

Proceedings of the Council  
OF THE  
LIEUT.-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.



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## OF THE

# COUNCIL OF THE LIEUT.-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL,

## FOR THE YEAR 1908.

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*Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,  
Assembled under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892.*

The Council met in the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 25th January, 1908, at 1 P.M.

**Present:**

- The Hon'ble SIR ANDREW FRASER, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding*.
- The Hon'ble MR. F. A. SLACKE, C.S.I.
- The Hon'ble MR. W. C. MACPHERSON, C.S.I.
- The Hon'ble MR. P. O'KINEALY, Advocate-General of Bengal.
- The Hon'ble MR. E. A. GAIT, C.I.E.
- The Hon'ble MR. W. A. INGLIS.
- The Hon'ble MR. H. C. STREATFEILD.
- The Hon'ble MR. C. E. A. W. OLDHAM.
- The Hon'ble MR. G. GORDON.
- The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES ALLEN, Kt.
- The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL.
- The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE, M.A., B.L.
- The Hon'ble IHTISHAM-UL-MULK RAIS-UD-DOWLA AMIR-UL-OMRAH NAWAB  
ASEF KUDE SYUD WASIF ALI MEERZA KHAN BAHADUR MAHABUT  
JUNG, NAWAB BAHADUR OF MURSHIDABAD.
- The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH, M.A., B.L.
- The Hon'ble MR. G. H. SUTHERLAND.
- The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI BAHADUR, M.A., B.L.
- The Hon'ble MAHARAJA-DHIRAJ BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB BAHADUR OF  
BURDWAN.
- The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD.
- The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, M.A., B.L.
- The Hon'ble MR. F. A. LARMOUR.

**NEW MEMBERS.**

The Hon'ble MR. F. A. SLACKE, the Hon'ble MR. C. E. A. W. OLDHAM, the Hon'ble MAHARAJA-DHIRAJ BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB BAHADUR OF BURDWAN, the Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD, the Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI and the Hon'ble MR. F. A. LARMOUR, took their seats in Council.

[The President ; Babu Kali Pada Ghosh ; Mr. Gait.]

### STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT said:—"We have with us this morning several new Members of Council; and I desire in my own name and on behalf of my colleagues in Council to extend to them a very hearty welcome, and to express the hope that their tenure of office among us may be both useful and happy."

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

#### APPOINTMENTS TO THE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE SERVICE.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH asked:—

(a) Will the Government be pleased to state the grounds on which the nomination, made last year by the Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division, of Babu Sailajpada Mukerjee as the best eligible candidate for an appointment in the Provincial Executive Service was not accepted by the Government, although in Government Resolution No. 5649A, dated the 26th December, 1904, on the subject of recruitment of the Executive Branch of the Provincial Civil Service, it is laid down that ordinarily the Lieutenant-Governor will appoint the candidate whom the Commissioner nominates as the first on the list?

(b) Is it not the declared policy of the Government that the Commissioner's nomination should not be vetoed except under special circumstances? If so, will the Government be pleased to state what special circumstances existed in the case above referred to?

(c) Is the Government aware of the fact that the candidate nominated by the Commissioner, apart from his qualifications, which were considered to be the best by the Commissioner amongst all the candidates who had appeared before him, is a member of a family domiciled in Chota Nagpur for more than four generations?

(d) Can it be a fact that because the Commissioner's nominee was a Bengali he was superseded by some other candidate?

The Hon'ble MR GAIT replied:—

"(a) The orders in regard to recommendations by Commissioners for the Provincial Service are that the Commissioner shall nominate two candidates for each appointment and give the names of these candidates in order of preference; further, that he will report in regard to all the other names submitted by Collectors whether he regards them as eligible for office or not. The Lieutenant-Governor reserves to himself the right of selection from amongst those nominated. Ordinarily the first on the list would be appointed; but special circumstances may require the appointment of another candidate. These special circumstances may be local or they may be caused by the question of the distribution of appointments throughout the province.

"(b) (c) (d) The Government must decline to publish the special reasons which lead to any candidate not receiving an appointment. To do so would be to establish a precedent which would be intolerable."

#### APPOINTMENTS TO THE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE SERVICE AND THE SUBORDINATE CIVIL SERVICES.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH asked:—

(a) Will the Government be pleased to state how many appointments in the Provincial Executive Service have, since the introduction of the nomination system, been given to the Bengalis whose families have been domiciled in the Division of Orissa from a period anterior to British rule in that part of the country?

(b) Is it not a fact that some appointments in the said service, as also in the Subordinate Civil Service, have been given to under-graduates in the Division of Orissa, but not a single domiciled Bengali under-graduate has been nominated to such appointments?

[*Babu Kali Pada Ghosh; Mr. Gait; Mr. Inglis.*]

(c) In view of the large domiciled Bengali population in Orissa, and their position and influence, does the Government consider that their claims in the matter of these appointments have hitherto been duly considered?

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT replied :—

"(a) The system of appointment by nomination was introduced only in 1905. Since then out of seven persons appointed to the Provincial Executive Service from Orissa, three have been Bengalis and four Uriyas. The three Bengalis were domiciled in Orissa; but I cannot say if their ancestors were there before the commencement of British Rule.

"(b) Yes.

"(c) Their claims have received ample consideration."

#### SCARCITY IN THE CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH asked :—

(a) Is the Government aware that food-grains in the Division of Chota Nagpur, especially in the districts of Hazaribagh and Ranchi, are now selling at nearly double the ordinary prices, and that a famine is apprehended in that Division?

(b) In view of the above fact, does not the Government consider it necessary to start relief operations in such parts of the Division as have been most affected; and, if so, will the Government be pleased to state the nature and extent of such operations, and how much money has been allotted for the purpose?

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT replied :—

"(a) Government is aware that the prices of food-grains in the Chota Nagpur Division are high; but there is no famine at present. As a matter of fact, the Engineers cannot even get the labour which they require for ordinary road works, etc.

"(b) Arrangements have been made for famine relief operations, and relief works will be opened should necessity arise. But the time has not yet come, and it may be hoped that it will not come at all, for a famine campaign. *Takavi* loans are being given freely. The allotments already made for this purpose to the several districts for the current financial year, *i.e.*, up to the 31st March next, are as follows :—

District.						Rs
Hazaribagh	...	...	...	...	...	42,400
Ranchi	...	...	...	...	...	25,500
Palamau	...	...	...	...	...	1,14,500
Manbhum	...	...	...	...	...	26,500
Singhbhum	...	...	...	...	...	11,100
Total						2,20,000 "

#### IRRIGATION SCHEME IN THE CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH asked :—

(a) Will the Government be pleased to state the nature of the recommendation made by the Executive Engineer, Babu Saroda Sunder Pal, who was reputed some time ago to make a preliminary inquiry about the irrigation scheme in the Division of Chota Nagpur?

(b) Does the Government intend to carry out the scheme (if any) recommended by the said Executive Engineer?

The Hon'ble MR. INGLIS replied :—

"In the spring of 1906 Babu Saroda Sunder Pal, Executive Engineer, investigated a proposed irrigation scheme from the Karo river in the Ranchi district of Chota Nagpur. This is apparently the scheme referred to by the

[*Mr. Inglis ; Babu Gajadhar Prasad ; Mr. Oldham ; Mr. Streetfeild ; the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad.*]

Hon'ble Member. The Engineer's inquiries and survey showed that the area of land which could be irrigated was considerably less than had been at first assumed, while the cost of the works would be great and disproportionate to the benefit. It is not proposed to proceed with this scheme. The services of the Executive Engineer were subsequently placed at the disposal of the Commissioner for further inquiries into the possibilities of irrigation in the division."

#### MINISTERIAL OFFICERS' SALARIES.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD asked :—

Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Ministerial Officers' Salaries Committee has submitted its final report? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay it on the table?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied :—

"The Ministerial Officers' Salaries Committee have submitted their report, and it has been forwarded to the Government of India with the recommendations of this Government. As the matter is still under the consideration of the Government of India, the Lieutenant-Governor regrets he is unable to lay the report upon the table."

#### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD said :—

People are put to great inconvenience by the diversity of the weights and measures used in the Provinces of Bihar and Bengal. Will the Government be pleased to state whether it considers it expedient to take steps to secure uniformity of weights and measures, at least in those towns of these provinces where the Municipal Act is in force?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied :—

"This question has already received the full consideration of Government, and it has been decided, with the consent of the Government of India, to amend the Bengal Municipal Act, III of 1884, so as to take permissive powers for Commissioners of Municipalities at their discretion to enforce the use of Government standards of weights and measures in Municipal areas."

#### BIHAR SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD said :—

Bihar is backward in point of technical education. The present Bihar School of Engineering is housed in a big and commodious building. The raising of the status of the School would necessitate only a small addition to its present staff. Such being the facts, will it please the Government to consider the expediency of raising the Bihar School of Engineering to the status of a College?

The Hon'ble MR. STREETFEILD replied :—

"It is hoped that the Sibpur Engineering College will shortly be removed to Ranchi. This site will be in all respects as favourable for Bihari students as for students from the rest of Bengal. The Lieutenant-Governor, as at present advised, does not consider that there is room for a second Engineering College in this Province. It would not be possible to have another College equally efficient with the College now situated at Sibpur."

#### SALE OF UNWHOLESOME FOOD IN CALCUTTA.

The Hon'ble the NAWAB BAHADUR of Murshidabad asked :—

Is the Government aware that the sale of unwholesome food by itinerant vendors and keepers of eating-houses is a growing nuisance in Calcutta and has in some cases been attended with serious consequences?



[*The Nawab Bahadur of Murshilabad; Mr. Oldham; Bibi Ratha Churan Pal; Mr. Gait.*]

And, if so, will the Government be pleased to state if it thinks it necessary to take any, and what, steps in the matter, with a view to stop or minimise the evil?

• The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied :—

"This is a matter for the Health Officer and Chairman of the Corporation to deal with in the first instance. The Chairman recently submitted to Government certain draft by-laws under sections 559 (41) and 561 of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1899, framed by the Corporation with a view to securing the efficient inspection and sanitary regulation of shops in which articles of human food are kept or sold. These have been approved by Government and published in the Calcutta Gazette under Notification No. 85M, dated the 13th instant. The Hon'ble Member's attention is also invited to sections 502 and 503 of the Act. The Lieutenant-Governor considers that the powers already vested in the Chairman by the provisions of the law are sufficient, if properly exercised, to stop the evil referred to in the question."

#### REGARDING DEATH OF RAJANI KANTA DASS.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked.—

(a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the proceedings in the Coroner's Court in connection with the inquest over the body of one Rajani Kanta Dass, who died from the injuries he had received during the disturbances in Calcutta in October last, and to the verdict of the said Court, as reported in the papers, ascribing his death to "some parawalla unknown?"

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what action the Government has taken to find out the offender in the above case?

(c) Is it the case that a petition has been submitted to the Government by the mother of the deceased, who was the sole bread-winner of his family, on behalf of herself, her widowed daughter-in-law and her orphan grand-child, for the grant of a suitable compensation to them? If so, will the Government be pleased to state what orders have been passed, or are intended to be passed, upon it?

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT replied :—

"(a) The attention of Government has been drawn to the verdict of the Coroner's Jury.

"(b) Inquiries have been made; but it has been found impossible to trace the constable who is alleged to have struck the deceased. There was nothing to identify him beyond the statement made by the deceased. The latter at first stated that he could not describe the constable; but in his dying deposition he, for the first time, stated that the constable had a white beard, and added that this was all that he could say. The occurrence took place according to one account on the 2nd of October, and according to another on the 3rd. Death resulted from 'tetanus ensuing on a scalp wound inflicted with a *lathi* by a *paharawalla*.' The deceased went about his ordinary work for nearly a fortnight before he became ill, and the matter assumed a serious aspect.

"(c) A petition has recently been submitted to Government which is still under consideration."

#### DISTURBANCES IN CALCUTTA IN OCTOBER, 1907

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked :—

(a) Is it not the case that, in view of the great dissatisfaction and alarm caused by the published reports regarding the conduct of the Police in connection with the disturbances in Calcutta in October last, some representative citizens of Calcutta approached His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor with a prayer for the appointment of a United Commission, consisting of official and non-official gentlemen, to inquire into the allegations made against the Police and that the same prayer was also repeated in certain organs of Indian public opinion?

[Babu Radha Charan Pal; Mr. Gait; Mr. Streetfeild.]

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the grounds on which it was decided to entrust the inquiry to a single official instead of to a mixed Commission as prayed for?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state why the depositions of all the witnesses examined by Mr. Weston were not published?

(d) With reference to the statement made in the Government Resolution that the Commissioner of Police was anxious to punish any officers in respect of whom there would be sufficient evidence of misconduct, will the Government be pleased to state what action the Commissioner of Police has taken in this direction? Have any policemen been departmentally punished? If so, in what way?

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT replied :—

“(a) Yes.”

“(b) The appointment of a mixed Commission would have been a very unusual course; and there did not appear to be sufficient reason for departing from the usual practice of entrusting the inquiry to an officer of Government.

“(c) The depositions of the witnesses examined by Mr. Weston were not published with the Government Resolution and Mr. Weston's Report, partly because they were bulky and partly because they had not been printed in time. A copy of these depositions has been handed to the Hon'ble Member and copies will be placed in the Press Room.

“(d) Regular proceedings have been drawn up against one Sub-Inspector, three Head-Constables, and thirty-five Constables for assault, neglect of duty in not preventing certain shops from being rifled by the mob, for leaving their beats without good and proper excuse, and for failing to report to their superior officers unlawful acts committed within their sight or to their knowledge. Proceedings have also been drawn up against the Head-Constable referred to in paragraphs 9 and 10 of Mr. Weston's Report. The written defence of these police officers has been received, but final orders have not yet been passed.”

#### CALCUTTA BEGGARS.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked :—

(a) Is the Government aware that large numbers of poor and decrepit persons are sentenced to rigorous imprisonment on the charge of begging alms in the streets of Calcutta?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to consider whether it will not be advisable to establish an asylum, on the model of the Government Workhouse for European vagrants, as a refuge for these destitute and decrepit persons?

The Hon'ble MR. STREETFEILD replied :—

“The question of the best method of dealing with the mendicants who infest the streets of Calcutta is a very difficult one. It is receiving the careful consideration of Government; but no definite conclusion has yet been arrived at.”

#### WHIPPING SENTENCES IN THE CALCUTTA POLICE COURT.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked :—

Will the Government be pleased to state the number of persons that have been sentenced to whipping in the Calcutta Police Courts during the years 1905, 1906 and 1907, respectively?

The Hon'ble MR. STREETFEILD replied :—

“The numbers are—

1905	...	...	...	...	...	375*
1906	...	...	...	...	...	321
1907	...	...	...	...	...	402”

[Babu Radha Charan Pal; Mr. Gait; Mr. Streetfeild.]

POLICE LIBEL CASE.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked :—

Will the Government be pleased to state what expenses it has to incur and the liabilities it has to meet in connection with the suits instituted in the High Court, by certain Officers of the Calcutta Police, against the "Indian Daily News" and other newspapers?

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT replied :—

"The account has not yet been finally settled. The amount paid up to date is between Rs. 16,000 and Rs. 17,000."

COMMENTS IN SESSIONS COURTS ON CONDUCT OF POLICE OFFICERS.

\* • The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked :—

Is it the case, as stated in the newspapers, that the Government of Bengal addressed a communication to the Hon'ble High Court suggesting an alteration in the methods of comments by Sessions Judges on the conduct of the investigating police? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the letter of the Government addressed to the High Court, and the reply of the High Court thereto?

The Hon'ble MR. STREETFEILD replied :—

"The correspondence referred to is laid on the table."

FAMINE IN ORISSA.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked :—

(a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of persons that are now receiving gratuitous relief, and the number of persons employed on relief works, and the total amount that has been spent by the Government for each of these purposes, in each of the affected districts of Orissa?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if anything is being done to assist respectable poor females who will not come forward to ask for relief owing to restrictions of the Zenana and the caste system?

(c) Is it a fact that there has been a large number of deaths from cholera, bowel complaints and other causes directly connected with want of food or bad food?

(d) What wages are being offered at test works started by the Government? Are the wages that are being offered sufficient for the famine-stricken people to live upon in these times, when famine prices are ruling in the market? If not, will the Government be graciously pleased to increase the rate of these wages?

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT replied :—

"(a) The number of persons now receiving gratuitous relief and employed on test works are as follows :—

District.			Gratuitous relief.	Employed on test works.	REMARKS.
Cuttack	...	...	7,914	398*	*Excludes P. W. D test works for which figures are not available.
Batasore	...	...	3,300	224	
Puri	...	...	593	1,461	

"The expenditure in Cuttack up to the 18th January was, on test works Rs. 566-3, and on gratuitous relief Rs. 27,979. In Balasore, Rs. 4,000 has been spent on gratuitous relief and Rs. 1,250 on test works. This is exclusive of an expenditure on gratuitous relief of Rs. 1,681 in Cuttack and Rs. 3,200 in Balasore from private subscriptions, and of Rs. 4,000 in Cuttack from Babu



[Mr. Gait; Mr. Streatfeild.]

Joy Gobind Law's Fund. Information has not yet been received as to the expenditure in Puri.

"(b) The Hon'ble Member's attention is invited to Article 174 (f) of the Bengal Famine Code. Lists of persons entitled to gratuitous relief under that article have been carefully prepared.

"(c) Cholera broke out in epidemic form in Cuttack about the time of the floods, but it is now disappearing.

"(d) The wages on test works are regulated by the provisions of Article 163 (page 51) and Form C-VI (page 65) of the Famine Code."

### THE REPEALING BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD moved for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Central Provinces Laws Act, 1879, so far as it applies to the district of Sambalpur. He said:—

"By this Act sections 184, 185 and 189 of the Code of Civil Procedure were repealed, and for sections 182, 190 and 191 of the Code three new sections were substituted. In accordance with the provisions of these sections the full record of evidence supplemented by a memorandum written by the Judge, which is prescribed by the Code of Civil Procedure, is, as regards civil suits tried in Sambalpur, replaced by a note of the essential points of the evidence made by the Judge in his own language or in English.

"The Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court have pointed out that, since the district of Sambalpur has been transferred to Bengal, there is no reason for the continuance of a special procedure for that district alone.

"The present Bill, if passed into law, will bring the district of Sambalpur into line with the other districts of Bengal in regard to the recording *in extenso* of evidence in the Civil Courts.

"As drafted it contains only two sections, but it will probably be necessary to add a third section in order to revive sections 184, 185 and 189 of the Code of Civil Procedure."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD introduced the Bill and moved that it be read in Council.

The motion was put and agreed to, and the Secretary accordingly read the title of the Bill.

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD also moved that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Gordon, the Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh and the Mover, with instructions to report at the next meeting of Council.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Council was then adjourned to Saturday, the 8th February, 1908.

CALCUTTA;  
The 4th February, 1908.

F. G. WIGLEY,  
Secretary to the Bengal Council.

*Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,  
assembled under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892.*

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The Council met in the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 8th February,  
at 11 A.M.

**P R E S E N T :**

The Hon'ble SIR ANDREW FRASER, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of  
Bengal, *presiding*.

The Hon'ble MR. F. A. SLACKE, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. W. C. MACPHERSON, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. P. O'KINEALY, Advocate-General of Bengal.

The Hon'ble MR. E. W. COLLIN.

The Hon'ble MR. E. A. GAIT, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. W. A. INGLIS.

The Hon'ble MR. H. C. STREATFEILD.

The Hon'ble MR. C. E. A. W. OLDHAM.

The Hon'ble MR. G. GORDON.

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES ALLEN, Kt.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MR. G. H. SUTHERLAND.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI BAHADUR, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA-DHIRAJ BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB BAHADUR, OF  
BURDWAN.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, M.A., B.L.

**NEW MEMBER.**

The Hon'ble MR. E. W. COLLIN took his seat in Council.

[*Babu Gajadhar Prasad ; Mr. Gait ; Mr. Oldham.*]

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### PRICES OF FOOD-GRAINS IN BIHAR.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD asked :—

Is the Government aware that the prices of food-grains are abnormally high in Bihar, and that the people of the province are in distress? If so, will it please the Government to state whether it desires to take any measures for the relief of the people?

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT replied :—

"Government is aware that the prices of food-grains in Bihar are high, but there is no famine anywhere at present. *Takavi* loans are being given freely in districts where they are needed, and arrangements have been made for relief operations. These will be commenced without delay should the necessity arise."

### WATER-WORKS IN PATNA.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD said :—

Patna is the chief town of Bihar, and is in Bengal second only to Calcutta. It is the most important educational and commercial centre in Bihar, and the people of the entire province are deeply interested in its sanitation.

It is noted for its insanitary condition, and has consequently suffered from plague and other epidemics more than any other town in the province. There is no good drinking water-supply in the city.

The Patna Municipality is too poor to pay even the interest of any loan which may be raised for the water-supply.

It is a fortunate circumstance that the Municipality has, through the liberality of the Government and the Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga, secured one lakh of rupees for municipal purposes.

In view of these facts, will it please the Government to consider the expediency of making a grant sufficient for the construction of water-works in Patna?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied —

"The charges for projects of local water-supply should ordinarily be met from local resources. Government cannot be expected to do more than make contributions from the general revenues to supplement local subscriptions."

"The most recent estimate for a scheme of water-supply for the city of Patna, made in the year 1900 by the Sanitary Engineer, amounted to about 20 lakhs of rupees, and the annual maintenance charges were estimated at Rs. 40,000. It is out of the question that Government should make a grant of the whole cost. Moreover, the Lieutenant-Governor is advised that the Municipality is not in a position to meet even the maintenance charges of such a scheme."

### APPOINTMENT OF SUBORDINATE JUDGES.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD asked :—

In view of the fact that even the highest Courts of the country get some of their Judges from the Bar, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of appointing every year one or two readers of at least 15 years' standing and tested ability to the post of Subordinate Judge?

[*Mr. Streatfeild ; Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari ; Mr. Gait ; Mr. Oldham,*]

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"The Hon'ble Member appears to have overlooked the fact that appointments to the post of Subordinate Judge are at present made by the promotion of Munsiffs, and that Munsiffs have invariably been practising lawyers. The proposal of the Hon'ble Member would greatly retard the promotion of this very competent and deserving body of officers."

#### ARDHODYA JOG COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked:—

(a) Has the attention of the Government been called to organizations started in Calcutta and its suburbs, known as the *Ardhodya Jog Committee* and the *Ardhodya Jog Volunteers*, and has the Government any information regarding their work in connection with the recent unusual influx of pilgrims?

(b) Is it not a fact that these organizations were highly useful in advising, assisting and guiding pilgrims, in giving medical and other relief, and generally in making things considerably easier for the pilgrims, the Police and the Municipality?

(c) Will it please the Government to indicate if it approves of such work, and, if the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of encouraging such organizations by such marks of approval as it may think fit?

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT replied:—

"(a) The Government have received the report of the Commissioner of Police regarding the work of the *Ardhodya Jog Committee* and *Ardhodya Jog Volunteers* in connection with the recent influx of pilgrims. The Lieutenant-Governor also went round, and himself inspected the arrangements made for dealing with the crowds.

"(b) The report shows, and the impression on the Lieutenant Governor's mind was, that these organizations worked cordially with the police and were very highly useful in the manner indicated in the question.

"(c) Mr. Halliday, with the full approval of Government, has already written a letter of thanks for the services rendered."

#### THE REPEALING BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD said:—"The Select Committee on the Bill to repeal the Central Provinces Laws Act, 1879, so far as it applies to the district of Sambalpur, has been unable to comply with the instructions of Council and submit its report to-day.

"The only point of any difficulty in connection with the Bill is the question of reviving sections 184, 185 and 189 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

"On this point it has been necessary to consult the High Court, and as the opinion of the Hon'ble Judges has not yet been received, the Select Committee has not been able to draw up its Report."

#### THE PURI LODGING-HOUSE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM moved for leave to introduce a Bill farther to amend the Puri Lodging-house Act, 1871. He said:—

"I move, Sir, for the leave of this Council to introduce a Bill to further amend the Puri Lodging-house Act, 1871 (Ben. Act IV of 1871).

"The Bill is a short and simple one. Its chief objects are to provide further safeguards against overcrowding in lodging-houses; to give the Local Government power to increase the fees for licences for the reception of lodgers

[*Mr. Oldham ; Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose.*]

with a view to securing the funds necessary for the proper sanitation of the towns and places to which the Act applies; to render the inspection of lodging-houses more practicable; and to remove a few minor defects in the existing Act which the practical working of the law has disclosed.

"The reasons for the several changes proposed are explained in the Notes on Clauses appended to the Bill."

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE said:—"This is a small measure and it does not directly affect the division I represent. But it affects the entire Hindu community of these provinces, for it should be remembered that though on the face of it, it relates to Puri, by virtue of the extension of Acts of 1879 and 1884, it may affect all places of pilgrimage, and is therefore, deserving of careful consideration.

"I must say that I am very conservative as regards such changes in the law as may interfere with the private lines and religious observances of individuals. The welfare of the community may often require such interference, but it should be very sparingly used. I am reluctant to support any such measure without the strongest reasons. I am sorry to say I can find no such reasons for the changes proposed.

"The main change proposed is to make every Panda come under the definition of a 'lodging house-keeper'. The pilgrims, as a rule, are taken care of by their Pandas, who are always apparently paid for their priestly offices, but the care taken by the Panda is also a consideration for these payments. Poor, much-abused Pandas, it should not be forgotten, have been of great service to the Hindu community from time immemorial. Without their help and care in pre-British days, and even during, British times, pilgrimage would have been all but impossible. All respectable Pandas—all priests of European or Asiatic countries—would take it as an indignity to be obliged to take out licenses as lodging house-keepers and for their own houses. The position and influence of these priestly officers of Hindu Shrines, is always underestimated because they have no newspapers and hold no public meetings.

"There is another very serious matter. Under the old Act, the power to inspect lodging-houses was to be exercised at any reasonable time. The word 'reasonable' has proved disagreeable to the framers of this Bill. But having regard to the fact that nearly three-fourths of the pilgrims are women, and many of them *pardanashin* ladies, the framers of the old Act were certainly wise in putting in the word 'reasonable,' and I cannot congratulate the framers of this Bill on their objection to reasonableness.

"It will be now possible for an officer with shoes on to go at night into rooms not strictly occupied by females, but where men and women related to one another might be obliged to live for a day or two, and go into cook-rooms when food is being cooked.

"Then, again, all persons authorized to inspect have been made public officers for the purpose of making Pandas and pilgrims amenable to the Penal Code for what may be considered obstruction. I can only hope that poor, helpless Hindu female pilgrims may not be harassed by petty sanitary officers and peons.

"There is also a small clause which adds the word 'day' before night in section 7. It is apparently very harmless but really it is a very serious change. Pilgrims may often go and rest at the Panda's house during the day time without actually lodging there. For such rest the Panda will have to pay Rs. 2 per head, which of course he will realize from the pilgrims and be liable to punishment for breach of any rule of real or fancied utility that may be imposed.

"Again, it appears to me that the old Legislators had more regard for reasonableness when after mature consideration they omitted the word 'day'.

"I must also say that the raising of the license fee from 8 annas per head to 2 rupees seems unreasonable.



[*Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose; Babu Radha Charan Pal.*]

"Lastly, the penalty clauses have been made three times more severe. In the original Act, there were two penalty clauses for the same offence; one under section 7 which made a lodging house-keeper liable to a fine of Rs. 2 for every inmate in excess of the prescribed number, and also under section 17 to an additional fine of Rs. 50. This double punishment I cannot understand. Now, instead of removing the anomaly, it is proposed only to increase the fine of Rs. 2 to Rs. 5.

"Your Honour—Interference with the priestly classes and the pilgrims of India should be sparingly exercised. There is a proposal, I understand, at the instance of philanthropic Indian reformers to make the Mohunts of religious institutions submit accounts to the District Judge. The Government under-estimates the power and influence of Mohunts, Sanyasis and priests. The old Hindu law-givers forbade the king to interfere with these classes with very good reason. They are more powerful than all the princes, the councillors, the editors and the orators of India. The Government should not alienate these classes.

"Let the Hindus alone in the exercise of their religious practices. Make water-works, build rest-houses, prevent adulteration of food, provide medical help, protect them from thieves and robbers, and you will be blessed; but do not prescribe rules which may be the causes of unnecessary annoyance and harassment.

"Your Honour—I regret I cannot support this measure."

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL said:—"The Puri Lodging-house Act is one of those beneficent measures which have been introduced with a humane object by the Government of the time, and I am glad that the little amendments which are now intended to be made in the Act have been brought forward in this Council in the same spirit. Although we may not agree with all the amendments proposed, we must at the same time appreciate the motive which has prompted the Government to secure the welfare and well-being of the pilgrims who resort to the holy places.

"Your Honour, I do not think that some of the amendments which are proposed in this Bill will be conducive to the welfare of pilgrims; but I am sure, now that the Bill is being referred to the Select Committee, some of the suggestions that we have the honour to make here in this Council, will meet with the attention of that Committee.

"My Hon'ble friend on the right has referred to the increase of the license fee from 8 annas to Rs. 2 per head. I have been looking up some of the papers connected with the Bill when it was before the Legislature in 1871, and I have been looking up the representation of the British Indian Association made at that time. I find that the Committee of the Association suggested that a portion of the magnificent endowed funds connected with some of the temples and shrines of Bengal might be applied for the comfort and convenience and accommodation of the pilgrims and the sanitation of the locality. If this sum of 8 annas is increased to Rs. 2 it will fall heavily upon the pilgrims, most of whom, as no doubt Your Honour's Government is aware, are very poor men, who come from distant parts of India, out of purely religious motives, to these places of pilgrimage. I hope that this particular point will meet with the attention of the Select Committee.

"Then under section 9 of the Bill, it is proposed that the license shall last till the 31st December of the year in which it is granted. Under the old Act, the license lasted for 12 calendar months. Now under this Bill if the license is taken out in the middle of the year the full fee will have to be paid for the six months. I think this is a matter which might very well be considered in the Select Committee.

"There is another important point in connection with section 10. It is part of the present Act, but I think it is my duty to draw Your Honour's attention to it. A Magistrate by giving previous notice and for facility for inspection has the power to inspect the lodging-houses where female pilgrims reside. I suggest in this connection that some provision should be made for a female inspector.

[*Baboo Radha Charan Pal; Rai Kishori Lal Goswami Bahadur.*]

"I do not agree with my hon'ble friend that there should be any restriction in the matter of the inspection of these lodging-houses. From my own personal experience of them, I am of opinion, the more inspection the better. I know how the Pandas get scent that some officer is coming to inspect and manage to remove the excess number to some other place, and as soon as the inspection is over they bring back the pilgrims. Therefore, I think the more surprise inspection the better—due regard being paid to the customs and feelings of people—for the preservation of the lives of the people who resort to these places.

"Under section 18 of the Act, to which no amendment has been made, not only the keeper of a lodging-house but also the person actually in charge is rendered liable for any infraction of the provisions of the Act. I am sure if your Honour is aware of the fact that in many cases the Panda employs a servant on a salary of Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 a month, who is underpaid and illiterate, and innocent of the rules and regulations, you would recognise that it would be just and proper that only the keeper of the lodging-house or the license holder should be amenable to the penalties enforced under the Act.

"A new section is proposed to provide that the Magistrate, if he finds that sufficient accommodation cannot be provided in any lodging-houses, may grant temporary licenses. In this respect I feel bound to oppose this proviso. I do not think, having regard to the already overcrowded condition of lodging-houses, further powers should be given to the Magistrate to grant temporary licenses to these people to allow these Pandas further numbers than they are entitled to keep under the Lodging-house Act. In these days of improved communication, Puri, is brought within easy reach of Calcutta, and indeed with the whole of India, and I think it behoves the Government to protect the interests of other cities by enforcing as much sanitary regulations as is possible in consonance with the religious observances of the people of India.

"Under section 22 of the Act it is provided that all the fines and fees under the Act shall be expended on sanitary improvements in the town or place in which the Act may be enforced. I submit that the proceeds of the fees and fines should be spent only for the convenience and comforts of the pilgrims and not for any Municipal purpose. Where a municipality exists I do not think that any portion of this revenue should be diverted to municipal purposes. I think this point is not noted clearly in the Act now, and I think it should be clearly mentioned so that no portion of the fund be diverted to any municipal purpose.

"With these few words, I humbly support the main principle of the Bill; but I earnestly hope that these points will be taken into consideration by the Select Committee."

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, said :—"At this stage I will make a few observations with regard to one feature of the Bill which I think will unduly press upon the poorer classes of the people who form the back of the pilgrims who visit the sacred shrines of Puri and other places where the Act is in force.

"In one clause it is proposed to increase the fees for licenses from 8 annas to Rs. 2 per head of the entire number of lodgers the house is certified to accommodate. But the reasons for this enormous increase have not been made quite clear. The hon'ble mover of the Bill in his notes on the clause says: 'the increase is required to provide funds for the sanitation of the town', and something more than a general observation like this seems to me to be necessary to justify such a large increase in the license fee.

"Your Honour is doubtless aware that the inmates of lodging-houses are mostly people with very modest means, many of them being poor widows. This tax will ultimately fall on them to pay.

"In one part of the Notes on Clauses it is said: 'High prices prevail at Puri during the crowded season, and a daily rate of Rs. 5 per head, or even more, is often demanded for accommodation.' This is a very high

[*Rai Kishori Lal Goswami Bahadur ; Maharaja of Burdwan ;  
Babu Kali Pada Ghosh.*]

rate to pay for the generality of pilgrims, and the introduction of a higher license fee will merely tend to increase the charges.

“Fines and fees collected under the Lodging-house Act are devoted to making sanitary arrangements in places where license fees are levied, and also to maintaining pilgrim hospitals and serais on the main line of roads leading to these places of pilgrimage. The necessity for such hospitals and serais has become considerably less owing to communication by rail which has now been established to Puri and other places where the Act is in force.

“Speaking of the Balasore Hospital, the District Visitor to Balasore reports: ‘Pilgrims formerly constituted the great majority of the patients, but since the enlarged railway communication with Puri their numbers have greatly fallen off, and the hospital is little used by them.’ What is applicable to Balasore is applicable to other places of pilgrimage where this Act is enforced; and, under these circumstances, I do not think that the Legislature would be justified in increasing the license fee.

“There is another circumstance which I intend to place before Your Honour, and that is the opening of railway communication has distributed the influx of pilgrims throughout the year, thus reducing overcrowding at special times and special seasons of religious festivals. I was last year in Puri during the *Holi* festival, and the congregation of pilgrims there did not seem to me at all striking. On the contrary, the crowd appeared to be much less than what I anticipated.

“There is also another point of view from which this question should be considered. I presume the Municipal Act and the Puri Lodging-house Act are both enforced, and that lodging house-keepers have to pay the usual municipal rates and taxes, and I do not see that there is anything to prevent the Municipal Commissioners from levying a second license fee under section 261 of the Municipal Act. For this long time the license fee of 8 annas had been found sufficient to meet the requirements of sanitation. I earnestly hope the Select Committee, which will practically give the final shape to the enactment, will be pleased to consider the question from the points of view which I have attempted to present before Council.

“I am certainly not blind to some of the salutary provisions in the Bill, and I am not opposed to the main principle on which this Bill has been constituted.”

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA-DHIRAJ BAHADUR OF BURDWAN said:—“It is still very early to make any reflection upon this Bill, as, no doubt, it will be given a proper shape by the Select Committee which is to be appointed. I certainly think, Sir, that the license fee is a little bit exorbitant, and that perhaps the Select Committee may consider the desirability of reducing it to about Re. 1.

“This new section 21A is, I think, very necessary. I do not think that my hon'ble friend, Babu Radha Charan Pal, understood the section. It is, I believe intended that the temporary license that the Magistrate is being empowered to give is for extra temporary lodging-houses that might seem to be necessary at the time of the different *melas*. I certainly think the words in localities both healthy and not overcrowded should be added to this clause, which I leave to the Select Committee to judge.”

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH said:—“I do not think at this stage we can enter into any long discussion of the Bill. The Bill is going to be referred to a Select Committee, and it will be for the Select Committee to consider the Bill in its details. All that we can do at this stage is to make observations affecting the principle of the Bill. I am thankful to our friends for their very valuable suggestions, and as I happen to be a member of the Select Committee, and as I represent the Division of Orissa on this Council, I shall be anxious to protect the interests of the pilgrims in the places they go to. But I do not find there is any thing objectionable in the Bill itself, and



[*Babu Kali Pada Ghosh; Mr. Oldham.*]

I cannot go so far as to say that I agree with my friend, Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose, that the Bill is objectionable. On the other hand, I shall support the Bill so far as its principle is concerned."

The Hon'ble Mr. OLDHAM, in reply, said:—"At this stage perhaps, Sir, very little need be said on the remarks which have been made by the Hon'ble Members who have spoken. One might suppose, from the remarks of the Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose, that a proposal had been made in this Council to make far-reaching changes in the principles of this Act, but that is not the case at all. No changes of principle whatever are involved, and such changes as are proposed will be given full consideration in the Select Committee to which the Bill will be referred. I am glad, at any rate, to find that the very serious anticipations of the Hon'ble Member are not shared by the other Members of this Council who have spoken on these simple proposals.

"I can say, on behalf of the Select Committee, that all the suggestions, some of which appear moreover to be good ones, will be given every consideration when the Bill comes before the Select Committee.

"I move, therefore, for leave to introduce the Bill in Council."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. OLDHAM introduced the Bill and moved that it be read in Council.

The motion was put and agreed to, and the Secretary accordingly read the title of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Mr. Oldham also moved that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Collin, the Hon'ble Mr. Gordon, the Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh, the Hon'ble Babu Gajadhar Prasad and the Mover.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Council was then adjourned to a date to be notified hereafter.

CALCUTTA ;

*The 21st February, 1908.* }

F. G. WIGLEY,

*Secretary to the Bengal Council.*

*Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,  
assembled under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892.*

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The Council met in the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 21st March, 1908, at 11 A.M.

**Present:**

The Hon'ble SIR ANDREW FRASER, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding*.

The Hon'ble MR. F. A. SLACK, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. W. C. MACPHERSON, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. P. O'KINEALY, Advocate-General of Bengal.

The Hon'ble MR. E. W. COLLIN.

The Hon'ble MR. E. A. GAIT, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. W. A. INGLIS.

The Hon'ble MR. H. C. STREATFEILD.

The Hon'ble MR. C. E. A. W. OLDHAM.

The Hon'ble MR. G. GORDON.

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES ALLEN, Kt.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble IHTISHAM-UL-MULK RAIS-UD-DOWLA AMIR-UL-OMRAH NAWAB  
ASEF KUDR SYUD WASIF ALI MEERZA KHAN BAHADUR  
MAHABUT JUNG, NAWAB BAHADUR OF MURSHIDABAD.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI-PADA GHOSH, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MR. G. H. SUTHERLAND.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI BAHADUR, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA-DHIRAJ BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB BAHADUR OF  
BURDWAN.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MR. F. A. LARMOUR.

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari; Mr. Streatfeild.*]

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

COMMENTS IN THE PRESS WITH REFERENCE TO CRITICISMS OF THE POLICE IN JUDGMENTS OF THE COURTS.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked :—

(a) Has the attention of the Government been called to comments in the Press, regarding its recent correspondence with the High Court about criticism on the conduct of the Police in judgments, to the following effect :—

“If the Police are entitled to complain of vague remarks about their conduct, the Sessions Judges have the right to resent vague imputations regarding their methods of administering justice; and, if wrong has been done by Judicial Officers, warranting a change of procedure, the facts and cases which in the opinion of the Government necessitated such a change should be published?”

(b) Will the Government be pleased to publish such facts and cases in this connection as may be in its possession, if it has no objection to do so?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied :—

“The comments in the Press regarding the recent correspondence between this Government and the High Court about criticisms of the Police in judgments of the Courts, which are abstracted by the Hon'ble Member, proceeded entirely on misapprehension. The Hon'ble Judges of the High Court have access to every decision of the Courts subordinate to them, and are well aware of the nature of the criticisms made by the Courts. The Lieutenant-Governor has placed before him for his perusal every criticism on the Police made by any Court in the Province. The correspondence therefore dealt with matters well known to the Government and to the Hon'ble Judges. Under these circumstances, there was nothing vague in the remarks contained in the correspondence.

“In the second place, it is an absolute misapprehension to suppose that the change of procedure proposed by this Government to the Hon'ble Judges was based on any ‘wrong done by Judicial Officers.’ Although the whole subject of criticisms of the Police by Judicial Officers was considered in the letter from this Government, the proposals to change the procedure were based primarily, if not exclusively, on a desire to have the criticisms of the Courts more effectively dealt with. If the Hon'ble Member has himself perused the correspondence, he will have seen that the interpretation of it by that section of the Press to which he refers is entirely misleading.

“The Government does not propose to publish any ‘facts or cases’; because it is manifestly undesirable and inexpedient for the Government to publish any particular case in which it may think a Judge has erred in his criticism. It is also entirely unnecessary; both because the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court know such cases as well as the Government, and also because such cases are not the basis of the proposed change in procedure.”

### DAMODAR RIVER DAM.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked :—

(a) Have not the inhabitants of villages on the east and west sides of the river Damodar, in the neighbourhood of what is known as the Begua Hana, submitted a memorial to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, praying that an ancient spur dam or some similar contrivance may be constructed at Begua so as to distribute the waters of the Damodar, and that the obstructions at Harish Chak and other places mentioned in the memorial be removed so that the water may be at once carried off without the overflow which disastrously affects the whole of the district every year?

[*Mr. Inglis ; Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

(b) Is any definite scheme for improvement of the tract in question under the consideration of the Government, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to publish it on an early date, so that the people affected may submit their representations in time?

(c) Pending the undertaking of the scheme to be finally approved and decided on, will the Government be pleased to direct such tentative measure to be taken as may minimise the evils complained of during the ensuing rainy season?

The Hon'ble MR. INGLIS replied:—

"A memorial was received and a reply was sent last November to the effect that a definite scheme for the improvement of the tract is under the consideration of Government.

"The scheme, to which the Lieutenant-Governor has accorded administrative approval, and which it is intended to carry out at the cost of the general revenue, is the following:—It is proposed to make an earthen embankment or dam across the head of the Begua Channel where it leaves the Damodar river and to provide for the escape of the flood-water by means of two long over-flows or weirs at the level of the natural bank, which will be paved with rubble stone or concrete blocks. The object aimed at is to retain the low water flow in the old channel of the Damodar while permitting the flood-water, which is far in excess of what the channel of the river can accommodate, to spill over the bank without cutting a deep channel.

"The only possible means of relieving the country between the Damodar and the Rupnarain of flood-water is the construction of reservoirs in the upper channels of the river. This problem has been investigated more than once and it has been ascertained that the cost would be prohibitive. Moreover, a large part of the country derives benefit from the inundation. The scheme which has been approved will be carried out as soon as funds can be made available. It is not practicable to make any temporary works which would be of service."

#### TESTING OF COUNTRY MANUFACTURES.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked:—

(a) Has any provision been made in any Government Institution in Bengal for undertaking and teaching the testing of country manufactures, such as steel, iron and cement?

(b) If no such provision has been made, does not the Government consider that early provision should be made, having regard to the fact that attempts to develop such manufactures in this country can be undertaken only under the greatest handicap, they being in direct competition with similar articles imported from abroad, supported by test-certificates acceptable to Government and private Engineers?

(c) Having regard to the recent development of the Tata Iron Works scheme and other similar works on a smaller scale, does not the Government consider that Government patronage of iron and steel produced in the country for bridge-building and other forms of constructional engineering is possible and desirable; and, if so, does not the Government consider that arrangements for testing mentioned in (a) and (b) above should and might with advantage be provided?

(d) Is it not a fact that the Government has already at its command the necessary machinery and appliances and all that is necessary to open a proper testing class, is an appropriate staff; and, if so, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of appointing such a staff?

[*Mr. Streetfeild; Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

The Hon'ble MR. STREETFEILD replied :—

“(a) The importance of providing locally for the testing of country manufactures such as steel, iron and cement is recognized by the Government, and proposals in this direction have received and are receiving careful consideration, but no scheme has yet been sanctioned.

“(b) & (c) It is impossible to reply to these questions without entering on a discussion of complicated and contentious subjects, such as are beyond the scope of a reply to a question in Council.

“(d) It is a fact that certain machinery and appliances for testing are available at the Sibpur College. The opening of classes at the College has been postponed, pending the consideration by the Government of India of another scheme.”

#### CLASSES IN INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY IN THE SIBPUR COLLEGE.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked :—

Will the Government be pleased to state when the proposed classes in Industrial Chemistry at the Sibpur College, mentioned in the last annual report of the Director of Public Instruction, are likely to be started ?

The Hon'ble MR. STREETFEILD replied :—

“The question of starting the proposed classes is still the subject of correspondence between this Government and the Government of India.”

#### REMOVAL OF SIBPUR COLLEGE TO RANCHI

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked :—

(a) Will it please the Government to state whether it is intended to remove all the classes and departments of the Sibpur Engineering College to Ranchi, and how far the scheme of removal has advanced, and whether the Principal and the Professors of the College have been consulted as to such removal and as to the future site ?

(b) If they have been so consulted, will it please the Government to publish their opinions ?

(c) If they have not been consulted, will it please the Government to consider the desirability of consulting them ?

(d) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the recent statements in the Press that the Government has been permitted to use public subscriptions in connection with the Ranchi schemes ; and, if so, will it please the Government to state for what schemes the use of public subscriptions has been permitted ?

The Hon'ble MR. STREETFEILD replied :—

“(a) It is intended to remove the Sibpur College to Ranchi as a whole, but it is impossible to say at the present stage how every class and department of the existing college will be treated. The removal has been finally sanctioned and a site at Ranchi selected. Plans and estimates are now under preparation. The proposals have throughout been worked out in consultation with the Principal.

“(b) & (c) It has not been thought necessary to consult individual Professors. The Government does not consider it desirable to call for further opinions on the scheme.



[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari ; Mr. Streatfeild ; Mr. Gait.*]

“(d) The attention of Government has been drawn to the statements in the Press. A sum exceeding 2½ lakhs of rupees is at present in the hands of Government, which has been contributed from private sources for the construction of hostels in connection with the Model College at Ranchi. It is proposed to expend this sum for the purpose for which it was subscribed. There is no other basis for the statements alluded to.”

#### TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked:—

Does not the Government consider that the development of the Technical Departments of the Sibpur Engineering College is a matter of great economic importance to the country, and will the Government please consider the desirability of maintaining and developing the departments, as near as possible to the trading and industrial centres of the province, in connection with the proposal for the removal of the college proper to Ranchi?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFIELD replied:—

“The Government is fully alive to the importance of Technical Instruction, whether in connection with the Engineering College or otherwise. The Hon'ble Member may rest assured that the effect which any proposals, with regard to the College, are likely to have on the development of the technical departments is receiving and will receive the most careful consideration.”

#### INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked:—

Will the Government please consider the desirability and possibility of having a separate branch of the Educational Department to deal with the fast-increasing demands and problems of Technical and Industrial Education, which are foreign to the general Educationist, in order to have such education regulated and controlled by qualified experts in the same way as Medical and Agricultural educations are controlled?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFIELD replied:—

“The importance of Industrial and Technical Education is fully recognized by the Government, and the question, how the development of such education can be assisted, is receiving careful consideration. No decision has, however, yet been arrived at, as to whether the desired objects can best be attained by the creation of a separate branch of the Educational Service or otherwise.”

#### DIVISION OF PATNA COMMISSIONERSHIP.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked:—

Has any representation been received by the Government for the transfer of the office of the Commissioner of Patna to Gaya, on account of its central position, and does the Government propose to take any action on such representation?

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT replied:—

“When public criticism was invited on the proposal to divide the Commissionership of Patna into two, it was suggested by the Bar Association of Gaya and by the Chairman of the Gaya Municipal Board that the capital of the

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari; Mr. Inglis; Rai Kishori Lal Goswami Bahadur; Mr. Streatfeild.*]

proposed South Gangetic Division should be transferred from Patna to Gaya. The Government is of opinion that there would be no justification for such a change, which would involve unnecessary expenditure and an unnecessary interference with vested interests."

#### ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDIAN INDUSTRIES

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked :—

(a) Has the attention of the Government been called to the speech of Colonel Alexander Jerome Filgate, R. E., Chairman of the Bengal Iron and Steel Company, at its recent ordinary general meeting of the Company, to the following effect :—

"More support from the Government would be acceptable, and this, we think, can and ought to be given, not only without loss to Government but in the interest of both Government and the public. For years past it has been time after time proclaimed that it is the policy of the Government to encourage Indian industries, yet in regard to our industry we find large contracts still placed in Europe which could have been suitably and more cheaply fulfilled at our works."

(b) So far as lies in the power of the Government of Bengal, will it please the Government to give directions for the encouragement of industries of the kind mentioned in the above speech ?

The Hon'ble MR. INGLIS replied :—

"The Company has discontinued the manufacture of steel. So long as the Company manufactured steel-joists, a number of joists were taken in Bengal, also in other Provinces throughout India and Burma. Now the chief article purchased from the Company is water-pipes. These are usually purchased from the Company when such pipes are required. A number were purchased for water-mains for the Calcutta Maidan recently."

#### LEAVE RULES OF SUBORDINATE JUDICIAL SERVICE

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI BAHADUR said :—

Under the present Civil Leave and Pension Code, Subordinate Judicial Officers do not get any privilege leave on full pay and they cannot affix or prefix the same to an annual vacation, whereas Executive Officers and District Judges get one month's privilege leave on full pay after eleven months' active service and they can prefix or affix the same to an annual vacation. Having regard to the fact that the Executive Officers and District Judges enjoy the last Saturday of every month as a holiday, which fully compensates for the shorter Dusseral vacation for such officers, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of modifying the leave rules applicable to the Subordinate Judicial Officers so as to place them and the Executive Officers and District Judges on the same footing as regards the rules relating to privilege leave ?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied :—

"This matter was considered in 1906, when it was decided by the Government of India that the existing rules should not be altered. The Lieutenant-Governor is not prepared to re-open the question at present."

[*Rai Kishori Lal Goswami Bahadur ; Mr. Streatfeild ; Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose.*]

PENSIONABLE SERVICE IN SUBORDINATE JUDICIAL SERVICE.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI BAHADUR said :—

In reply to a question of the Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose asked last year, the then Judicial Secretary of the Bengal Government was pleased to say: "that the proposal that Munsiffs should be permitted to count the broken periods spent by them in officiating appointments before confirmation as pensionable service is still under consideration with reference to the rules which regulate admission to the Subordinate Judicial Service." Will the Government be pleased to say what decision has been arrived at in regard to that matter?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied :—

"The question referred to is still under the consideration of the Government of India."

COMPULSORY RETIREMENT IN SUBORDINATE JUDICIAL SERVICE.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI BAHADUR said :—

Having regard to the fact that the age for compulsory retirement applicable to the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court is 60 years, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of extending the age of compulsory retirement in the cases of Subordinate Judicial Officers who will be deemed upon medical examination and otherwise to be fit for good and active Judicial work on completion of the age of 55?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied :—

"The Government is unable to accept the proposal that the members of the Subordinate Judicial Service should be exempted from the ordinary rules regarding superannuation; since judicial work is as hard as any other and officers who have served their time in the judicial line are not physically younger than those of other departments. It need hardly be added that in accordance with the ordinary rules no Munsif is compulsorily retired before 60, if he is still found up to his work."

CREATION OF A SEPARATE JUDGESHIP AT KHULNA.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked :—

Will the Government be pleased to say whether it has come to any decision in the matter of the appointment of a District Judge for Khulna in the near future?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied :—

"The question of creating a separate Judgeship for the district of Khulna has been referred to the Government of India."

SILTING OF THE ALAIPUR KHAL.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked :—

Will the Government be pleased to say whether any and, if so, what steps are being taken to prevent the silting up of the Alaipur Khal and to keep it navigable throughout the year?



[*Mr. Inglis; Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose; Mr. Oldham.*]

The Hon'ble MR. INGLIS replied :—

"The only measure which would prevent the deposit of silt in this *khal* would be to convert it into a still-water canal by the construction of locks and weirs. The traffic which makes use of the *khal* is not sufficient to warrant the expense of this measure. An inquiry is now being held to ascertain if the local traffic can afford to pay a toll which will suffice to meet the cost of dredging plant by the use of which the silting could be kept in check."

#### JESSORE DRAINAGE SCHEME.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked :—

"Will the Government be pleased to say in what stage is the Jessore drainage scheme, and when it is likely to be taken up?"

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied :—

"In this question the Hon'ble Member is understood to refer to the Jessore town drainage scheme. This scheme is being prepared by the Assistant Sanitary Engineer: it is reported to be about half finished. When completed, it will have to be formally considered by the Municipal Commissioners in meeting; and if they accept it, they will have to arrange the ways and means for carrying it out. Government is not in a position, therefore, to say when the scheme will be actually taken in hand."

#### IMPROVEMENT OF THE BHAIRUB RIVER.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked :—

"Will the Government be pleased to state why the sum of Rs. 75,000, budgetted in 1906 for the Bhairub Valley Drainage scheme, was omitted from the budget of 1907? Will the Government be pleased to make some provision in the budget of this year for that scheme?"

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied :—

"The scheme for which Rs. 75,000 was provided in the Budget for 1906 07 was one for the improvement of the Bhairab River as a navigable channel. It would have had no effect on the stream as a drainage channel. When the navigation project was fully investigated, it was found that the cost would be out of proportion to the benefit, and it was decided that it should not be proceeded with."

"A scheme for draining a number of *bhils* in the neighbourhood of Jessore, by means of cuts which will discharge into the Bhairab, is at present under the consideration of the District Board and of the Drainage Commissioners. This scheme has not yet reached the stage at which it is desirable to provide in the Budget for any grant-in-aid from Provincial Revenues."

#### DRINKING WATER IN RURAL AREAS.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked :—

"Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken for supplying good drinking-water, and how many tanks have been excavated for the purpose, during the last five years, at the cost or with the help of the District Boards or the Government, in each of the districts of Jessore, Krishnagar, Khulna and Murshidabad?"

[Mr. Oldham; Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose.]

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM, replied:—

"From the Reports on the working of the District Boards it appears that the following sums have been spent on Water-supply (original works), during each of the past five years, in the four districts referred to by the Hon'ble Member:—

District.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1906-07.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Nadia ...	1,501	3,630	2,945	9,511	11,011	28,598
Murshidabad ...	868	648	504	567	1,198	3,785
Jessore ...	3,757	5,563	1,981	6,250	15,500	33,051
Khulna ...	69	1,389	5,198	9,410	16,977	33,043

Government is not in possession of information as to how many tanks for the supply of good drinking water have been excavated during each of these years.

"The Hon'ble Member's attention is also invited to Mr. Shirres' Circular No. 12T.-M., dated the 20th May, 1904, regarding the supply of drinking water in rural areas. In accordance with the terms of this Circular, the following grants were made by Government during the year 1904-05 to the four districts named:—

	Rs.
Nadia ...	10,000
Murshidabad ...	1,884 *
Jessore ...	10,000
Khulna ...	7,300

Since the year 1905-06, Government has been making an annual grant to the District Boards of an amount equal to one-fourth of their income from the Road Cess, in augmentation of their resources, in order to enable them to meet the growing demands on their funds. In view of this large contribution, which amounts to Rs. 9,00,000 *per annum*, separate grants under Mr. Shirres' Circular have been discontinued, with the exception of one or two special grants, including one of Rs. 5,000 given to the Nadia District Board in 1907-08 for the provision of pure water-supply."

#### GRANTS BY GOVERNMENT TO DISTRICT BOARDS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF WATER SUPPLY.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked:—

Is the Government aware that the funds at the disposal of the District Boards are quite insufficient to make adequate provision for supplying good drinking-water to the people, which is primarily responsible for the prevalence of diseases like cholera and malaria? Will the Government be pleased to make adequate grants for the purpose?

Will the Government be pleased to take steps for systematically having at least five good tanks every year in the districts of the Presidency Division in the first instance, in co-operation with the District Boards and the people, the inhabitants of the village in which the tank may be excavated being required to pay one-third of the cost and to give the land required free of charge?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied:—

"From the answer to Question No. V asked by the Hon'ble Member it will be seen that Government has already recognized that the funds at the disposal of District Boards are not sufficient and that it has been making very large grants to augment those resources. It now rests with the District Boards to devote a portion of these grants to the supply of good drinking water for the people. The District Boards concerned should, therefore, take necessary action in the matter with the co-operation, if necessary, of the people. In the Bill to amend the Bengal Local Self-Government Act, it is proposed to insert provisions enabling Union Committees to incur expenditure on the improvement of water-supply, and to realize a portion of the cost of such measures by permissive local taxation."

[*Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose ; Mr. Gait ; Mr. Oldham ; Babu Kali Pada Ghosh,*]

#### AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENTS.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked :—

Is the Government aware that, from the results of the agricultural farms established by it, an impression has been produced on the minds of the people that it is difficult to carry on cultivation in large farms on improved methods with profit, and that, in consequence, not one of the students trained by it here, in England or in America have taken to agriculture as a profession? Will the Government be pleased to publish a statement showing that some of its farms at least are profitable and not losing concerns? If there are no such farms, will the Government be pleased to direct the Agricultural Department to establish one or two farms on business lines, giving profitable returns for the outlay of money and labour necessary for them?

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT replied :—

“Agricultural experiment stations are established, not with the object of making a profit, but, in order to acquire knowledge regarding the best methods of cultivation and manuring of existing varieties of grain, etc., to improve the quality of these varieties by selection and otherwise, and to ascertain what crops grown elsewhere can be cultivated successfully in the locality where the station is situated. Such work necessitates the employment of highly paid officers and involves much larger expenditure than would be incurred by ordinary agriculturists.

“It can hardly be necessary for Government to prove that agriculture is a profitable profession; and it does not seem necessary for Government to establish farms with a view to working them at a profit. The interesting experiment which is being made by private individuals at Deoghur will, however, be watched by the Agricultural Department with interest.”

#### RESOURCES OF DISTRICT BOARDS.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE said :—

The Government is aware that the District Boards have at present got practically no means at their disposal to fulfil in any useful measure the duties imposed on them, and His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has expressed his sympathy with them and his desire to help them. Will the Government be pleased to say what measures are being taken for the purpose?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied :—

“As will be seen from the answers to Questions V and VI, Government has recognized the inadequacy of the resources of District Boards. During each of the three years, 1901-02 to 1903-04, a grant of five lakhs was made, and since 1905-06 an annual grant of nine lakhs has been made with a view to increase their resources.”

#### EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH asked :—

(a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that all appointments of Inspectors of Schools in the Province will henceforth be reserved for Europeans, and that no Indian officer will be eligible for such appointments?

(b) If the Government has such a scheme in contemplation, will it be pleased to state the grounds for excluding Indian officers from such appointments?

[*Mr. Streatfeild; Babu Kali Pada Ghosh; Mr. Oldham; Babu Radha Charan Pal.*]

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied :—

"When the sanctioned inspecting staff is complete, there will be six Divisional Inspectors of Schools, and six additional Inspectors in this Province. The former will usually be Officers in the Indian Educational Service, the latter will always be Officers in the Provincial Educational Service. The Indian Educational Service is, no doubt at present, practically recruited as a European service; but otherwise there is no intention of reserving all or any of these posts for European officers."

#### HEAD MASTERS OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH asked :—

Is it a fact that the appointments of Head Masters of all Government Schools in the Divisional head-quarters will henceforth be exclusively reserved for Europeans? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the grounds for excluding Indians from such appointments?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied :—

"The whole question of the improvement of Secondary Schools is at present receiving the consideration of Government. Among other proposals which have been made in this behalf is one for the appointment of officers of the Indian Educational Service to be Head Masters of a few selected High Schools. No final decision has yet been arrived at on this point. The object of the proposal, however, is not to replace Indian Head Masters by Europeans, but to secure for these High Schools the services of highly qualified officers of the Superior Service as their Head Masters."

#### DISPOSAL OF FEES AND FINES COLLECTED UNDER THE PURI LODGING-HOUSE ACT, 1871 (BEN. ACT IV OF 1871).

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH said :—

The Municipality of Puri being primarily responsible for the sanitary improvement of the town, will the Government be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of making over to the Municipality the fees and fines collected under the Puri Lodging-house Act (Ben. Act IV of 1871) which are now placed at the disposal of the Magistrate?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied :—

"The Act itself and the by-laws issued by Government thereunder provide for the proper disposal of the fees and fines in accordance with the objects of the law. The law does not contemplate that these monies should be made over to the Municipality. The Municipality, however, receives grants from the Lodging-house Fund."

#### GRIEVANCES OF THE SUBORDINATE MEDICAL SERVICE.

The Hon'ble BABU DEVA PRASAD SARTYADHIKARY, in the absence of the Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked :—

(a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the two articles in the "Empire" of the 15th February, 1908, on the subject of the grievances of the Subordinate Medical Service?

(b) Have the memorials of the Civil Assistant Surgeons been received by the Government? If not, will the Government call for them from the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Bengal, to whom they were addressed, with the opinions of the forwarding officers by whom they were submitted?

(c) Is the Government aware that great discontent prevails among the Civil Assistant Surgeons, for reasons stated in their memorials, and that it is intensified by the non-receipt of any acknowledgment from that officer, and that some have already resigned their service on that ground?

[Mr. Oldham ; Babu Radha Charan Pal ; Mr. Inglis.]

(d) Will the Government be pleased to take these humble memorials into its favourable consideration and remove their just grievances, which stand in the way of getting efficient medical men, whose services are indispensably required for the improvement of the public health and the saving of individual lives in the mufassal?

The Hon'ble Mr. OLDHAM replied :—

“(a) The attention of Government had not previously been drawn to the articles in question.

“(b) The memorials referred to have not yet been received by Government. The Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals reports that up to date he has received memorials from 59 Assistant Surgeons: he is now considering the representations of the memorialists and he will submit his recommendations to Government in due course.

“(c) The fact that so many memorials have been submitted shows *prima facie* that dissatisfaction exists. The Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals reports, however, that the allegation contained in the latter portion of this question is without foundation.

“(d) The memorials, with the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals' remarks and recommendations, will certainly receive full consideration at the hands of Government.”

#### BERAI CANAL PROJECT.

The Hon'ble BABU DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY in the absence of the Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked :—

(a) Is it a fact that a memorial, signed by the residents of fifty-five villages in the district of Bankura, was submitted to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying for the construction of a canal from the river Beraï for agricultural purposes?

(b) Is it a fact that the memorialists offered to pay for the supply of water to their fields at a rate varying from annas 4 to annas 12 per bigha?

(c) Is it a fact that the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Irrigation Department, has asked the petitioners to furnish him with particulars as to the river referred to and the sketch map showing where the canal is wanted, and to show that the levels of the land are such as to admit of the canal being constructed, and whether such information has been given so far as the petitioners, who are poor men, could give it?

(d) If the information as supplied is not deemed sufficient, will the Government be pleased to order a survey of the land to ascertain the level, etc.; at the cost of the Government, for the benefit of the villages?

(e) Having regard to the frequent failure of crops in the villages referred to, due to the failure of rain and consequent distress of the people, will the Government be pleased to sanction the canal when the people are willing to pay for the benefit received?

The Hon'ble Mr. INGLIS replied :—

“The facts recited in clauses (a), (b) and (c) of the question are correct.

“In the year 1901, the late Mr. Maconchy, Superintending Engineer, made a preliminary inquiry to ascertain if a Canal from the Beraï River could be recommended as a protective work. The conclusions he came to, which were accepted by Government, were—1st, that the catchment of the stream is so small that in a season of drought the supply of water would either fail altogether or would be so small as to be of very little use; and 2nd, that there was no prospect whatever of the canal being remunerative to Government. The scheme was therefore regarded as impracticable.



[*Babu Radha Charan Pal ; Mr. Inglis.*]

"It was estimated that a detailed survey would cost Rs. 4,600. There is no justification for an expenditure of this amount from the General Revenues on work which would be of no practical use. It will, however, be arranged to have observations made of the flow of water in the stream to ascertain definitely what area could be irrigated at a time of drought. On the present information it would appear that a channel made by the land owners themselves, similar to the *pynes* of which there are so many in the Gaya district, would be more suitable than a Government Canal".

#### TOLLY'S NALA AND RICE TRADE.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, in the absence of the Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL, asked:—

(a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether a portion of the Tolly's Nala below the Boat Canal and *Kaurapukur* khal has practically been silted up and the trade in rice has thereby been seriously affected? If so, will it kindly state what steps have been proposed to be taken to render it navigable, and when they are likely to be taken?

(b) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the great inconvenience of the inhabitants and traders of Chetla and Shahanagore from the absence of a cart bridge over the Tolly's Nala between the Kalighat and Tollyganj bridges, which are situated at a distance of  $1\frac{3}{8}$  mile from each other? Is it not a fact that the proposal for the erection of the said bridge has been unanimously approved of by the Calcutta Corporation, and that the said Corporation has expressed its willingness to contribute Rs. 20,000 towards the cost of construction of the said bridge? If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether it will kindly sanction the construction of the said bridge?

The Hon'ble MR. INGLIS replied:—

"(a) The present state of Tolly's Nala is much the same as that which must have always prevailed. Owing to the meeting of the tidal streams, silting is inevitable. The only possible remedy is to convert the channel into a canal with locks and sluices. This question has been investigated more than once, but so far with a negative result, as the expense of the works required would be out of proportion to the benefit.

"(b) In November, 1906, a Member of the Calcutta Corporation solicited the construction of an additional bridge over Tolly's Nala in the vicinity of the Chetla rice market. The Commissioner of Police, who was consulted, was of opinion that the bridge, if made, would benefit comparatively few people. The inquiries of the Public Works Officers also indicated that there was no general demand or need for the bridge. The Chairman of the Corporation, however, intimated in June, 1907, that the Corporation were of opinion that the bridge would be useful, and that they would contribute Rs. 20,000 towards the cost. The Chairman was informed, in a letter dated 20th June, 1907, that the offer could not be accepted, and that a contribution of at least Rs. 50,000 would be necessary, as the bridge with approaches would cost not less than Rs. 80,000 and probably as much as Rs. 1,00,000 or more, as on the east side of the Nala a new approach road would be necessary. A reply to this letter is awaited."

#### COURT INSPECTORS IN THE CALCUTTA POLICE COURT.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, in the absence of the Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL, asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) On what terms the present Court Inspectors are empowered to conduct the prosecution of Police cases?

(b) What is the nature of the cases that they have been empowered to conduct?

[*Mr. Streatfeild; Babu Gajadhar Prasad; Mr. Oldham.*]

- (c) Have the general or special powers of the Criminal Procedure Code, contemplated in section 495, sub-section (1), been conferred upon them? Has the fact been gazetted; and, if so, when and where? If not, is their appointment legally tenable?
- (d) Whether the opinion of the Advocate-General was taken as to the applicability of section 495, sub-section (1), in this behalf in the Presidency Town of Calcutta? If not, will the Government be pleased to take it now?
- (e) Whether, in view of the separate function of the Judicial and Executive in the Presidency Town of Calcutta, the Government will be pleased to abolish the said post of Court Inspector in the Calcutta Police Court, and consider the advisability of appointing an Assistant Government Prosecutor from among the practising pleaders of the Court, for the purpose of conducting the prosecution of Police cases which the Government Prosecutor could not attend to?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

“(a) The present Court Inspectors are appointed to be Public Prosecutors under section 492 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

“(b) Their duty is to conduct the prosecution of cases in which professional advice and assistance are not required.

“(c) and (d) The provisions of section 495 (i) of the Code of Criminal Procedure do not apply to these officers.

“(e) The Government does not propose to make the change suggested in clause (e) of the question. There is no reason to suppose that it would tend either to efficiency or to economy.”

#### CRIMINAL COURTS SITTING AT NIGHT.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD asked:—

Whether, in view of the great inconvenience felt by the litigants and the lawyers owing to the fact that some Criminal Courts hold their sittings even at night, the Government will be pleased to consider the desirability of fixing the hours during which such Courts should be held?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

“There is no doubt that late sittings are held in certain Courts and on certain occasions owing to press of work or other causes, but the Government has no reason to believe that such late sittings are more frequent than is necessary for the punctual despatch of business, or that they cause serious inconvenience. The Government deprecates late sittings, but it is not practicable to limit the discretion of judicial officers to prolong their sittings if this is required by the work on hand.”

#### THE SAMBALPUR (EVIDENCE) BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to repeal the Central Provinces Laws Act, 1879, so far as it applies to the district of Sambalpur.

#### THE BENGAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1908-09

THE HON'BLE MR. OLDHAM laid on the table the Bengal Financial Statement for 1908-09, with explanatory notes. He said:—

“SIR, I beg to lay on the table the Financial Statement with the usual appendices and accounts; and in doing so to make a few remarks of a general

[Mr. Oldham.]

nature in explanation of our position. The Statement has been prepared on the same lines as previous statements. There are only two innovations to which attention may be drawn. The first is that, in accordance with the decision of the Government of India, local finance will in future be wholly separated from the general accounts. The head 'Contributions from Provincial to Local,' therefore, disappears, and the grants to Local will, with effect from next year, be shown under the several service heads concerned. The second is that, under the instructions of the Government of India, a statement showing the receipts and expenditure of District Boards and District Road Committees has been added as an Appendix to the Financial Statement.

"It has been the good fortune of some of my predecessors in office to lay prosperity budgets before this Council: it has fallen to my lot on this occasion to present the budget when there is, unfortunately, no surplus to distribute among the several Departments eager to press schemes of administrative reform.

"There are two principal causes for the present financial position—(1) the gradual depletion of the previous large balances, which has been due chiefly to largely increased expenditure on Public Works, and (2) the unprecedentedly high prices of food-grains that have ranged all over the country during the past two years, which do not show any present signs of falling.

"Excluding the special grant of 50 lakhs for the Calcutta Improvement Scheme, made in the year 1903-04, which is of the nature of a trust and cannot be utilized for any other purpose, the closing balances during the past six years have been—

				Rs.
In 1901-02	...	...	...	49,05,782
" 1902-03	...	...	...	55,29,421
" 1903-04	...	...	...	92,52,919
" 1904-05	...	...	...	80,00,101
" 1905-06	...	...	...	62,61,898
" 1906-07	...	...	...	43,84,443

Taking the revised estimate, the closing balance at the end of the current year will be Rs. 21,32,000, and according to the budget now placed on the table the balance at the close of 1908-09 will be reduced to Rs. 13,90,000, or about fifteen and-a-half lakhs if we add Rs. 1,56,000, being the Provincial expenditure on distress next year, as we are allowed to do under the existing arrangement with the Government of India. The large increase in the year 1903-04 was due to a particular cause, *viz.*, the grant from Imperial Revenues of a special allotment of 50 lakhs to start the new Provincial Settlement then under consideration. These large surplus balances were chiefly absorbed in Public Works expenditure. The charges on account of Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department amounted in 1901-02 to Rs. 43,71,000, in 1902-03 to Rs. 55,69,000, in 1903-04 to Rs. 74,39,000, in 1904-05 to Rs. 58,38,000, in 1905-06 to Rs. 62,79,000, in 1906-07 to Rs. 66,93,000 and in 1907-08, according to the revised estimate, they will amount to Rs. 71,04,000. The Public Works expenditure during the last five years has, therefore, been enormously in excess of that of previous years. For the purposes of the present Provincial Settlement, the charges on this account were taken at about 40 lakhs only. The result of the increased activity in this direction, moreover, has been that there are many large projects still in hand and uncompleted, and for which provision has had to be made during the current, and will still have to be made during the ensuing year; and though we have been compelled to restrict such expenditure next year, we have not been able, looking to the many necessary schemes already in hand to place the estimated outlay below Rs. 55,71,000. As an example of the development of Public Works operations, I may mention that during the past five years the expenditure on Jails, Police and Medical buildings in Calcutta alone has been Rs. 50,90,000.

"During the same period, the ordinary demands of the Administration have been steadily increasing from year to year in all Departments, in some in



[Mr. Oldham.]

accordance with normal expansion, and in others to an abnormal extent, as, for instance, in the case of the Departments of Police and Education. The charges on account of the Police Department have increased from Rs. 48,80,000 in 1902-03 to Rs. 74,37,000 in 1907-08, and the budget for next year stands at Rs. 77,63,000. The larger part, no doubt, of this increased expenditure has been borne by liberal grants from the Imperial Government; still a considerable portion of it has fallen, and must continue to fall in the future, upon Provincial Revenues.

"In the case of the Education Department the outlay from Provincial Funds has steadily risen from 26 lakhs in 1902-03 to 42½ lakhs in the revised estimate for the current year. Part of this increase also has been borne by the Imperial Government. The numerous schemes of reform and improvement that have been undertaken or are in contemplation in connexion with this Department will, moreover, call for a continually increasing expenditure. The demands during recent years for the development of Technical Education have also led to an increase under this head. In the budget for next year, Technical Education in all its branches accounts for an aggregate provision of more than six lakhs.

"Under Medical, the charges have increased from Rs. 17,15,000 in 1902-03 to Rs. 22,64,000 in the revised estimate for the current year. The estimate for next year is very much higher, for a special reason which I shall explain presently.

"Though Bengal, we are thankful to say, has not suffered so severely from the effects of deficient harvests as other parts of India, or as it has suffered on previous occasions, some provision has had to be made for direct expenditure on Relief Measures. The charges on this account during the current year have been estimated at Rs. 6,12,000, which will, under the existing arrangement with the Government of India, be borne by Imperial Revenues. Next year, however, it is estimated that besides the sum chargeable to Imperial (Rs. 8,44,000) Rs. 1,56,000 will have to be spent on this account from Provincial Funds. Besides this direct expenditure on relief, a sum of Rs. 20,00,000 has been given out in loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act during the current year, and it is estimated that about the same amount will be advanced during 1908-09.

"While, however, the high prices do not affect so adversely the agricultural population, they cause much suffering among the people who are dependent on small fixed incomes and the low-salaried ministerial officers and menial servants. It was with a view to alleviating the distress among these latter classes, that Government took upon itself to grant compensation for dearness of provisions to all menials and ministerial officers drawing pay of Rs. 30 and less *per mensem*. The charges on this account during the current year are estimated at more than 9½ lakhs; and 8½ lakhs have been provided on this account for 1908-09. The effect of high prices has also been felt in other directions, as, for instance, in raising the cost of feeding the prisoners in our jails. It is in consequence of this unforeseen expenditure that the closing balance of the current year has fallen so low, and the closing balance for next year has been reduced below the minimum.

"Under the terms of our settlement with the Government of India, we must keep a minimum working balance of 20 lakhs; and although the estimates for next year have been passed by the Imperial Government, we shall have to take steps as soon as may be possible to make up the deficit. This means that we shall not only be precluded from taking into consideration any new projects, but we must also exercise rigid economy till the financial position has much improved.

"In almost every Department there are important projects either ready or under consideration that will involve an increase of expenditure, and numerous requests for additional allotments have had to be reluctantly refused. We have, as far as was practicable in the circumstances explained above, made provision either wholly or partially for the most pressing schemes of reform.

[*Mr. Oldham.*]

\* We have made provision for additional recurring expenditure to the extent of Rs. 2,31,000 under Education, besides special grants of a non-recurring nature amounting to Rs. 77,000.

"Under Agriculture, we have provided for additional recurring expenditure of Rs. 45,000 for Agricultural Experiment Stations and for the improvement of the Silk Industry. We have allotted a sum of one lakh towards the construction of the new Agricultural College at Sabaur, and Rs. 50,000 towards the fittings and furniture thereof.

"A provision of Rs. 1,00,000 has been made for the continuance of the special inquiries into the Fisheries of the Province, with a view to the future development of this important industry.

"Under Ports and Pilotage, a heavy provision of Rs. 5,87,000 has had to be made to meet the balance of the cost of the new steam cruiser for the Sandheads and of the stores required for it.

"Large allotments have been made for the extension and improvement of Medical Institutions in Calcutta, to bring them up to date and make them more worthy of the Metropolis of India, viz., Rs. 2,35,000 for the new Surgical Block, Rs. 90,000 for the new 4th Block and Rs. 24,000 for a Cholera Ward at the Medical College; Rs. 97,600 for the double-storied Ward, Campbell Hospital; and Rs. 49,000 for the new Paying Patients' Ward, Presidency General Hospital.

"We have provided for liberal grants-in-aid towards Local Drainage and Water-supply. The principal items under this head are an allotment of Rs. 1,00,000 for sanitary improvement and pure water-supply at Puri; a contribution of Rs. 77,000 towards the cost of the Monghyr Water-works scheme; a contribution of Rs. 75,000 in aid of the scheme for water-supply at Gaya; a grant of Rs. 50,000 to the Patna Municipality towards the cost of installing a third pumping station for flushing the drains; and a provision of Rs. 20,000, as a portion of the grant which Government expects to make towards the Serampore Water-supply scheme.

"As will be seen from the details under Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department, a considerable sum has been allotted for the improvement of District Civil Courts and Munsifis.

"We have made increased provision under Land Revenue, Excise, Registration, General Administration, Courts of Law, Police and Medical for strengthening and re-organizing, as well as improving the pay and prospects of establishments.

"A provision of Rs. 90,000 has been made under 'Medical' for measures in connexion with Plague. Besides this, however, it will be observed that the Government of India have just made a special large assignment of Rs. 4,50,000 under the same head, for sanitary improvements with special reference to the prevention of plague. We have also provided, under this head, Rs. 30,000 for special measures recommended by the Drainage Committee in connexion with the prevention of fever.

"It will also be noticed that a special assignment of Rs. 4,00,000 has been made by the Government of India, under Police, for additional reforms in accordance with the recommendations of the Police Commission. Sums of two lakhs and one lakh-and-a-quarter, respectively, have been allotted for the purchase of much-needed house accommodation for the Calcutta and Howrah Police.

\* "It has been decided, with a view to giving the Members of this Council ample time to consider the details of the Financial Statement, that it will not come up for discussion till the 4th April. My colleagues and I hope that the Hon'ble Members will extend to us the same courtesy that has been shown on previous occasions, and give notice within the next six or seven days of any points which they propose to bring forward, that information may be collected, where necessary, to enable us to reply."

# THE BENGAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1908-1909.

## PART I.—General Review.

### (1) ACCOUNTS FOR 1906-1907.

In the revised estimate for 1906-1907, which was laid before the Council on the 23rd March 1907, the receipts of the year were taken at Rs. 5,03,37,000, and the expenditure at Rs. 5,22,71,000. These anticipations have been borne out in a remarkable manner by the actual results. The accounts of the year which have now been closed show that, as compared with the estimates, the receipts were better by Rs. 20,000, and the charges were less by Rs. 36,000 only. There was, however, an increase of Rs. 2,14,000 in the opening balance of the year, caused by the inclusion of the credit and debit balances of the District Post Funds and the Patwari Cess, on their abolition at the close of the year 1905-1906, so that the net result was an improvement of Rs.  $(2,14,000 + 20,000 + 36,000 =)$  2,70,000 in the closing balance, which amounted to Rs. 93,84,000, against Rs. 91,14,000 anticipated when the last Financial Statement was presented.

### (2) REVISED ESTIMATE FOR 1907-1908.

2. The budget for 1907-1908, as passed by the Government of India, provided for receipts aggregating Rs. 5,20,28,000 and an expenditure of Rs. 5,36,86,000. The revised estimate now passed provides for a revenue of Rs. 5,21,40,000 and an expenditure of Rs. 5,43,92,000. The net result is a deficit of Rs. 22,52,000, as against Rs. 16,58,000 anticipated last year.

3. On the receipt side the revenue is expected to show an increase of Rs. 1,12,000 which is the net result of improvements under some heads and of decreases under others. Improvements aggregating Rs. 12,02,000 are expected chiefly under the following heads:—Stamps (Rs. 2,25,000) under General Stamps; Excise (Rs. 1,00,000) owing to increase in duty on country liquors; Registration (Rs. 1,50,000) owing chiefly to a larger number of documents being registered in consequence of the high prices of food-grains; Superannuation (Rs. 3,51,000) on account of the sale-proceeds of the investments of the Police Superannuation Fund now abolished; Irrigation Major Works (Rs. 1,51,000) owing to the expansion of *rabi* irrigation; Irrigation Minor Works in charge of the Public Works Department (Rs. 1,19,000) chiefly in navigation receipts of the Calcutta and Eastern Canals; and Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department (Rs. 85,000), chiefly under rent of buildings, &c. On the other hand, the decreases aggregate Rs. 10,90,000. They occurred principally under the following heads:—Land Revenue (Rs. 3,45,000) owing chiefly to suspensions and remissions of revenue due to scarcity; Adjustments between Imperial and Provincial (Rs. 1,01,000) as shown in Appendix A; Jails (Rs. 71,000) due to smaller proceeds from Jail manufactures; Ports and Pilotage (Rs. 90,000); Miscellaneous (Rs. 81,000), chiefly due to the discontinuance of banking fees and fees for audit of accounts of Municipal and other Local Funds; and Contributions (Rs. 2,54,000). The decrease under the last head was due partly to the stoppage of banking fees hitherto charged to District Funds, and partly to the fact that no advance was made for the Magrahat Drainage scheme in the preceding year, so that no refund was recoverable in the present year, as originally estimated.

4. On the expenditure side, the revised estimate shows a net increase of Rs. 7,06,000, which is more than accounted for by the heavy charges incurred in the payment of grain compensation allowance to officers on small pay and on account of the diet of prisoners in Jails and of the sick in hospitals owing to the high prices of food-grains. There are, however, other increases, viz., under Stationery and Printing (Rs. 2,00,000) owing to larger expenditure in the presses; under Miscellaneous (Rs. 1,27,000) for special refunds due to the reduction in the rate of interest on the Howrah and Rajapur Drainage advances from 5 to 4

per cent., with retrospective effect, under Act II of 1902, and to the actual maintenance charges of those works having proved much less than the amount estimated at the time of their capitalization; under Irrigation Major Works (Rs. 2,45,000) for larger grants for maintenance and repairs to flood damages; and under Civil Works by the Public Works Department (Rs. 1,04,000) for additional grants made for works urgently required. Against these increases there are decreases of Rs. 53,000 under Forests owing to smaller expenditure under Conservancy and Works; of Rs. 3,29,000 under Interest on Debt—Irrigation Major Works—due to the reduction of the rate of interest under the revised system of calculation and distribution of interest in reference to the average incidence of the charges actually paid in each year; of Rs. 3,93,000 under Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers on account of the appropriation of the reserve under this head to other heads and the failure to utilize certain specific grants for which schemes were not sufficiently matured to admit of expenditure; and of Rs. 1,40,000 under Contributions from Provincial to Local for transfer to other heads.

5. The closing balance of the current year was estimated in March last at Rs. 74,56,000. To this should be added Rs. 2,70,000, the excess of the opening balance over the estimate, and Rs. 1,12,000, by which the receipts of the current year have improved; while Rs. 7,06,000, being the increase of expenditure, must be deducted. In the revised estimate, therefore, the closing balance of the current year is Rs. (74,56,000 + 2,70,000 + 1,12,000—7,06,000 = ) 71,32,000.

(3) BUDGET ESTIMATE, 1908-09.

6. The opening balance for 1908-09 corresponds with the closing balance of the current year, and is, therefore, taken at Rs. 71,32,000.

7. The estimate shows receipts aggregating Rs. 5,42,56,000, an expenditure of Rs. 5,49,98,000 and a closing balance of Rs. 63,90,000.

8. The ordinary Provincial minimum closing balance is Rs. 20,00,000 but in addition to that amount the Government of Bengal must keep the special grant for the improvement of Calcutta untouched, so that under present conditions the minimum closing balance is  $20+50=70$  lakhs. A provision of Rs. 1,56,000 has been made under the head Famine Relief, and under the orders of the Government of India the prescribed balance may be reduced by that amount. The closing balance now estimated is therefore less than the minimum balance by Rs.  $6,10,000-1,56,000=Rs. 4,54,000$ . This deficit is more than accounted for by the provision for the payment of grain compensation allowance to officers on pay of Rs. 30 and less. The total provision on this account in the budget is about eight and-a-half lakhs. This allowance was not taken into account in the standard of expenditure accepted for the purpose of the Financial Settlement made with this Province.

9. The budget estimate for next year, as passed by the Government of India, provides for receipts aggregating Rs. 5,42,56,000, as stated above. This includes the following special assignments from Imperial Revenues:—

	Rs.
For Police reorganization ...	12,00,000
On account of Madaripur Bhil route (maintenance) ...	50,000
Ditto     (capital) ...	1,69,000
In connection with the Famine Relief scheme ...	2,60,000
For Technical education ...	35,000
„ European and Eurasian education ...	65,000
„ University and Collegiate education ...	1,60,000
„ Abolition of the Patwari cess in Sambalpur ...	26,000
„ Continuous maintenance of record-of-rights in Orissa ...	59,000
„ Temporary occupation of 2, Bankshall Street by Commerce and Industry Department ...	16,000
„ Contribution from Eastern Bengal and Assam Government to the Belgachhia Veterinary College ...	28,000
„ Provincialization of Dhaka Canal ...	12,000
„ Net charges of Inland Labour Transport in Bengal payable from the Provincial Revenues of Eastern Bengal and Assam ...	10,000
„ Increased remuneration to the Solicitor to Government ...	36,000
„ Stoppage of free supply of materials by the Central Press, Calcutta, to the Provincial Presses ...	2,000



	Rs.
„ Transfer of the control of Government House and Hastings House Gardens to the Superintendent, Royal Botanic Garden ... ..	11,000
„ Grant to the Bibliotheca Indica Fund of the Asiatic Society ... ..	3,000
„ Relieving the Municipalities of Police charges ... ..	21,000
„ Sanitary improvements ... ..	4,50,000
	<u>26,18,000</u>
Less contribution to Imperial for pensions of Calcutta Police constables paid in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh ... ..	21,000
Reduction of interest on capital outlay on Irrigation Major Works ... ..	3,45,000
	<u>3,66,000</u>
Net additional grant ... ..	<u>22,47,000</u>

10. The expenditure of the year is estimated at Rs. 5,49,98,000, exceeding the income by Rs. 7,42,000. This estimated excess of expenditure over income has had to be met at present by reduction of the balance, and is more than covered by (a) the grants on account of grain compensation allowance which are estimated at 8½ lakhs, and (b) the provision of Rs. 1,56,000 for Famine Relief charges. The estimate also includes provision for special non-recurring charges, the more important of which are shown below :—

II.—Statement of non recurring charges.

	Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue—		
Sundarbans reclamation ... ..	50,000	
Initial outlay in keeping up records-of-rights, Orissa ... ..	1,50,000	
Grant for improvements in record-rooms ... ..	20,000	
Reproduction and correction of maps ... ..	21,000	
	<u>          </u>	2,41,000
Registration—		
Purchase of new furniture for Sub-Registrars' Offices ... ..	3,000	
	<u>          </u>	3,000
Forests—		
Survey of Sundarbans forests ... ..	20,000	
Completion of steam-launch <i>Harrier</i> for Sundarbans forests ... ..	14,000	
	<u>          </u>	34,000*
General Administration—		
Pay and establishment of Controller of Office System ... ..	19,000	
	<u>          </u>	19,000
Jails—		
Acquisition of land for the extension of jails ... ..	10,000	
	<u>          </u>	10,000
Ports and Pilotage—		
Second cruiser for the Sandheads ... ..	5,47,000	
Purchase of marine stores for ditto ... ..	40,000	
	<u>          </u>	5,87,000
Education—		
For improvements in the Presidency College ... ..	20,000	
Additional grants for furniture and apparatus for Government Colleges ... ..	16,000	
Additional grant for workshop equipment and electrical apparatus for the laboratories of several departments of the Civil Engineering College ... ..	36,000	
Cost of proposed removal of the boys of the Alipore Reformatory School to Hazaribagh ... ..	5,000	
	<u>          </u>	77,000

This represents the Provincial share, or half the estimated outlay.



	Rs.	Rs.
<b>Scientific and other Minor Departments—</b>		
• Lamp provision for fittings and furniture of Agricultural College ... ..	50,000	
Purchase of cinchona bark ... ..	50,000	
Rebuilding the office in the Darjeeling Botanic Garden ... ..	5,000	
Additional Establishment for the revision of the District Gazetteers ... ..	14,000	
		1,19,000
<b>Miscellaneous—</b>		
Fisheries enquiry ... ..		1,00,000
<b>Civil works in charge of Civil Officers—</b>		
For housing of officials at Burdwan ... ..	1,00,000	
Initial outlay for the division of Patna into two Commissionerships ... ..	64,000	
Contribution to—		
Calcutta Municipality for removal of refuse platform ... ..	45,000	
Monghyr Municipality for water-supply ... ..	77,000	
Berhampore Municipality for drainage ... ..	20,000	
Puri Municipality for sanitary improvement and water-supply ... ..	1,00,000	
Patna Municipality for a third pumping-station for flushing drains ... ..	50,000	
Kurseong Municipality for water-supply ... ..	15,000	
Calcutta Municipality for realignment of drains in the new Presidency Jail at Alipore ... ..	1,20,000	
Darjeeling Municipality for sanitary improvements ... ..	44,000	
Gaya Municipality for water-works ... ..	75,000	
Serampore Municipality for water-supply ... ..	20,000	
		7,30,000
Compensation for dearness of provisions ... ..		8,50,000
<b>Total, Civil Department</b> ... ..		<b>27,70,000</b>

**Irrigation—**

For clearance of silt in the Midnapore Canal ... ..	50,000	
„ renewal of plant, Dehri Workshop... ..	25,000	
„ raising the Pattamundi Canal flood-bank ... ..	25,000	
„ Dhappa-Bamunghatta Canal ... ..	2,01,000	
„ Madaripur Bhil Channel ... ..	2,30,000	
„ Government share of the cost of construction of a new bridge in place of the existing one over the Circular Canal on the Barrackpur Road for the extension of the Electric Tramway ... ..	45,000	
		5,76,000

**Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department—****Principal Works in progress—**

Surgical Block, Medical College, Calcutta ... ..	2,30,500	
New Presidency Jail, Alipore ... ..	1,50,000	
Purchase of Ross Distillery, Howrah ... ..	1,25,000	
Agricultural College, Sabaur ... ..	1,00,000	
Double-storied Ward, Campbell Hospital ... ..	97,600	
Paying patients Ward, General Hospital ... ..	49,000	
Civil Court Buildings, Darbhanga ... ..	60,000	
Double-storied Judge's Court, Arrah ... ..	50,000	
Improvements in Sleeping Ward, Midnapore Jail ... ..	60,000	
Leadsmer's Quarters, Kidderpore ... ..	59,000	
Deputy Commissioner's Court, Angul ... ..	20,000	
Treble Munsifi, Kushtia ... ..	30,000	
Subdivisional Courts, Sassaram ... ..	30,000	
New Zilla School, Chaibassa ... ..	30,000	
Cholera Ward, Medical College ... ..	24,000	
New Hospital in Purnea Jail ... ..	22,000	
High Level Tista Valley Road ... ..	61,000	
Outtaok-Sambalpur Road ... ..	35,000	
		12,73,100

New Works—	Rs.	Rs.
Purchase of Duff's College for the Calcutta Police ...	2,00,000	
Subdivisional buildings, including Assistant Surgeon's quarters, Dhanbaid ...	40,000	
Deputy Commissioner's residence, Sambalpur ...	10,000	
Civil Courts, Cuttaok ...	25,000	
4th Block, Medical College ...	90,000	
Patna College Scheme ...	40,000	
Khulna Jail ...	30,000	
	<u>4,35,000</u>	
Total ...		<u>50,54,100</u>

11. The estimate also provides, besides the normal growth of expenditure due to progressive development of the administration, such as increase in salaries, superannuation charges, &c., for the following recurring outlay in addition to what was provided for in the current year's estimate:—

*I.—Statement of additional recurring charges.*

Land Revenue—	Rs.	Rs.
Maintenance of land records in Orissa ...	33,000	
Establishments for new subdivisions in Midnapur District and Chota Nagpur Division ...	5,000	
	<u>38,000</u>	
Registration—		
Increase of pay of clerks ...	10,000	
For giving full effect to the reorganization of the Department ...	30,000	
Office rents of Sub-Registrars ...	4,000	
	<u>44,000</u>	
General Administration—		
Increase in establishment for extension of audit of Port Trust accounts ...	14,000	
Additional Assistant Secretary, Legislative Department, and his establishment ...	7,000	
	<u>21,000</u>	
Courts of Law—		
Reorganization of the English Office, Appellate Side, High Court ...	3,000	
Increase of remuneration of Government Solicitor ...	36,000	
Increase of remuneration of Public Prosecutor ..	5,000	
Additional Judge, Monghyr, and establishment ...	16,000	
Cost of typing Sessions records for the use of Magistrates and Government pleaders ...	5,000	
Raising the scale of diet and travelling expenses of witnesses ...	5,000	
	<u>70,000</u>	
Police—		
Lump provision for reforms ...	.....	4,00,000
Ports and Pilotage—		
Establishment and mess and victualling allowances for the 2nd pilot steamer ...	37,000	
	<u>37,000</u>	
Education —		
Audit of Accounts of European Schools ...	7,000	
Second Inspector of Schools ...	6,000	
Additional Deputy Inspectors ...	25,000	
Additional Assistant Inspectors ...	10,000	
Additional Sub-Inspectors ...	61,000	
Additional Assistant Sub-Inspectors ...	23,000	
Establishment for Inspectors, etc. ...	12,000	
Travelling allowances of additional Officers, etc. ...	55,000	
Lump provision for strengthening the staff of Government Colleges ...	25,000	
Additional Demonstrators, Physical and Chemical laboratory, Civil Engineering College ...	3,000	
New School at Karaya ...	4,000	
	<u>2,31,000</u>	

	Rs.	Rs.
<b>Medical—</b>		
Lump provision for an additional Deputy Sanitary Commissioner and for a new animal Vaccination Depot at Ranchi. ... ..	21,000	
Establishment for strengthening the Patna and the Cuttack Medical Schools ... ..	5,000	
Lump provision for Sanitary improvements ... ..	4,50,000	
		<b>4,76,000</b>
<b>Scientific and other Minor Departments—</b>		
Recurring cost of experimental farms ... ..	25,000	
Annual grant for Fraserganj farm ... ..	3,000	
Ditto Kalimpong farm ... ..	5,000	
Maintenance of Government gardens in and near Calcutta and Sambalpur ... ..	45,000	
Provincialization of Inland Labour Transport Fund ... ..	19,000	
Improvement of Silk Industry ... ..	12,000	
		<b>1,09,000</b>
<b>Total</b> ... ..		<b>14,26,000</b>

12. The only change of any importance, which has been made in the classification of accounts, is the abolition, under the orders of the Imperial Government, of the adjusting head of Contributions between Provincial and Local. Hitherto all grants to the District Boards and the District Road Committees have been adjusted under Contributions: now these will be shown under the various service heads: thus grants for education will be shown under Education, those for roads under Civil Works, &c. The details of these grants are shown below:—

	Rs.
Education—(net grants, i.e., in addition to receipts from ferries, pounds, &c., which were localized on the introduction of the Local Self-Government Act) ... ..	5,51,000
Medical ... ..	14,000
Land Revenue ... ..	31,000
Provincial Rates ... ..	1,000
Police ... ..	1,000
Scientific and other Minor Departments ... ..	9,000
Miscellaneous ... ..	17,000
Civil Works ... ..	12,76,000
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>19,00,000</b>

13. Appendix C shows the transactions of the District Boards and District Road Committees, the figures in the column of estimates representing those passed by the Commissioners of Divisions.

## PART II.—Detailed remarks on the Budget for 1908-09.

### RECEIPTS.

14. *Land Revenue.*—The total collections under this head in 1906-07 amounted to Rs. 2,89,04,871; and the estimate for 1908-09, as passed by the Government of India, is Rs. 2,99,50,000, against Rs. 2,94,50,000, the revised estimate for 1907-08. The estimate includes Rs. 9,42,000 for recoveries of survey and settlement charges, against Rs. 8,00,000 provided in the revised estimates for 1907-08.

15. The estimated Provincial share of Land Revenue is arrived at as follows:—

	Estimate, 1908-09, Rs.
Gross Land Revenue ... ..	2,99,50,000
Deduct estimated collections from Government Estates (wholly Provincial) ... ..	33,70,000
Deduct recoveries of Survey and Settlement charges (wholly Imperial) ... ..	9,42,000
<b>Total Deduction</b> ... ..	<b>43,12,000</b>

	Estimate, 1908-09, Rs.
Net amount divisible between Imperial and Provincial funds ... ..	2,56,38,000
Provincial share of above (one-half) ... ..	1,28,19,000
Add collections from Government Estates as above ...	33,70,000
Total Provincial ...	1,61,89,000
Add adjustments as in Appendix A ...	31,21,000
Total Provincial share ...	1,93,10,000

16. *Stamps*.—The actual receipts in 1906-07 were Rs. 1,47,06,698. The actuals in the first eleven months of the current year, exclusive of those from unified stamps used as receipt stamps, show an increase of Rs. 9,14,000 over those in the corresponding period of last year. The share of these stamps creditable under this head is Rs. 4,70,000, and the total revised estimate for the current year has been passed for Rs. 1,56,50,000. Allowing for a progressive increase of 6 lakhs, the estimate for 1908-09 has been placed at Rs. 1,62,50,000. The Provincial share is one-half, and amounts to Rs. 78,25,000 in 1907-08, and Rs. 81,25,000 in 1908-09.

17. *Excise*.—The revenue from Excise for 1907-08 was estimated at Rs. 1,68,00,000. The actuals of 1906-07 amounted to Rs. 1,60,81,392, while the figures for the first ten months of 1907-08 show an increase of Rs. 8,59,000 over the actuals of the corresponding period of the preceding year. The revised estimate for the current year has therefore been passed for Rs. 1,70,00,000; and allowing for a progressive increase of 5 lakhs, the estimate for next year has been placed at Rs. 1,75,00,000. The Provincial share (one-half) amounts to Rs. 85,00,000 and Rs. 87,50,000, respectively.

18. *Provincial Rates*.—The actual collections of Public Works cess in 1906-07 amounted to Rs. 34,91,470, and the estimate for the current year was Rs. 35,75,000. The receipts in the first ten months of the current year, however, show an increase of Rs. 81,000 over those of the corresponding period of last year, owing mostly to the collection of arrears due for the year 1906-07, and the revised estimate for 1907-08 has accordingly been placed at Rs. 35,50,000. The estimate for next year is Rs. 36,15,000. Under "General Rates for the management of private estates" the estimate is Rs. 1,57,000 against Rs. 1,50,000, the revised estimate for 1907-08. The increase is due partly to the inclusion of certain new estates which have now come under management. The total estimate for next year is therefore Rs. (36,15,000 + 1,57,000 =) 37,72,000.

19. *Assessed Taxes*.—The budget estimate of receipts from Income-tax for 1907-08 was Rs. 50,80,000. The actual collections in the first ten months of the year amounted to Rs. 42,87,000. For the remaining two months of the year the receipts have been taken at Rs. 7,88,000, and the revised estimate has been placed at Rs. 50,75,000. The estimate for next year allows for an increase of Rs. 1,50,000, and stands at Rs. 52,25,000. The Provincial share (one-half) amounts to Rs. 26,13,000.

20. *Forests*.—The total receipts under this head for 1908-09 are estimated at Rs. 12,20,000 against Rs. 11,80,000, the budget estimate for 1907-08, and Rs. 10,65,859, the actuals of 1906-07. It is expected that there will be an increase in the sale of timber in Singhbhum and the Sundarbans. The Provincial share is one-half, and amounts to Rs. 6,10,000.

21. *Registration*.—The budget estimate under this head for 1907-08 was Rs. 11,90,000. The collections during the first ten months of the current year show an increase of Rs. 84,000 over those of the corresponding period of the preceding year; and as the actuals of 1906-07 were Rs. 12,25,432, the revised estimate has been placed at Rs. 13,40,000, while the estimate for 1908-09 has been passed for Rs. 14,20,000, after providing for a normal increase of Rs. 80,000 over the revised estimate for the current year. The increase in the current year is attributed to the increased number of registrations on account of high prices of food-grains. The receipts of this Department are wholly Provincial.

22. *Interest.*—The estimate of loans as passed by the Government of India provides for a return of Rs. 5,67,000, thus :—

	Rs.
Interest on advances to cultivators ... ..	2,77,000
„ on drainage and embankment advances ... ..	33,000
„ on loans to land-holders ... ..	17,000
„ „ to Municipalities and District Boards, etc. ... ..	1,89,000
Miscellaneous accounts ... ..	51,000
Total ... ..	5,67,000

23. *Law and Justice.—Courts of Law.*—The actuals of last year amounted to Rs. 5,73,507, and the revised estimate for the current year has been taken at Rs. 5,80,000, with reference to the actuals of the first ten months of the year. During the current year there has been a falling off under “General Fees, Fines and Forfeitures,” but this is not expected to continue, and the receipts for next year have been estimated at Rs. 5,97,000.

24. *Jails.*—The estimate under this head is Rs. 12,50,000 against Rs. 11,80,000, the revised estimate for 1907-08, and Rs. 12,07,552, the actuals of 1906-07.

25. *Police.*—The estimate under this head amounts to Rs. 1,40,000 against Rs. 1,49,000, the revised estimate for 1907-08, and Rs. 1,38,965, the actuals of 1906-07. The revised estimate includes the sale-proceeds of Government promissory notes held in deposit on account of a building for the use of the Superintendent of Police, Chitpur.

26. *Ports and Pilotage.*—This is a new head adopted to show separately the transactions in the Civil Department connected with the administration of ports, coast lights and other cognate matters, as distinguished from those of the Navy, which have hitherto been grouped together in the public accounts under “Marine.” The transactions of the Navy alone which are under the administrative control of the Army and Military Supply Departments, will continue to be shown under “Marine.” The actual receipts in the Civil Department under this head in 1906-07 amounted to Rs. 15,39,308, and the budget estimate for 1907-08 was Rs. 15,90,000. This has been reduced to Rs. 15,00,000 in the revised estimate, with reference to the actuals of the first ten months of the current year. The estimate for next year has been passed for Rs. 16,00,000, as larger receipts are expected in view of the steady increase of trade and from the sale-proceeds of two pilot vessels *Alice* and *Fame* which it is intended to sell on the arrival of a second pilot steamer.

27. *Education.*—The estimate under this head is Rs. 5,73,000 against Rs. 5,60,000, the revised estimate for 1907-08, and Rs. 5,60,354, the actuals of 1906-07. The increase is expected from the sale-proceeds of manufactured articles at Reformatory Schools and at the Civil Engineering College workshops, and under “Miscellaneous.”

28. *Medical.*—The estimate under this head is Rs. 2,54,000 against Rs. 2,50,000, the revised estimate for 1907-08, and Rs. 2,43,355, the actuals of 1906-07. The increase is chiefly from paying patents in Lunatic Asylums and Hospitals.

29. *Scientific and other Minor Departments.*—The total receipts for 1908-09 are estimated at Rs. 3,12,000 against Rs. 2,64,000, the revised estimate for 1907-08, and Rs. 2,82,319, the actuals of 1906-07. The budget includes larger provision for the sale of sulphate of quinine, larger receipts under Agriculture owing to the opening of new experimental stations at Sabaur and Bankipore, and Rs. 10,000 on account of Inland Labour Transport, which was hitherto shown under “Local,” but will be provincialized from the 1st April 1908.

30. *Receipts in aid of Superannuation.*—The budget estimate for 1908-09 has been passed for Rs. 54,000 against Rs. 4,07,060, the revised estimate for 1907-08, and Rs. 62,729, the actuals of 1906-07. The revised estimate includes Rs. 3,53,000, being the sale-proceeds of the investment of the Calcutta Police Superannuation Fund now abolished.

31. *Miscellaneous.*—The actuals in 1906-07 amounted to Rs. 6,50,180. The estimate for 1907-08, amounting to Rs. 5,85,000, has been reduced to Rs. 5,04,000 in the revised estimate, owing to smaller receipts from unclaimed deposits and to the abolition of banking fees and fees for audit of accounts of



Municipal and Excluded Local Funds with effect from the 1st April 1907. The estimate for 1908-09 has been passed for Rs. 5,40,000, as larger deposits are expected to lapse to Government in that year.

32. *Irrigation, Major Works (Direct Receipts).*—The estimate under this head amounts to Rs. 24,18,000 against Rs. 23,50,000, the revised estimate for the current year. The actuals of last year were Rs. 22,97,528. The increase during 1907-08 is due chiefly to a large demand for water from the Orissa Canals in the past *kharif* season, to the expansion of *rabi* irrigation from the Sone Canals and to the realization of arrear demand for 1906-07 in the case of the Dhaka Canal. The increase during 1908-09 is due principally to extension of *rabi* irrigation anticipated from the Sone Canals during 1907-08.

33. *Irrigation, Minor Works and Navigation in charge of the Public Works Department.*—The budget estimate for 1907-08 is Rs. 5,81,000 which has been raised to Rs. 7,00,000 in the revised estimate, chiefly owing to larger navigation receipts from the Calcutta and Eastern Canals. The estimate for next year is Rs. 6,22 000.

34. *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department.*—The receipts for 1908-09 are estimated at Rs. 3,00,000 against Rs. 2,75,000 and Rs. 3,60,000 being, respectively, the sanctioned and revised estimates for 1907-08. The revised estimate includes larger receipts from rent of buildings and the Calcutta strand bank and maidan.

#### EXPENDITURE.

35. *Refunds and Drawbacks.*—The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 1,27,000, against Rs. 1,30,000 and Rs. 1,44,000, the budget and revised estimates, respectively, for 1907-08. The estimate for 1908-09 is based generally on the average actuals of the last three years, excluding special payments. The increase in the revised estimate for 1907-08 is due to a special refund of advance fees for country spirit shops and to the adjustment of a write-back of Rs. 7,000 credited as Land Revenue in 1906-07 on account of Government land acquired for the Public Works Department.

36. *Assignments and Compensations.*—The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 70,000, against Rs. 62,000, the sanctioned estimate for 1907-08 and Rs. 69,324, the actuals of 1906-07. The estimate is based on the actuals of the past three years.

37. *Land Revenue.*—The total Provincial expenditure for next year is estimated at Rs. 37,85,000, against Rs. 37,75,000, the budget estimate for the current year, as shown below :—

	Actuals.			Estimate.	
	1904-05. Rs.	1905-06. Rs.	1906-07. Rs.	1907-08. Rs.	1908-09. Rs.
(1) Charges of District Administration	22,41,000	23,76,000	25,80,000	27,99,000	29,67,000
(2) Charges on account of Land Revenue collections ...	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,500
(3) Management of Government estates ...	4,07,000	4,76,000	4,68,000	4,68,000	3,68,000
(4) Survey and Settlement ...	3,41,000	2,92,000	4,03,000	3,71,000	2,40,500
(5) Land Records and Agriculture ...	81,000	83,000	85,000	2,36,000	2,80,000
Lump deduction ...	...	...	...	...	—72,000
Total	30,71,000	32,28,000	35,27,000	37,75,000	37,85,000

The increase under (1) is due to provision having been made for (a) the full sanctioned strength of Deputy Magistrates; (b) an increase in the number of probationary Deputy Collectors and Sub-Deputy Collectors; (c) an increase under travelling allowances of officers; (d) provision for the payment of grain compensation allowances for the whole year; and (e) an increased grant for the management of private estates, owing to certain new estates having come under Government management. The increase under (5) is due to the reorganization of the office of the Director of Land Records and to the special provisions of Rs. 15,000 for the reproduction of maps (Balasore and Puri) and Rs. 33,000 for the maintenance of record-of-rights in Balasore.

The decrease under (3) is due to a smaller grant having been made for reclamation work in the Sundarbans.

38. *Stamps*.—The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 4,83,000, against Rs. 4,41,000, the budget grant for 1907-08. The increase is chiefly under "Stamp paper supplied from Central Stores," the estimate under this head being Rs. 2,56,000, against Rs. 2,35,000, the budget estimate for 1907-08, and partly also under discount on sale of stamps. The provincial share (one-half) is Rs. 2,41,000.

39. *Excise*.—The total expenditure for 1908-09 is estimated at Rs. 8,00,000, against Rs. 7,70,000, the budget grant for 1907-08. The increase is due to the provision for (a) grain compensation allowance for the whole year; (b) rent of a new ganja gola at Kinderdine's Lane; (c) giving partial effect to the proposed reorganization of the department, and (d) two additional Deputy Inspectors at the Presidency. The Provincial share (one-half) is Rs. 4,00,000.

40. *Provincial Rates*.—The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 52,000, against Rs. 62,000, the revised estimate for 1907-08, and Rs. 55,784, the actuals of 1906-07. The decrease in the estimate is under Valuation and Revaluation charges, and is in accordance with actual requirements. The details are shown in Appendix B.

41. *Assessed Taxes*.—The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 1,57,000, against Rs. 1,52,000, the budget grant for 1907-08, and Rs. 1,50,230, the actuals of 1906-07. The increase is most largely due to the provision made for grain compensation allowance. The Provincial share (one-half) is Rs. 79,000.

42. *Forests*.—The total expenditure for 1908-09 is estimated at Rs. 6,20,000, against Rs. 7,30,000, the budget estimate for 1907-08. The decrease is chiefly due to smaller provision for survey of the Sundarbans Reserved Forests and for continued reduction in departmental works in timber and other produce removed from forests by Government agency. The Provincial share (one-half) is Rs. 3,10,000.

43. *Registration*.—The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 7,70,000, against Rs. 7,00,000, the budget grant for 1907-08 as shown below:—

		Actuals			Budget.	
		1904-05.	1905-06.	1906-07.	1907-08	1908-09.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Superintendence	...	55,000	51,000	49,000	47,000	47,000
District charges	...	5,33,000	5,57,000	5,94,000	6,53,000	7,53,000
Lump deduction	...	...	...	...	...	(—)30,000
Total	...	5,88,000	6,08,000	6,43,000	7,00,000	7,70,000

The increase under this head is due to the reorganization of the department, which has been gradually given effect to. The budget for 1908-09 includes larger grants for (a) grain compensation allowance, (b) temporary establishment and (c) rent of offices and purchase of furniture, and (d) a lump provision of Rs. 20,000 for increase of pay of establishment.

44. *General Administration*.—The total expenditure for the current year was originally estimated at Rs. 18,39,000, but in the revised estimate the figure has been raised to Rs. 18,96,000. The estimate for 1908-09 has been passed for Rs. 18,76,000. The budget includes provision for (a) renewal of furniture at the Lieutenant-Governor's residences on account of change of incumbent; (b) pay of an Assistant Secretary and larger establishment in the Legislative Department; (c) establishment for the extension of the Port Trust Audit; and (d) charges for the payment of grain compensation allowance for the whole year.

45. *Law and Justice—Courts of Law*.—The budget estimate under this head for 1907-08 was Rs. 74,19,000, but in the revised estimate this has been raised to Rs. 76,10,000, with reference to the actuals of the first ten months of the year. The estimate for 1908-09 has been passed for Rs. 76,75,000, which includes provision for (a) the re-organization of the English office of the Appellate Side of the High Court; (b) increase in the rate of contract allowance of the Government Solicitor on account of the special Solicitor to be stationed at Simla; (c) a Public Prosecutor and his establishment; (d) a larger grant

Municipal and Excluded Local Funds with effect from the 1st April 1907. The estimate for 1908-09 has been passed for Rs. 5,40,000, as larger deposits are expected to lapse to Government in that year.

32. *Irrigation, Major Works (Direct Receipts).*—The estimate under this head amounts to Rs. 24,18,000 against Rs. 23,50,000, the revised estimate for the current year. The actuals of last year were Rs. 22,97,528. The increase during 1907-08 is due chiefly to a large demand for water from the Orissa Canals in the past *kharif* season, to the expansion of *rabi* irrigation from the Sone Canals and to the realization of arrear demand for 1906-07 in the case of the Dhaka Canal. The increase during 1908-09 is due principally to extension of *rabi* irrigation anticipated from the Sone Canals during 1907-08.

33. *Irrigation, Minor Works and Navigation in charge of the Public Works Department.*—The budget estimate for 1907-08 is Rs. 5,81,000 which has been raised to Rs. 7,00,000 in the revised estimate, chiefly owing to larger navigation receipts from the Calcutta and Eastern Canals. The estimate for next year is Rs. 6,22 000.

34. *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department.*—The receipts for 1908-09 are estimated at Rs. 3,00,000 against Rs. 2,75,000 and Rs. 3,60,000 being, respectively, the sanctioned and revised estimates for 1907-08. The revised estimate includes larger receipts from rent of buildings and the Calcutta strand bank and maidan.

#### EXPENDITURE.

35. *Refunds and Drawbacks.*—The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 1,27,000, against Rs. 1,30,000 and Rs. 1,44,000, the budget and revised estimates, respectively, for 1907-08. The estimate for 1908-09 is based generally on the average actuals of the last three years, excluding special payments. The increase in the revised estimate for 1907-08 is due to a special refund of advance fees for country spirit shops and to the adjustment of a write-back of Rs. 7,000 credited as Land Revenue in 1906-07 on account of Government land acquired for the Public Works Department.

36. *Assignments and Compensations.*—The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 70,000, against Rs. 62,000, the sanctioned estimate for 1907-08 and Rs. 69,324, the actuals of 1906-07. The estimate is based on the actuals of the past three years.

37. *Land Revenue.*—The total Provincial expenditure for next year is estimated at Rs. 37,85,000, against Rs. 37,75,000, the budget estimate for the current year, as shown below :—

	Actuals.			Estimate.	
	1904-05. Rs.	1905-06. Rs.	1906-07. Rs.	1907-08. Rs.	1908-09. Rs.
(1) Charges of District Administration	22,41,000	23,76,000	25,80,000	27,99,000	29,67,000
(2) Charges on account of Land Revenue collections	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,500
(3) Management of Government estates	4,07,000	4,76,000	4,68,000	4,68,000	3,68,000
(4) Survey and Settlement	3,41,000	2,92,000	4,03,000	3,71,000	2,40,500
(5) Land Records and Agriculture	81,900	83,000	85,000	2,36,000	2,80,000
Lump deduction	...	...	...	...	—72,000
Total	30,71,000	32,28,000	36,27,000	37,75,000	37,85,000

The increase under (1) is due to provision having been made for (a) the full sanctioned strength of Deputy Magistrates; (b) an increase in the number of probationary Deputy Collectors and Sub-Deputy Collectors; (c) an increase under travelling allowances of officers; (d) provision for the payment of grain compensation allowances for the whole year; and (e) an increased grant for the management of private estates, owing to certain new estates having come under Government management. The increase under (5) is due to the reorganization of the office of the Director of Land Records and to the special provisions of Rs. 15,000 for the reproduction of maps (Balasore and Puri) and Rs. 33,000 for the maintenance of record-of-rights in Balasore.

The decrease under (3) is due to a smaller grant having been made for reclamation work in the Sundarbans.

38. *Stamps*.—The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 4,83,000, against Rs. 4,41,000, the budget grant for 1907-08. The increase is chiefly under "Stamp paper supplied from Central Stores," the estimate under this head being Rs. 2,56,000, against Rs. 2,35,000, the budget estimate for 1907-08, and partly also under discount on sale of stamps. The provincial share (one-half) is Rs. 2,41,000.

39. *Excise*.—The total expenditure for 1908-09 is estimated at Rs. 8,00,000, against Rs. 7,70,000, the budget grant for 1907-08. The increase is due to the provision for (a) grain compensation allowance for the whole year; (b) rent of a new ganja gola at Kinderdine's Lane; (c) giving partial effect to the proposed reorganization of the department, and (d) two additional Deputy Inspectors at the Presidency. The Provincial share (one-half) is Rs. 4,00,000.

40. *Provincial Rates*.—The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 52,000, against Rs. 62,000, the revised estimate for 1907-08, and Rs. 55,784, the actuals of 1906-07. The decrease in the estimate is under Valuation and Revaluation charges, and is in accordance with actual requirements. The details are shown in Appendix B.

41. *Assessed Taxes*.—The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 1,57,000, against Rs. 1,52,000, the budget grant for 1907-08, and Rs. 1,50,230, the actuals of 1906-07. The increase is most largely due to the provision made for grain compensation allowance. The Provincial share (one-half) is Rs. 79,000.

42. *Forests*.—The total expenditure for 1908-09 is estimated at Rs. 6,20,000, against Rs. 7,30,000, the budget estimate for 1907-08. The decrease is chiefly due to smaller provision for survey of the Sundarbans Reserved Forests and for continued reduction in departmental works in timber and other produce removed from forests by Government agency. The Provincial share (one-half) is Rs. 3,10,000.

43. *Registration*.—The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 7,70,000, against Rs. 7,00,000, the budget grant for 1907-08 as shown below:—

		Actuals			Budget.	
		1904-05.	1905-06.	1906-07.	1907-08	1908-09.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Superintendence	...	55,000	51,000	49,000	47,000	47,000
District charges	...	5,33,000	5,57,000	5,94,000	6,53,000	7,53,000
Lump deduction	...	...	...	...	...	(-)30,000
Total	...	5,88,000	6,08,000	6,43,000	7,00,000	7,70,000

The increase under this head is due to the reorganization of the department, which has been gradually given effect to. The budget for 1908-09 includes larger grants for (a) grain compensation allowance, (b) temporary establishment and (c) rent of offices and purchase of furniture, and (d) a lump provision of Rs. 20,000 for increase of pay of establishment.

44. *General Administration*.—The total expenditure for the current year was originally estimated at Rs. 18,39,000, but in the revised estimate the figure has been raised to Rs. 18,96,000. The estimate for 1908-09 has been passed for Rs. 18,76,000. The budget includes provision for (a) renewal of furniture at the Lieutenant-Governor's residences on account of change of incumbent; (b) pay of an Assistant Secretary and larger establishment in the Legislative Department; (c) establishment for the extension of the Port Trust Audit; and (d) charges for the payment of grain compensation allowance for the whole year.

45. *Law and Justice—Courts of Law*.—The budget estimate under this head for 1907-08 was Rs. 74,19,000, but in the revised estimate this has been raised to Rs. 76,10,000, with reference to the actuals of the first ten months of the year. The estimate for 1908-09 has been passed for Rs. 76,75,000, which includes provision for (a) the re-organization of the English office of the Appellate Side of the High Court; (b) increase in the rate of contract allowance of the Government Solicitor on account of the special Solicitor to be stationed at Simla; (c) a Public Prosecutor and his establishment; (d) a larger grant