Government. But what is the use of a committee? What is the use in appointing Advocate-General as chairman? What is the use of the committee's recommendations, if the Government are not going to give effect to them. It is that point of view that I want to impress upon my honourable friend opposite? I take only a middling interest—a detached interest—in the matter. I do not wish to say more than that."

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu:—"I wish to know from the Honourable Member how long it will take for the Agency Commissioner to consider the revised rules framed by the committee which was appointed three years ago. If it means that the old rules are to be in force and that the new rules are to be indefinitely postponed, I think it would be a very unsatisfactory position. So far as I can see, the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson said that some portions required revision. What we want to know is how long this will take."

The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson:—"I cannot possibly say how long it will take to deal with this question. But it will be one of the first duties of the Agency Commissioner."

Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju:—"Mr. President, Sir, in the reply of the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson I noted that there is sufficient explanation for the delay. But he does not say when he is going to examine the recommendations and frame rules in accordance with the recommendations. He says that further experience is to be gained by the Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner yet to be appointed. As has already been pointed by Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar, the committee that made the recommendations consisted of two Collectors with Agency experience and two vakils with experience in Agency litigation. They sat with sufficient materials before them, as the debates in the Council on the two previous occasions were sent to the Collectors of Ganjam, Vizagapatam and

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Gōdāvari for their opinions or remarks. When there was so much material and so much experience of the past before the committee and the committee made their recommendations on past experience, I do not see for a moment why the Government should wait for the further experience of the new Commissioner who himself had an opportunity of making sufficient recommendations on the former occasion and also for the experience of the Judicial Commissioner yet to come into existence. For these reasons I press my resolution."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—" I am glad, Sir, that the Hon'ble Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar has referred to Mr. Macmichael in this matter, because Mr. Macmichael not only served on the committee with the Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar, but he has enjoyed the further advantage of becoming acquainted with the scrutiny to which the draft rules prepared by the committee were subsequently subjected under the instructions of my Honourable colleague. As I stated earlier to-day, Sir, the criticisms of the draft rules cover something like 40 pages : they are found to be open in some respects to serious criticism on matters of substance. But I do not propose to recite those criticisms, because it seems to me obvious that the complete change in the local conditions involved by the amalgamation of the Agency tracts of three districts into one combined division subject to a special form of legislative enactment by a special notification under the Government of India Act it seems to me, I say, Sir, obvious that this change of position . . ."

Mr. C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" I wish to know whether the new Agency district is formed under the Government of India Act."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—" If the Honourable Member will refer to the Government Order published on that subject, No. 2680, dated 6th November 1920, he will find a notification and a Government Order giving full details of the scheme regarding the constitution of the new Agency division. The exact legal position in the matter is not one in regard to which I can give an off-hand answer ; but I am quite certain that a notification under the Government of India Act formed part . . ."

Mr. C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" I carefully went through the notification, and I found that it was not one under section 15 of the Government of India Act but it was under an old regulation."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—" I am sorry, Sir, I am not in a position to say off-hand exactly what the legal position is. My excuse to the Council is this, that the administration of the Agency tracts was in the hands of my honourable colleague until quite recently and that I have not yet made it my business to study this point. But that has no bearing on the substance of my reply, which is that, whereas before we had separate Agency tracts annexed to separate districts controlled by officers serving in those districts, now we have whole-time officers in charge throughout the combined Agency division, the regulation of whose acts cannot be dealt with on precisely the same lines as the regulation of the acts of their predecessors.

" Sir, all this is, however, a digression from my opening remark, namely, that I was glad Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar had mentioned Mr. Macmichael's name. I said that because, after seeing the history of what happened to the proposals of that committee since 1918, Mr. Macmichael, himself a member of the committee, has formally recorded, in advising me how to deal with this resolution, his considered opinion that there is a good deal of force in Mr. Harris' contention that some experience of the Agency division as a whole is desirable before amending the rules further. In this matter, Sir, I have been largely guided by the advice of

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Mr. Macmichael, an Agent himself of something like nine years' experience in the northern tracts, a member of the committee which drew up all these rules, and now the Secretary to Government dealing with the question. I relied further on the advice of the officer now responsible for the administration of the Agency, Mr. L. T. Harris, whose experience of those tracts has also been very great.

"Whether or not it would be possible to accept in all their details the recommendations of the committee is a matter which would require a good deal of further examination in connexion with the proposal initiated very wisely by my honourable colleague Mr. Todhunter to bring out a definite Agency Code embodying not only these rules but also a clear statement of the enactments in force in the new Agency division. I do not think Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar will contradict me when I say that it is no easy task to say precisely what laws are in force in the Agency division of the Northern Circars, and that this question has not been simplified by the recent changes in law. I will only say in conclusion that while there is no intention to shelve the recommendations of this committee, it is quite impossible for the Government to accept a resolution approving those recommendations in their entirety. I do not suppose, Sir, that with the exception of two, or possibly three, members of this House any one here knows what the recommendations of the committee were, but this resolution asks us to accept the recommendations *en bloc*."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"As this is a matter of some importance, we had better have a poll."

A poll was then taken with the following result :—

Ayes.

1. Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu.
2. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar
3. Mr. J. Kuppuswami.
4. Mr. B. Munuswami Nayudu.
5. Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju.
6. Mr. M. Narayanaswami Reddi.
7. Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chettiyar.
8. Mr. T. Sivasankaran Pillai.
9. Mr. P. Venkatasubba Rao.
10. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai.
11. Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu.
12. M. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
13. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar.
14. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu.
15. Mr. S. Muttumanikkachari.
16. Mr. K. V. Ramachari.
17. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao.
18. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar.
19. Mr. M. Suryanarayana.
20. Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar.
21. Sri Meka V. Apparao Bahadur.
22. Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tamban.
23. Munshi Muhammad Abdur Rahman Sahib Bahadur.

Noes.

1. The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson.
2. ,, Mr. C. G. Todhunter.
3. ,, Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur.
4. The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. Subbarayalu Reddiyar.
5. The Hon'ble Mr. P. Ramarayaningar.
6. The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu.
7. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell.
8. Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar.
9. Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar.
10. Mr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar.
11. Mr. S. Somasundaram Pillai.
12. Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar.
13. Diwan Bahadur D. Seshagiri Rao Pantulu.
14. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
15. Rao Sahib P. Venkatarangayya.

Twenty-three having voted *for* the resolution and 15 *against*, the resolution was declared carried.

Acquisition of land for building Currency office.

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, my resolution reads as follows :—

'5. *This Council recommends to Government that the Land Acquisition proceedings now pending before the Deputy Collector of Madras in respect of lands and*

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buildings in Revu Bazaar, North Beach Road, Madras City, known as "Bank Shalls", for the purpose of erecting Currency office buildings, may be abandoned and that a less objectionable site may be selected for the purpose and, if necessary, recommendations to this effect may be made to the Government of India.'

"As the resolution indicates, the Madras Government is only, to use an expression familiar in the courts of law, acting as agent or auxiliary to the Government of India. The subject of this resolution formed the subject of an interpellation in the Imperial Assembly the other day and I am glad to say that it showed the right spirit of what order is going to be passed on this agitation. The Hon'ble Mr. Hailey replying said: 'The Local Government have been asked to acquire a site, and it is understood that acquisition proceedings have been instituted. The Government of India have received a protest from the Madras Chamber of Commerce against acquiring the proposed site for the Currency office. The Government of India are at present in correspondence with the Local Government and will be largely guided by their advice.' That was the answer given about the 24th of February and I am glad to say that it is not necessary for me to press this resolution for, the Hon'ble the Finance Member told me about half an hour ago that he had received instructions from the Government of India to abandon the acquisition proceedings. That being so, it is not necessary for me to move the resolution, if, as I said, the Hon'ble Member for Government would state the same to the House."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"Does the Honourable Member move the resolution or does he not move it?"

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"I do not propose to move the resolution. I accept what was stated."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"If the Honourable Member did not intend to move the resolution, he should not have made a speech."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"It was necessary for me to state to the House under what circumstances I was not moving my resolution."

The resolution was deemed to have been withdrawn.

Election of the Ootacamund Municipal Chairman.

Mr. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. President, the resolution that I have to move for the consideration of this House is that—

'6. *This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council to set aside their decision to reserve to themselves the power of appointing Chairman of the Ootacamund Municipality and requests the Government to allow the municipal council to exercise the privilege of electing its own chairman.*"

"Sir, the municipality of Ootacamund as constituted under the old Act was composed of a large number of members nominated by the Government and a few elected members. According to the District Municipalities Act of 1920 which has now come into force, the municipality of Ootacamund will in future consist of 12 elected representatives and 4 nominated by Government. This municipality for a number of years, like other municipalities in the Presidency, has been enjoying the privilege of electing its own chairman, and now when the new democratic Council is going to be constituted, Government made a suggestion and sent it to the existing municipal council. The suggestion of Government was as follows:—'The Government consider that in view of the importance of Ootacamund as a sanitarium and of the expenditure in which the municipality is involved by the

fact of its being the summer headquarters of the Government, the chairman should be an officer of good engineering and other qualification and that the Government should pay the whole of his salary and allowances. The Government, therefore, propose to exercise the discretion vested in them by section 12 (1) of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920 and to appoint themselves the chairman of Ootacamund hereafter. They desire to know within two weeks if the council has any ground to urge against the proposal. The Government propose to sanction for the present a remuneration of Rs. 1,000 per mensem which Mr. Handcock is now drawing.' The order of Government purports to be passed under section 12 (1) of the Madras District Municipalities Act. That section runs as follows :— ' Unless the Governor in Council has directed by notification that the chairman shall be appointed by him, every Council shall at its first meeting after the first day of November in each year elect one of its members to be its Chairman.'

" Sir, though I do not know much of law, I question the legality of Government's order according to this section. This section no doubt empowers Government to appoint a chairman of their own, but the Act nowhere empowers Government to pay that chairman from its own provincial funds. Municipalities, even if the chairman has been nominated by the Government, have been paying the salary of that chairman ; but now Government proposes even to pay the chairman out of its own funds. I do not know what can be the object of Government in making this resolution. In the order, no doubt, they say that this is because the municipality of Ootacamund is involved in vast expenditure on account of its being the summer headquarters of Government. But, Sir, the municipality of Ootacamund has not all on a sudden become the summer headquarters of Government. It has been so for the last so many years, and all these years the municipality has been paying the pay of its own chairman. But if this proposal, this alluring proposal of Government, is meant to be a bargain, I have to say that is not a bargain creditable to either of the contracting parties. Sir, this order of Government has been referred for the opinion of the council as it now exists. Perhaps Government might say that it is the proper procedure, but I say justice requires that this order of Government, that this proposal must be referred to the council that comes into existence under the new Act. It may be that the council as it now exists is a *de facto* and a *de jure* council, but, Sir, in many instances law and justice are entirely two different things. It may be quite legal for Government to act according to the opinion of the Council as it exists at present, but in justice, since it affects the destinies of the council that is to come into being, it requires that the Government must take the opinion of the council after it is constituted under the new Act. If Government in support of their proposal is going to say that it is the summer headquarters of Government, then why all this talk ? Take the municipality of Ootacamund away from the operations of the District Municipalities Act. Issue an order saying that Ootacamund also is something like a Presidency town and have a special City Municipal Act for the Ootacamund municipality as we have got for Madras. But so long as it is going to be under the operation of the District Municipalities Act, there is no use for Government saying that because it is the summer headquarters of Government it has to be treated in a way different from the other district municipalities. Well, Sir, though the chairman nominated by Government may be entirely under the control of the municipal council, experience has shown what has been the position of a nominated chairman. As soon as a chairman is nominated by Government and he takes his seat, he and the council are mutual enemies. Each considers the other as its legitimate enemy. A chairman nominated by Government is an evil enough, but a chairman nominated and paid by the Government is an evil which

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I cannot think of. Apart from the reason that I have already adduced, it cannot be denied that this is an entirely reactionary measure. It proclaims in unmistakable terms that Government has no confidence in the electorate and its representatives. If the elected representatives of a municipal body cannot be credited with the discretion of choosing a chairman capable of discharging the special requirements of a sanitarium and the summer headquarters of Government, then I think it will be far better for the dignity of that poor sanitarium to do without such a municipal council. Sir, it has become almost a commonplace in Indian politics to say that the efficacy of representative institutions in this country must be tested in the sphere of local and municipal institutions, and at a time when Provincial Councils are placed on a democratic basis, instead of granting greater autonomy to local and municipal bodies, to go about snatching away from them the rudimentary powers that they already possess seems to be something like a mockery. Sir, whatever may be the views of Government on this matter, I have absolutely no doubt as to the attitude of this Council on this question. For, apart from its local interest, I say this matter involves the question of a broader policy. It is a test of our faith in representative institutions and this House by disapproving the action of Government will only justify its faith in itself as the representative of the people and the custodian of their interests."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I have great pleasure in seconding this proposition. The Honourable Member for Nilgiris, though belonging to Coimbatore, has very clearly stated the reason as to why this appointment should not be made by nomination. If we only carefully analyse it, it comes to this. The Government when nomination was the rule under the Act, gave elective power to this municipality. Now, when under the new Act, election is the rule, they want to reverse it and have nomination for this municipality. It means this, that they have confidence only in their nominated councillors but no confidence in their elected councillors. They have allowed election till now because they knew that the nominated members who were their creatures would act according to their wishes and elect their own man as their chairman. Now they have no confidence in the newly-elected members because they know that they will weigh merits properly and will not elect a man simply because he is a Government man. One thing seems to be very peculiar in this order, viz., that the Government are anxious more to have a particular officer there to continue as chairman rather than anybody else. If only they had said that they have got the right of appointing somebody on the recommendation of the municipal council, it would have been something. My friend of course very clearly stated as to why this sum of Rupees 1,000 has been offered; of course he did not say it was a bribe but only it was an inducement. They have some doubt now because they suspect that even the present nominated council may not agree to their proposal. Our friend of course referred that the municipality of Ootacamund might be taken away from the Municipal Act. I would suggest that if it ceases to be a municipality and the house-owners are not asked to pay the rates, the Government can do anything. The best thing would be to take away the Ootacamund municipality from being a municipality at all and go on spending any amount of money from the Government. Government seem to be very careful about their money. They say that because they spend some money on this municipality, so they must have the right to nominate their own chairman. They seem to forget that in Ootacamund itself several Indians and Europeans have invested money in much larger proportion than the Government themselves have invested. This is certainly an insult not only to the ratepayers of Ootacamund, but also to the councillors of Ootacamund, and I submit also to the people that reside there. It is too much to suppose that

there is only one person who can do the business of the municipal chairman of Ootacamund.

"Comparison is made between Ootacamund and Madras. Ootacamund is a place which, according to the new rules, the Governor and a few of his subordinates are going to use for three months in the year. Madras is a place which will be used for nine months. If Ootacamund is a place where thousands of rupees have been invested by Government, Madras is a place where more thousands and even lakhs have been invested. If Madras can be managed by an elected President why not Ootacamund also either by an Indian or an European, only on this condition, viz., that he is elected. Of course one thing may be said that there are not leisured people there who will take up this honorary appointment. The resolution does not say that the appointment should be elected as well as honorary. It may be paid also. Nobody will have any objection to Government paying if the chairman is elected though paid. The taxpayers of the whole Presidency have to pay Rs. 1,000 a month to oblige the ratepayers of Ootacamund. Therefore I think that is a point well worth noting. The Ootacamund municipality should not be maintained by spending large sums of money out of the taxpayer's money of the Presidency. For all these reasons, I think the Government are making a very dangerous precedent now. What is for Ootacamund to-day may be for Coonoor to-morrow; what is for Coonoor to-morrow may be for Trichinopoly the next day, because there is a cantonment there or for any other place. It is a thin end of the wedge. I say this matter is of immense importance, and I hope the Council will agree with me and pass the resolution."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR:—"Sir, in view of the fact that Ootacamund is a sanitarium and that the expenditure of the municipality was very great, the Government thought that they might have a paid chairman appointed under section 12 of the District Municipalities Act of 1920. They accordingly proposed to the council whether they had any objection to that course being taken. The council in reply stated that they would have no objection to have the chairman appointed for one year. So, a paid chairman was appointed for the year and now it is quite open to the new council, when it is formed, to ask for an elected chairman and when that request comes before the Government, they are prepared to give favourable consideration to the matter. In these circumstances, I expect the honourable mover to withdraw the resolution. The resolution, as it stands, asks for the reversion of the decision which the Government came to in consultation with the council. That is an impossible request. Nothing has been done contrary to the provisions of the District Municipalities Act and I do not think the resolution as it is can be accepted. In these circumstances and with the assurance I have given, I hope the honourable mover will withdraw the resolution."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government stated that the Government have taken certain steps and they are unable to retrace them. Sir, I will first draw the attention of the Council to the papers which have been placed on the table in answer to one of my interpellations at the meeting of the 14th February 1921. Those papers show the correspondence between the Government and the municipality of Ootacamund. When I noticed in the press that the Ootacamund municipality was deprived of the right of electing its own chairman, I thought it was an extraordinary step and wanted to find out the circumstances under which this thing had happened. The first paper, that is, G.O. No. 833, dated 3rd December 1920, is the memorandum issued to the council. It is quite clear that the initiative in this matte

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came from the Government not the Municipal Council. The council was never financially embarrassed, it never wanted a thousand rupees to be paid to the chairman, nor was it anxious to deprive itself of the right of electing its own chairman.

"In the first place, it is stated here that the Government consider that in view of the importance of Ootacamund as a sanitarium and of the expenditure in which the municipality is involved by the fact of its being the summer headquarters of the Government its chairman should be an officer of good engineering and other qualifications and that the Government should pay the whole of his salary and allowances. As has been pointed out by the honourable mover, Ootacamund has been the summer headquarters of Government for nearly 35 years and it has enjoyed this privilege of electing its own chairman and the fact that it is the summer headquarters cannot by itself be a reason for depriving the Council of the right of electing its own chairman. If that reason is to be accepted, Madras, which is the headquarters of Government for the other parts of the year should be deprived also of the right of electing its own chairman; and the municipality will have to be placed under a nominated president because it is the headquarters of Government.

"Then, Sir, the second point is, if as a matter of fact an officer of good engineering experience is required, there are provisions in the Municipalities Act for the appointment of an Engineer and the appointment so made will be subject to confirmation by Government. I do not see why if an officer of engineering experience was required, it was necessary to deprive the council of the right of electing its own chairman. They might have called upon the council to elect an engineer and prescribe the qualifications and confirmed that appointment because it is subject to their confirmation under section 72 of the Act. Therefore, the reason that an officer of good engineering experience is required is not sufficient for depriving the council of having an elected chairman. These are the two reasons which are urged in the Government Order. It is natural that the municipality should make a bargain and get some Rs. 12,000 out of the general taxpayer and it certainly will not deny itself the opportunity of receiving these funds. But we on behalf of the taxpayers have a right to object to this payment. If it is necessary to deprive the municipality of the right of electing its chairman I do not see why it should be presented with Rs. 12,000 per annum for this purpose.

"I know some municipalities in this Presidency which have been deprived of the right of electing their own chairman, but that was for mismanagement. Kumbakonam, for instance. I do not think section 12 was intended to give Government the power to deprive any municipality at its own sweet will and pleasure of the right of electing its own chairman or to do so for reasons other than proved misconduct. The section is wide enough and to construct it in that manner is certainly against the whole spirit. Therefore, I submit that this is quite an ill-advised step and constitutes a grave departure from existing practice. Of course a great deal has been said about continuity of practice. May I know whether this particular instance is an evidence of the continuity of practice in the Ministry of Local Self-Government? I submit that it constitutes a grave danger to all municipalities and it is a departure which ought not to be permitted in this Council. If it was necessary to have a man of good engineering experience, it was open to Government to indicate that fact to the Ootacamund municipality and get an engineer appointed subject to their confirmation.

"Therefore, in this matter it is really a losing bargain between the Madras Government and the municipality that the latter should deprive itself of the right of electing its chairman and receive in turn Rs. 12,000 from the taxpayer. On

behalf of the taxpayers of this Presidency I expect the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter to object to this course. If he does not do so, I certainly will oppose it at the time of voting for grants."

Mr. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. President, of course, when I moved the resolution, I never intended that the Government should reverse its decision and send away Mr. Haudcook at once. In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government that this order is to exist for this one year only and that if a requisition comes to Government from the new municipality that they must be given back the privilege of electing their chairman, such a representation will be considered favourably by the Minister I withdraw the resolution."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"I take it, then, that the Council gives leave to the Honourable Member to withdraw his resolution."

The resolution was by leave of the Council withdrawn.

Location of a tuberculosis hospital in Royapetta.

"7. *That this Council is of opinion that the proposed location of the Tuberculosis Hospital in 'Temple Gardens,' Royapetta, is calculated to expose the residents of that locality to infection and recommends to the Government to give up the proposal so far as that locality is concerned.*"

Mr. M. C. RAJA, who had given notice of the above resolution, said:—"I am not moving now the resolution standing in my name."

The resolution was deemed to have been withdrawn.

Residential girls' high schools.

The following resolution, which stood in the name of Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar, was deemed to have been withdrawn owing to the absence of the Honourable Member:—

"8. *That this Council recommends to the Government—*

that a residential girls' high school on the model of the Women's College at Madras be opened at some suitable place in the district of Tanjore in the year 1921-22; *and*

that four more such schools be opened in such districts as the Council may determine in the said year 1921-22."

Amendment of darkhast rules in the interests of the poor.

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI:—"I now find that the rules regarding darkhast have been amended. After perusing the amendments I will draw up fresh amendments if necessary. I therefore propose to withdraw this resolution."

"9. *This Council recommends to the Government that in the interests of ameliorating the condition of the poor among the landless and depressed classes, the Government may be pleased to give them a much better, if not the very best, chance of obtaining land for cultivation, by adding to the existing darkhast rules of preference Nos.* 1, 2 *and* 3 (*Board's Standing Order No.* 15, *paragraph* 8) *a proviso to the effect that the rules do not apply to cases in which the land exceeds one acre, if wet, and two acres, if dry.*"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"Resolution No. 9 is not moved and therefore it will be deemed to have been withdrawn."

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Custody of secondary school-leaving certificate question papers.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" Resolution No. 10 stands in the name of Mr. A. T. Palmer."

Mr. G. VANDANAM :—" In his absence, Sir, may I not move it ? "

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" I am afraid you cannot. The standing orders at present do not provide for it, though we have made provision for it in the revised standing orders."

The following resolution which stood in the name of Mr. A. T. Palmer was, therefore, deemed to have been withdrawn :—

" 10. *This Council recommends to the Government that the Chief Superintendents of the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate Examination should also be the custodians of the question papers.*"

Day and night schools in municipal towns.

" 11. *This Council recommends to the Government the opening of a sufficient number of day and night schools in every municipal town for the use of the labouring and agricultural classes.*"

Rao Sahib P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU, who had given notice of the above resolution, said :—" Mr. President, I am advised to bring this proposition at a later stage. I do not mean moving this resolution at present."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" Resolution No. 11 is not moved and therefore it will be deemed to have been withdrawn."

The Council then adjourned to 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the 8th March 1921.

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

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS


தமிழ்நாடு சட்டமன்றப் பேரவை
TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
வாய்மையே வெல்லும்
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS