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Imperial Legislative Council.

DEBATE ON BUDGET

FINANCE MEMBER'S REPLY.

Delhi, March 7.

At the Imperial Legislative Council today, Sir George Lowndes presiding the first stage of the general discussions on the Financial statement was continued.

SIR JAMES MESTON'S CONCLUDING SPEECH.

Sir James Meston in winding up the debate said, in a long and interesting discussion they had had covered such a large range of topics that it was quite impossible to deal adequately with them in the short time at their disposal. He therefore proposed to allude to certain general propositions which had been emphasised in the course of the discussion. but before he did so he wished to express his thanks to the various Hon'ble Members who had been good enough to say pleasant things about the Budget and himself personally. It has been a great pleasure to him to be back in this Council. He was one of the members of the first Council that sat in Calcutta under the Morley-Minto Reform Scheme, when the leadership of the opposition was in the capable hands of the late Mr Gokhale, and it was a great pleasure to him to be back in this Council at a time when further reforms were going to be introduced and more responsibility was going to be given them. A dominant feature of the debate had been the old story that Government was bestowing too much attention on the material progress of India and was doing too little for moral, social, industrial, and educational development. The story was one on which he would await the verdict of history. That verdict of history none of them were afraid of. They had made a mistake in leaving it to the people to work out their moral and social progress, but they honestly believed their first attempt ought to be to make people more contented and more prosperous. Referring to the criticism of the Maharaja of Cashimbazar that he knew nothing about the Indian villager, he said he had not lived in this country and worked in this country for 33 years with his eyes shut, and during that period he had witnessed considerable advance in the contentment, prosperity, and comfort of the men in this country. On this point too he was not afraid of the verdict of history They were now starting a new chapter. New powers and new responsibilities were going to be given to the representatives of the people under the scheme which he trusted would materialise shortly. That would give the representatives of the people a 'stimulus' to take a large part in co-operation with them (the Govt) in the important task of governing the country. He then thanked the two veterans in the Counil Mr Banerjee and Sir Dinshaw Wacha for their observations, and proceeded to deal with their comments. In connection with Mr Banerjea's earnest and eloquent plea in the cause of education and sanitation he assured the Hon'ble Members that the Members of Government did not need to be converted in this matter and observed there was none among them who did not recognise the paramount importance of generous and forceful progress in education and sanitation. In this connection he remarked he should like to see a great national movement with national funds for education and he was not without the hope that such a national movement would see something further in the cause of public health if they would be the first fruits of the desire for responsible government. Coming to the figures he said, he was not sure that his critics had treated him quite fairly The attack delivered to-day was upon the large sums given for the expansion of railways. Mr Khaparde had described railways as a luxury and others as a great nuisance. But Mr Ironside Howard and Sir Dinshaw Wacha had taken up the cudgels on behalf of railways which left very little for him to say. He reminded them that for the last four years they had devoted practically nothing and they had to divide that sum over four years of past neglect. If that were done he was inclined to think the real rise would be something quite negligible. Coming to the other facts, he said if the hon'ble member refrained from the light of fancy and persuaded themselves to look with into the figures and dive deep into them, as Mr Banerjea and Sir Dinshaw Wacha had done, they would find that the provision for education for the next year was 730 lakhs as against 533 for the current year, and that for sanitation 143 laks and against 103, an increase of forty per cent. Similarly he would ask the members to look sufficiently into the Report of the Industrial Commission. In the next year's budget they would find provision for the amounts which Sir Thomas Holland would require, and he would say that even before the year was out. If Sir Thomas required money for the benefit of industries he would not have any difficulty in getting it. He then turned to what he called miscellaneous fallacies. The Maharaja of Cassimbazar had said that poor India was being saddled with military expenditure in Mesopotamia and East Africa. He regretted that the Maharaja was ill-advised in the matter. In actual practice, the whole cost of these operations was borne from the British Treasury and the only part India had taken was the form of donations offered last year. He was sure the Maharaja did not wish to see these donations withdrawn. Nor was the Maharaja ashamed of them. He knew the Maharaja too well and he knew his patriotism was not of such an order. With regard to irrigation he said they had given every rupee that was asked for. On the question of boarding he wished to know where the 1200 millions of silver rupees coined had gone to In connection, Sir James said, in reply to Mr Patel's query, that Parliament, owing to its various preoccupations had not yet had before them the subject of the gift of 40 millions and had consequently not sanctioned it, but he had no doubt the gift would be accepted in the same spirit in which it was offered. This was a period of transition. Nothing sensational, nothing generous was possible, but to the hopes and inspirations of the people the Government of India fully subscribed.

The Council then adjourned till to-morrow.

MR. SARMA'S RESOLUTION.

HEATED DEBATE.

Delhi, Mar 8.

The Legislative Council met again to-day Sir George Lowndes presiding. There were only three visitors in the public galleries.

Sir William Vincent presented the report of the Select Committee on the Criminal Law Amendment (Rowlatt) Bill.

Mr Sarma then introduced the first of his four resolutions, urging the reduction of the proposed loan from £10 millions to £6 millions. He maintained that in the interest of India it was not desirable for the Government to venture on such a big loan. The capacity of the loan market as exhibited by the capital of joint stock concerns, deposits in banks, etc was not such as to justify the Government floating such a big loan. The success of the war loans could not be relied upon, because that was mainly due to artificial prosperity due to the accumulation of excess profits and to the exertions of Government officials. Politically it would be unwise to repeat such experiments. Mr Sarma questioned whether railway expenditure was of such an urgent nature as to necessitate the floatition of this loan.

Pandit Malaviya said he strongly supported the resolutions. The railway programme was of such a nature that it could not reasonably be expected to be carried out during the year. The amount as reduced by Mr Sarma would be £6 millions, and even that was a high amount.

The Hon Sir James Meston confessed to a sense of disappointment at the speech of Mr Sarma, for he had expected him to show some means of raising the money. Mr Sarma's sole purpose, however, seemed to be to associate this resolution with another which he was going to move later. Turning to the actual resolution. Sir James summed up Mr Sarma's argument as being nothing beyond the advice to keep out of the money market as we might not be able to raise the money. He could not accept this view. There was no cause to apprehend failure. He detailed the consequences which the mover's resolution would produce, such as the cutting down of treasury bills, the non payment of silver purchased in America, and the non-payment of dues to the British Government. He was unable to accept the resolution.

After Mr Sarma had replied the motion was rejected.

MR. SARMA'S NEXT RESLOUTION.

Mr Sarma next moved that the Budget allotment be increased by Rs 50 lakhs towards the equipment and improvement of the Health Department and by Rs 50 lakhs for the improvement of the water supply in rural areas. He said the country had lost five millions of men by the ravages of malaria. This meant a loss of 30 crores a year. Seven million deaths occurred every year from partially preventible causes. He wanted the principle of his resolution to be accepted and a beginning made. He regretted that in some provinces unspent surpluses were available while sanitation demanded immediate outlay, and requested the Government of India to whip up the provincial governments. He advocated the appointment of experts as heads of departments. The strength of the Health Department was hopelessly inadequate. He referred to the sufferings caused in rural areas by the want of an adequate supply of drinking water and pressed for a special allotment for the purposes of his resolution.

Mr Ironside asked whether the views expressed by Mr Sarma were the financial views of Madras. The question was one of cutting their coat according to the cloth. In his opinion the Finance Member had generously treated every province. Continuing. he referred to the utter incapacity of the educated classes to grasp the problems of sanitary reform. Money was always being spent on schemes for ameliorating the condition of the people, but their failure was largely due to the failure of the educated classes to grasp the problem.

Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjea challenged the statement of Mr Ironside that the educated classes in Bengal had exhibited utter incapacity to grasp the problem of sanitary reforms. He referred to the work of several non-official Chairmen of Bengal municipalities, particularly drawing attention to the work done by Mr Ambica Charan Mazumdar in Faridpore, Rai Bahadur Bissambhar Nath Roy in Krishnagar, Rai Mohendra Chandra Mitter in Hooghly and the Maharajah of Cossimbazar in Berhampore. He was sorry that such an unjustifiable attack had been made on the educated community of Bengal. Whether the resolution was accepted or not was a different matter, but there was absolutely no justification for Mr Ironside making such a statement. He appealed to Sir James Meston to accept the resolution.

Pandit Malaviya in supporting the resolution hoped Mr Ironside would withdraw his statement.

Mr Ironside, by way of explanation, said that when one made a statement one did it with knowledge. He knew there would be a protest against what he said.

Pandit Malavya—Not a protest but condemnation.

Mr. Ironside—Well, condemnation. Mr. Ironside continued that he was aware that there were many individuals who were working hard and spending money on schemes of sanitary reform, but the great majority of educated classes had failed to do what they could to help them. Though he withdraw his remarks against the educated classes he persisted in saying that it was because of their apathy that the quickest return could not be had from the money spent on sanitation.

Sir Dinshaw Wacha said that he was glad Mr Ironside had withdrawn his remarks, which blackguarded the educated classes who were alive to the advantages of sanitary reform in all parts of the country. He referred especially to the work of the Bombay Corporation, of which he had been a member for thirty years. He was ready to support Mr Sarma's resolution.

The Hon Mr Hogg supported the principle of the resolution, but doubted if an increase was possible this year.

The resolution was further supported by Mr Krishna Sahaya, Mr Shukul, Mr Shafi Mr Chanda and Mr Sitanath Roy, the last mentioned member strongly protesting against Mr Ironside's remarks. He would like to ask Mr Ironside what the Calcutta Improvement Trust had done to improve the sanitary conditions in the northern part of Calcutta.

Replying to Mr Sarma's resolution, Sir James Meston said the Government was fully aware of the defects of sanitation and of the necessity for pure drinking water. He sympathised cordially with the views expressed by Mr Banerjea, and admitted that individuals and groups of the educated classes had done much for sanitation. He accepted the principle continued in the resolution, but would oppose the resolution itself on technical grounds. First of all Mr. Sarma had not specifically stated where the money was to come from. Then again these were matters for the Local Governments to develop, and not one single sanitary scheme sent up by them during the year had not been accepted. Lastly the resolution encouraged the system of doles. On these grounds Sir James was opposed to the resolution but in view of the strong feeling on the subject expressed by various members he had consulted his colleague, Sir Sankaran Nair, and was willing to insert a provision in the budget for a central investigation dealing with influenza and other epidemic outbreaks. In view of this assurance he hoped Mr. Sarma would withdraw his resolution.

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

MR. SARMA'S NEXT RESOLUTION.

Mr. Sarma next moved that expediture under Education be increased by Rs. 150 lakhs, to provide for the extension and improvement of primary education. He said that his proposal was a hardy annual which cropped up every year in the Council. While in every other country they had made primary education free and compulsory, in India we were content with paper resolutions which could not be given effect to for want of money. Primary education was the essential of progress and he hoped the resolution would be accepted.

Pandit Malaviya, supporting, said money must be found for primary education.

Sir James Meston, replying, said he did not remember when the Government was opposed to the extension of primary education.

Mr. Sarma—Compulsory primary education.

Sir James Meston—That is another matter.

Sir James said the Government were never opposed to the principle of primary education as suggested by Mr. Sarma. The resolution as it stood meant nothing but a revival of the system of doles. He could not attach any other interpretation to it. Pandit Malaviya had suggested borrowing. It might be possible for capital purposes, but success depended on trained teachers. He would be willing to provide 150 lakhs if he could get teachers, but as this was impossible the provision demanded would be useless.

Sir James opposed the resolution, which was put to the Council and lost, 18 voting for and 32 against it.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

After lunch Mr. Sarma moved that the allotment for the scientific and miscellaneous departments be increased by 5 lakhs to carry out the recommendations of the industrial commission. In support of his resolution Mr. Sarma said they should set in practical motion the machinery for industrial development in India without any delay. For the last thirty years the Government of India had been expressing the heartiest sympathy on this subject. The time had now come to give practical effect to that sympathy.

Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy said he was in entire sympathy with the mover, but Mr. Low had been travelling about obtaining the opinions of the Local Governments on the Industries Commission's report, and those opinions were very important. He hoped Mr. Sarma would withdraw his motion.

Pandit Malaviya supported the resolution.

Sir Thomas Holland said it would not look consistent with his position as President of the Industrial Commission to ask the Council to reject the resolution. If the mover read the report of the Industries Commission more closely he would find that the majoriy of he recommendations of the committee were subjects for the carrying out of which the Local Governments were alone responsible. He dealt at length with some of the recommendations of the Commission and said the Government had not been absolutely idle in giving effect in some form or other to some of them. He could not accept the resolution, not because he did not sympathise with the object of it, but because they must complete the Government machinery for carrying out the recommendations of the Commission. Till then it would be economically unsound to spent more money.

After Mr. Sarma had replied the resolution was put to the meeting and negatived.

The Council then proceeded to consider the Financial Statement in its third stage.

SIR CLAUDE HILL'S SPEECH

Sir Claude Hill introduced the Budget heads under the Revenue, Agriculture and Public Works Departments.

Sir Claude said the questions put to him had exclusively, and quite naturally, referred to matters connected with the prevailing scarcity. He referred members to the statement he laid on the table in February, and added that owing to the vastly improved resisting power and resources of the people direct famine expenditure would relatively, compared to what occurred on similar occasions in the past, be very small; but the indirect cost would be very heavy. An agregate sum of Rs. 21,89,400 had been alloted to 'takavi,' while considerable remissions and suspensions of land revenue were anticipated. The number hitherto on test or relief works were very satisfactorily small in comparison with what might have been expected in view of widespread failure of the monsoon, and in comparison with what had actually happened in the past. Referring to agricultural education, he said that for the current year he could hardly expect to obtain such a large proportion of the grant. Continuing Sir Claude Hill said the department had not been idle during the war, and had carried on investigations and consultations. As a result they had for submission and adoption as soon as they could get the Secretary of State's sanction schemes involving a large expenditure on research administration and development generally. It was owing to the paucity of their scientific and supervising establishmen that they had been hitherto restricted in their advance. India with only 30 and 40 research officers connected with agriculture, compared very badly with older countries in the West. But they were hoping that when their schemes met with the approval of the higher authority they would be in a position to go ahead with considerable rapidity. He announced that before the ensuing cold weather the Government proposed to inaugurate a comenquiry into the development of the sugar admirable work done by Dr. Barber at Coimbatore in this connection. He described industry, and spoke appreciatively of the ed the steady investigation carried on in regard to forest matters, and announced a proposal to establish a post of wood technologist at the Forest Research Institute. The Hon. Member next reviewed the operations of the Public Works Department, and said that much had been done in face of the many difficulties resulting from the war and from the absence of a very large number of officers deputed to war work. A considerable amount of progress had been made on works under construction, and a large number of new projects of less ambitious scope than those already referred to had been prepared for execution when circumstances permitted. In conclusion he referred to the appointment of Messrs. Barlow and Mares to investigate in preliminary survey the possibilities which offered in India for the development of the utilisation of water power for industrial purposes. The Government hoped to have their first general notes in June next, and they would from then onwards be increasingly in possession of information which would be of immense value in considering schemes of industrial development dependent up Hydro-Electric energy.

Mr. Sukul moved that the provision for expenditure under agriculture be increased by fifty lakhs, to provide for the extension and improvement of agricultural education.

Sir Claude Hill said the question of agricultural education was purely provincial, and the function of the Government of India was to give a stimulus to make a start. He was averse to reviving the practice to doles, which, to use an unparliamentary expression, was an infernal nuisance. It would be premature to force the pace of the provinces.

Mr. Sukul withdrew the resolution.

The Council then adjourned till Monday.

BIHAR AND ORISSA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

REALIZATION OF RENTS BY P. C. R. ACT.

INTERPELLATIONS.

By the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Purnendu Narayan Sinha:—

Q.—1. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) the names of the landlords in this Province who have been granted the privilege of realising the rents due to them by tenants by certificates under the Public Demands Recovery Act;

(b) the names of the specified areas in which the certificate powers have been granted;

(c) whether it is a fact that the proprietors or managers of the Motihari, Pipra and Turkaulia concerns in the districts of Champaran have been given certificate powers, and if so, from what date;

(d) the terms and condition, if any, that have been laid down in granting certificate powers as contemplated by section 158A (2) of the Bengal Tenancy Act;

(e) the names of any other concerns or landlords in Champaran who have applied for the grant of similar powers and with what results;

(f) the grounds on which such powers have been asked for in each case, and the grounds on which the grant has been made;

(g) whether any enquiry was made by Government, and if so, what enquiries and whether from the tenants concerned, as to whether the strained relations that existed between the landlords and tenants in Champaran had changed for the better, and as to whether the levy of illegal cesses had ceased in the case of the Motihari, Pipra and Turkaulia concerns before the certificate powers were granted;

(h) (i) the numbers and value of the rent suits instituted by each of the said concerns against their tenants since the passing of the Champaran Agrarian Act; (ii) the number of such suits which were decreed in full, decreed with modifications, and dismissed, respectively, and the number in which damages or costs were disallowed by the Court;

(i) whether it is a fact that the applications for the grant of certificate powers were made on the results of suits referred to in (h) (i);

(j) whether the Government is aware that the granting of certificate powers to the abovenamed concerns has created a feeling of alarm among the tenants of these concerns;

(k) the number of criminal cases brought by the said concerns and other landlords and other thikadars, or by their servants or agents in Champaran, since the passing of the Champaran Agrarian Act; and

(l) the amount of 'tawan' which has been refunded by each concern under the recommendation of the Champaran Agrarians Committee?

A.—The Hon'ble Mr. Hubback replied:—

(a) and (c), Leaving out of acount the Patna City municipality as landlord for a small share in a mauza comprising 42 tenancies, the only private landlords in this Province who are at the present time authorized to recover rents by certificate procedure are the Pipra and Motihari concerns in the district of Champaran.

In the case of the former concern the notification issued with effect from the 16th October 1918 and of the latter with effect from the 13th January 1919.

(b) The powers have been granted for the tenancies of which the concerns are the landlords Lists of the villages in which such tenancies lie are given in the schedules attached to the notifications which are laid on the table.

(d) Requisitions for recovery must be made to the certificate officer by the manager within one year from the date on which the revised khatian in respect of the tenancy is issued under section 4 of the Champaran Agrarian Act, 1918.

(e) The Turkaulia, Murla and Byrea concerns have also applied. The application of the Turkaulia concern will be accepted but has been returned for submission of further details. The applications of the Murla and Byrea concerns are at present under consideration.

(f) and (i). The applications are all based on the fact that rent is being extensively withheld by the raiyats: and in the case of the Motihari and Pipra concerns it is on this ground that the use of the certificate procedure has been granted. As the hon'ble member is aware, the Champaran Agrarian Act was passed in order to give the force of law to what was in effect an agreement by compromise, and its object was to prevent further litigation.

The provisions of the Act have been applied by the Settlement Department and the attention of the hon'ble member is invited to paragraph 56 of the annual report on the Survey and Settlement operations for the year ending September 30th, 1918, in which the Director of Land Records and Surveys comments on the attitude of the raiyats towards the Act. Opposition, he says, was widespread; the raiyats did not admit that they were a party to the compromise to which the Act gave effect; they openly repudiated Mr. Gandhi, and the withholding of rent became general. In these circumstances it was incumbent on Government to secure the recovery of the rents recorded as payable under the Act by more ready means than the civil courts offered. There could be no possible doubt as to the amount of the rent due in each case or to the legality of the claim.

(g) In each case full enquiries were made by the local officers. The report of the Champaran Agrarian Committee did not contain any suggestion that illegal cesses were ever taken by the Motihari, Pipra, or Turkaulia concerns.

(h) (i) and (ii). A statement is laid on the table.

j. A representation was received in November 1918, from a number of raiyats protesting against the grant of the certificate procedure to the Motihari, Pipra and Turkaulia concerns. They were informed that the Lieutenant Governor in Council found no reason to alter the order already passed.

k. laid a statement on the table.

l laid a statement on the table.

Q—7 (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a letter from the wife of Maulana Fazlul Rahman, published in the Urdu paper "Quaim" of Delhi, an English translation of which was published in the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" (town edition) of 1st February 1919?

b. Is it a fact (1) that the Maulana was confined in a solitary cell in the Bankipore jail, and (2) that he was stripped of his wearing apparel and made to wear jail clothes continuously?

A—The Hon'ble Mr. McPherson replied:—

a. Yes.

b. Maulvi Fazlul Rahman was of course kept apart from the ordinary prisoners, and this necessitated his being given a separate cell. He was not made to wear the distinctive jail clothes, but was provided with ordinary white cloths while his own were being washed.

Mr Justice Chitty and Mr. Justice Richardson of the Calcutta High Court, contemplate, it is believed, taking leave, the former with a view to retiring from the service.

Viscount Jellicoe is expected to arrive in Bombay on the morning of the 14th instant. H M S. New Zealand in which he is coming out is at present between Suez and Aden. The programme of Lord Jellicoe's visit to Bombay is not yet completed, but his arrival will be public. An address will be presented by the Municipal Corporation. After a stay of a few days in Bombay Lord Jellicoe will proceed to Delhi.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE COERCION BILLS

SELECT COMMITTEE.

PANDIT MALAVIA'S NOTE.

The following is Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya's minute on the Criminal Emergency Bill which has been wired out to us from Delhi.

The amendments which have been made in the Select Committee, though mostly useful, have not touched the main scheme of the Bill Its policy and principles, its character and scope, remain unaltered. I am constrained therefore still to recommend that the Bill should be withdrawn, if even the most important amendments urged by several of us Indian members had been accepted, They would have made the bill less dangerous and therefore less unacceptable. But the majority of my colleagues did not see their way to accept them nor did they agree to recommend a re-publication of the Bill though this was urged unanimously by all the Indian members present. The prevention of the Criminal Act of 1882 was described as one of the most stringent measures ever introduced into Parliament, as the strongest measure of coercion that was ever passed for Ireland. The present Bill is far more stringent than that Act. Under the Act persons committed for certain offences were to be tried by a Special Commissions Court consisting of three Judges of the three Supreme Courts of Judicature in Ireland, but the Act laid down that a person tried by a Special Commission Court shall be acquitted unless the whole court concur in his conviction 45 and 46 Vic. Ch. 25 S. 1. (4) Contary to this the present Bill provides (S. 14) that in the event of any difference of opinion between the members of the court, the opinion of the majority shall prevail. When it is remembered that the Court may pass any sentence, including a sentence of death, upon a person convicted by it, the danger and injustice involved in such a provision will become obvious. I cannot think of any justification for the Government view that even in a case where one of the three High Court Judges who have tried a case should be of the opinion that the guilt of the accused has not been established or is doubtful or even that the accused is not guilty, the accused should be convicted and sentenced, may be, to death by the verdict of the remaining two judges. In my opinion —Section 14 of the Bill should be modified to the effect that if the Court is not unanimous as to the guilt of the accused, he shall be acquitted but this alone will not be sufficient.

RIGHT OF APPEAL.

The right of appeal is one of the most valuable safeguards of justice and liberty and an appeal should be provided from the judgment of the trial court as it was under the Act of 1882 referred to above. Section 2 (1) of that Act laid down. Any person convicted by a special Commission Court under that Act may subject to the provisions of the Act appeal either against the conviction and sentence of the Court or against the sentence alone, t the Court of Criminal Appeal hereinafte menioned on any ground whether of law o. of fact. This Court of Criminal Appea. was to consist of the 6 Judges of the Supreme Court of Judicature in Ireland and any of those Judges not less than five may sit and exercise the powers of the Court. "It was" provided that a Judge who sat in the Special Commission Court should not sit in the Court of Criminal Appeal on any appeal against a conviction or sentence by that Special Commission Court to which he was party, "also that" the determination of the appeal shall be according to the determination of a majority of the judges who heard that appeal. It should be remembered that the prevention of the Crime Act was passed at a time when in the words of Sir William Harcourt who introduced the Bill, all sorts and conditions of men in that country without distinction combined together to denounce this atrocious deed (the Phicenix Park murder) and its authors and yet the Government of the day took care that in providing for the repression and prevention of crime, they did not unnecessarily endanger the liberty of the subject. They required a unanimous verdict in the first Court and provided for an appeal from that verdict Sir William Harcourt said the court will sit without a jury. They will decide on the questions both of the law and of fact and their judgment shall be unanimous. Well then, in order to give every security and confidence to this tribunal we give in all these cases an appeal to that court of criminal cases reserved I believe that is what it is called in Ireland. At all events it is a body consisting of the residue of the judges of the Supreme Court. I believe that the ordinary quorum of that court is five judges and upon the appeal the judgment will be by a majority of the court so that you will see that no man can be convicted under these circumstances without the assent of six judges, three in the Court below and three in the court above. Well. we have another security. There will be an official shorthand writer and the notes will go to the Court above but the Court above may, if they think fit, hear other evidence and call other witnesses so that in point of fact at their discretion they may have a rehearing of the case and thereupon the Court may either affirm the sentence of the Court below or they may alter the sentence. That is to say in the way of diminution and not of increase.

The proposals in the Bill are based upon the recommendations of the Rowlatt Committee who have recommended, as they have said, (182 of their report) in substance the procedure established under the Defence of India Act. though they have recommended that the tribunal should be of the highest strength and authority. The Defence of India Act substantially embodied the main provisions of the originally proposed draft ordnance (Rowlatt Committee 140) which had been proposed by Sir Michael O'Dwyer (Ibid 136). The Lieutenant Governor considered that is most undesirable at the present time (end of 1914) to allow trials of any of these revolutionaries of other sedition mongers who have been or may be arrested in the commission of crime or while endeavouring to stir up trouble to be protracted by the ingenuity of counsel and drawn out to inordinate length by the commital and apneal procedure which the criminal law provides. His Honour therefore submitted for approval a draft ordinance which provided, subject to the sanction of the Local Government, to its application in the cases (A) for the elimination of committal procedure in the case of offences of a political or quasi political nature. (B) for the elimination of appeal in such cases (C) for the taking of security from persons of the class affected by a more rapid procedure than that prescribed by the ordinary law. did but as the Committee note the measure was exceptional and intened to cope with a temporary emergency and in enacting a law in the happily altered times in which we are now living the Government should not follow the model of the exceptional ordinance upon which the Defence of India Act was leased, but at least of the parliamentary statute referred to above. I would therefore modify Section 17 of the Bill and provide for an appeal to at least three judges of a High Court other than those who tried the case.

ACCUSED PERSON'S EVIDENCE.

I would also omit Section 12 of the Bill which provides that an accused person may if it so desires, be examined on oath and that on such examination, he shall be liable to cross-examination. The Statute which made it permissible for an accused person to be examined on oath was introduced in England in 1898 after fifteen years of controversy, but the circumstances of India are unfortunately very different from those of England. It should also be remembered that opinion was very much divided even in England. When the measure was under discussion, speaking on the Bill Mr Lytterton, M.P. said: "The very moment a man begins to cross examine another an atmosphere of heat is generated. How many men can engage in an ordinary argument on an important subject without showing warmth? I think they are few in number. But what is cross examination? In his argument conducted by men in public with all the excitement that publicity can give, it is done by a man who is exhibiting his powers before others who may afterwards employ him and is it not too sanguine to expect that such a man would conduct a cross examination of a prisoner with that calmness and moderation with which English prosecutions are now conducted?" May I give one quotation from the opinion of Lord Justice Collings who has allowed me to use his name in his matter? My Hon and learned friend has said that he did not believe that he Judge would be carried away by the duties imposed on them by the Bill. Allow me to read the testimony of one of the Judges on this point, which, I am sure, will have a great weight. There is no Judge on the bench more respected, esteemed and admired than Lord Collins. He says:—My chief objection to the proposed change is that I feel certain it will greatly alter the present relations between the Judge and the prisoner. It seems to me inevitable that if it should become the practice for the prisoner to give evidence in every case, the Judge will in most cases have to put question in the nature of cross-examination himself. He has to do so now very frequently in cases under the Criminal Law Amendment Act. The counsel who conduct ordinary cases are frequently inexperienced and a crucial question often has to be put by the Judge. If this becomes the ordinary practice, as I think it must be if the proposed change be made, it must inpair the prisoner's confidence in the absolute impartiality of the Judge which is so valuable a feature in our present system. It cannot but tend to alter the attitude of the Judge himself actually and apparently and I should regard this as a great public mischief and deprecate any change which might make it possible, unless I feel sure that the certain benefits would more than compensate. "This is the opinion of a Judge who has tried these cases himself and who has no prejudice one way or the other. He has had great experience of both systems. Is it not a deplorable thing for the Government of this country that the Ministry should seek to alter one of the most impressive functions of Government which now exhibits the Judge and the prosecuting counsel, at any rate the judge, not as the enemy, but as the friend of the poor and miserable? Would it not be a deplorable thing that a system so generous and humane should be changed to one in which it would be the business and the duty of the Judge to put questions such as Lord Justice Collings suggests and as the result of which they would not appear to the poor and miserable in a criminal court as a friend as he is now generally regarded but as an embittered enemy (Hansard Vol L V I 1898 p 1015-1016)

It must also be remembered that the Statute permitting the examination of an accused on oath did not extend to Ireland. The Irish members were as a body opposed to such extension and Parliament recognised the validity of their objection. The reason for it were well expressed by Lord (then Mr) Morley in a debate on the Criminal Evidence Bill when it was introduced in the House of Commons in 1888. As they have a bearing on the circumstances of our case, I will quote them here. He said:—"There was no difference of opinion as to the utility of the measure. They were all agreed that to allow prisoners to become witness when they wished to do so would be a humane and beneficent change, but he could not agree that all the reasons which existed for the application of the Bill to England must necessarily exist in the case of Ireland also. The Hon'ble and learned Solicitor General said that there was no distinction between the cases. The Hon'ble and learned gentleman had not dealt effectively with the argument of the Hon'ble and learned member for North Longford (Mr. T M Healy) that the atmosphere of an Irish Court was not supposed by the people of Ireland to be favourable to the prisoner. The argument of the Hon'ble and learned member for North Longford proved that there was all the difference in the world between the operation of a measure in courts like the English courts and its operation in courts such as the Hon'ble and learned member and his friends believed theirs to be. This was a Bill in favour of the prisoner, but the Government were going to apply it in a country where it would inevitably be regarded, whether rightly or wrongly as being hostile to the prisoner. The effect of the measure upon Irish opinion would be very opposite of that which was justly claimed for it in England. The Hon'ble and learned member for Inverness (Mr. Finlay) had argued with great plausibility that the supposition that here was animus in the mind of Judge against the prisoner was all the more convincing a reason why they should give the prisoner a chance of exculpating himself by giving evidence. But it must not be forgotten that if contention of the Hon. and learned member for North Longford were correct and if here was an animus in the mind of the Irish judge and strong animus in the prosecution counsel the prisoners under this Bill would be exposed to the risk of bitterly hostile cross-examination and it will enforce on him very serious disadvantage. It appeared to him (Mr. John Morley) the sheerest pedantry to insist that because this was a wise and desirable change in itself and in this country they were therefore bound to force it upon Ireland against the wishes of her representatives, and against the opinion of so staunch a partizan of the Government on the Opposition side as the Right Hon. and the learned member for Bury. The Rt Hon. and learned member for Bury was free from suspicion of motive which attached to Irish members below the gangway and he had shown that he was strongly opposed to the change itself and on both these grounds, his opinion was entitled to the greatest weight. Would Government insist upon extending the legislation to Ireland against the wish of all the popular representatives of that country and against the opinion of the partizan of their own who was most competent to give an opinion upon that subject?

We wished to underline the argument of the Hon. and the learned member for the city of Durham (Mr. Milvain) which he was surprised Government did not see the force of. They considered they were engaged on the difficult task of restoring law and order in Ireland. They had now got a state of opinion in Ireland much more favourable than it had long been to the maintenance of law order and respect for administration of law. They must admit, therefore, that it was most undesirable politically to arouse fresh jealously by introducing a single element of suspicion or irritating into the administration of criminal law in Ireland at moment like this and yet they must equally admit that this would be the effect of the provision which, with deplorable tenacity, the Government insisted upon extending to Ireland (Hansard Volume 324 1888 pages 95-96.)

The Rowlatt Committee have said no doubt only experienced courts should try cases under these conditions in order to make that the ignorant prisoner does not misunderstand his position and is not unfairly dealt with. This safeguard is ensured when cases come before three judges of the highest rank and upon the whole, we think, a provision should be introduced if it were a question of the general application we should, having regard to the above mentioned considerations, be against it. Read in the light of the observaions I have quoted above, these remarks of the Rowlatt Committee afford slender support to the proposal to introduce a change of so serious a character in an exceptional and admittedly repressive legislation.

I would omit Section 18. If the whole of it is not omitted. at least Clause A. should be

PARTS II AND III.

I entirely dissent from the principle which underlies parts II and III. I have shown above that it was in the exceptional times of 1914-15 that Sir Michael O'Dwyer suggested that an exceptional and temporary measure should be passed to provide, among other matters, for the taking of security from the persons of the class affected by a more rapid procedure than that prescribed by the ordinary law. Those times have happily passed away and the Defence of India Act will still remain in operation for six months after the termination of the war. In my opinion after the termination of that period, reliance should be placed on the ordinary existence law to deal with persons of a dangerous character, the cases of such persons should be brought before a Magistrate and the procedure prescribed for dealing with them should be followed. This will leave to the person against whom an order may be passed an opportunity of seeking the protection of the High Court in revision. Executive action should not be substituted for judicial forms of inquiry. If the Government cannot see their way to accept the recommendation made above, Section 21 to 25, should be so modified as to secure that the case of a suspected person will be referred to the investigating authority before any such order is passed against him as is specified in Clauses (a) to (e) of clause 21 (1) and that only such an order shall be passed as recommended by the investigating authority. If the Local Government will pass an order against a person and then refer his case to the investigating authority that will seriously prejudice his case. The enquiry should not be held in camera except when the investigation authority, in its discretion, should rule to the contrary. Pleaders should be allowed to appear to help the person whose case may be under investigation. He should also be at liberty to adduce evidence. The ordinary rule of evidence should apply to the enquiry the report of the investigating authority should be binding on the Local Government. Clause 29 should be modified to provide that the investigating authority shall consist of two District and Sessions Judges and one non-official Indian who should preferably be a lawyer. Clauses 33, 34 and 36 mutatis mutandis. The same procedure should be followed under Part III and I have indicated for part II. I would omit 124—A and 153—A from the schedule. Cases under those sections should be tried in the regular way. There are certain other amendments which are suggested but it is not necessary for me to note them all here. I will move such of them as I think fit in the Council.

Lastly I stronly regcommended that the Bill should be republished and circulated for opinion—Madan Mohan Malaviya.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE PROVINCIAL BUDGET.

Lahore, Mar. 8.—A meeting of Punjab Legislative Council was held at Government House, Lahore, on Friday last the Lieutenant-Governor presiding. The Hon. Mr Lumsden presented the amended draft Financial Statement. He prefaced his remarks by referring to the advantages of the new system in dealing with the Budget in Council and then discussed the more important features of the Financial Statement which he thought represented a satisfactory state of affairs. The revised estimates for 1918-19 give an opening balance of Rs. 1,94, 52,000, revenue receipts amounting to Rs. 5,60,81,000 and an expenditure of Rs. 53,19, 800 leaving a closing balance of Rs. 2,23,35, 000. The estimates for 1919-20 give revenue receipts of Rs. 5,88,50,000 and an expenditure of Rs. 6,02,28,000, leaving a balance at the close of the year of Rs. 2,09,57,000.

The official members made explanatory statements in this connection and the council adjourned until the 13th March.

An interesting announcement was made by the Hon. Mr. French to the effect that there would be seven permanent judges in the new High Court that question of necessity of supplementing this number wa under consideration of Government.

Mr. S. R. Hignell is to officiate as Deputy Secretary, Government of India, Finance Department, in place of Mr. Jukes who is proceeding on leave.

2nd Rowlatt Bill.

SELECT COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Proposed Sec. 124 B Deleted

BILL WILL NOT BE PASSED JUST NOW

Delhi, March 8.—At to-day's meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council Sir George Lowndes presiding, Sir William Vincent presented the report of the Select Committee on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill (Rowlatt Bill). The report is signed by Sir William Vincent, Sir George Lowndes, Nawab Syed Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Mr. Kincaid, Mr Fagan, Sir James Dubourlay, Mr Emerson, Mr Moore and Mr Moncrieff Smith, Mr. Banerjea, Mr. Shafi and Mr Sastri signed the report subject to a note of dissent. The following is the text of the report:—

We the undersigned members of the Select Committee to which the Bill to provide for the Amendment of the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 was referred have considered the Bill and have now the honour to submit this our report with the Bill as amended by us annexed thereto.

(2) At the outset of our deliberations the Hon Mr Patel announced his intention of not signing any report which the committee might make and withdraw from the proceedings. The Hon Pandit M M Mallaviya and the Hon Mr Khaparde who attended the first meeting of the committee absented themselves on the second day.

(3) The detailed amendments which we have made in the Bill are referred to in the following remarks:—

(4) Clause 2 of the Bill as referred to us purported to introduce a new section 124 B into the Indian Penal Code. It was based on Rule 25 A of the Defence of India Consolidation Rules, 1915. Though this Rule has been in force since the 25th September 1916 we understand that it has rarely been put into operation. We are of opinion that the clause might be omitted without seriously damaging the efficacy of the Bill. We have therefore deleted it and as consequential amendments we have omitted clause 7 and the schedule to the Bill and have renumbered clauses 3 to 6.

(5) We have not amended clause 2. It was suggested that the preliminary inquiry to be provided for by the new section in the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 should be carried out by the Magistrate himself or by a police officer not below the rank of a Deputy Superintendent. We think that any such modification of the proposed section would unduly restrict the power which it confers and we have therefore made no alteration.

(6) Clause 4 (now clause 3.) We have substituted the words "properly and reasonably incidental" in the proposed addition to section 343 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898. We think this amendment explains itself. We think also that an incidental promise should not be expected from the operation of section 343 of the Code unless it has been disclosed to the presiding Judge or Magistrate before the accused person is put into the witness box. At the same time it would obviously in many cases destroy the value of the protection promised, if the nature of the promise were made public and we have therefore provided that the court shall not disclose any of the terms of the promise to the defence unless in its opinion it is necessary to do so.

(7) Clause 5 (now 4.) We think it should be made clear that evidence of a previous conviction or of association with a person who has been convicted of an offence against the State should only be relevant for the purpose of providing criminal intention and we have also an amendment in clause (b) which attempts to give effect to the recommendation of the Rowlatt Committee that evidence of association "of an incriminating kind" only should be admissible. The proviso to the new section 510 a) of the Criminal Procedure Code 1898 equired seven days notice before the commencement of the trial. In this respect the Bill did not conform to the recommendation of the Rowlatt Committee and we have substituted the words "before such evidence s tendered" for the words "before the commencement to the trial."

(8) Clause 6 (now clause 5.) We have altered the drafting of the last few lines of the proposed section 565 a (1) and we have omitted words at the end of clause c) or subsection (4) which we think was unnecessarily widely drawn.

(9) We do not consider that the amendments which we have made in the Bill materially alter its provisions. At the same time in view of the fact that the Bill purports to make permanent additions to and permanent amendments in the Criminal Law and that these amendments are not a matter of great urgency we think that the Bill as amended should be republished.

Messrs Banerjea, Shafi and Sastri have signed the report subject to the following minute of dissent:—We recognise that with the deletion of the original clause 2 which made the possession of seditious documents under certain circumstances an offence under the Indian Penal Code, the more objectionable feature of the Bill has been removed. We also agree that the amendments made in committee in the remaining clauses constitute an improvement of the original Bill. The acceptance of our proposal to republish the bill as modified makes it unnecessary for us at this stage to recapitulate our objections which still remain regarding the principles underlying the Bill. Reserving to ourselves the right of urging these at the proper stage we record our considered opinion that the preliminary inquiry contemplated in the present clause 2 should be held either by the Magistrate himself or under his direction by a police officer not below the rank of a Deputy Superintendent We are further of opinion that the enactment of the proposed section 565a is unnecessary and recommend its deletion. In any case persons convicted under section 124a Indian Penal Code should be excluded from its scope. The opinion of the High Courts should be obtained on the Bill as now amended.

BENGAL COUNCIL.

NEXT THURSDAY'S BUSINESS.

At the meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council next Thursday the Hon. Sir Henry Wheeler will present the further report of the Select Committee on the Bengal Village Self Government Bill 1919.

The Hon. Sir Henry Wheeler will next present the Revised Financial Statement for Bengal for 1919-20 after which the resolutions on the Revised Financial Statement will be taken up.

TILAK CASE.

SCENES IN JUSTICE DARLING'S COURT.

JUDGE'S IGNORANCE OF EVERYTHING INDIAN.

The following is taken from a London letter of the "Hindu's" correspondent;—

Westminster, Jan. 30.

I spent most of yesterday, in Mr. Justice Darling's Court, listening to the opening stages of Mr. Tilak's action against Sir Valentine Chirol for libel. I cannot say that it was an invigorating experience, and I am afraid the special jury, judging by sundry signs of drowsiness during the afternoon, found it something of a bore. It took Sir John Simon the whole day to open the plaintiff's case, and his task had to be resumed when the Court opened again this morning. At yesterday's rate of progress the case is likely to last some time.

The somewhat humdrum reading of old files of the "Kesari" and the "Mahratta" was only relieved by the occasional pleasantries of the Judge, who seemed to follow every word with keen attention, and who displayed or assumed a naive ignorance of everything Indian. It was not to be expected that he would know the difference between Shivaji and Afzul Khan, or that he should understand very clearly the intricate question which surrounded the Tai Maharaj Case: During the reading of one passage in which British rule appeared to be unfavourbly compared with that of the Moguls, the learned Judge wanted to know who introduced the Mogul rule into India. Sir John Simon did not know and Sir Edward Carson's reply was "Lord Clive". But it turned out that he had misunderstood the question. The correct answer was however, forthcoming from one of Mr. Tilak's junior counsel, though I could not see that it mattered much either way. The point of the Judge's comment, however, was evidently against the author of the comparison.

THE SCENE IN COURT.

The most interesting figures in Court were of course, those of the plaintiff and the principal defendant. They sat next to each other during most of the day, and even went so far as to exchange polite smiles of recognition when they took their places. Mr. Tilak was very largely absorbed in conversation with his advisor and friend, Mr. Karandikar so much so, in fact that Sir John Simon had at one point to make a whispered appeal to them to lower their voices. I thought Mr. Tilak was looking rather haggard and anxious and this was certainly true of his opponent. Both of them have aged considerably during the last year or two. There is a growing physical feebleness about Mr. Tilak which must cause his friends some concern. We shall see whether his mental alertness is in any way diminished when he comes to face the fire of cross-examination from such an expert as Sir Edward Carson. I will not say that this will be a case of "Satan abusing sin", but there is irony in the fact that the fomentor of rebellion in Ireland should be seeking to fasten that particular offence upon a patriotic Indian.

Amongst those in the walls of the Court I notice Lord Sandhurst whose name was frequently mentioned as Governor of Bombay in some of the later extracts from the Poona papers. He shared in the merriment which was aroused during the reading of one paragraph in which he was humorously compared to Lord Krishna.

INDIANS IN COURT.

There was a large group of Indians in Court, including such well-known figures as Thakur Jessraj Singji Seesodia and Mr. Joseph Baptista. These were not at all bored by what was read and said, and they evidently derived some amusement from the stumblings of Judge and Counsel over names that were household words to any intelligent Indian.

The long recital of newspaper extracts was enlivened at one point by Sir John Simon's remarks that the commemoration of Shivaji was comparable to the honour which certain enthusiasts in this country still pay to the memory of King Charles 1. Mr Justice Darling pointed out that in the latter case people were commemorating the victim—not the executioner. Sir John Simon, being always ready to oblige, neatly turned the comparison the other way by saying that perhaps it would be more accurate to draw a parallel between the Shivaji festival and the celebration of Cromwell's memory in some parts of the United Kingdom.

GAZETTE OF INDIA

Delhi, Mar 7.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

Mr. W M Hailey, I C S, is nominated Additional Member, Imperial Legislative Council.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

Justice Rankin is nominated Fellow, Calcutta University.

Pundit K M Dikshit officiates as Superintendent Archaeologic Survey Eastern Circle, vice Dr. Spooner on deputation.

FOREIGN AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Lt. Col R L. Kennion is granted one year leave Mr. F R Pennio is granted one year leave. Finance Department.

Tiall is posted as Deputy Accountent General Posts and Telegraphs Mr J C Mittra officiating as Accounting Mr. H C. Tomkins granted one year's leave.

POST OFFICE.

Khan Bahadur D. S. Captain, Supdt of Post Offices, and Offig Dy Postmaster-General Bombay, is granted privilege leave for three months.

Mr. G. V. Tudpule, Supdt of post offices is granted privilege leave for two months and fifteen days.

Mr. Muhammad Siddique Hasan, clerk, office of the Postmaster-General Central Circle is appointed to officiate as Supdt of post offices.

Mr. W. Gillespie, sub. pro tem. 1st Asst Postmaster, Bombay, is appointed 2nd Asst Postmaster, Bombay, Rs. 300—400, from the 26th December 1918.

Mr. D. Emmanuel offig Postmaster, Mandalay, pay Rs. 300—400, is appointed sub. pro tem. Postmaster, Mandalay

ALL-INDIA MODERATE CONFERENCE.

At a meeting of the Reception Committee of the second session of the All India Conference of the Moderate Party held on Sunday the 9th March, under the presidency of Sir Binod Mitter the following resolution was passed:—

That regard being had to representations received from some of the Moderate leaders in Bengal and other Provinces who expressed the opinion that it was desirable not to hold the All-India Conference of the Moderate Party before the introduction of the Indian Reform Bill in Parliament, it is resolved that the holding of the next Conference be postponed to a date to be fixed hereafter.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

Thursday March 13 1919.

INDIA AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

WE had innocently believed that the League of Nations would find a just and practical instrument for the protection of all the weaker and dependent nations of the world. It was proposed to be formed for a twofold object. The first of these objects was to ensure the settlement of all international disputes by the civilised methods of arbitration instead of by the savage method of appeal to arms. The second object was to secure the rights and freedom of those nations of the world who were, for whatever reasons it might be, unable to protect their own freedom or their just rights against the invasion or usurpation of their stronger neighbours. But the constitution of the League, as settled in Paris, does not seem to offer any reasonable ground for cherishing any hope that these objects will at all be realised by it.

To really ensure world-peace, and minimise, if not to absolutely banish, barbarous methods of settling international disputes, this League of Nations should have accepted into its membership all the existing countries of the civilised world. The constitution of the League lays it down that it shall be a League of the "organised" nations of the world. But it seems, that by the terms "organised," the authors of this constitution mean only organised for military purposes, that is ,those nations will only be considered "organised" that are more or less fully equipped for offensive and defensive purposes only.

On this sense, India and Egypt may not claim to be organised. But their lack of organised military life is not due to their lower civilisation or their lower social or political structure, but only to the mischance that has placed them under the political government of another nation, which got possession of this political power, partly by conquest and partly by concession from the ruling power that preceded them in the government of these countries. So far as the social and economic life of these two countries is concerned, these are by no means less organised or advanced than the social and economic structures of the militarily-organised nations of the modern world. Why should these nations be classed as "unorganised", and thereby put out of the League of Nations? By doing this, the organisers of the League have openly violated the very basal principle for which they professed to form this League.

This denial of the right of membership to India and Egypt means really the acceptance, by the League, of the barbarous right of physical or military conquest as a legitimate and just right in international relations. And in doing so, they have practically justified wars of conquest instead of condemning these as barbarous anachronisms in the modern world. If this right of conquest is to be accepted as just and legitimate in the case of Egypt and India, why should it not be accepted as equally legitimate, in the case of other countries? Why should German Poland and Russian Poland, and the German Colonies in Asia and Africa, not be recognised as belonging to Germany? To recognise so-called right of conquest in India and Egypt in the case of the British, and deny this as a legitimate claim of Germany on her own possessions, would mean simply the setting up of might as the test of right and nothing else. Germany is denied this right in regard to her own possessions simply because she has been unsuccessful in her recent military operations against the Allies. This is a virtual denial of the very fundamental principles for which, they declared, this war was being fought by the Allies.

If the British Empire had been admitted into the membership of the League as a political unit, the exclusion of India might have been somewhat excused, even if it might not have been fully justified. But the League has accepted the Self-Governing Dominions of this Empire into its full membership. The British Empire is, thus, represented on the League not only by Great Britain, but also by Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. It has five seats on the League. And the reason of it is that the British Dominions are regarded as independent nations, in alliance with Great Britain, but not really subordinate to it. This inflicts an additional wrong on India, whose nationhood is wantonly denied and which is therefore practically placed in all international affairs not only under the control of the United Kingdom but under that of her White Colonies as well. This League is thus really a combination of the white peoples of the world; and it offers really no protection to the non-white peoples of it.

But will this constitution of the League ensure world-peace at all? It is inconceivable that the non-White races and nations of the world will perpetually accept the domination of the White peoples. There is bound to be a very serious conflict in perhaps not very distant future, between the Whites and the non-Whites. And, in the event of this conflict, there will not only be another world war, but in that war it is not likely that all the White peoples will stand together. Germany, though beaten to-day, will not likely to be altogether inactive, and who knows that German diplomacy will not try to square it up with her present enemies by secretly stirring up strife among the peoples who are not included in the League, and who will have no civil means of settling their disputes with their alien rulers, through the instrumentality of the League? No sane and intelligent man can, therefore, accept the present League of Nations as offering any reasonable guarantee for the preservation of world-peace. On the contrary, the very constitution of this League will be bound to excite the fear of all the non-White peoples, except Japan and China who have been admitted into the League, and sow the seeds of future international troubles. It shows the hollowness of all the loud professions to which the world has been treated these last four years by all the Allied statesmen in Europe and America. This League of Nations ought to add fresh strength to the agitation for full and complete responsible government in India which must be achieved without further delay. But this League is still in a more or less nebulous stage, and before it has fully established itself as an accepted authority for the settlement of all international disputes.

INDIAN BUDGET

THE debate in the Imperial Legislative Council on the budget was a sight for the gods to see. Resolution after resolution moved by the non-official members and supported by their Indian colleagues of all shades of opinion, was lost. The principles of some of the most important resolutions were accepted as sound on behalf of the Government, but the resolutions themselves were opposed on what was frankly admitted to be technical grounds. The non-official members in vain broke their heads on the official barricade. The debate on the budget was believed to be such a foregone conclusion that even the Viceroy did not care to preside over the Council and the Visitor's Gallery was practically empty. We wonder how long the Government will continue to keep up the show, and for how long the non-official members will allow themselves to their disgrace to play the second fiddle.

High mortality, poverty and illiteracy, as Mr. Patel pointed out, are the bane of India. The non-official members appealed to the Government to curtail from the railway and some other extravagant items in the budget to give a little more money to one or other of the departments of sanitation, education and industry which are badly and awfully in want of it, but all their entreaties were of no avail. The official majority went merrily and merrily on to division after division to defeat the resolutions of the Indian non-official members!

Mr. Sarma moved "that the budget allotment be increased by Rs. 50 lakhs towards the equipment and improvement of the Health Department and by Rs. 50 lakhs for the improvement of the water supply in rural areas." He pointed out that 5 millions of men had died in the course of one year by the ravages of malaria. He might have mentioned that 5 millions or more men died of Influenza during the same period and according to official confession this mortality casts into insignificance the record in any other country and was due to the inadequate equipment of the Health Department. The ravages of malaria are also admittedly due, in a great measure, to the inadequate water supply in rural areas. But when Mr. Sarma wanted that the proposed loan of £10 millions for railway expenditure should be reduced to £6 millions to enable the Government to divert the balance thus saved for the much needed improvements in sanitation and water supply he was met with a stout opposition. And what were the grounds on which the Finance Member opposed the resolution? Let us quote his words:

> "He (the Finance Member) accepted the principle contained in the resolution but would oppose the resolution itself on technical grounds. First of all, Mr. Sarma had not specifically stated where the money was to come from. Then again, these were matters for the Local Governments to develop, and not one single sanitary scheme sent up by them during the year had not been accepted. Lastly, the resolution encouraged the system of doles."

The reply has taken our breath away. Sir James Meston apparently thought that the lives of millions of Indians were of such insignificant account that he could brush aside a resolution intended for their good on some "technical grounds"! And, pray, what are these technical grounds? They are one and all of such a nature that we wonder that Sir James Meston could seriously put them forward. It is stated that Mr. Sarma had not "specifically" stated where the money was to come from. The Finance Minister, we regret to find, failed to recognise the difficulty of the position of non-official members who had no hand in the drafting of the budget and who could not therefore be expected to "specifically" state where the money was to come from. But in this particular case, Mr. Sarma was definite enough. The previous resolution he moved was to the effect that railway expenditure might be reduced from £10 millions to £6 millions so that the balance thus saved might be placed at the disposal of departments like Sanitation and Education which were badly in need of money. Sir James Meston when opposing this resolution said. "Mr. Sarma's sole purpose, however, seemed to be to associate this resolution with another which he was going to move later." The resolution that Mr. Sarma moved next was that on sanitation. The Finance Minister had thus no difficulty in finding out the suggestion of Mr. Sarma as to where the money was to come from. It was therefore a mere quibble on his part to say that Mr. Sarma did not state where the money was to come from. It should further be noted that Mr. Sarma's resolution for the reduction of railway expenditure was defeated. He therefore could not commit himself to any specific item in the budget which could be transferred or utilised in any way for the department of san n or education. When the Finance Minister accepted the principles of the resolution, it was his duty and not Mr. Sarma's to find out how the resolution could be given effect to.

The next objection of the Finance Minister, equally technical, as he himself admitted, was that "these were matters for the Local Governments to develop." This is fine indeed! When Local Governments are pressed to carry out large schemes of sanitation, they plead poverty and blame the Supreme Government. The Supreme Government now finds fault with the Local Governments. Thus driven from post to pillar and pillar to post, the suffering millions of India find themselves in no time in the seventh heaven!

The final objection of the Finance Minister is that "the resolution encouraged the system of doles. Sovan Allah! Is Sir James Meston so innocent of the fiscal system which obtains in India that he does not know that this system is essentially one of doles in which the Supreme Government is the benign giver and the provincial Governments are the humble and grateful recepients? Mr. Sarma's resolution proceeded on the system of fiscal dependence of the provincial Governments on the Supreme Government.

We find therefore there was no substance in any of the objections urged by the Finance Minister against Mr. Sarma's resolution. Sir James however was magnanimous in view of "the strong feeling on the subject" and in consultation with his colleague, Sir Sankaran Nair, who probably shared those feelings, "to insert a provision in the budget for a Central investigation dealing with Influenza and other epidemic outbreaks." This was of course a stone when a bread was wanted, but such was the sense of utter helplessness of the non-official members that Mr. Sarma had to content himself with it and withdraw his resolution though it had been strongly supported by all his Indian colleagues.

INDIAN BUDGET.

II.

In our first article we have seen how Mr. Sarma's resolution for an increment of grant for sanitation was practically lost, he having withdrawn it in favour of a make-believe concession of the Finance Member.

Mr. Sarma's next resolution was for an increased grant of Rs. 150 lakhs for the extension and improvement of Primary Education. He pointed out how in every other country primary education had been made free and compulsory while in India it could not be made so for want of money. The non-official Indian members supported Mr. Sarma's resolution. But the Finance Member opposed it and it met with the usual fate. In opposing this resolution the Finance Member said:

> "Government were never opposed to the principle of primary education as suggested by Mr. Sarma. The resolution as it stood, meant nothing but a revival of the system of doles. He could not attach any other interpretation to it. Pundit Malaviya had suggested borrowing. It might be possible for capital purposes, but success depended on trained teachers. He would be willing to provide 150 lakhs if he could get teachers, but as this was impossible the provision demanded would be useless."

The system of doles was apparently in the brains of the Finance Member and the very suggestion of it was sufficient to upset his mental equilibrium. He scented it in Mr. Sarma's resolution on sanitation and the fate of that resolution was sealed. He scented it in the resolution on education and the resolution met with the same fate. Pundit Malaviya saw the weak spot in the brains of the Finance Member and suggested another remedy, namely, borrowing. This had its effect but another malady cropped up. The Finance Member was obsessed with the idea that there were no "trained teachers" and he said that if he could get teachers, he would be willing to provide 150 lakhs. Sir James' idea apparently was that trained teachers, like black berries, should have been kept as a reserve by the people of India in a corner of the secretariat chamber of the Financial Department so that they might have been brought out as soon as the Finance Member was in a charitable frame of mind. Can absurdity go further? You will provide no money for teachers, and you refuse grant saying that teachers are not available! To give the dog a bad name and then hang him—has been a well-known pastime with the Financial Department and Sir James has played it this year in a way which is certainly not creditable to him.

Mr. Sarma's next resolution was "to increase the allotment for the scientific and miscellaneous departments by 5 lakhs to carry out the recommendations of the Industrial commission." He said that the Government had been expressing its heartiest sympathy on this subject for the last thirty years and the time had now come to give practical effect to that sympathy. This appeal brought only some tears from the eyes of Sir Thomas Holland who said that "it would not look consistent with his position as President of the Industrial commission to ask the Council to reject the resolution." But what prevented Sir Thomas from being consistent and accepting the resolution? Was it because a non-official Indian member proposed it and whatever came from that quarter was to be looked upon with disfavour and suspicion? But Sir Thomas could not say that in so many words. What he said therefore was that the majority of the recommendations of the Industrial Commission were subjects for the carrying out of which the local governments were responsible. That is, the local governments are expected to do miracles—they are to carry out the recommendations of the Industrial Commission with no money in their exchequer. The non-official members are thus treated to huge jokes. When they ask the local governments to spend money on departments in which the people are vitally interested, they plead poverty. When again, they go to the supreme government for money, they are told to approach the local governments. Is this not delicious? Sir Thomas Holland however assured the Council that the Government of India was not "absolutely" idle. Nobody says that the Government was. Was not Sir Thomas exercising his lungs at the very moment and shedding tears of "sympathy" with the object of Mr. Sarma's motion? To do him justice, Sir Thomas Holland however did something more. He asked the members to hold their souls in peace till "the Government machinery for carrying out the recommendations of the Industrial Commission were completed." The people of India have the patience of Job. They will wait till the last day of Judgment when the bureaucracy in India will recount its glorious achievements before the throne of the Most High.

The Bill No 2.

THE Select Committee on the Second Rowlatt Bill has recommended the deletion of the proposed Section 124 B from the Criminal Amendment Bill, which made the mere possession of a seditious document penal. A more absurd, ridiculous and dangerous innovation could not be conceived. Yet it was gravely inserted in the Bill and the whole country was turned topsy turvy by a set of men in whose hands the destiny of India is placed. Do the authors now realize their ludicrous position? Apparently not, for the Select Committee when recommending for the removal of this monstrous clause did not express any regret for having inserted it in the Bill. Did they insert it with an object in view? For, they may now take credit for their magnanimity in conceding to public opinion! But this was only one of the fangs—though perhaps the highest—of the Black Cobra Bill. It has also several others full of deadly poison and unless they are not all taken out, the liberty of the people of the soil would be a farce. Let us enumerate some of these.

IN case of offences under Section 196 or 196A of the Criminal Procedure Code, it is proposed so to amend the Code that the District Magistrate or the Chief Presidency Magistrate may order a preliminary enquiry by a police officer not below the rank of an Inspector. Under the existing arrangement, however, no action can be taken regarding the particular offences concerned except at the insistance of the Governor-General in Council or the Local Government. From the Governor General to the District Magistrate is a big jump downward, in an conscience! Take another proposed amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code. Under the present law, when a man has been twice convicted, security can be taken from him for his good behaviour for two years. Now it is proposed in the case of any offence said to be a seditious character that, that provision shall apply to man who has only been once convicted; so a man convicted of sedition of the most trivial kind may be called upon to find security for good behaviour during the next two years after he has come out of jail! It is further proposed under the Bill that in case of trial for seditious offences, evidence of previous conviction can be given against the accused, an innovation which prevails in no civilised country. Here is yet another monstrous provision proposed in the Bill, namely, to allow evidence of what they call association, habitual and voluntary association, with a person who has been connected with a seditious offence, to be brought against the accused. Any of our public men may be hauled up for sedition any day; and while he is on his trial, it it can be shown that he had associated with say, Mr Tilak, it would be evidence against him! There are several others of a similar character.

Passive Resistance

WHAT is the remedy? We may oppose, protest and condemn. But the bureaucracy is powerful enough to ignore it all. Constitutional agitation has been practically exhausted and the Government has not moved an inch from its position. Passive resistance has been suggested, but only a limited number of men can be expected to sign Mr. Gandhi's vow, or even the modified one proposed by Mrs Besant. And unless you can secure a large number of people to take the vow it will not produce the desired effect. If the indigo ryots of Bengal succeeded in expelling the oppressive planters from here, bag and baggage, it was because six millions of them combined and carried the vow, "This hand shall never sow indigo again." We are decidedly for passive resistance, but a practical scheme must be presented to the public. Mr Gandhi should prepare one as early as possible, distribute it largely all over the land. In the meantime, our Delhi correspondent thus writes about Mr. Gandhi's interview with the Viceroy:—

> "Mahatma Gandhi was here at the invitation of His Excellency the Viceroy to discuss the Rowlatt Bills. It was very kind of His Excellency to invite a popular leader who stands above parties and whose sincerity of purpose no one can question. The discussion must be treated as confidential. But it is understood the result of the interview was disappointing on both sides. Mahatma Gandhi failed to bring the Viceroy over to his opinion, and the Viceroy did not succeed in effecting a change in Mahatma Gandhi's opinion. So the conclusion arrived at was one in which nothing was concluded."

An occasional correspondent of the "Hindu" throws a little more light on this matter:—

> "Mr. Gandhi preaches stern passive resistance. The Viceroy held the view that Mr. Gandhi was hasty in appealing for passive resistance. Mr. Gandhi was saying he had always regarded that the foundations of the British Government rested on soul force. The Viceroy held the opposite view and seems to have doubted Mr. Gandhi's statement. Mr. Gandhi retorted if force should be the basis of the British Government in India, then all India should be considered disloyal, he being the first disloyal subject."
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> "Though they could not agree, the meeting terminated with cordial relations.
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> "Mr. Gandhi holds the view that only the resignation of Hon'ble Members will suit the purpose. Pandit Malaviya alone has signed Mr. Gandhi's pledge. The other Nationalist Members of the Council have not decided as to the course to be adopted. One redeeming feature is there will be solid voting against the Bills."

But this "redeeming feature" will bring no consolation if the Government tramples down, which it is likely to do, the united voice of the Indians and passes the Bills into law. We must be armed with a weapon to fight the Black Cobra Bills, successfully when they are enacted and let loose upon the innocent people of India.

"Russian Argument".

THE argument on which particular emphasis was laid by Sir George Lowndes, Sir W. Vincent and other members of Government when supporting the Rowlatt Bills and which is repeated 'ad nauseam' by the nauseating section of the Anglo-Indian Press, is, that directly a thousand or so of persons suspected to have been connected with anarchical crimes were dealt with under the Defence of India Act, these crimes ceased and therefore the Defence of India Act must be placed permanently on the statute-book. The persons who are already under detention are not to be released till it pleases the Executive to release them, and powers must be taken for further arbitrary arrest, detention and interference with the liberty of the subject. This is what Lord Morley described as "the Russian argument" and he hit off in the following words the effect of the policy which rested on such an argument:

> "By packing off train-loads of suspects to Siberia we'll terrify the anarchists out of their wits, and all will come out right. That policy did not work out brilliantly in Russia, and did not save the life of the Trepoffs, nor did it save Russia from a Duma, the very thing that the Trepoffs and the rest of the "offs" deprecated and detested."

Lord Minto's Government, it may be remembered, deported nine gentlemen among whom were Babus Aswini Kumar Dutt and Krishna Kumar Mittra. It was found however that the so-called anarchical crimes did not cease with the detention of these gentlemen. So the Viceroy applied to the Secretary of State "for sanction for further arbitrary arrest and detention on a large scale." This sanction was not only refused but Lord Minto had the mortification of finding the policy of his Government compared to that of the "Trepoffs" of Russia. A Secretary of State refused "to sanction arbitrary arrest and detention on a large scale," but a legislative council of India on the importunity of the Executive and in good faith believing that the operation of the Act would continue only during the war and in their anxiety not to refuse anything to the Government in a time of crisis, sanctioned it. This power of arrest and detention was, as we know, exercised on a most lavish scale. The anarchists were "terrified out of their wits" and the Indian Executive which claims that it is the only infallible Executive in the whole world and therefore in whom the legislative, executive and judicial functions can harmoniously and gloriously combine, says that each of the persons arrested by it was guilty of having been concerned with anarchical crimes though the evidence against each of these one thousand or more persons was such that it would not be considered sufficient by any court of law. The Executive might well have placed under detention another one-thousand or any indefinite number of persons and say that they were concerned in anarchical crimes as their detention was followed by the cessation of anarchical outrages. Nay, a whole population might have been put under detention, if that were possible, on the strength of this "Russian argument." Has the mantle of the now defunct "Trepoffs" of Russia fallen upon the race of the "offs" in India?

Bolshevism Everywhere!

THE following extracts from the proceedings of the Bolsheviks' Conference in London will be read with interest:

> "A Conference convened by the "Hands Off Russia Committee" was held in mail week at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street. A large placard, "Long Live Bolshevist Russia," was displayed. Admission was by ticket.....The Press were rigorously excluded, but at the close an official report was given to a Press representative. This stated that the Conference was for the purpose of insisting on the withdrawal of troops from Russia and that a resolution was drafted for submission to a meeting in the evening.....At the afternoon Conference about 200 or 300 delegates attended, and were occupied mainly in discussing the possibility of engineering a general strike as the first definte step towards the Revolution.....In anticipation of this general strike the Bolshevists appointed numerous "secret committees" to make arrangements for supply of fuel and food to the rebels and their families, and to withhold it from other sections of the community. It was stated that in the event of a big industrial dispute in London and the provinces, the Metropolitan Police and large sections of the provincial police would refuse to move against the strikers. They would, in fact, assume a detached passive attitude.
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> "These people are attempting to keep secret all the details of their many plots, but for their own reasons they are not hiding their main object—namely, to bring about a social revolution. Any doubt regarding their amiable intention is dispelled by the following note which is printed at the head of a copy of a revolutionary song, the International," which was in possession of many people in the hall:—A spectre haunts capitalist Europe, the spectre of Bolshevism. . . . The red flag waves intermittently in Berlin, in Budapest, and Vienna. It strains westward across our title-page. Ere long, perchance, it will float from the clock-tower at Westminster, and from the flag-staff at Windsor Castle. To the strains of "The International" as the movement passes over westward the only flag that matters will be raised successively in Dublin, in New York in San Francisco, and may be at no distant date in Tokyo and in Pekin, in Delhi and in Teheran. The revolutionary movement initiated in Petrograd during November, 1917, will circle the world. "The Workers' International shall be the human race!"
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> "These London Bolshevists have all the praphernalia and methods of secret societies, and, in fact, they are in close alliance with every one of the anarchical secret societies in Europe. One of the counter-signs of one of the London groups is to whistle a bar or two of a popular tune which is understood to imply a revolutionary jargon."

Not only is this the case in England. A more anarchical state of affairs is existent in Ireland. The petulent attitudes of the South African nationalists have also been manifested in no uncertain terms. We cull the following extract from the speech of General Hertzog as published in the "London Times."

> "Mr. Hertzog, addressing the Congress, said the question was whether they were to be free or to continue in their present position of servitude. The assertion that they had a free constitution and free government he regarded as pure mockery. . . The Union Government consisted of men who consulted solely the interests of the British Empire. The people's blood was shed, their money was wasted, their freedom was curtailed, harbours were closed to neutral ships, citizens were forced into internment camps, and consumptives, who had been kept out of the country by law, were now invited to enter in hundreds of thousands. (Cries of "Shame"!) South Africa was nothing but the football of the Empire."

Lord Sinha in the Lords.

Every Indian will be gratified at the way Lord Sinha made his maiden speech in the House of Lords and at the reception given to him by his colleagues. When Mr. Dadabhoy Naoroji was elected a member Parliament, he was contemptuously called the "black man" by Lord Salisbury; but Lord Sinha received a quite different treatment. Not only was he treated as an equal by the proud peers of the realm but two of them, Lord Islington and Lord Crewe paid him high compliments. All this is very satisfactory and will gladden all Indian hearts. The sight of a Bengali Babu, though created a Lord, taking a prominent part in parliamentary proceedings "without any trace of nervousness," and "replying to the questions in an "easy manner" apparently surprised the House. Many of its members evidently thought that he was the only "prize boy" we have got to display before the world. There is no doubt that Lord Sinha is one of our best men, who would hold his own wherever he is placed. But it is also a fact that there are many others like him in India, and, given equal opportunities, they would play the same role in an "easy manner" and

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"without any trace of nervousness" as Lord Sinha is doing in the Lords. We must, however, frankly say that his elevation to the Under-Secretaryship, or even a higher office would absolutely mean nothing to India, if his functions were only to make fine speeches and give clever replies. Would he be able to save us from the deadly bite of the Black Cobra Bills? His name would then be blessed; but, if he cannot help us in this and similar other matters which rob us of elementary human rights, then it is all the same to us whether Lord Sinha or Lord Sydenham be the Under-secretary of State for India.

How they dispose of disagreeable questions.

When the Hon'ble Mr. Sarma demanded an increased grant of Rs. 100 lakhs for the extension and improvement of Primary Education, and the Hon'ble Pundit Malaviya suggested to secure the money by borrowing, the Hon'ble Finance Member made the following reply:

"He would be willing to provide 150 lakhs if he could get trained teachers, but, as this was impossible, the provision demanded would be useless."

So it is "impossible" to get trained teachers for imparting primary education. This is news to us. How many does he want? We can undertake to supply him with tens of thousands. Neither graduates, nor under-graduates, nor even matriculates are necessary for this purpose, even their number, if they are required, must be at least fifty thousand in every principal province of India. Those who have passed the Minor or Vernacular Scholarship examinations are quite competent to teach the kind of primary education needed for the masses, and their number is legion. The fact is, when you are determined not to do a thing you can put forward any amount of nonsense to uphold your position. When the lamb Cornered the wolf by declaring that he could not have possibly abused him six months ago when he was not born at all, the wolf's rejoinder was that if he did not abuse him, his grand father did!

Situation in Champaran.

Since sometime past, the people of Behar have been wondering at the way the B. and O. Government are dealing with the situation in Champaran. The relations between the European planting concerns and their ryots there are as strained as ever and, yet it was understood, that some of these concerns have been invested by the Government with the extraordinary power to use the summary provisions of the Public Demands Recovery Act in the realization of rent. With a view to clear the matter, the Hon'ble Mr. V. N. Sinha Bahadur put a number of questions in the local legislative council, and the official replies only go to show how "my dear Monsiani" principle continues to prevail there in regard to the settlement of disputes between planters and their tenants. We learn there are only two landlords in the province, who have been invested by the Government with the extraordinary power alluded to above. And who are they? They are the Pepra and Mathari concerns of the district of Champaran. The same power, we are told, is going to be granted to Turkaulia concern also and that the cases of two other factories viz. Muria and Byrea are under consideration. Needless to say, they are all European concerns. The official reason for granting such powers lies in the "fact that rent is being extensively withheld by the ryots" etc. The Rai Bahadur anticipated such a reply to silence him, and he knew how to turn the table upon the officials. So he asked for information on the following points:—

"(i) The number and value of the rent suits instituted by each of the said concerns against their tenants since the passing of the Champaran Agrarian Act;

(ii) "the number of such suits which were decreed in full, decreed with modifications, and dismissed, respectively, and the number in which damages or costs were disallowed by the Court."

In reply, the Government furnished a statement, which shows even to the meanest understanding that the official plea to justify its action had no legs to stand upon. The following extract from the "Search Light" will explain what we mean:—

"In answer to another question by the same Hon'ble member the Government furnished certain figures which show conclusively that even Indigo concerns—and parucularly those which have been or are going to be invested with the summary powers—are not above making inflated claims before courts of justice. Since the passing of the Champaran Agrarian Act the Motihari concern has instituted 310 suits for recovery of rent out of which only 30 were decreed in full, no less than 60 were dismissed altogether and in as many as 208 of these, only modified decrees were given, that is, the claim was reduced. In other words, in no less than 268 out of 310 cases the court held either that the claim was not proved or at least inflated. And yet the Government have thought fit to give such extensive powers to this factory, and that inspite of the protests made by the tenants concerned who in reply to their representations "were informed that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council found no reason to alter the orders already passed."

An Episode of the Arrah Riots.

Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Haradhan Mukherji, who was in charge of the Charitable Hospital of Piru (Arrah) was degraded as a result of the Arrah Riots and removed on Arrah on reduced pay. An occasional correspondent now informs us that he has lately been transferred by the present District Magistrate to Peru again on his former pay. The correspondent thus described the significance of this arrangement:

"Asstt. Surgeon Haradhan Mukherji was at Piru in 1917, when the Shahabad disturbances occurred. He was popular, both with the Hindus and Musalmans. As a matter of fact on the first manifestation of the trouble, he did his very best to bring about a compromise between the Hindus and the Moslems with the help of the local police officer, Mr Misra. He had almost succeeded in his efforts, when through the bigotry and rashness of a Moslem youth and through some other causes, the whole thing was spoilt. When the riots broke out he gave shelter to more than one hundred Mussalmans, male and female, for more than 24 hours in his own house at great risk to himself and his family. It should be noted that he succeeded in stopping the Hindu mob from attacking the village of Piru itself by giving its Hindu inhabitants an assurance that there had been no sacrifice of cows in that village. And what was the reward of all these signal services he received at the hands of the local authorities? He incurred their deep displeasure, one of the reasons being that he was suspected to have supplied Babu Asesh Kumar Banerji, the Special Reporter of the "Patrika" with the true facts of the disturbances! At any rate, he was degraded, his pay was reduced and he was brought to Arrah. The very fact that he has been again put in charge of the charitable hospital at Piru on his former pay proves conclusively that the Magistrate has been satisfied that accusations brought against him had no foundation in fact.

"I shall conclude this with one more observation. When a question was put in the local Legislative Council to appoint a commission to make an enquiry into the Arrah Riots, the Government disposed of it, by saying that as cases arising of the affair were pending, no such commission could be appointed. But all the same, they never failed to give good certificates to those very officials who, for want of tact and capacity failed to nip the trouble in the bud."

Dr. Ansari's Address

Why it is proscribed? The Indian public are, as usual, quite in the dark as to why the address of Dr. Ansari has been proscribed. The Hon'ble Mr. Chintamani sought to have some light on this matter by putting the following questions at the last meeting of the U. P. Council:—

"(a) Was the speech of Dr. Ansari as Chairman of the Reception Committee of the All-India Moslem League session in Delhi addressed to a large audience in the last week of December, and was it before the public from that date until the notification of its proscription was published in the Gazette of 15th February?

"(b) Did Government receive from any of its district officers a report that the speech was producing the effects described? If it did, will such reports be laid on the table?

"(c) Did Government consider if it could not give Dr. Ansari an opportunity of defending his utterance by taking judicial in preference to executive action? Will Government consider this now?"

Here was the offical reply:—

Mr. O'Donnell said:—(a) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. The speech was reproduced more or less fully in a number of newspapers.

"(b) The answer to the first part is in the negative. No reports were received from district officers that the speech was producing the effect described, but meetings were held and the Government had evidence pointing to the undesirability of allowing the speech to circulate further. This evidence is confidential and cannot be produced.

"(c) The action suggested by the Hon. member, even if legally possible would have still rendered possible the circulation of the speech for an indefinite period.

So, "no reports were received from the district officers that the speech was producing the effect described." But we are told that "the Government had evidence pointing to the undesirability of allowing the speech to circulate further." But who supplied the evidence? The Government has in effect admitted that it was not supplied by any district officer. The matter then comes to this that the Government had to take action on the reports of some mysterious agency, which they could not disclose. Well, that which cannot be disclosed in the interests of the public must be a bad thing and no Government should avoid it like poison.

Not daunted by this reply, Mr. Chintamoni asked in a supplementary question:—

"Will Government be pleased to indicate the nature of the evidence that it had before it to show that the speech did produce or would produce the effects described in the notification."

Mr. O'Donnell was nonplussed at the above question. He however wriggled out of the position by characterizing the evidence as "confidential."

Mr. Chintamoni next asked:—"Did the Government act merely on the apprehension that such effects are likely to be produced by the speech?" He was silenced with the reply "I cannot allow the question because it is of an argumentative character." No comments are necessary.

Obituary.

Babu Moti Lal Ghose is stricken down by a severe bereavement. His only son-in-law, Babu Nritya Gopal Dutta, a scion of the Dutta Zemindar family of Mazilpur and a nephew (sister's son) of the late Sir Ramesh Chandra Mitra, died on Saturday last, at Moti Babu's house, from the effects of diabetes, at the age of 55. He was placed under the treament of some of the best physicians of the town but without any effect. Babu Moti Lal has got only one daughter and no son and the deceased gentleman was more than a son to him. They were deeply attached to each other and Babu Nritya Gopal, as a rule, lived with his father-in-law. He was a well-educated man, but what endeared him to all, was his sweet and pure character. As a husband and father he was dutiful and loving, and he was highly esteemed by his neighbours, friends and relations for his honourable dealing with them, so rare in these days. He leaves behind him his wife, three sons, one son-in-law, two daughters, and mother-in-law, brothers and large circle of friends to mourn his loss.

Although the deceased was confined to bed for a long time, he rarely uttered any complaint. His medical attendants were so struck by his cheerfulness, specially Kaviraj Jamini Bhusan Roy, who attended him constantly, that they never despaired of his final recovery. A few days before he passed away, when he was visited by a relation of his, Dr. Sarasi Lal Sarkar, Civil Surgeon of Khulna, and the latter remarked on his remarkable cheerfulness though he was visibly wasting away, he thus unburthened his heart:—"You see I have nothing to complain. I know I am dying by inches but I have attained to a tolerably good age. I have tasted the sweets of this world to the full. I have not consciously committed any sin. The place where I am going is full of bliss. Why should I not be happy?" The deceased had profound faith in the goodness of God and in the existence of a better world beyond. No wonder, death had no terror for him.

IMPERIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

The Commander in Chief, at to-day's meeting of the Council, replying to Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy's question regarding an aerial mail service between India and the United Kingdom said:—The Government of India are not in a position to make any statement on the subject. The matter is being discussed with the various departments concerned in India and I hope to be able to answer the hon member's inquiry at a later date.

The Commander in Chief, replying to Mr Surendra Nath Banerjea's question regarding the Medical Services Committee said:—A statement showing the composition of the Medical Services Committee is laid on the table. The committee has been appointed to examine and report on the reorganisation of the medical services in India both civil and military. The Secretary of State has recently asked the Government of India to examine the question of the future organisation of the medical service in India to provide for military requirements. This necessitates a detailed and complete examination of the system by which the medical needs of India are to be met in future. As the case calls for early settlement it was decided to refer the subject to a committee representing the various interests involved. future organisation of the Government medical services. The composition of the Medical Services Committee is as follows:—The Committee is dealing only with the President Sir Verney Lovell, Members:—Major General G Croo, Deputy Director of Medical Services, 8th (Lucknow) Division; Major General P Henir, Deputy Director of Medical Services 4th (Quetta) Division; the Hon Major General G G Gifford Surgeon General with the Government of Madras; Mr S R Hignell, Deputy Secretary Home Department; Lt Col A. Sharif Additional Deputy Secretary, Army, Department; Lt Col C B A Rind, Assistant Adjutant General, Adjutant General's Branch, Army Head quarters Secretary:—Major A A McNight Deputy Assistant Director of Medical Services, Medical Branch, Army Headquarters. In order to provide for the representation of Indian opinion Col H E Banatvala Inspector General, Civil Hospitals and Prisons, Assam, Lieut Col Bhola Nath, and Sir T B Nariman, a private practitioner of Bombay, will be co-opted for duty on the Committee.

Sir C Sankaran Nair, replying to Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda's question regarding expenditure from all sources on secondary education during the financial year 1917 18 amounted to Rs 3,38,68,078 to which provincial revenues contributed Rs 84,11,399 or 24.9 per cent.

Sir Claude Hill replying to Mr W A. Ironside's question regarding the report of the Indian Industrial Commission, paragraph 239 said:—(A) The Land Acquisition Act is administered by local government who are thereby empowered to decide in each case whether land can be compulsorily acquired. It is believed that local government not infrequently acquire land for the purposes stated Local governments will doubtless consider the recommendation in paragraph 239 of the Industrial Commission Report. (B) The Government are aware that important industrial organisations in Bengal and elsewhere have adopted some and are considering further schemes for the amelioration of the conditions of their working people. If they find that those schemes necessitate the acquisition of land they will apply to local governments.

Sir William Vincent replying to Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi's question regarding the division of services into Imperial and Provincial branches, said:—It is presumed that the hon member is referring to paragraph 26 of the report of the Public Services Commission. Speaking generally the Government of India are disposed to agree with the principles there laid down, but they have not yet addressed the Secretary of State.

Sir Thomas Holland, replying to Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi's question regarding the establishment of a central technological institute in India said:— The Government of India are not yet prepared to proceed with this question till they have received and considered the views of local governments on the recommendations made by the Industrial Commission on the subject of higher technical education.

The Hon Sir William Vincent, replying to Raja Rajendra Narayan Bhanja Deo's question regarding the creation of a Sub-province of Orissa: The Hon member seems to have misunderstood the recommendations in paragraph 243 of the report which is that the possibility of constituting Orissa as a separate Sub province should be considered by the local government after the introduction of the Reforms. The Government of India have advised the local government that this question should not be considered until the Reformed Provincial Government has been constituted.

The Commander in Chief replying to Rai Sita Nath Ray Bahadur's question regarding the sale of steamers and flats in Mesopotamia said: It is not possible at present to reply specifically to the hon members questions. These vessels are the property of the War Office and I am in communication with them in regard to their disposal. In the meantime an officer of the Quarter Master General's Branch has been despatched to Mesopotamia to inspect and catalogue the various craft.

NOTICE.

A Special Conference of the leading men in Calcutta and the Muffasil will be held at 2-30 p.m. on the 16th March at 10 Old Post Office Street to consider the question of Passive Resistance as a means of protesting and opposing the Rowlatt Bills. Invited gentlemen are requested to attend.

A special meeting of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee and a general meeting will be held at 4-30 and 5 p.m. respectively on the same day and at the same place. Members are requested to attend.

DISTRESS IN BANKURA.

APPEAL FOR FUNDS

Mr. J Vas Magistrate of Bankura has issued the following appeal to the general public:—

You will doubtless have noticed the Government Communique which was recently issued, drawing attention to the failure of the winter crop in the Bankura District last year. At present the part most affected is the South and West of the Sadar Sub-division, particularly those portions where there is high land. In these places a great part of the Winter crop withered and what survived was only fit for use as fodder. The estimated outturn of this crop was only 4½ as., and consequently distress prevails in some of the thanas.

You will not have forgotten the great famine of 1915-1916. The majority of the distressed people were then saved by the relief given by the Government and by the charity of the Public. But though good harvests have been obtained in the last two years yet the people have not been able to recover altogether from the effects of the famine as much of the surplus has been absorbed by the repayment of loans and arrears of rent, and the price of most necessaries of life as you are aware has been abnormally high.

In order to relieve the present distress the District Board have already opened some centres for gratuitous relief, and are providing work for the labouring classes, with the intention of gradually extending such work. To the cultivators and people of the middle class Government are issuing Takavi loans, but there are many who have no land, or whose land owing to the previous famine is already mortgaged. Such people cannot obtain any loan and they are therefore in a helpless condition

A Public Meeting was held at Bankura on the 18th Instant under the Chairmanship of the District Magistrate in which it was resolved to collect addtional funds. Subscriptions have been promised by the local public, but we feel that the state of things calls for an appeal to a wider public. The Committee have decided to spend their funds in the following ways:—

1. In giving help to the indigent "Bhadralok" who otherwise starve in secret as they have too much self-respect to beg.
2. In the free distribution of cloth and medicine.
3. In making advances to artisans, etc etc.

For these objects the District Board have as yet been unable to make any provision. We therefore appeal to the public. Any contribution however small will be most welcome, and may be sent to the Treasury Officer, Bankura, who is the Treasurer of this fund, who will issue a receipt.

KARTARPUR RIOT CASE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Saharanpur, Mar 10.

After finishing the cross examination of Constable Ahsain Husain the Tribunal appointed to try the Kartarpur Riot Case that some of his clients whom he interviewed during the lunch interval had complained to him of undue pressure being brought to bear upon some of the accused in order to induce them to make a confession, Mr. Norton, mentioned the cases of Gajrajpuri Debi Dayal and Debi Chand. He said that he had been told that the Mahomedan jailor had told Gajrajpuri and Debi Dayal that they would get pardon if they would make a confession. The second complaint was that since the arrival of the present jailor the quality of the food supplied to the accused was unsatisfactory. He added that the first complaint was a serious one and that he thought it necessary to bring it to the notice of the Court. The complaint about food had been also brought to the notice of the Superintendent of Jail.

Mr Wallace (prosecuting counsel): None of us who represent the Government have heard about this. This is the first time we heard it. If the complaint is true we condemn it.

Mr. Justice Tudball: We want a Jailor who is neither a Hindu nor a Mussalman.

Mr Alston: Beautiful commentary on Home Rule. It is no use calling the Jailor. If it is true he would deny it. If it is false he would deny it.

Mr. Norton agreed.

Mr. Justice Tudball: The best thing is to bring this to the notice of the Superintendent of Jail. It ought not to be allowed to continue. Another thing we can do is to write to the Inspector General of Prisons and ask him to send a Christian Jailor. After this the work of the Court was resumed.

FORFEITURE OF "DESABHAKTAN'S" SECURITY.

A FRESH SECURITY DEPOSITED

(Associated Press of India.)

Madras, March 10

At a public meeting held at the beach last evening under the Presidency of Mr. Satymoorty a resolution protesting against the forefeiture of "Desabhaktans" security was passed. Another resolution calling upon all patriotic citizens to sign Mr Gandhi's pledge 're' Rowlatt Bills was also passed.

A fresh security of Rs. 3,000 demanded of "Desabhaktan" was deposited to-day before the Presidency Magistrate.

"DESABHAKTHAN" SECURITY FORFEITURE.

A PROTEST MEETING.

(Associated Press of India.)

Madras, Mar. 10

At a meeting held at the Gokale Hall last evening Mr B P Wadia presiding resolutions, emphatically protesting against the order of Madras Government forfeiting the security of Rs. 1000 furnished by "Desabhakthan" a local vernacular daily and appealing for financial contribution towards the fund for defending the case were passed. Mr. Wadia announced the case would be taken up to the High Court as early as possible and Mr G P Ramaswamy Iyer would conduct the case free of charge. Among those who took part were Messrs S Kasturiranga Iyengar, A Rangaswami Iyengar and C S Arundale. Subscriptions of Rs. 100 by Hon T Rangachari towards the defence fund was announced.

It is announced that under instructions of Government of India export of rice from Karachi to overseas destinations will not be permitted after March 31st.

All-India Landholders Deputation to Viceroy.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Delhi, Mar. 11.

A very successful deputation of the All-India Landholders Association, headed by the Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga waited upon His Excellency the Viceroy with an address at the Viceregal Lodge at 3 p. m. to-day. The address was presented in a magnificent silver casket with the image on the top in gold of Rama and Sita going to the forest and hunting Indian scenes richly engraved on four sides. The address was read by the Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga and the casket was presented by the scions of the princely houses of Hathwa and Vizianagram. His Excellency gave a very sympathetic reply. At the conclusion he gave a very encouraging and sympathetic reply. At the conclusion of the reply the members of the deputation were presented to His Ecellency the Viceroy by the Maharaja Bahadur. The deputation was most influential and representative in its character. In it were to be found representative landholders from all parts of India. The following gentlemen formed the deputation.

Bengal:—Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur of Kassimbazar, Hon'ble Syed Nawab Ali Chowdhury, Dacca, Hon'ble Rai Sita Nath Bahadur, Kumar Punchanan Mokherji, Utterpara, Kumar Nath Choudhuri, Raigunge, Dinajpur; Babu Satish Chundra Bose Amta.

Punjab:—Hon'ble Nawab Zulfikar Ali Khan Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Mohomed Shafi, Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Sarun Dass, Hon'ble Raja Fateh Singh Hon'ble Sirdar Sunder Singh Hon'ble Sirdar Chiranjeet Singh Nawab Bahadur Sajjad Ali Khan of Karnal Hon'ble Sirdar Jogindera Singh, Dewan Lachhuman Singh Bahadur.

Madras:—Raja Sahib of Kollengode Kumar Raja of Vizianagram, Hon'ble Mr. K V Rangaswami Aiyaengar, Dewan Bahadur P Rama Rayaningaru.

Central Provinces:—Dewan Bahadur Bullab Dass, Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bishan Dutta Shukla Seth Hari Shunker Thakur, Raghuraj Singh Hon'ble Sir Gungadhar Chitnavis.

Bihar and Orissa:—Maharaja Sir Rameswara Singh Bahadur C C I I B E of Darbhanga, Maharaja of Hathwa Hon'ble Raja Harihur Prasad Narantan Singh O B. E of Amawan, Kumar Sahib of Ranka Mahasaya Taruknath Ghose, Champanagar, Bhagalpur, Hon'ble Babu Adit Prasad Singh of Darbhanga, Hon'ble Raja Sahib of Kanika, Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Krishna Sahay of Bankipur, Patna, the Maharaja Bahadur of Dumraon.

United Provinces:—The Hon'ble Nawab Abdul Majid Nawabzada Mohamed Yusuf, Hon'ble Nawab Mohamed Muzammil Ulla Khan, Kumar Sahib of Mullapur Rai Indra Narayan Sakit, Etah, Hon'ble Raja Moti Chund, Benares Hon'ble Lala Sukhbir Singh of Mozaffernagar, Raja Sahib of Tofkohi, Gorukhpur, Rai Sahib Choudhuri Raghir, Narayan Singh Asora, Babu Shyam Lal Cawnpur.

Sind:—The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Saiyed Allanando Shah.

VICEROY'S SPEECH.

(Associated Press of India.)

Delhi, Mar. 11

H. E. the Viceroy in reply to the address from the All India Landholders Association to-day said:—

It is with great pleasure that I welcome this opportunity of meeting representatives of the landholders of India for the first time since you Association took definite shape. There have of course been provincial associations of the same kind for some years, but as you have mentioned in your address, the idea of combining all these into a body representing the whole country with definite aims before it and clear rules of procedure as to the best means of attaining those aims has only very recently taken concrete form. It must be very gratifying to those who have worked so hard for this end to see present here to-day representatives from almost every province in India. The objects of the association as laid down in your rules and as again stated in your address may be briefly summarised as help to the Government ,help to members of your own order and the help and advancement of the tenantry entrusted to your charge. These three objects are necessarily closely connected one with the other. The help that has been rendered by the landholding classes during the struggle of the last four years has been acknowledged many times and needs no words of mine to emphasise it. Now as in the days of the Roman Empire it has been the "Rusticorum mascula militum proles", the hardy race of yeomen headed and encouraged by their natural leaders who have formed the back bone of the Indian Army. The methods by which the other two great objects of your society may best be attained were stated with great clearness by the Maharaja of Darbhanga in his presidential address at your meeting in January last year. Times are changing throughout the world and it is necessary that we should all change with them. But such change should not mean a complete break with the past but rather an adaptation of all that is best in the past to the altered circumstances and ideas of the present. It is here gentlemen that a great opportunity lies before you. As the natural leaders of the class which forms the bulk of the population of the country to take your place as directors of the movement and to see to it that change does not degenerate into unrest and discontent. How such an object can best be ensured has been indicated in broad lines by the Maharaja of Darbhanga in the speech that I have referred to above "To see that our children receive proper and suitable education according to our means and the needs and rquirements, to take an ever widening and intelligent interest in matters pertaining to the urban and rural affairs of their districts in addition to taking their proper share in larger imperial and provincial matters, to act as a link between the authorities and the middle classes and the people, and finally to remember our duty to the tenantry in whose contentment is our wealth." I come now to the request made in your address that your association should be recognised and when necessary consulted by the various department of my Government. I understand that orders have already been passed that in cases where public opinion is invited on any measure the All-Indian Landholders Association should be consulted in the matter. You can rest assured that any suggestions made by your society will always receive a sympathetic hearing from my Government.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Passive Resistance Proposal.

Allahabad, Mar. 9.

Mr M K Gandhi arrives here to-day accompanied by Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru who had gone to Delhi to consult with him about the passive resistance. He will be the guest of Hon. Pundit M. M. Malaviya.

Hyderabad (Sind) Feb. 7

A very well attended meeting of the citizens of Hyderabad was held last evening. Some ladies also attended. Dewan Bulchand Kundanmal, pleader, presided. Stirring speeches were made on "Satyagraha" by Dr. Choithram Maharaj Lokram and Mr. Santdas. About thirty people signed Satygraha pledge. The following resolutions were passed unanimously (1) that this public meeting of the citizens of Hyderabad while strongly condemning the Rowlatt Bills urges upon His Excellency the Viceroy their immediate withdrawal, otherwise passive resistance will be resorted to. (2) That this meeting has full confidence in Mahatma Gandhi and supports passive resistance movement heartily.—(by wire.)

OVER FIFTY SIGNATORIES FROM KARACHI.

Karachi, Mar 5.—The Karachi Branch of the Home Rule League has passed a Resolution expressing confidence in the leadership of Mr. Gandhi and resolved to make efforts to enlist as many persons possible to take the Satyagraha Vow.

The "New Times" publishes the names of over 50 persons at Karachi, who have pledged themselves to the vow. Among the signatories are Mr. Jamshed Mehta, President-elect of the next Sind Provincial Conference, Mr. Harvey, Manager, the Sind Swadeshi Stores, Professor Parmanand Advani of the Karachi College, Miss Veale, Mr. Ahmed B A. (Canatabi), and some merchants.

SIGNATORIES FROM SALEM.

Salem March. 6.—A public meeting of the citizens of Salem resolved to place on record the conviction that the action taken by Mr. Gandhi in calling on the people to adopt Satyagraha, if the Rowlatt Bills should become law has been rendered necessary as that is the only course open to the people of this country, under the circumstances The meeting accordingly resolved to accept and adopt the Pledge adopted by Mr. Gandhi, with the addition that the recommendation of the committee referred to there in as to other laws should be previously approved by Mr. Gandhi.

The pledge in Tamil and English was signed at once by Mr. C Vijiaragavachariar and forty others, including several merchants and land-holders.

THE ROWLATT BILLS

BOMBAY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS' PROTEST.

(Associated Press of India.)

Bombay, Mar. 11.

The Association of the non-official Indian members of the Bombay Legislative Council unanimously resolved at the meeting to-day to request their representations at the Imperial Legislative Council viz Mr V J Patel, Sir Dinshaw Wacha and Mr M A Jinnah to express their emphatic protest against the Rowlatt Bills at the Council.

CHANDRA DISTRICT CONFERENCE.

ROWLATT BILLS CONDEMNED

PASSIVE RESISTANCE SUPPORTED.

Gondai Mar, 10 .

The second session of Chandara District Conference was held at Gonda on Sunday the 9th March. Full representation from cultivators, lanlords, traders and depressed class as were present. Hon'ble Thakkar of Raipur presided. There was a grand ovation to Mr. Narayanrao Vaidya, who was garlanded after congratulatory resolution was passed. Rowlatt Bills, were strongly condemned. Mr. Gandhi's Passive Resistance was supported. There was a good attendance of gentlemen from Nagpur and Raipur. The Great enthusiasm prevailed and the proceedings were very successful.

THE SATYAGRAHA VOW.

(Associated Press of India.)

Bombay, Mar 11.

At the Satyagraha Sabha, Bombay, the total number of signatories stood yesterday at 468 out of whom 345 are from Bombay and 123 from mofussil. This does not include the Karachi names. The Hon Mr K Rangaswami Iyangar has signed the Satyagraha pledge.

MR. GANGHI ON Passive Resistance.

(Associated Press of India.)

Allahabad, Mar. 11

It seemed to the "Leader" that Mr. Gandhi was quite clear that some other law or laws would have to be civilly disobeyed and resistance could not be limited to Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act as it could not be resisted. He does not approve of the limited pledge or vow Mrs. Besant has signed as he thinks it is ineffective for all practical purposes. It seems to be his idea to constitute a legal committee which will determine what law or laws are fit subjects for disobedience. Apparently there will be one committee for all India for this purpose. The provincial committees will have in hand organization of movement in respective provinces. Mr. Gandhi will attended a public meeting this after noon in connection with passive resistance movement.

A MADRAS STRIKE

Madras, March 7.—The millhands, numbering 1,500, at the Choolai mills went out on strike yesterday. The mills are an Indian concern. The men demanded an increase of pay.

Later the strike leaders negotiated with the manager and after considerable discussion they assured the manager that they would resume work pending the receipt of orders from the directors in Bombay. All the men returned to work.

CALCUTTA GAZETTE.

Mar 12.

Mr M Thorp, Joint Magte and Dy Collr is posted temporarily to Khulna Sadar.

Mr G E Lambourn, Addl Dist Magte, Dacca, is appointed temporarily to act as Magte and Collr of that district.

Maulvi Afzalur Rahman, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Dacca, is appointed to be Addl Dist Magte of that district for a period not exceeding six months.

Mr A J Chetzner is appointed temporarily to act as Dist and Sessions Judge 24 Parganas.

Mr R N Reid is appointed temporarily to act as Addl Dist and Sessions Judge 24 Parganas and Hooghly.

Mr A F M Abdul Ali Dy Magte and Dy Collr is posted to the 24 Parganas district Sadar.

SUBORDINATE CIVIL SERVICE.

Babu Manindra Lal Banerji, Sub-Dy Collr, is posted to the Presidency Division.

Babu Dakshina Ranjan Ghosh, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Rajshahi, is allowed leave for sixteen days.

Babu Upendra Mohan Sen Gupta, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Mymensing, is allowed combined leave for three months, viz., privilege for one month and nineteen days, and leave on medical certificate for the remaining period.

The powers of a Magt. of the second class, in the district of Mymensingh, are conferred upon Babu Jogesh Chandra Chakrabatti in respect to such cases as may be made over to him within the limits of the Sadar subdivision of the said district.

The powers of a Magte of the third class, in the district of Murshidabad are conferred upon the following gentlemen.

Babus Siddartha Krishna Majumdar Devendra Nath Mukherjee, Binoy Krishna Banerji, Ramesh Chandra Mukherjee and Maulvi Sheikh Abdur Rashid.

The powers of Magte of third class, in the district of Dacca are conferred upon Babu Dharani Nath Basak

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Babu Lal Mohan Basu, Technical Adviser to the Settlement Officer, Rajshahi, is appointed to be Technical Adviser to the Settlement Officer Nadia.

Maulvis Khalilur Rahaman Khan and Muhammad Fariduddin Asst Settlement Officers, Tippera and Noakhali, are appointed to be Asst Settlement Officers of Jessore.

Babu Rajendra Narayan Rakshit, Asst Settlement Officer of Midnapore, is appointed to be an Asst Settlement Officer of Jessore.

Leave.—Mr J A Woodhead, First Land Acquisition Officer, Calcutta, is allowed privilege leave for six weeks from the 1st April.

REGISTRATION.

In the Chittagong Hill Tracts the Superintendent will be treated as a District Registrar for the purposes of Rule, 6 clauses (a) and (b)

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

Mr F L G Simpson is appointed to be an Inspector of Mines in the Presidency of Bengal.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Mr. J. H. Taylor, Profr of Dental Surgery, Medical Colle, Calcutta, is allowed leave without allowances for eight months. Mr. J. E. Gill is appointed to act forhim.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Babu Ashutosh Mitra, Offig Addl Munsif of Dacca, Sadar is appointed to act, until further orders, as a Munsif of Manikganj.

Babu Lal Bihari Chatterji, Munsif of Kalna is appointed to be a Munsif of Dacca Sadar. He is also vested with the functions of a District Court under section 26, sub-section (1) of Act VII of 1889 within the local limits of the Sadar Munsiff of Dacca.

Babu Amulya Gopal Ray, Munsif of Barisal is appointed to be a Munsif of Kalna. He is vested with powers to exercise final jurisdiction in the trial of suits for the recovery of rent under section 153 (b) of the Bengal Tenancy Act (VIII of 1885), and with the functions of a District Court under section 26, sub-section (1) of Act VII of 1889 within the local limits of the Kalna Munsifi.

A HUGE MASS MEETING AT DELHI MAHATMA GANDHI EXPLAINS PASSIVE RESISTENCE.

Delhi, Mar 8.

A huge mass meeting attended by over five thousand people, was held on the 7th instant, under the auspices of the Delhi Home Rule League, to protest against the Black Bills, Dr Ansri presiding. Mahatma Gandhi explained the passive resistance. The following resolutions were passed unanimously: (1) That this meeting of the citizens of Delhi expresses its strong disapproval of the Rowlatt Bills as they have emerged from the Select Committee and further resolves that nothing but complete withdrawal of the Buls would satisfy the people of the country, (2) that this meeting of the citizens of Delhi records its complete confidence in the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and affirms that a campaign of passive resistance as explained by him should be immediately started and continued and further the vow of passive resistance as sanctioned by him should be taken by all those who wish to take part in this campaign against the Black Bills. Fourteen names were announced who had signed the vow. Hundreds were willing to sign, but the crowd being tremendous the Secretary requested them to come to the League office for signature and also to consider before signing as Mahatma Gandhi advised them in his speech.

THE INDIAN DEFENCE FORCE ACT.

Delhi, Mar. 8.

The following is the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Indian Defence Force Act Bill:—

Section 1—3 of the Indian Defence Force Act, 1917, prescribes that the Act shall remain in force during the continuance of the present war, and for a period of six months thereafter. The question of the constitution organisation and training of the force which will be required to replace the Indian Defence Force under post-bellum conditions is under consideration, but in view of the complexity of the subject, and the necessity for consulting fully all interests concerned, it is improbable that the new scheme can be brought into force before the period of operation of the I. D. F. Act expires. Meanwhile it is considered necessary during the period of demobilisation that there should be a force in India which can be called up in the event of emergency without interfering with the process of demobilisation of the regular army. It is, therefore, proposed to extend the period of operation of the Indian Defence Force Act, 1917 by a further period of six months thus making the Act operative for a period of twelve months after the war.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

CHURCHILL'S ARMY ESTIMATES DIFFICULTY IN THE WORK.

London, Mar. 3.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Churchill introducing the army estimates for £287000000 emphasised the difficulties experienced in framing the estimates this year, because every factor was uncertain and fluctuating. We were, he said, halfway between peace and war. We were unable to fix the rate of demobilisation. We did not yet know what arrangements, affecting the armaments, would be embodied in the Peace treaty, nor how many men we must keep in the Middle East and on the Rhine or for how long. We did not know whether the Germans would accept our conditions or refuse them, throw the responsibility for the future upon us and simply degenerate into ruin.

Mr. Churchill emphasised that vast areas in Europe and in the East were in a state of anarchy and the Allies, on whom rested the responsibility for enabling the world to get to work again were themselves seriously exhausted. To all these difficulties must be added the enormous effort of winding up the war. Present estimates represented the maximum. He hoped that it would be possible to revise them in a downward direction.

He mentioned that the Allies were still discussing the exact amount of contributions from Germany, towards the upkeep of the armies on the Rhine.

DEMOBILISATION OF ARMY.

Dealing with demobilisation Mr. Churchill maintained that the plan by which three out of four men were being released and the fourth man being paid the double to finish the job was less objectionable and entailed fewer hardhips than any other course. All evidence showed that the plan had been well received, owing to its fairness. It had been followed by the recovery of discipline and morale in the army. He hoped that in a few months we would possess strong compact armies which would guard the interests and safety of the country and secure the fruits of victory. Already nearly 1800000 officers and men had been demobilised and the process was being continued at the rate of over 25000 daily. In addition, about 100000 Canadians and Australians had been sent home and it had been arranged that every Dominion soldier, who had come over, should have a chance of one visit to the mother country, before returning to his own Dominion (cheers). There were about half a million men in theatres such as India and North Africa, from which theatres it was impossible to release men although they did not belong to the class retained in army. In Mesopotamia, Palestine Caucasus and Turkey the process of release was impeded by the difficulties of transportation, but the number affected was not very large and was constantly diminishing.

He proposed that all men, eligible for release but unavoidably retained under the colours after May 1st, should receive increased pay until the discharge. A genuine effort would be made to give a larger proportion of leave to the armies of occupation. Men ,who had not seen their homes for years, would get leave or would be brought home for good. Refering to the rapid formation of voluntary army for home and overseas duties, Mr. Churchill said. enlistment at the rate of a thousand daily was being well maintained. There were already 45000 trained men besides 5000 new young recruits. The task of building up this force was very considerable, for the reconstitution included 514 artillery units, 183 royal engineer units and 158 infantry battalions. Men would proceed as formed units to the relief of oversea garrisons.

Mr. Churchill sketched plans for relieving the Rhine army in case Armies of Occupation have to be maintained during the whole or part of 1920. He then raised the problems regarding the size and composition of the permanent postwar army, its strategic distribution as governed by the new froms of warfare and the politico-geographical considerations especially what part the army in India woul play in the general system of the Imperial defence also how the relationship should be strengthened between the navy and the army and the air services.

A NEW TYPE OF OFFICERS.

Mr. Churchill pointed out the necessity for devolping a new type of officers, who would make all classes of war their province and be drawn from every part of the Empire. He pointed out that four distinct stages of the army development were going on at present; firstly great armies of the war were being demobilised, secondly the armies of occupation amounting approximately to 900000 men were being rapidly formed by compulsion, thirdly the voluntary regular army for the immediate garrisoning of the Empire was being formed out of trained men who were re-enlisting for periods of one to four years and this army was growing at the rate of a thousand daily and fourthly the permanent postwar army would be built up out of the new young recruits, who, when they reached the age of twenty, would be sent to the East to replace the war-time soldiers. In addition the voluntary formations must be found to replace our fourteen terrtiorial divisions. Mr. Churchill said he was of opinion that in view of our responsibilities, the British regular establishment should never fall so low as before war, but we did not know what other powers were going to do and the final decision on our army system must be deferred.

Referring to the Allied forces in Russia Mr. Churchill said that the Allied army of a certain size, about half of which was British occupied considerable regions in North Russia based on the ports of Murmansk and Archangel. These forces had been sent there as a part of our operations against Germany and we must neglect nothing required for their safety and well-being. We had also incurred several commitments towards the people in these regions We also had an army of a certain size in Caucasus. They had been sent there in order to ensure that Germano-Turkish forces wtre turned out and they now remained there to maintain order pending the decision of Peace Conference, rezarding the future of the country. We were now holding in some force the railways from Batum to Baku and admiralty had a fleet of armied vessels on the Caspian.

TRIBUTE TO COL JOHN WARD.

Mr. Churchill paid a tribute to the gallant services performed by Colonel John Ward, with his handful of men on Omsk front They had become a factor of appreciable importance in steamming the tide of Bolshevism from the immense regions of Siberia. Enforcement of the peace terms called for the speedy settlement. We were rigorously enforcing blockade and maintaining strong armies able to advance at shortest notice. Germany was at present on the verge of starvation but when she accepted our terms, the work of revictualling the country and supplying the necessary raw materials could be energetically pursued. Any delay in settling with Germany might cause another great area sinking into anarchy. It would not be possible to withdraw our Armies of Occupation immediately. Germany agreed to our terms as we had got to make sure that she would carry out the terms. These armies would moreover compel Germany to act rightly towards the new Etates on Eastern border, whose continued prosperity was such an important factor of the whole European problem. Mr. Churchill therefore urged the maintenance of a strong army in Rhineland until the future was cleared, Mr. Churchill concluded by emphasising the necessity of not being carried away by the success into demanding more than was right and prudent. Finest combination in the world was power and mercy, worst was weakness and vacillation.

THE NEW YEAR BUDGET. TOTALS 1300 MILLIONS.

London, Mar. 3.

The House of Commons this week tackles the heavy war expenditure and begins with the army estimates to-day. It is believed that the Budget will total 1300 millions.

London, Mar. 2.

Cologne Feb. 27. The Spartacists are attempting to disaffect the British Army with a handbill, which they are distributing on the streets and which begins "British soldiers, why are you not demobilised". The pamphlet declares that the Prussian militarism is dead and that the British soldiers are being kept from their homes.

MRS. BESANT'S APPEAL

JUDGMENT RESERVED.

London, Mar. 4.

The Privy Council has reserved judgment on Mrs Besant's appeal.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

LORD SINHA ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.

London, Mar. 4.

Lord Sinha delivered his maiden speech in the House of Lords to-day, in reply to Lord Sydenham, who asked when opinions of Provincial Governments on Montagu-Chelmsford Report would be available to the Parliament. Lord Sydenham asked for the information regarding the riot at Katarpur last year. He said there had been too much reluctance to publish the opinions not coinciding with those of Mr Montagu. He hoped that Lord Sinha would believe that frankness was essential. Lord Islington congratulated Lord Sinha on his appointment to his high office. He had been associated with Lord Sinha in public work in India and England for thirty years, therefore he could readily understand how Lord Sinha had come to occupy very distinguished and responsible posts in connection with India and the Empire during the past ten years. The present post would doubtless present many serious difficulties. Those, who know India best, would realise that and nobody would realise it better than Lord Sinha, who had shown characteristic public spirit in accepting the post.

Lord Sinha spoke without any trace of nervousness and showed a complete knowledge of his subject and a complete grasp of Parliamentary technicalities. Lord Crewe congratulated him and drew attention of the House to the easy manner in which he replied to the questions and manner in which he developed points arising from these questions. They could said Lord Crewe look forward confidently to his conduct of various important measures of which he would have charge.

Lord Sinha thanked Lord Islington for his generous remarks, also their lordships for the manner in which they had received Lord Islington's tributes. Lord Sinha said his task would be an easy one, as he had only to draw attention to what had already been promised. Proceeding Lord Sinha quoted extracts from the Secretary of State's replies in the House of Commons on Febraury 17th and 19th, also extracts from Lord Islington's replies in the House of Lords in November last. Continuing Lord Sinha said the Government of India Despatch, giving the views on the opinion of local Governments, had not yet been received. It is expected at the end of March and it would be presented to the Parliament.

Lord Southborough and his Committees were en route for England and it was expected that their reports would be available at the end of March. Lord Sinha concurred with Lord Sydenham, as regards the need for absolute frankness and said that copies of Indian Industrial Committee's Reports would be available on March 6th. He agreed with Lord Islington, respecting the urgency of this Report and sympathised with the complaint that the Government of India, prior to this Commission had not been too progressive in industrial matters. It was the earnest hope of all concerned that the recommendations of this Commission should be carried out as soon as they had been considered by the Government of India, Mr Montagu and the Parliament. Mr Montagu had already advised the Viceroy that no action would be taken until the opinions of local governments on the reports as well as that of Government of India had been received and there would be ample opportunity given to the House of Lords to study the Report and raised discussions before any action was taken.

PALESTINE

GREAT BRITAIN AS MANDATORY POWER.

London, Mar. 3

Paris. The Zionist delegation announces that they are confident that the Zionist claims which have been submitted to the Peace Conference for reconstitution of the Jewish National Home in Palestine will be recognised. Details have yet to be worked out, but the Zionist ideal has already triumphed. After the Zionist delegation withdrew from the Council Chamber of the Peace Conference, Mr. Balfour sent a message congratulating the members upon success achieved.

M Tardieu declared that France does not object to Britain having mandatory power over Palestine on behalf of the league of Nations

AERIAL MAIL SERVICE.

BETWEEN ENGLAND AND CONTINENT.

London, March 3.

Aerial postal service has been instituted between England and Continent in order to carry mails to army of occupation. Mails thus carried will reach Cologne in ten hours instead of five days as hitherto. Mails arrive at Folkestone by train and are taken in motor lorries to aerodrome where machines are in readiness to load up. Twenty three bags were taken across on the first journey by four machines.

PRELIMINARY PEACE.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S STATEMENT.

London, Mar. 7.

A communique from Paris says: information was given to the Supreme War Council to-day concerning interruption of negotiations at Spa regarding the surrender of German merchant fleet. Mr. Laneing submited a proposal regarding the German cables. The Council decided at the request of Italian delegates to appoint an Inter-Allied Military Commission to enquire into the incidents at Laibach. The Council completed discussion regarding revictualling of Austria-Hungary, Mr. Lloyd George made a statement regarding military terms of preliminary peace with Germany.

MANIFESTO BY GERMAN GOVERNMENT BOLSHEVISM DENOUNCED.

Copenhagen, March 3.

A telegram from Berlin says that the German Government in a lengthy manifesto denounces attempts to get rid of national assembly, condemns strikes and declares that only work can save the Empire. It promises socialisation of suitable industries and asseverates its resolve to wage relentless war against terrorism. A Bill has been introduced in the Weimar Assembly for nationalisation of coalfields.

TRIBUTE PAID TO INDIAN TROOPS.

London, Mar. 3.

Lecturing before the Royal Institution Mr J W Fortescue paid very high tribute to part played by the Indian troops in the recent war which he declared India had rendered enough service, her troops had shown astonishing gallantry and her chiefs a loyalty for which we ought to be devoutly thankful. He believed that the King had contributed not a little to the great result. He was with His Majesty in India in 1911. The King went to India against the wishes of his ministers. He was perfectly sure that he could render service and being anxious to bring India closer to England His Majesty led a wearing life. During the first three weeks of his visit he had never a moment to himself. He was giving interviews to Indian rulers every day and all day and always looked happy and glad to see them.

TIBETAN QUESTION AT PEACE CONFERENCE.

London, Mar. 3.

In the House of Commons replying to Mr Yate Mr Fisher for Mr Montagu stated as far as he was aware there was no likelihood of the Tibetan question being brought up at the Peace Conference. The Government was fully alive to the importance reaching a satisfactory settlement of this question but he was unable to say what steps it might be desirable to take. Mr Fisher pointed out that temporary truce between the Chinese and the Tibetan forces in East Tibet was concluded in August last.

MR WILSON'S SPEECH. DUTY OF GOVERNMENT

Washington, Mar 4

President Wilson addressing a conference of governors, mayors, said, it was perfectly understood in Paris that the Conference was meeting as masters of nobody but the servants of seven hundred millions. He added: "If we show that we want to serve any interests but theirs, we become candidates for most lasting discredit that will ever attach to men in history. We are at last learning that the business of Government is to take counsel for average man and the whole matter of prosperities of the peoples runs down into the great body of men and women who do the work of the world, and that the process of guidance is not completed by the mere success of great enterprises. For the first time in history there is quick and vital international sympathy, not merely displaying itself in contracts of governments, but in silent intercourse of great bodies that constitute nations. Significance of this is consciousness that we are servants of this great silent mass of people constituting the United States, for whom it is our privilege to find out how we can best assist in making their lives what they wish them to be. Unless we show we understand the business of the servants, we shall not satisfy them and shall not accomplish the peace of the world."

NO LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

PEACE WITH GERMANY.

Washington, Mar 4.

Senator Lodge has prepared a resolution proposing that the Senate should declare that the League of Nations draft fe not approved and that the American Commissioners be urged to proceed immediately with work of concluding peace with Germany

M. CLEMENCEAU'S ASSAILANT. TO BE TRIED BY COURT MARTIAL

Paris, Mar 4.

Court Martial on M. Clemenceau's assailant has been fixed for March 14th.

AN EARLY PEACE. MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S PROMISE

London, Mar 4.

Mr. Lloyd George speaking at Welsh banquet in London said that he was returning to Paris to do his best to bring the Conference to a speedy conclusion, because all the world was thirsting for pence. Little nations had won a dazzling success at the Conference, but there was a real danger of their emulating the faults of big nations, and he warned them of the futility of the idea, that they could strengthen their power merely by increasing territory.

DEFINITIVE MILITARY STATUS OF GERMANY.

London, Mar 10.

The Press Bureau issues a communique from Paris stating that the Supreme War Council discussed the report of the military experts presented by Marshal Foch relative to the definitive military status of Germany. Terms of the report were fixed and its conclusions adopted

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

IMPERIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

BUDGET DEBATE.

(Associated Press of India.)
Delhi, Mar. 10.

SANITATION AND EDUCATION.

The Imperial Council met this morning, Sir George Lowndes presiding. Mr. W M. Halley took oath of allegiance. Sir Sankaran Nair introduced the budget heads under sanitation and education. Mr. Sharp presented on the table the statement of educational progress in India. Surgeon General Edwards reviewing the work of the medical departments said that medical research was now admitted to be a vital part of Government activities. After giving a brief view of the work of the medical department during last two years in meeting with enormous demands by the military in various theatres of war he enumerated the different kinds of research work done in many laboratories in India. He offered thanks to the medical officers connected with these laboratories for their unselfish devotion to duty and who were denied the privilege of proceeding on active service. It was of utmost importance that the people of India should get every chance of getting first class training in medical research in India. A school of tropical medicine with a special hospital of its own would be shortly opened in Calcutta for which all credits were due to Sir Leonard Rodgers. There was also every prospect of another school of tropical medicine and medical research being shortly opened in Bombay. He would like to see an imperial institute comprising an imperial library and bureau of medical research opened in Delhi and another institute opened in Bombay presidency. In his opinion without a ministry of public health, as was being instituted in Great Britain, knowledge that was acquired could not be effeciently applied.

Hon Sir Sankaran Nair quoted figures to show how the grant for educational purposes have been increased. He referred to the large balances of imperial grant in the hands of provincial governments notably that of Bengal and hoped they would be able to utilize the amounts next year. Dealing with the industrial education Sir Sankaran Nair said the Government hoped to utilise large amounts next year when recommendations made by the Industries Commission were considered. He next referred to the passing of Compulsory Primary Education Bill by various provincial Governments. While sharing Mr Sarma's views that grant to primary education should be increased the speaker endorsed everything said by Sir James Meston on the importance of getting sufficient supply of trained teachers. Proceeding he said their expenditure under sanitation was growing. Many of their research officers have been away on war work but the next year Government was likely to get back many of the officers. Trophies for war museum were still being collected and they would in due course be exhibited to the public.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Sir Thomas Holland introducing the budget heads of Commerce and Industry Department regretted the absence of Sir George Barnes. Dealing with the work of the department he said during the first eight months of the current year telegrams despatched amounted to fourteen millions against 12½ millions in the corresponding period of the last year. In one week in Bombay over fifty thousand parcels containing about twenty million silver rupees and similar use of the post office on a smaller scale was detected in other towns Referring to the improvements in the post office he said motor mail vans to displace horse vans have been introduced in large towns. Another forward move was being made in the installation of long distance telephones. The Delhi Lahore Trunk now ready will be extended to Rawalpindi and Peshawar. He mentioned additional charges due to war bonuses granted to the lower grades of Post and Telegraph Department exceeded 3½ lakhs per month. In conclusion he said efforts to increase the output of salt have been already sufficiently successful to cover the deficit due to restricted imports and acknowledge the hearty co-operation of his colleagues in the Industries Commission.

RAILWAYS ETC.

Mr. Sarma moved that Budget allotment of £17.7 million for construction of railways etc. be reduced by £5 million. He said although he was a firm believer in the rapid construction of railways with borrowed funds he had not been satisfied that there was any necessity for such a large expenditure as was proposed consistent with needs of company and other branches of administration. On materials available to them non-official members were perfectly justified in asking for reduction in railway expenditure. Mr Sarma while granting railway should be restored to pre-war efficiency said existing passenger difficulty was due to abnormal conditions and there was nothing to show they would continue hereafter. He quoted figures in support of his contention that agricultural produce of this country had not increased so largely as to necessitate additional goods wagons to carry them.

Mr. M. N. Hogg in opposing the resolution said he did but know whether he should wonder at the pertinacity of his friend or whether he should deplore his short sightedness. He associated whole heartedly with the excellent remarks made by Mr Ironside on the subject on Friday last. He said what they were granting this year to railways was what railway war mission recommended should be given them each year. In his opinion the grant was barely adequate for the requirements of the country. It was no use carping at the grant this year for they would have to face the question again next year and in the coming years unless the cost of materials would go down to pre-war prices which he did not believe was likely for some years to come. They were on the eve of constitutional reforms which would enable members in the position of Mr. Sarma to exercise more powers and influence over financial matters and he asked if it was likely to encourage the investment of capital industries if those possessing capital found members like Mr. Sarma taking up such attitude on what was the real foundation of industrial progress. This resolution was calculated to do considerable harm to the prospect of investment of English capital in this country and as regards Indian capital he would leave it to Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy to tell the Council what he thought about the resolution.

Mr. Sitanath Roy opposed the resolution He considered it would be disastrous to the interests of commerce and industry to curtail the expenditure on railways. In view of the scarcity in different provinces it was extremely necessary that wagons should be multiplied and transport increased. It would be a misfortune to reduce the railway allotment particularly after considerable rolling stock removed to Mesopotamia.

Mr. Shafi opposed the resolution on behalf of the agricultural population of the Punjab. He referred to the transportation of the rolling stock to Mesopotamia which resulted in the dislocation of trade. Apart from this considerable inconvenience has been caused to third class passengers owing to shortage of carriages. Railway expansion was also necessary for industrial development of India.

At this stage both Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy and Pandit Malaviya almost simultaneously rose to address the Council. The Vice-President's eye first caught the Pandit and he called his name. Pandit Malaviya said he would make his speech after Sir Fazulbhoy. The Vice President said his name had been called out. The Hon Pandit said he chose to speak after Sir Fazulbhoy and said he waived his right. The Vice President said he would be justified in refusing him permission to speak. The Hon Pandit replied he could seek permission to speak afterwards. The latter said all along the commercial community had felt the pinch of shortage of wagons. He hoped Mr. Sarma would withdraw the resolution.

After Sir Fazulbhoy had concluded his speech the Vice President said he would give Pandit Malaviyia an opportunity to speak but he would refer him to rule eleven of the Council regulations which stated a member should speak in the order directed by the president. The Hon Pandit Malaviya in attempting to discuss the interpretation of the rule was ruled out of order. Speaking on the resolution he combated arguments of Mr. Hoff and Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy.

Pandit Malaviya in supporting the resolution said he understood the point Mr. Sarma made was a provision made for rail ways which was an excessive one. The argument used was rail ways had been starved in past years and the amount provided was equivalent to what should have been provided according to the recommendations of the Mackay Committee. Now the recommendations of that Committee had not been carried out even in years before the war and he submitted it was peculiarly bad time to select the present period to make up the deficiencies. He had never heard that because man had ben starved three days he should be stuffed with three days food to make up for the period. The opposition of some of the non-official Indian Members was due to suspicion that monies would not be spent reasonably properly and without extravagance. When they got power they would show that they would develop and extend railways to much larger extent more economically and to greater benefit to the country. That was the gist of their opposition. The Government might deal with the resolution as they liked. Sir Thomas Holland replying covered the ground of railway policy of Government.

Mr. Sarma in replying to the debate said the warmth of Sir Thomas Holland's speech convinced him more than before justification for his resolution. With regard to Sir Thomas' humorous remarks regarding his becoming future finance member of Government of India Mr. Sarma said he did not think for years to come Indians 5000 times more brilliant than himself would come to occupy that position. For lack of arguments the Commerce member had got hold of some jokes used in reference to him by Sir Dinshaw Wacha. Mr Sarma proceeding complained of the lack of details of the Railway programme and said unless that was available to convince him he would continue to hold the allotment was excessive. He severely deprecated Government embarkation on a new policy in that indirect fashion.

The resolution was negatived.

The Council adjourned for lunch.

AFTER LUNCH

Delhi, March, 10.—On the Council re-assembling after lunch Sir William Vincent in introducing the estimates of the Home Department heads said under the head office there was an interesting item, namely, reorganization in pay and grading of Imperial Police. This change would take effect from first January 1919. The bulk of cost would be borne by provinces and he understood in the current year it will be met by savings under other heads. He hoped the change would be acceptable generally because they were giving relief to men who had observed work and who had had been labouring under particular strain and stress during last four years of war. Lower ranks of police had also been well provided for. Another item of interest he said came under head jails. About five years ago his predecessor had announced the intention of Government of constituting jail commission to enquire into jail administration with a view to bring our system into modern standard but war had intervened and year by year they had to abandon project in which his predecessor and himself had taken good deal of interest. This year he was glad to say they proposed to undertake work. Constitution of committee was not yet completed but there will be besides chairman two Inspectors General of Prisons, a prison expert of standing from England, two non-official Indian gentlemen and one high administrative official. In the first instance they would assemble in England and if necessary will visit America finally return to India and make their report here. He was particularly glad their work would not long be delayed. Under head land and justice two matters were of interest. First was conversion of Punjab Chief Court into High Court The change would take effect from 1st April. He was sure this will be subject of great gratification to Hon. members. Another was increase in number of civil courts in Madras at cost of one and a half lakhs of rupees a year. There was one other matter he needed to mention at all and that was great increase that had taken place in cost of living. There appeared to be little prospect of normal conditions returning and consequence was salaries of imperial and subordinates services were considered inadequate and it seemed to him right that he should warn council about cost of administration as regards both services rising very considerably.

MR. CHANDA.

In moving that surplus in budget estimate for 1919-20 be reduced by ten thousand rupees in order to provide for appointment of mixed committee to enquire into administration of Delhi province Mr Chanda said it would seem striking why a member from distant Assam took upon himself of moving resolution about Delhi. It was because that there was no non-official representation of Delhi in Imperial Legislative Council. The idea of keeping Government of India away from any provincial government as embodied in famous despatch was never carried out. Though Government of India may run away from Calcutta to avoid proximity of provincial government a new provincial government essentially and entirely bureaucratic in nature had slowly sprung up round Imperial Government bereft of benefits which people enjoyed under other provincial governments. The speaker gave history of formation of present province of Delhi its area population and form of government and proceeded to show that ordinary rights of citizenship such as representation in legislative Council were denied to her. Formerly Delhi division along with Ambala had right of electing a representative to Punjab Legislative Council. Though an Imperial conplave Delhi had no representation in Imperial Legislative Council an ordinary right of ventilating administrative and other grievances was thus denied to citizens of Delhi, we next touched on local self-government of Delhi and said there was the municipality with Deputy Commissioner, a military man as chairman. A notified area committee rather a mystifying name, consisting of three European officials and one nominated Indian for administration of justice. The speaker said highest court of appeal of Delhi was the Chief Court of Punjab but unlike the Patna High Court judges of which held Circuit Courts in Orissa which was part of that province there was no intention of having any Circuit Court at Delhi. After giving an account of the constitution of services civil and educational, Mr Chanda said there was no way of bringing public opinion to bear upon the administration of the province and there being no healthy check there was no end of official high-handedness interfering speech and public action. He gave several instances to illustrate his point such as refusal of specified routes for Ramlila procession in 1917, Mohurrum procession in the same year, congress presidential procession last December and above all stopping of public meetings on several occasions. Concluding he said everybody expected imperial city the area under direct administration of Government of India to have a most up-to-date a most liberal and popular administration which might be held up as model for other provincial governments.

Mr. Reid said that Mr. Chanda held the post of Chairman of the Municipality of Silchar and he had recently been refused election as a Municipal Commissioner. He had done excellent service but this was a fact (laughter). Mr. Shafi made a few remarks on municipal elections. Sir William Vincent thought Delhi was to be congratulated on having so eloquent a champion as Mr Chanda but he did not think it right of him to say that public opinion in Delhi was not felt when expressed. Probably Lord Southborough's Committee had made some suggestions regarding Delhi but he did not think it necessary at the moment for it to be represented in either the Imperial or Provincial Council. The case for a Committee was really made out regarding a circuit court. At the moment Government was almost surfeited with reports by Committees. He thought an enquiry into a matter of October 1917 was rather belated but he would have an enquiry made if it was wanted. He then spoke upon the orders issued with regard to processions in Delhi and said the local authorities had acted as they thought best. Mr. Sharai spoke on the question of nomination in local municipal elections and said the notified area in Delhi was of a temporary nature. He hoped the day was not far off when Delhi would possess both a University and Government colleges of its own. Mr. Chanda said things in Delhi ought to be far better than they are and withdrew his resolution.

Sir James Meston said that he desired to place on record the year's services of his department and especially would he speak of the work of the mints in preparing shells, cooper bands, and motor ambulances. It was difficult to speak too highly of their work. He also spoke of the large number of Indian finance officers and men who had done valuable war service in every conceivable department and he was glad of this chance of testifying to their work. Mr. Sarma at 3-45 moved that 10,000 rupees he voted to recommend measures for developing the banking system in India and by Rs. 30,000 to report on civil expenditure during the last five years and recommend measures for its retrenchment. But the official interest taken in Mr. Sarma's proposals was shown by the fact that out of 25 so-called Government seats only five were filled.. Sir Dinshaw Wacha thought Mr. Sarma's first proposal an academical one. He saw no harm in overhauling the expenditure side. Mr. Howard said Government fully recognised the importance of banking development and Government was very sorry when some six years ago a Swadeshi bank failed so lamentably. For banking development some sound men were absoultely necessary. We now see Tata's bank and the Central Bank in Bombay, successfully launched. The Bank of Bombay was too employing a larger number of trained Indians. So far as industrial banking was concerned it was certain there must be a enquiry and Government would make reasonable provision for it. The second suggestion by Mr. Sarma was not new and after general remarks on the subject of enquiries he thought the time in-opportune, especially as we were on the eve of the Reforms Scheme it could serve no useful purpose and he opposed the latter part of the resolution.

Pandit Malaviya hoped the industrial bank commission would deal with banking generally. He alluded to what the Japan Government had done in this connection and urged a system of training young men in banking. As for expenditure it was steadily rising and he thought an enquiry would result in economy and a committee would be useful. Sir James Metson said Mr. Howard had dealt so fully with the question there was very little more for him to say. He could see no obvious advantage in this wide investigation now proposed. The best way for a nation to work out its own salvation was through experience. He dealt with the question of land mortgage banks, co-operative banks, and industrial banks. The Committee he was bound to resist as premature; for the last few years' expenditure had been abnormal. There must be breathing time to settle down and we must get into a more stable position. The new regime to which all looked forward was certainly going to be very expensive. Mr. Sarma was grateful to Government for accepting a portion of his proposition but the replies to his several requests were most disappointing. He asked for a division apparently much against popular feeling in the Chamber and the resolution was lost by 31 votes to 9.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

SIR THOMAS HOLLAND'S ADDRESS.

Delhi, March 10.—In introducing the Budget heads under Commerce and Industry Department Sir Thomas Holland said:— In introducing the heads of business for which I am temporarily responsible the first comment that I have to make will be received with the unanimous approval of this Council. The Council will regret the absence and especially the reasons for the absence of Sir George Barnes and more than any of you I, as the immediate and chief victim of his defection, have stronger personal reasons for hoping that his recovery may be uninterrupted and his return to duty punctual. Sir George Barnes and I have now worked in close union for over two years and the only serious difference of opinion that has ever occurred between us arose regarding our competing claims for relief from work in this competition. I have to mourn his success for following the good example set last year I propose to leave my fellow victim Sir Arthur Anderson the task of maintaining the standard set by his predecessor in dealing with the subject of railways. In spite of increased rates the volume of telegrams we handled continued to expand and for some obscure reason exceeded all records. During April and May last year the telegrams despatched amounted to 14 millions against 12½ millions in the corresponding period of last year. There was a similar expansion in the use of the post office and for parcels rates had to be raised to keep step with the increase in railway rates. Sir George Barnes referred last year to the way in which wholesale resort to the foreign parcels post was adopted in consequence of the shortage of ocean freight. This year another anomaly arose by abuse of the inland system. In one week in Bombay over 50,000 parcels containing about 20 million silver rupees were posted and similar use of the post office on a smaller scale was detected in other towns. It evidently requires some mobility in legal powers to deal with postal epidemics on this scale. In two important respects improvements have been introduced and will be extended, I hope, with the increased facilities for obtaining apparatus and materials. One of these is the adoption of motor mail vans to displace horse vans in many large towns, while motor mail services are being opened on important roads, as for example in the Kangra Valley to deal with the Kulu fruit parcels traffic. Another forward move is being made in the installation of long distance telephones. The line from Calcutta to the coalfields is now used sufficiently to justify another two trunks. For an early recognition of the commercial value of this line we are indebted to the enterprise of the Hon Mr Ironside. The Delhi Lahore trunk now ready will soon be extended to Rawalpindi and Peshwar whilst some large towns in the United Provinces, Bombay and Bengal are now being connected. Possibly before the next Council meeting here our friends from Bombay and Calcutta may be able to keep in profitable touch with if not control, the flutterings of their respective stock markets during the Budget debates. The total staff of the department at the beginning of the year numbered 108,000 and over 12,000 were on service in the various war fields. No department has responded more completely to the abnormal war pressure and the response has been so general that it is difficult to select names without making obvious omissions. I feel sure, however that every member of the department would wish me to draw your attention to the inspiring energy of Mr. Meredith, the Chief Engineer, to whose keenness and technical efficiency we owe the successful working of the organisation in spite of shortage of plant. Government have endeavoured to meet by increases of pay and grants of war allowances the increase cost of living has been felt especially in the lower ranks, but increases that are small to the individual make up embarrassing totals. The additional charges due to war onbuses alone granted to the lower grades of the Post and Telegraph Department now exceeds 3½ lakhs a month.

On the subject of Customs there is little for me to say. The financial statement anticipates an expansion of over a crore of rupees in our Customs revenue. The return of peace may, I hope, lead to some fall in prices but the reduction which this will entail in our receipts from Customs dues which are levied on ad valorem basis will, it may be expected, be more than counterbalanced by an increase in the volume of our import trade as the tonnage position becomes easier and the removal of war restrictions on trade takes effect.

anxious to remove the restrictions both our import and export trade as soon as we

The Council may be assured that we are possibly can and you will find in Paragraphs 8 and 9 of the narrative of my Hon colleagues Sir James Meston introducing the financial statement an account of the extent to which we have already been able to remove those restrictions. I need not therefore repeat the tale. I am aware how annoying many of these restrictions have been and how patiently they have been borne by the commercial public in this country. I should like to add a few words on the subject of stationery and printing. You will notice that there has been a considerable increase of expenditure under this head during the current year, though we hope for a reduction next year. It must be remembered that every expansion of effort in every other branch of Indian administration means more work for the printing and stationery department. As a Territorial victim I can testify to the marvellous number and variety of army forms. A very useful piece of work has also been done in reprinting for the armies in the East a large number of War Office publications. The demand from civil sources during the war have also been heavy, particularly during the past year. The fact that a period of unprecedented difficulty in obtaining supplies of imported goods proved I am glad to add a great stimulant to local industries. The stationery department has been giving all possible support to the local manufacture of pencils, pens, ink, etc and above all paper. The good offices of the printing and stationery department have also been enlisted in procuring supplies of stationery for the Colonial Governments. Further East a great deal of unusual work has been thrown on the Controller in recruiting personnel for the field presses at Basra and Bagdad and in maintaining personnel and stocks in the various overseas stationery depots in Mesopotamia and I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the untiring zeal with which Mr Cogswell and his assistants have dealt with all demands made upon them. Hon members will be pleased to know that the efforts referred to by Sir George Barnes last year to increase the output of salt have been already sufficiently successful to cover the deficit due to restricted imports. Improved methods of winning and handling rock salt Khewra have resulted in increased output by nearly 50 per cent whilst at Sambhar the current year's output will probably reach the record of a crore of maunds. The facilities for manufacture and the interesting technical questions connected with salt manufactures are now receiving special attention and I am confident that increased production and substantial economies will follow:

In conclusion Sir Thomas Holland paid an eloquent tribute to his colleagues in the Industries Commission for their hearty co-operation.

"NEW INDIA" AND I. C. S Association

A GOVERNMENT ORDER.

(Associated Press of India.)
Madras, Mar. 11.

The Government of Madras has issued a G. O. recording the correspondence relating to the papers published in the "New India" of 11th January 1919 about the Indian Civil Service Association.

(1) Official memorandum of public department to H R Pate I C S. The attention of the Government has been drawn by a question proposed to be asked in the Legislative Council to a publication in the "New India" of 11th January 1919 of the minutes of the meeting said to have been held at the Madras Club on 29th November 1918 at which it was proposed to form an Indian Civil Service Association and a committee with two Joint Secretaries was elected for the purpose. Annexed to these proceedings was a rough draft said to be intended as the basis of a memorial. The Secretaries of Indian Civil Service Association are requested to state (1) whether papers published in the "New India" of 11th January 1919 are complete and accurate. (2) Whether these papers were published or issued by the Indian Civil Service Association and if not how they came to appear in public press and (3) Whether the draft intended as the basis of the memorial has been submitted by the Indian Civil Service Association as such or by any number of it to the Government of India or the Secretary of State or other authority.

(2) Letter from the Joint Secretaries of the Indian Civil Service Association, Madras to the Chief Secretary to the Government dated 3rd March 1919.

We are directed by the committee of the Indian Civil Service Association, Madras to reply to three questions put to us:— Memorandum of Government No 801—I dated 1st 1919 (1) Papers published in the "New India" of 11th January 1919 are not complete in that they do not contain letter from one of Associations secretaries with which the draft memorial was circulated. That the letter of which a copy is attached is of importance as showing that the document published by "New India" was merely a rough draft intended to evoke criticism and suggestions from persons to whom it was addressed. The published copy of the minutes of the meeting of 29th November is correct. The copy of the draft memorial is also correct. In regard to the eleven sub headings which have been inserted in newspaper copy, they found no place in the original draft. (2) The papers which appeared in the "New India" were not published or issued by Indian Civil Service Association. They were confidential and the letter with which they were circulated was so marked association does not know the papers came to be published. (3) Teh draft has not been submitted by the association as such or by any member of it, the Government of Madras or the Secretary of the State or other authority.

IDEAL OF EDUCATION IN INDIA.

SIR RABINDDRANATH'S ADDRESS.

(Associated Press of India.)
Madras, Mar. 11.

Sir Rabindra Nath Tagore in course of his address on the ideal of education in India yesterday at the Gokhale Hall said India had proved to the world that it had a mind of its own which had deeply thought and felt and tried to solve according to its own light problems of existence. Education of India ought to be such as to enable this mind of India to find out the truth—to make this truth its own and to give expression to it in such a manner as only it could do. In order to carry this out the mind of India had to be concentrated and made conscious of itself. The second point was that in education the most important factor should be the inspiring atmosphere of creative activity and therefore the primary function of the University in India should be the constructive work of knowledge. Men should be brought and full scope should be given to them for their work of intellectual exploration and creation. Lastly education should be in full association with the complete life of a man —economic, intellectual, aesthetic, social, spiritual. Indian educational institutions should be in the very heart of Indian society connected with it by living bonds of varied cooperation.

BENGAL PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Mymensingh, Mar 8.

I am glad to inform that moffusil men are responding to our call for help very enthusiastically .Upto yesterday about 60 members joined the Reception Committee. Materials for the Pandal are being collected and the different Sub-Committees are regularly carrying on their works enthusiastically.

Mr. Lahiri, as secretary of the Calcutta Congress Committee, has recommended one of the following as President (1) Babus Ramananda Chatterjee, (2) Jatra mohan Sen, and (3) Hon'ble Fazlul Huq.

BEHAR PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

To arrange for the session of the Behar Provincial conference to be held at Laheri Serai on the 29th and 30th inst a well attended public meeting of the people of the district was held on the 9th inst at the local Victoria Memorial Hall under the presidency of Babu Jadunandan Singh Jha. After the object of the meeting had been explained a strong Acception committee was constituted consisting of 54 members (with powers to add to its members) including the following office-bearers—Chairman—Pandit Bhuwaneswar Misra; Secretary Babu Priyanath Mitter; Asst. Secretaries, Mr. Mafi-ur-Rahman Babus Baijnath Prasad Deore, Sonelal Choudry, Giriwar Dhar (Somastipur) and Shibshanker Jha (Madhubani).

Subscriptions amounting to Rs. 417 were promised on the spot. All proceedings were in Hindi. Great enthusiasm prevailed.

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INTERPELLATION.

GOVERNMENT AND DR. ANSARI'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Chintamani asked:

(a) Was the speech of Dr. Ansari as Chairman of the Reception Committee of the All-India Moslem League session in Delhi, addressed to a large audience in the last week of December and was it before the public from that date until the notification of proscription was published in the "Gazette" of 15th February.

(b) Did Government receive from any of its District Officers a report that the speech was producing the effects described? If it did, will such reports be laid on the table?

(c) Did Government consider if it could not give Dr. Ansari an opportunity of defending his utterance by taking judicial in preference to executive action? Will Government consider this now?

Mr. O'Donnell replied.

(a) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. The speech was reproduced more or less fully in a number of newspapers.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the negative. No reports were received from district officers that the speech was producing the effect described but meetings were held and the Government had evidence pointing to the undesirability of allowing the speech to circulate further. This evidence is confidential and cannot be produced.

(c) The action suggested by the Honourable Member even if legally possible would have still rendered possible the circulation of the speech for an indefinite period.

Mr. Chintamani in a supplementary question asked. "Will Government he pleased to indicate the nature of the evidence that it had before it to show that the speech did or would produce the effect prescribed in the notification."

Mr. O'Donnell replied that the answer was in the negative: "I have already indicated that the evidence is of a confidential nature"

Mr Chintamani again asked: "Did government act merely on the apprehension that such effects were likely to be produced by the speech."

His Honour replied: "I cannot reply to that question as it is of an argumentative character."

THE ALI BROTHERS.

In reply to another question by Mr. Chintamani, Mr. O'Donnell replied, "Messrs Mahomed Ali and Shaukat Ali are not interned under the orders of this Government which is not prepared to make any further statement on the subject of their case."

THE MANIPURI CONSPIRACY CASE.

In reply to a question by the hon Mr. Chintamani re the Mainpuri Conspiracy case the hon. Mr. O'Donnell said that investigation had been in progress since the 1st December last. It was commenced under the directions of the district magistrate in consequence of certain information obtained by him. Thirty-seven arrests were made of whom seven were released. A complaint was filed in the court on Jan 13 and the case had been before it since then. Seventy one houses had been searched.

INTERNED IN THE UNITED PROVINCES

At the meeting of the United Provinces Legislative Council at Lucknow on the 4th instant the Hon Mr C Y Chintamani asked for information regarding the number of persons under detention in these provinces under the Defence of India Act or any cognate law or regulation on the day on which the Armistice was signed, and how many there are now? In view of the cessation of hostilities will Government be pleased to consider if it may not release them all, or place before a judicial court under the ordinary criminal law such of them as in its judgment require to be confined in the interest of public safety?

In reply the Hon Mr D'Donnell said 19 were under detention on the former date, and the present number is 19. In the interval two persons were transferred from another province to these provinces. The Government has under consideration at present the question of removing the restrictions in the case of persons other than those detained at the instance of other Governments. It has already been decided to remove the restrictions in the case of two persons.

DISCHARGED BUT REARRESTED.

STRICTURES AGAINST DISTRICT MAGISTRATE.

His Lordship Sir George Knox disposed of a criminal revision preferred by Bhagwan Das, Gauri Shankar and Jangi against an order of the District Magistrate of Benares ordering further enquiry in a case in which they had been discharged.

According to the prosecution when Sub Inspector Harihar Datt Singh was on patrol duty on the night of the 13th December last, he saw three men coming from a lane. When he asked them who they were they took to heels, but they were chased and caught. Their persons were searched and some keys were found. A short distance off the police found one 'sabri.' Their names and addresses were entered and they were then chalanned under Sec 109 Cr P C. to show cause why they should not be ordered to execute bonds with sureties for their good behaviour, the ground being that they were taking precaution to conceal their presence with a view to commit any offence.

The first Class Magistrate in discharging the accused observed that the fact that a 'sabri' was found there did not necessarily show that it was dropped there by one of them. Moreover it was doubtful whether the instrument found would be at all called a 'sabri.'

Upon this order of discharge the District Magistrate ordered further enquiry into the case against the accused. Hence the revision application.

Mr A P Dube on behalf of the applicants argued that as the First Class Magistrate upon full and complete trial came to the conclusion that the accused had permanent residences, that they bore good character and were having honest occupations, any further enquiry would cause great hardship to them.

"WITH THE UTMOST CARE AND PRECISION."

His Lordship in the course of his judgment said:—If the District Magistrate considered it necessary to take further proceedings, the provisions of Secs 112 114 and 115 Cr P C should be most carefully complied with. Apparently, none of them were complied with in the present case, and so the

(Continued on next column.)

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(Continued from previous column.)

men who were released find themselves again in custody. I, threfore, set aside the orders of the District Magistrate, and direct the release of the applicants. Whether any further action need be taken it will be for the District Magistrate who is responsible for the peace of his district to see, but if he does consider it necessary to take, he must follow the provisions of law with the utmost care and precision.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AT MANDALAY

GOVERNMENT GRANT

Rangoon, Mar 8.

The Government of India have sanctioned a grant of four lakhs towards the cost of an agricultural college at Mandalay, and the required plans are well advanced.

Dr. T. Thornhill, the Chief Judge of the Small Cause Court, has gone on leave from Monday. It may be remembered that a European barrister was about to be appointed over the heads of the Indian Judges and we protested against such supersession, specially after the pledge of Mr. Montagu. We are glad to learn that the Government of Bengal has reconsidered the matter and has brought in Mr. Ghatak as Registrar, and other Indian Judges have got gradual promotions. Mr. Dobbin acting as the Chief Judge.

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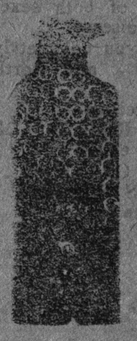

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