

[Mr. Donald.]

(e) As the scales of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Secretariat and the Bengal Secretariat were different, it was not possible to put the clerks of the former Secretariat into the same class in the Bengal Secretariat.

(f) This Government addressed the Government of Bihar and Orissa and suggested that the clerks transferred to Ranchi should be granted adequate remuneration to compensate them for the hardship entailed on them by their transfer. The case of each clerk transferred from Eastern Bengal and Assam to Calcutta was equitably dealt with on its merits."

Statement referred to in the Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD to Question No. 37, asked by the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZ-UL-HAQ at the Council Meeting of the 1st September, 1913.

Statement showing the number of vacancies (permanent and temporary) which occurred in the Secretariat and offices of the Heads of Departments since the 1st April 1912 and how many of these were filled up by Muhammadans.

No	Offices	Number of permanent vacancies	Number filled up by Muhammadans	Number of temporary vacancies	Number filled up by Muhammadans	Total number of vacancies	Total number filled up by Muhammadans
1	Chief Secretary's Office ...	11	2	22	10	33	12
2	Revenue Secretary's Office ...	2	..	...	...	2	...
3	Financial Secretary's Office ...	2	...	4	...	6	...
4	Public Works Department ...	4	..	11	2	15	2
5	Legislative Department ...	2	1	11	3	13	4
	Total ...	21	3	48	15	69	18
1	Inspector-General of Police ...	12	1	13	1	25	2
2	Inspector General of Prisons ...	1	..	...	...	1	...
3	Commissioner of Police, Calcutta ...	3	...	2	2	5	2
4	Board of Revenue ...	13	...	45	5	58	5
5	Director of Land Records ...	...	...	1	...	1	...
6	Director of Surveys ...	1	...	3	1	4	1
7	Director of Agriculture ...	...	...	25	8	25	8
8	Conservator of Forests ...	1	1	4	...	5	1
9	Registrar of Co-operative Societies ...	4	2	3	1	7	3
10	Commissioner of Excise and Salt Bengal ...	1	...	...	...	1	...
11	Collector of Customs, Calcutta ...	11	3	2	1	...	4
12	Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals ...	...	...	12	...	12	...
13	Sanitary Commissioner ...	2	...	15	...	17	...
14	Superintendent of Royal Botanic Garden ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	Sanitary Board ...	...	...	4	1	4	1
16	Collector of Income-tax, Calcutta ...	1	...	...	..	1	...
17	Superintending Engineers ...	9	...	24	1	33	1
18	Inspector-General of Registration ...	5	...	10	3	15	3
19	Director of Public Instruction ...	4	...	5	1	9	1
20	Port Officer ...	...	...	3	...	3	...
21	Agent for Government Consignments ...	2	...	...	...	2	...
	Total ...	70	7	171	25	241	32
	GRAND TOTAL ...	91	10	219	40	310	50

All the Government vacancies and 10 of the Government vacancies in the Board's Office not yet filled.

[Babu Surendra Nath Banerji; Mr. Donald; Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur; Mr. Green.]

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI asked :—

38. Will the Government be pleased to state whether any practical steps for the supply of drinking water in the rural areas, such as the excavation of tanks or the sinking of wells have been taken by the Government, or with the aid of the Government, during this summer ?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

"Government have no information as to what practical steps have been taken in the way of excavating or sinking wells during the last hot-weather. As the Hon'ble Member is aware, provision for the water-supply in rural areas is a matter which primarily concerns the District and Local Boards. In this matter action on the part of Government is generally limited to advice and financial assistance, and the execution of schemes for the improvement of water-supply is left to the local bodies.

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR asked :—

39. (a) Is it a fact that the Government, by a notification published in the Calcutta Gazette on the 7th May last, sanctioned the preliminary survey for a railway line from Navaran to Satkhira and mentioned a large number of villages where it might be necessary to acquire land for the said purpose ?

(b) Is it a fact that the actual survey operation is now being carried on through other villages not mentioned in the notification? If so, will the Government be pleased to state definitely the particular villages through which they propose to direct the course of the line ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the proposed railway line will pass by the proximity of markets, *kats*, the Vatrabati river and the District Board Road between Navaran and Satkhira ?

(d) Have the local public been consulted regarding the alignment of the railway line and the sites of the stations? If so, will the Government be pleased to state from whom suggestions on these matters have been received and what those suggestions are ?

(e) Have the Government already selected the sites of the stations? If so, will they be pleased to state :—

- (i) the number of stations,
- (ii) the particular places where they are to be located, and
- (iii) the distances between the successive stations ?

The Hon'ble MR. GREEN replied :—

(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) Yes ; it has been ascertained from the Collector of Khulna that the Engineer in charge of the survey has found it necessary to take a different route from that originally proposed. The Railway authorities have been asked to submit a revised notification giving the names of the villages through which the actual survey has been made, and this will be published at the earliest possible date.

(c) The actual alignment has not been settled yet, but it will naturally be chosen with a view to serving the greatest amount of traffic. This matter will be duly considered when the report of the officer in charge of the survey has been received. This report is still under preparation.

(d) and (e) The sites of the stations have not yet been selected. The officer in charge has been in consultation with the Civil authorities concerned and has also received a large number of suggestions regarding sites of stations and alternative routes from various deputations and in writing. These suggestions will be duly considered by him in his report. No project report and estimate for the construction of the line have yet been submitted to this Government.

[*Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur ; Mr. Donald.*]

The Hon'ble RAI NALINAKSHA BASU BAHADUR asked :—

* 40. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that, owing to the unprecedented floods which occurred on the 9th of August in the town of Burdwan, and a very large number of villages in the district of Burdwan, thousands of people have become houseless and have been completely denuded of their belongings and are quite destitute of subsistence? Floods in the Burdwan Division.

• (b) Will the Government be pleased to state what has been done and what further steps (if any) they intend to take to give relief to the sufferers?

(c) Are the Government aware that the openings of several culverts on the East Indian Railway line at Burdwan and places near it, meant for the flow of surplus water, have been closed?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the closing of these openings has contributed to the flooding of the town and the villages near it by the inundation of the 9th of August?

(e) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that breaches occurred in several places of the Damodar embankment on the 8th and 9th of August owing to the unprecedented inundation of the river?

• (f) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps are being taken to protect the town of Burdwan and the villages near it from future inundations?

(g) Will the Government be pleased to state the places where the breaches have occurred, and whether the submersion of the town and the several villages near it has been caused by these breaches, and who are responsible for the same?

(h) Are the Government aware that the seedlings, which had been transplanted by the cultivators in the flood-affected areas, have been completely destroyed?

(i) Will the Government be pleased to state whether, and if so, what steps are being taken to supply them with seedlings from other places?

• (j) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that, owing to the flood, the Civil Court buildings at Burdwan were under water for two days, and that there was water breast deep in the record-room with the result that a very large number of records have been completely destroyed or very badly damaged?

(k) Will the Government be pleased to state what is being done to remove the Courts from the buildings in which they are now held and to locate them in better buildings of modern type?

• (l) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that the places submerged by the flood are now in a most insanitary condition?

(m) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps are being taken to restore the places to their normal sanitary state?

(n) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the reports published by the leading newspapers regarding the flood in the subdivision of Gontai in the district of Midnapore?

• (o) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received any authentic report as to the number of deaths (if any) which have occurred there on account of the flood, and what steps have been taken to give relief to the flood-stricken people?

(p) Are the Government aware that parts of the district of Hooghly have also been affected by the flood, and will the Government be pleased to state what part of it has suffered most, and whether there has been any loss of life in any part of it and what has been done to relieve the affected parts?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

• “The Hon'ble Member is referred to the statement to be made on this subject at to-day's meeting by the Hon'ble Sir William Duke.”

[Babu Mahendra Nath Ray; Mr. Donald.]

The Hon'ble BABU MAHENDRA NATH RAY asked :—

41. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state—

The Howrah
Waterworks Im-
provement Scheme.

- (i) whether the Howrah Waterworks Improvement Scheme, estimated to cost over 17 lakhs of rupees, is being worked under the supervision of the Sanitary Board of Bengal ;
- (ii) whether the pipes for the new works, supplied by the contractors of the value of over 5 lakhs of rupees, have been examined and approved by the Sanitary Engineer ;
- (iii) whether the Sanitary Engineer has examined and approved the sample pipe alleged to be coated with a special rust-preventing composition with a view to test the soundness of the same in accordance with the specifications approved by him ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the papers (if any) in connection with such examination and approval ?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

(a) (i) "The scheme is being carried out under the direct supervision of the Municipal Engineer and is periodically inspected by the Sanitary Engineer, Bengal.

(a) (ii) Yes.

(a) (iii) Yes.

(b) Extracts from the inspection notes of the Sanitary Engineer, so far as they relate to the condition of the pipes, are placed on the table."

Extracts referred to in the Answer by the Hon'ble MR. DONALD to Question No. 41, asked by the Hon'ble BABU MAHENDRA NATH RAY at the Council Meeting of the 1st September, 1913.

Extract from the Sanitary Engineer's Inspection Note, dated the 14th April, 1913.

The sample pipe duly arrived and the coating is quite satisfactory.

Extract from the Sanitary Engineer's Inspection Note, dated the 23rd April, 1913.

I inspected these works on the 13th April, 1913, in company with the Chairman and Mr. Hale. A number of the steel pipes are now strung along the road from Serampur. No specials have been landed so far.

The pipes themselves so far landed are apparently satisfactory. The sockets are of a good and strong design and no bulging or injury has been done to the metal.

The coating has, however, softened to some extent on the top in the hot sun and some of the Hessian wrapping has been torn in handling after unloading.

Mr. Hale has had some of the pipes whitewashed on the outside so that the effect this has in minimising the melting action of the sun can be seen. The remainder of the pipes should all be whitewashed, and I understand the makers are being asked to do so for all future consignments. Mr. Hale is arranging to have the whitewashing of those already landed finished as soon

[Babu Mahendra Nath Ray; Mr. Donald; Raja Hrishikesh Laha;
Mr. Cumming.]

The contractor has promised to provide a derrick for unloading out of the carts, for it appears that much of the injury to the wrapping has been done at that time.

The harm done is not serious. In no case does it appear to have affected the coating of the pipe itself, and that done to the outer wrapping can be easily repaired.

Extract from the Sanitary Engineer's Inspection Note, dated the 7th May, 1913.

I have to-day examined the last consignment of steel pipes on the barges and at the jetty.

The unloading has been carefully done and there has been, so far as I saw, no injury to the coating or wrapping, except that the latter has been slightly displaced in a few places. The coating is at present hard and sound inside and outside.

Extract from the Sanitary Engineer's Inspection Note, dated the 31st May, 1913.

I inspected the works at Serampur on the 30th May, 1913. A large number of pipes are now strung out along the Grand Trunk Road from the 10th mile onwards. The majority of these are whitewashed, but a few have not been whitewashed at all, and in some whitewashing has been done in a somewhat sketchy fashion.

The pipes are in very good condition. I only noticed two damaged pipes and the Hessian wrapping has been slightly torn in a few cases and can very easily be put right.

The Hon'ble BABU MAHENDRA NATH RAY asked :—

42. Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is in their contemplation to take any, and if so, what, steps to prevent or to minimise the chances of the recurrence of such serious floods as recently occurred in the Burdwan Division? Prevention of the recurrence of floods.

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to the statement to be made on this subject at to-day's meeting by the Hon'ble Sir William Duke."

The Hon'ble RAJA HRISHIKESH LAHA asked :—

43. Is it a fact that a petition has been submitted to the Government by the inhabitants of the Feni subdivision in the Noakhali district and others, praying for the extension of the subdivision by the incorporation of certain thanas in it, and if so, will the Government be pleased to state what orders have been passed upon it? Extension of the subdivision of Feni

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

"A petition of this nature was received and forwarded to the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division for disposal."

[*Babu Surendra Nath Ray; Mr. Donald; Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur Babu Surendra Nath Banerji.*]

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY asked :—

Irregular means of communication between Hooghly and Arambagh. 44. Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that there is no regular road or other means of communication between the district headquarters of Hooghly and the subdivisional headquarters of Arambagh?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

"Government are aware that no through road communication exists between district headquarters, Hooghly, and the subdivisional headquarters of Arambagh. The route from Hooghly to Arambagh is partly by rail, partly by steamer and partly by boat."

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR asked :—

The flood. Damodar 45. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what was the cause of the Damodar flood, the recent Damodar flood?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state at what points there have been breaches in the embankment of the Damodar?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state how many villages have been affected in the Burdwan, Bankura, Hooghly, Howrah and Midnapore districts and what was the population of those villages?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state approximately—

(i) how many human lives have been lost,

(ii) how many cattle have been lost,

(iii) how many areas of crops have been and are still under water and

(v) how many houses (including huts) have collapsed?

(e) Are the Government aware of the immense voluntary help rendered by the Central Relief Committee formed at a meeting held at the residence of the late Raja Benoi Krishna Deb Bahadur and various other organizations to the helpless and the destitute in connection with the floods?

(f) Will the Government be pleased to state what action they have already taken and what further steps (if any) they propose to take to alleviate the sufferings of those who have been rendered homeless and destitute on account of the recent floods?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to the statement to be made on this subject at to-day's meeting by the Hon'ble Sir William Duke."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI asked :—

Unpleasantness at the distribution of prizes at the Madaripur High English School. 46. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a report published in the *Bengalee* of the 18th and 23rd July last and in the *Sanjibani* of the 31st July last, that, at a meeting for the distribution of prizes to the boys of the Madaripur High English School, held on the 25th June last, Mr. Beatson Bell, Commissioner of the Dacca Division, in addressing a local pleader, who wanted permission to put a garland round his neck, used words to this effect: "Stop! I do not wish to hear you. I am not come here to be garlanded by dacoits"?

(b) Is it also a fact that at the said meeting Mr. Beatson Bell said in effect that the guardians, the teachers and the students of the upper classes are all responsible for the dacoities?

(c) What action have Government taken in reference to this matter

[*Mr. Cumming; Dr. Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari; Mr. Donald; Mr. G. H. C. Ariff.*]

The Hon'ble Mr. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "The attention of Government has been drawn to certain statements in the Press. It has been inaccurately represented that a pleader desired to garland Mr. Beatson Bell; it was the boys who wanted to do so.

(b) Mr. Beatson Bell said that the guardians, teachers and older boys were all morally responsible for the deplorable state into which the school had fallen.

(c) The Director of Public Instruction, on behalf of Government, has made special inquiries into the condition of this school. It has been ascertained that within the last few months, 4 boys have been expelled; 3 left of their own accord under suspicious circumstances; and 4 were arrested on a charge of complicity in a dacoity.

The Director of Public Instruction has made certain proposals to Government for effecting an improvement in the *morale* of the school and in the discipline to be exercised over the students. His suggestions include the appointment of a prefect of discipline; arrangements for visiting the domiciles of those students who do not live under the protection of responsible guardians, and for exercising adequate supervision over their conduct outside of school hours; the erection of new hostels and more frequent Departmental supervision."

The Hon'ble DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked :—

47. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the extent of damages done by the recent floods, as far as they have been able to ascertain, in the districts of Midnapore, Hooghly, Burdwan and Bakarganj? Damage caused by the recent floods.

(b) What steps have been taken by the Government to relieve distress in these tracts and to prevent recurrence of such disasters in future as far as possible?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state the extent of private organizations in the affected tracts?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to the statement to be made on this subject at to-day's meeting by the Hon'ble Sir William Duke."

The Hon'ble MR. G. H. C. ARIFF asked :—

48. Will the Government be pleased to state the number of dispensaries in each district in the Presidency of Bengal, where they are located, and what grant each of them receives from the Government, District Boards, Municipalities, etc., respectively? Dispensaries in the Presidency of Bengal.

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to the published annual returns of the hospitals and dispensaries in Bengal for the year 1912."

The Hon'ble MR. G. H. C. ARIFF asked :—

49. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of dispensaries which are managed solely by private bodies and those which are either under the supervision of Government, District Boards or Municipalities, and their respective situations?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to the published annual returns of the hospitals and dispensaries in Bengal for the year 1912."

[*Mr. G. H. C. Ariff; Mr. Donald; Babu Surendra Nath Banerji.*]

The Hon'ble MR. G. H. C. ARIFF asked :—

Deaths from malaria. 50. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total number of deaths from malaria in each of the districts in the Presidency during the years 1909-10, 1910-11, 1911-12 and 1912-13?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

"Statistics of the mortality from fever will be found in the annual Reports on Sanitation in Bengal. It is not known how many of the deaths under this head were due to malaria."

The Hon'ble MR. G. H. C. ARIFF asked :—

Eastern Bengal and Assam clerks transferred to Bengal. 51. (a) Is it a fact that, when, on the partition of Bengal in 1905, Bengal clerks were transferred to the Eastern Bengal and Assam Secretariat and attached offices, their pay was, for the purpose of determining their relative positions on the amalgamated cadre of that Secretariat, taken at 50 per cent. more than what the Assam Secretariat clerks were given in the new scale and that, again, on the modification of the partition of 1905, Bengal clerks were transferred to Ranchi on increased pay, while the Secretariat clerks of Eastern Bengal and Assam and attached offices had to come to the Bengal Secretariat and attached offices on the pay that they were drawing on the 1st April, 1912, even losing the benefits of the progressive pays prevailing in the former Secretariat?

(b) Is it a fact that this Government made any recommendation to the Government of Bihar and Orissa in favour of liberal treatment to the Bengal clerks who were transferred to Ranchi, and if so, will the Government be pleased to state in detail how many of the Eastern Bengal and Assam clerks have received liberal treatment?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

(a) "The Hon'ble Member is referred to the Answer given to Question No. 37 (c), asked by the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Faz-ul-Haq."

(b) "The Hon'ble Member is referred to the Answer given to Question No. 37 (f), asked by the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Faz-ul-Haq."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI asked :—

Election of a Chairman for the Baidyabati Municipality. 52. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received any memorial from the ratepayers of the Baidyabati Municipality regarding the election of a chairman in succession to Mr. Low, who has recently resigned his office as chairman?

(b) Are the facts alleged therein correct, namely,—

- (i) that Mr. John Low, Manager, Champdani Jute Mills, who was an appointed Commissioner and Chairman of the Baidyabati Municipality, resigned both offices on the 1st May last;
- (ii) that his head clerk in the Mills was appointed a Commissioner by Government in his place;
- (iii) that at a special meeting held on the 25th June last, a unanimous resolution was passed requesting the Government to appoint a Chairman, special mention being made of Babu Mohendra Chandra Lahiri, Government Pleader and Honorary Magistrate, Serampore;
- (iv) that another meeting was called on the 11th July in pursuance of letter No. 1121 J.G., dated the 4th *idem*, from the Magistrate of Hooghly to the Vice-Chairman of the Municipality, to reconsider the previous unanimous

[Mr. Donald; Maulvi A. K. Faz-ul-Haq.]

resolution on the ground that he, the Magistrate, had understood that the Commissioners were in favour of Mr. Low's re-election on his return from Europe, and that the appointment of a Chairman by Government would preclude the possibility of such re-election ;

(v) that at this meeting of the 11th July some of the Commissioners were of opinion that the Magistrate's letter contained an order that was binding on them, and that they were not competent to question the legality or otherwise of such an order ;

(vi) that ultimately the unanimous resolutions recently passed by the Commissioners were set aside by the casting vote of the Vice-Chairman, and the Mill clerk was elected Chairman in the belief that he would resign office on the return of his chief ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the proceedings of the two meetings held respectively on the 25th June and 11th July and the Magistrate's letter No. 1121 J.G., dated the 4th July, referred to in the memorial ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state what action, if any, they propose to take in the matter ?

The Hon'ble MR. DONALD replied :—

(a) " Yes.

(b) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv). The answers are in the affirmative.

(b) (v) Government are informed that one Commissioner expressed this view.

(b) (vi) The proposals that the resolutions passed at a meeting held on the 25th June should be set aside and that Babu Prasanna Kumar Mukharji should be appointed Chairman were carried by the casting vote of the president of the meeting. Government are not aware whether the Commissioners were influenced in their votes by the belief that Babu Prasanna Kumar Mukharji would resign on the return of Mr. Low.

(c) Government see no useful purpose in placing the correspondence referred to on the table. The facts are made sufficiently clear by the answers to the previous questions.

(d) Government have intimated that they are unable to give approval to the resolution, dated the 11th July, 1913, appointing Babu Prasanna Kumar Mukharji to be Chairman."

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZ-UL-HAQ asked :—

*53. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) the routine of duties performed by the Principal of the Calcutta Madrasa ?

Duties of the Principal of the Calcutta Madrasa.

(b) how many hours, on an average, he is required to work per week ?

(c) the total monthly cost (salary of Principal, house-allowance, cost of establishment, etc.) of retaining the office of the Principal ?

(d) the number of clerks employed in the office of the Madrasa, their pay, and also how many of them are Muhammadans ?

[*Mr. Cumming ; Maulvi A. K. Faz-ul-Haq.*]

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

- (a) "The ordinary duties of the principal of a College.
 (b) There are no orders fixing the number of hours' work per week.
 (c) The monthly cost is Rs. 1,148, made up as follows :—

	Rs.
(1) Present salary of the Principal	880
(2) Head Clerk, class II, Subordinate Educational Service ...	200
(3) Second Clerk, class I, Lower Subordinate Educational Service	43
(4) Third Clerk, class IV, Lower Subordinate Educational Service	25
Total	1,148

The Principal has free quarters and enjoys the privilege of drawing-exchange compensation allowance

(d) There are three clerks as shown in the answer to the preceding question. None is a Muhammadan."

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZ-UL-HAQ asked :

The Madrasa
Reform Committee

54. Will the Government be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken on the report of the Madrasa Reform Committee which met at Dacca during the régime of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam ?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

"The first Conference for the reform of the Madrasas in Eastern Bengal met in 1909-10. It was found that the curricula proposed were defective in certain respects, and the second Conference was summoned in March, 1912, to reconsider them. While the resolutions of the second Conference were under discussion, the Dacca University Committee held its sittings and the suggestion that the new University should include a department of Islamic studies necessitated a fresh survey of the question. A third Conference was accordingly held in 1913 with the Hon'ble Mr. Nathan as President. The Resolutions of this Conference are still under the consideration of Government."

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZ-UL-HAQ asked :—

55. Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is in contemplation to bring all the senior madrasas in the Presidency under one uniform standard, and if so, whether Government would approve of the appointment of a committee of experts, official and non-official, to prepare a scheme for the purpose ?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

"It is in contemplation to introduce a uniform modernized course in the Madrasas, though it is probable that the old system of learning will be maintained in at least one large Madrasa in the Province.

The question has already been thoroughly investigated by the various committees to which a reference has been made in answer to the last question, and Government think no useful purpose would be served by the appointment of another committee to examine a subject which has already been adequately ventilated."

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZ-UL-HAQ asked :—

Teaching of
Arabic & Persian
in the Presidency
College.

56. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the present staff in the Presidency College for the teaching of Arabic, Persian and Urdu consists of only one professor in the Provincial Educational Service and one lecturer in the Subordinate Service ?

[*Mr. Cumming; Maulvi A. K. Faz-ul-Haq.*]

(b) Are the Government aware that there is a very strong impression in public circles that this staff is wholly inadequate for the work?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

- “(a) The answer is in the affirmative
(b) The answer is in the negative.”

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZ-UL-HAQ asked :—

57. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is no provision for the teaching of Arabic in the Dacca Collegiate School? Teaching Arabic, Persian and Urdu in Government schools and the mofussals.

(b) Is it a fact that a representation was sent to the Director of Public Instruction by a large number of guardians of Muhammadan boys, praying that provision be made for the teaching of Arabic in the abovementioned School?

(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what steps (if any) they propose to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

(a) “The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) A representation signed by four guardians of Muhammadan boys was received by the Director of Public Instruction. A similar representation had been received by the Inspector of Schools for the Dacca Division, who caused it to be brought before the Managing Committee of the School. In view of the small number of boys (7) who professed a desire to study Arabic, the Committee resolved that there was no case for approaching the Department for the appointment of an Arabic teacher. On being informed of this decision, the petitioners approached the Director of Public Instruction.

(c) The representation is now being dealt with by the Director of Public Instruction.”

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZ-UL-HAQ asked :—

58. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing existing arrangements for the teaching of Arabic, Persian and Urdu in Government colleges and schools in the mofussal, district by district, under the following heads :—

- (i) names of professors, lecturers or teachers, with their qualifications and pay ;
- (ii) the average number of hours per week each is required to work ;
- (iii) the number of students who read Arabic, Persian or Urdu in the last academical year, Pass and Honours students being shown separately ?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

“A statement giving the information required is laid on the table.”

[Mr. Cumming.]

Statement referred to in the Answer by the Hon'ble Mr. Cumming to Question No. 58, asked by the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Faz-ul-Haq at the Council meeting of the 1st September, 1913, shewing existing arrangements for the teaching of Arabic, Persian and Urdu in Government Colleges and Schools in the mufassal in West Bengal, District by District.

DISTRICT	Names of Professors, Lecturers or Teachers	Designation	Qualification	Pay.	Average number of hours per week each is required to work.	NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO READ				
						Arabic	Persian	Urdu	B.A.	Honours
				Rs.	Hours.					
24 Parganas	Maulvi Sahib Buksh	Assistant Master (Maulvi), Barrackpore Government School	Passed Madrasa Final Examination.	25 Class IV, L.S.E.S.	28	24	...	...	...	...
Ditto	Maulvi Syed Khilafat Hossain	Officiating Assistant Master (Maulvi), Barasat Government School	Read up to the Final Madrasa Examination	20 Outside the grades	27	28	...	...	...	...
Nadia	Maulvi Muhammad Abdur Rasool	Perdan Teacher, Krishnagar Collegiate School	Passed Madrasa Final Examination	25 Outside the grades	24½	2	3	2	...	...
Murshidabad	Maulvi Abdul Haq Abid	Assistant Head Master, Nawab Bahadur's Institution	B.A.	250 Class I, S.E.S.	28					
Ditto	Maulvi Muhammad Ali	Assistant Master (Maulvi), Nawab Bahadur's Institution	Passed Madrasa Higher Standard Examination	60 Class S.E.S., VI	23					
Ditto	" Aga Muhammad	Officiating Master (Maulvi), Nawab Bahadur's Institution	Ni.	50 Outside the grades	19					
Ditto	" Muzhul Haq	Master (Maulvi), Nawab Bahadur's Institution	Passed Madrasa Higher Standard Examination	25 Outside the grades	25	68	118	...	...	...
Ditto	" Nurul Shik	Ditto ditto	Entrance	24 Class IV, L.S.E.S.	11					
Ditto	" Syed Hossain Ali	Ditto ditto	Do.	15 Class V, L.S.E.S.	21					
Ditto	" Ali Muhammad	Officiating Master (Maulvi), Nawab Bahadur's Institution	Guru's training	15 Class V, L.S.E.S.	22					
Khulna	" Muhammad Isaque	Perdan Teacher, Khulna Zilla School	Passed Madrasa Final Examination	25 Outside the grades	17½	5	14	22	...	...
Do.	" Abdul Karim	Temporary Urdu Teacher, Khulna Zilla School	Ditto ditto	30 Outside the grades	24					
Jessore	" Muhammad Raquibuddin	Assistant Master (Maulvi), Jessore Zilla School	Passed Madrasa Higher Standard Examination	41 Class I, L.S.E.S.	22	...	26	17	...	...
Howrah	" Abdul Ali	Persian Teacher, Howrah Zilla School	Passed in Arabic	29 Class III, L.S.E.S.	24	...	13	...	...	...
Hooghly	Shams-ul-Islam Abdul Munim	Professor of Arabic and Persian, Hooghly College	Passed Higher Standard Bengal Madrasa Examination	400 Class IV, P.E.S.	17	...	7	1	2	...
Ditto	Maulvi Abdul Quasem	Head Maulvi, Hooghly Collegiate School	Ditto ditto	75 Class VI, S.E.S.	18½	1	23	3	...	...
Ditto	" Hossain Ali	2nd Maulvi, Hooghly Collegiate School	Ditto ditto	75 Class VI, S.E.S.	18½					
Ditto	" Abdul Jabbar	Assistant Master (Maulvi), Hooghly Branch School	Passed the Lower and Higher Standards, Bengal Madrasa Examinations	36 Class III, L.S.E.S.	25					
Bankura	" Abdul Aziz	Assistant Master (Maulvi), Bankura Zilla School	Passed Final Madrasa Examination	25 Class III, L.S.E.S.	22	...	7	6	...	...
Birbhum	" Syed Badrudin	Assistant Master (Maulvi), Birbhum Zilla School	Passed Higher Standard Examination	29 Class III, L.S.E.S.	23½	...	22	26	...	...
Ditto	" Ruqul Reza	Urdu Teacher, Birbhum Zilla School	Passed Higher and Lower Madrasa Examinations	20 Outside the grades	22					
Dacca	Dr. M. Musharraf Huk	Professor, Dacca College	Ph.D.	250 Class VII, P.E.S.	18	24	64	...	...	...
	Maulvi Muhammad Irfan	Ditto ditto	M.A. (Class II in Arabic)	Ditto	18					
	Maulvi Abdul Aziz	Lecturer, Dacca College	Passed in the 1st Division, Higher Standard of the Final Madrasa Examination, Bengal, with qualifications in English	300 Class II, S.E.S.	18					

[Mr. Cumming.]

DISTRICT.	Names of Professors, Lecturers or teachers.	Designation	Qualification	Pay	Average number of hours per week on his required to work	NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO READ—				
						Arabic	Persian	Urdu	Past.	B.A. Honours
Dacca	Maulvi Abul Basha Muhammad Osman Ghani	Arabic and Persian Teacher Arabic Persian Department Dacca Madrasa.	Passed Higher Madrasa Central and Matriculation Examinations	Rs. 50 Class VIII	24					75
Do	Maulvi Dastur Ali	Ditto	Read up to the Higher Madrasa Examination Standard and the Entrance Examination Standard	Rs. 30 Class L.S.S.	13					
Do	Maulvi Zahurul Haq	Head Master Arabic-Persian Department Dacca Madrasa	B.A. (Calcutta)	Rs. 140 Class S.S.	34					
Do	Maulvi Khaliquddin Abdul	Assistant Master Arabic Persian Department Dacca Division	Ditto	Rs. 70 Class S.I.S.	14					
Do	Maulvi Abdul Hamid	Ditto	Read up to F.A.	Rs. 80 (Class II I.S.S. plus Rs. 8 allowance for English Teacher Arabic Department)	12½	131	1	230		...
Do	Maulvi Najabat Ali Khan	Ditto	Read up to Entrance	Rs. 20 Class L.S.S.	7					
Do	Maulvi Samiullah	Ditto	Matriculation	Rs. 20 On salary	4½					
Do	Mirza Ashtar Ali Khan	Ditto	First in Drill and Gymnastics	Rs. 100 Class V I.S.S. plus Rs. 20 allowance, plus Rs. 10 for tuition allowance	4					
Do	Maulvi Azizur Rahman	Assistant Master (Maulvi), Armandola High School	Passed the Calcutta Madrasa Final Examination and read up to Entrance Standard	Rs. 40 Outside the grades	12½	52	9	11		
Do	Maulvi A. M. M. Hani Ali	Assistant Master (Head Maulvi) Dacca Collegiate School	Passed Final Madrasa Examination	Rs. 34 Class L.S.S.	21		26	14		
Mymensingh	Maulvi Aftabuddin Ahmad	Head Maulvi Mymensingh Zilla School	Passed Final Madrasa Examination and read up to Entrance	Rs. 40 Class L.S.S.	19		52	16		
Ditto	Maulvi Abdul Majid	Officiating Assistant Master, Mymensingh Zilla School	Read up to F.A. Knows Urdu	Rs. 20 Class L.S.S.	4					
Ditto	Maulvi Abdul Jabbar	Head Maulvi Jamalpur Government High School	Passed Final Madrasa Examination and trained in the Dacca Madrasa	Rs. 40 Outside the grades	21½		34			
Faridpur	Maulvi Abdul Ali	Head Maulvi Faridpur Zilla School	Passed Dacca Nazim's Standard from the Patna Islamic Arabic Madrasa	Rs. 40 Outside the grades	20	14	9	19		...
Bakarganj	Maulvi Muhammad Serajul Haque	Head Maulvi Barisal Zilla School	Passed High Proficiency Examination and knows English	Rs. 37 Class I L.S.	22		31	10		
Ditto	Maulvi Mahbubur Rahman	Second Maulvi Barisal Zilla School	Passed Final Examination of the Dacca Madrasa Knows English	Rs. 30 Outside the grades	22					
Ditto	Maulvi Mukleswar Rahman	Head Maulvi Porajpur Government High School	Passed Final Madrasa Examination	Ditto	14		20			
Ditto	Maulvi Zakiruddin Ahmed	Head Maulvi Jhalakati High School	A Hafiz (capable of reciting the whole of the Koran) Passed Final Madrasa and Maulvi Training Class Examination and Middle Vernacular Examinations.	Ditto	26		10			...
Ditto	Maulvi Serajul Haque	Head Maulvi Bhola Government High School	Passed Final Madrasa Examination	Rs. 35 Outside the grades	25		17	59		...
Ditto	Abdul Gaffur	2nd Maulvi Bhola Government High School	Ditto	Rs. 15 Outside the grades	25					
Chittagong	Fida Ali Khan	Professor of Arabic Chittagong College.	M.A. (Calcutta)	Rs. 200 Class P.F.S. VIII	14		22			5
Ditto	Abdul Latif	Lecturer in Persian Chittagong College	Passed High Proficiency Examination Calcutta Madrasa. Second First and obtained a gold medal. Read up to F.A. Standard.	Rs. 100 Class S.K.P. V	15					
Ditto	Muhammad	Assistant Master (Head Maulvi), Arabic-Persian Department, Chittagong Madrasa.	Passed Final Madrasa Examination and read up to F.A.	Rs. 50 Class S.P.S. VIII	22	47	156	55		...

[Mr. Cumming.]

DISTRICT	Names of Professors, Lecturers or Teachers.	Designation	Qualifications	Age	Average number of hours per week each is required to work.	NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO READ—				
						Arabic	Persian	Urdu	B.A.	Hours.
Chittagong	Maulvi Abdul Hadi	Assistant Master Persian Teacher Arabic-Persian Department, Chittagong Madrasah	Passed Final Madrasah Examination and Matriculation Examination and Maulvi Training Examination	30	22					
Ditto	Maulvi Muhammad Wahidun Nabi	Head Master Arabic Persian Department Chittagong Madrasah	B.A. (Arabic Course) knows Urdu	30	5	47	156	85		
Ditto	Maulvi Abdul Jabbar	Assistant Master Arabic Persian Department Chittagong Madrasah	Read up to F.A. knows Urdu	16	2					
Ditto	Maulvi Jamaluddin Ajmed	Assistant Master Chittagong Collegiate School	Passed Final Madrasah and Persian Examinations	60	23	2	30	12		
Ditto	Maulvi Muneef Ali	Assistant Master Chittagong Middle English School	Passed Final Madrasah Examination	24	38			60		
Ditto	Maulvi Muhammad Yakub	Ditto Ditto	Read up to Final Madrasah Examination class	10	13					
Tippura	Maulvi Ali Jilaff	Assistant Master (Maulvi) Comilla Zilla School	Passed Final Madrasah Examination and Maulvi Training Examination	30	20		65	22		
Ditto	Maulvi Ali Hameed	Ditto Ditto	Passed Final Madrasah Examination	21	15					
Northall	Maulvi Azizulla	Assistant Master (Maulvi) Northall Zilla School	Passed Final Madrasah Examination and Maulvi Training Examination	24	20					
Ditto	Maulvi Muhammad Jalil	Ditto Ditto	Passed Final Madrasah Examination and Maulvi Training Examination	40	20					
Rajshahi	Maulvi Qasim Haqq	Professor Rajshahi College	M.A.	200	16					
Ditto	Munir	Teacher, Rajshahi College	Passed Senior Madrasah Examination	75	13		90	2		
Ditto	Abul Ali	Assistant Master (Maulvi) Rajshahi Collegiate School	Ditto Ditto	45	18					
Ditto	Muhammad Ali Hossain	Ditto Ditto	Passed Higher Madrasah Examination	30	18					
Jalpaiguri	Abul Ali	Assistant Master (Maulvi) Jalpaiguri Zilla School	Passed Final Madrasah Examination	6	26		25	16		
Rangpur	Abdul Majid	Assistant Master (Maulvi) Rangpur Zilla School	Passed Higher Standard and Calcutta Madrasah Examinations	60	24	12	20			
Dinajpur	Abdul Karim Khan	Assistant Master (Maulvi) Dinajpur Zilla School	Passed the Calcutta Madrasah Final Examinations	35	20	12	30	22		
Pabna	Muhammad	Assistant Master (Maulvi), Pabna Zilla School	Passed Higher Madrasah Examination	41	27					
Do.	Muhammad Saburuddin	Ditto ditto	Passed Madrasah Final Examination	22	32	14	55	15		
Bogra	Maulvi Muhammad Yakub	Assistant Master (Maulvi), Bogra Zilla School	Passed Higher Madrasah Examination	45	31					
Do.	Maulvi Muhammad Ullah	Ditto ditto	Passed the Final Madrasah Examination	22	23					
Maidla	Vacant									
Do.	Maulvi Fajur Rahman	Assistant Master (Maulvi) Maidla Zilla School	Passed Madrasah Final and Maulvi Training Examinations	26	24					
Do.	Maulvi Sultan Ahmed	Ditto ditto	Passed Madrasah Final Examination	16	23	5	39	36		
Darjeeling	Maulvi Muhammad Mahabud Khan	Assistant Master (Maulvi), Darjeeling High School	Ditto ditto	60	31	4	6	15		

[*Rgi Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur ; Mr. Cumming ; Babu Surendra Nath Banerji ; Maulvi Musharraf Husain.*]

The Hon'ble RAI NALINAKSHA BASU BAHADUR asked :—

59. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the number of students admitted in each section of the Presidency College is far less than the number fixed by the University? Admission of students in the Presidency College.

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reason for this appreciable difference?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "Government are not prepared to admit that the number of students admitted in each section of the College is far less than the number fixed by the University."

(b) The numbers given in the University Regulations are obviously not prescriptive but permissive only, or rather prohibitory of excess. The limit of the numbers reading in the various sections of the Presidency College has been determined by a careful consideration of the teaching strength and the available equipment."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI asked :—

60. Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is in contemplation to appoint two Deputy Directors—one for Western Bengal and the other for Eastern Bengal—and to locate the office of the Deputy Director of Eastern Bengal at Dacca? Appointment of two Deputy Directors.

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

"A suggestion has been made that two Deputy Directors should be appointed to assist the Director of Public Instruction, but the reorganization of the Office of the Director of Public Instruction is now under consideration and the exact lines which the reorganization will follow and the question whether these officers will be included in the scheme have not yet been determined."

The Hon'ble MAULVI MUSHARRAF HUSAIN, in the absence of the Hon'ble NAWAB SAYID HOSSAM HAIDER CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR asked :—

61. (a) Is it a fact that Government do not contemplate the abolition of the posts of the Inspecting Pandits in Western Bengal and that the posts of these officers in Western Bengal are being strengthened by raising the scale of pay? The abolition of the posts of Inspecting pandits in Western Bengal

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state why the posts of these officers are being abolished in Eastern Bengal districts?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is in their contemplation to invite public opinion, pending the final decision of Government, regarding the question of further abolition of the posts of the Inspecting Pandits in Eastern Bengal districts?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "The question of the abolition of these Inspecting Pandits in Western Bengal has been discussed but postponed because—

- (i) the present staff of Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors is insufficient,
- (ii) they are still needed for the work of teaching the untrained teachers of primary schools.

These officers are directly under District Boards : Government are not aware of any proposals to raise their pay.

(b) It is in contemplation gradually to abolish these Inspecting Pandits in Eastern Bengal so as to bring in a more efficient inspecting agency in the persons of Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors.

[*Babu Upendra Lal Ray ; Mr. Twidell ; Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur ; Mr. Green*]

•(c) The question of the abolition of these posts has already been finally decided, and the Secretary of State has given his sanction to the inauguration of the more efficient system mentioned above. Government see no reason to reopen the subject by inviting public opinion in the matter."

The Hon'ble BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY asked :—

Privilege leave
in the Provincial
Judicial Service.

62. (a) Are the Government aware that privilege leave applied for on the ground of ill health by some members of the Provincial Judicial Service has been refused on the ground that they were not confirmed in the Service, although their confirmations were actually due more than a year before?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to inform the Council when the confirmations to the existing vacancies in the Service are likely to be gazetted?

The Hon'ble MR. TWIDELL replied :—

(a) "Government are aware of only one case of the kind mentioned in the question.

An officiating Munsif applied for leave in March last. Under the rules, officers holding officiating or temporary appointments are not entitled to privilege leave, if any substitute is required in their place or if arrangements cannot be made for their work without extra cost to Government. In the case referred to a substitute was required and the application for privilege leave was, therefore, refused. When the Munsif represented that he was in ill health, which he had not done before, he was granted extraordinary leave without allowances, which can be commuted to privilege leave on confirmation. It is understood that the Munsif in question, who has since been confirmed, has applied to the High Court for commutation of his leave to privilege leave. When his application is received by Government, it will be duly considered in accordance with the rules.

(b) The confirmations in the vacancies referred to were published in the Calcutta Gazette of the 25th June, 1913."

The Hon'ble RAI NALINAKSHA BASU BAHADUR asked :—

Certain incon-
veniences at rail
way stations
between Bandel
and Katwa

63. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the following facts :—

(i) that there are no platforms at the railway stations between Bandel and Katwa to enable passengers to enter, and alight from, the trains running between the above two places with ease?

(ii) that there are no waiting-rooms at any of the railway stations between the above two places for the use of passengers?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what steps are being taken to remove the above inconveniences?

(c) Are the Government aware that no fencing has as yet been erected on either side of the railway line between Bandel and Katwa, and that cattle are now and then killed by running trains?

(d) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what action (if any, they intend to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble MR. GREEN replied :—

(a) (i) "The answer is in the affirmative. The attention of the Hon'ble Member is drawn to the reply given to Maulvi Abul Kassem at the Council Meeting of the 13th March to the effect that it is not usual to provide raised platforms at stations on a branch line until the traffic has developed to an extent that will justify the cost. The Hooghly-Katwa Branch was only opened in 1912 and the question of providing raised platforms at a few of the principal stations will be considered.

[*Maharaja Ranajit Sinha of Nashipur; Mr. Cumming; Mr. G. H. C. Ariff.*]

(a) (ii) and (b) There are waiting-rooms at Dainhat and Katwa and waiting-sheds for intermediate and third-class passengers at Tribeni, Kalna Court and Katwa which have so far been found sufficient to meet requirements. When the passenger traffic at other stations justifies the provision of waiting-rooms and -sheds, these conveniences will be provided.

(c) The answer is in the affirmative.

(d) Sanction has been accorded for fencing on both sides of the line from Bandel to Katwa, and the materials have been ordered and the work will be commenced next cold weather."

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA OF NASHIPUR asked :—

64. With reference to the reply given by Mr. Kuehler, late Director of Public Instruction, at a meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council held on the 4th April, 1913, to my suggestion regarding the extension of female education within the *Extension of female education within the zanaana.* zanaana, will the Government be pleased to state what progress (if any) has been made in that direction?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied —

"In furtherance of the policy of encouraging zanaana education, the following posts have been sanctioned since the date of Mr. Kuehler's speech, namely, —

- (1) One assistant inspectress in the Provincial Educational Service for zanaana work and Muhammadan education in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions.
- (2) Three governesses—one at Dacca, one at Mymensingh and one at Faridpur
- (3) Fifteen additional zanaana teachers for Western Bengal.

"Grants have also been sanctioned in aid of the Widows' Educational Home Scheme

"A new zanaana centre has been established at Sultanpur in the district of Khulna, and the question of assisting the Jikra zanaana agency at Howrah is under consideration. In addition to the post of assistant inspectress mentioned above, the appointment of four more assistant inspectresses has been sanctioned. This increase in the inspecting staff will, it is hoped, lead to still greater expansion and efficiency in zanaana education."

The Hon'ble MR. G. H. C. ARIF asked :—

65. Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Lower Primary, Upper Primary and Middle English schools in each of the districts of the Presidency. Burdwan, Dacca, Rajshahi and Chittagong Divisions, and how many of them are entirely Government institutions, and how many of them are aided by Government; and the amount of aid given to each of these Lower, Upper and Middle English schools? *Lower Primary, Upper Primary and Middle English Schools in Bengal.*

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

"A statement giving the required information is laid on the table. As it would be a matter of some difficulty to ascertain the exact amount of the grant-in-aid given to each institution, the average amount given to each has been entered in the statement."

[Mr. Cumming.]

Statement referred to in the answer by the Hon'ble MR. CUMMING to Question No. 65, asked by the Hon'ble MR. G. H. C. ABIFF at the Council Meeting of the 1st September, 1913:—

PRESIDENCY DIVISION..

Name of District	Class of Schools	Total number of Schools	Number of Schools entirely under Government.	Number of Schools aided by Government.	Amount of average aid given by Government to each of these schools (col. 5).
1	2	3	4	5	6
					Rs.
Calcutta	Lower Primary Schools	174	1	138	74
	Upper Primary Schools	53	...	54	287
	Middle English Schools	21	3	10	452
24 Parganas	Lower Primary Schools	1,479	6	189	30
	Upper Primary Schools	136	9	27	211
	Middle English Schools	71	...	15	233
Nadia	Lower Primary Schools	688	7	26	79
	Upper Primary Schools	139	10	2	93
	Middle English Schools	53	...	5	401
Murshidabad	Lower Primary Schools	629	6	45	54
	Upper Primary Schools	174	8	14	92
	Middle English Schools	14	...	5	88
Jessore	Lower Primary Schools	990	5	15	34
	Upper Primary Schools	151	11	9	124
	Middle English Schools	38	...	0	...
Khulna	Lower Primary Schools	965	1	27	39
	Upper Primary Schools	154	6	12	56
	Middle English Schools	46	...	0	...

BURDWAN DIVISION.

Burdwan	Lower Primary Schools	1,118	1	15	155
	Upper Primary Schools	214	8	3	355
	Middle English Schools	86	...	2	356
Bankura	Lower Primary Schools	1,028	...	12	20
	Upper Primary Schools	179	6	21	102
	Middle English Schools	33	...	2	171
Birbhum	Lower Primary Schools	942	1	73	78
	Upper Primary Schools	112	6	1	105
	Middle English Schools	34	...	1	180

[Mr. Cumming.]

BURDWAN DIVISION—concl'd.

Name of District.	Class of Schools		Total number of Schools	Number of Schools entirely under Government	Number of Schools aided by Government	Amount of average aid given by Govt. per month to each of these schools (col'd)
1	2		3	4	5	6
						Rs.
Midnapore	Lower Primary Schools	...	3,459	...	82	26
	Upper Primary Schools	...	462	9	15	55
	Middle English Schools	...	73	.	6	274
Hooghly	Lower Primary Schools	..	1,117	2	23	132
	Upper Primary Schools	..	153	5	12	218
	Middle English Schools	...	62	...	8	212
Howrah	Lower Primary Schools	...	729	1	1	90
	Upper Primary Schools	...	83	5	7	228
	Middle English Schools	.	36	..	4	225

DACCA DIVISION.

Dacca	Lower Primary Schools	...	1,964	...	5	132
	Upper Primary Schools	..	186	6	3	384
	Middle English Schools	..	80	.	6	444
Mymensingh	Lower Primary Schools	...	2,211	.	..	..
	Upper Primary Schools	...	141	7	2	60
	Middle English Schools	..	133	.	4	300
Faridpur	Lower Primary Schools	.	1,334	2	1	720
	Upper Primary Schools	..	131	3	7	247
	Middle English Schools	..	69	..	5	728
Bakarganj	Lower Primary Schools	.	2,880	...	220	27
	Upper Primary Schools	...	206	6	21	95
	Middle English Schools	.	63	..	14	285

CHITTAGONG DIVISION.

Tippera	Lower Primary Schools	...	1,869	3	38	48
	Upper Primary Schools	..	178	3	12	84
	Middle English Schools	.	84	1	5	480
Noakhali	Lower Primary Schools	...	1,217	2	73	60
	Upper Primary Schools	.	81	2	6	96
	Middle English Schools	.	48	1	1	720
Chittagong	Lower Primary Schools	...	1,105	5	109	48
	Upper Primary Schools	..	111	3	53	84
	Middle English Schools	...	38	1	2	360

[Mr. Cumming.]

CHITTAGONG DIVISION—*concl.*

Name of District	Class of Schools	Total number of Schools	Number of Schools entirely under Government	Number of Schools aided by Government	Amount of average aid given by Government to each of these schools (col. 5).
1	2	3	4	5	6
Chittagong Hill Tracts	Lower Primary Schools	85	1	84	102
	Upper Primary Schools	12	...	12	180
	Middle English Schools	...	...	...	...

RAJSHAHI DIVISION.

Rajshahi	Lower Primary Schools	654	2	2	78
	Upper Primary Schools	82	3	5	450
	Middle English Schools	29	...	2	360
Dhupur	Lower Primary Schools	959	2	...	...
	Upper Primary Schools	66	3	...	...
	Middle English Schools	29	...	2	360
Jalpaiguri	Lower Primary Schools	515	4	66	60
	Upper Primary Schools	44	1	16	108
	Middle English Schools	8	...	1	480
Bangpur	Lower Primary Schools	1,057	...	1	156
	Upper Primary Schools	128	3	4	282
	Middle English Schools	14	...	6	312
Pabna	Lower Primary Schools	660	2	...	...
	Upper Primary Schools	115	2	...	...
	Middle English Schools	38	...	2	420
Bogra	Lower Primary Schools	768	2	36	184
	Upper Primary Schools	59	1	4	240
	Middle English Schools	31	1	3	400
Madda	Lower Primary Schools	424	2	10	40
	Upper Primary Schools	64	1	4	152
	Middle English Schools	20	...	4	330
Dargaching	Lower Primary Schools	183	...	152	89
	Upper Primary Schools	10	1	9	282
	Middle English Schools	5	...	4	530

[*Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur; Mr. Cumming.*]

The Hon'ble RAI NALINAKSHA BASU BAHADUR asked —

66. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether all the science subjects prescribed for the Calcutta University examinations (I.Sc., B.Sc. and M.Sc.) are included in the curriculum of studies at the Presidency College, Calcutta? Teaching of Science subjects at the Calcutta University

(b) If not, will the Government be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of the Government to prepare a scheme by which all the science subjects may be taught in that College?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state why Physiology does not find a place in the curriculum of studies at the Presidency College this year?

(d) Are the Government aware that there is no other college in Bengal where the subject is taught in the Intermediate standard and that an application was made some time ago to the Principal by a few students of the Presidency College praying that arrangements may be made for the teaching of the above-named subject, which was rejected?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to state the reason for the action taken by the Principal, and whether it is in the contemplation of the College authorities to teach the subject in that standard in future?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied:—

(a) "No; all the science subjects prescribed for the I.Sc., B.Sc. and M.Sc. examinations of the Calcutta University are not included in the curriculum of studies at the Presidency College.

(b) The answer is in the negative. It is not practicable at present to teach all the science subjects in the College.

(c) The teaching of Physiology has been discontinued in the present session first year I.Sc. class, and it will, under present arrangements, be discontinued altogether in the I.Sc. class next session. This arrangement has been decided upon after full consideration. A majority of the science professors consider it better to postpone the beginning of Physiology to the B.Sc. stage. The subject is taught in the B.Sc. and M.Sc. classes.

(d) Yes. An application was received by the Principal in July from a number of first year I.Sc. students to be allowed to take up Physiology either as a necessary part of their studies or as an optional subject, but as the teaching of Physiology in the I.Sc. classes has been discontinued after due consideration, it was not considered practicable to accede to their request.

(e) The Principal had no option but to reject the application. The second portion of the question has already been answered."

The Hon'ble RAI NALINAKSHA BASU BAHADUR asked —

67. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that research work on Indian Economics cannot be carried out efficiently in the Presidency College Library owing to the want of blue books, copies of "Journals" of the Economic Society of England and of the Royal Statistical Society and the publications of the Government of India in relation to finance and commerce, etc.? Research work on Indian Economics in the Presidency College Library

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what action (if any) they intend to take to supply the want?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied:—

(a) "Government are aware that the Presidency College Library does not possess complete sets of the *Economic Journal* nor of the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*; but otherwise the College Library, though capable of further improvement and expansion, is sufficiently supplied with books on Economic Science.

(b) It is the desire and the deliberate policy of the College authorities to encourage and promote research to the best of their ability, and steps are being taken to complete the equipment of the library."

[Babu Upendra Lal Ray; Mr. Green; Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur]

The Hon'ble BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY asked :—

Jetty No. IV at
Chittagong.

68. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(i) why jetty No. IV was built at Chittagong;

(ii) whether it is used for the purpose for which it was constructed, and if not, why not; and

(iii) what steps (if any) they intend to take to put the jetty to the use for which it was originally constructed?

The Hon'ble MR. GREEN replied :—

"Jetty No. 4 is part of a complete progressive scheme for seven jetties at Chittagong to be constructed by the Assam-Bengal Railway. When jetty No. 4 was first proposed, accommodation for a special coasting service between Chittagong and Calcutta with through booking arrangements with the Assam-Bengal Railway was contemplated and the jetty was intended to meet this and other developments. The negotiations for the utilization of this jetty for the coasting trade fell through, and it has been needed for the additional requirements of the Ocean trade.

It is not at present intended to renew negotiations for the special coasting service above referred to, nor to use the jetty for such service. It is, however, desirable to provide for the ordinary coasting steamers with means of direct access from ship to shore, and the matter will be inquired into."

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR asked :—

Posts of Inspectors
of Calcutta
Canals

69. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how recruitments are made to posts of Inspectors in the Calcutta Canals?

(b) Are they made from the ranks of the Upper Subordinates in the Public Works Department or from the clerical service?

(c) If, from the latter, will the Government be pleased to state why preference is not given to darogas of toll-stations?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that the Daroga of the Chitpore Toll-station also acts as *ex officio* Inspector of the Chitpore Canal, and that on one occasion a daroga of the Calcutta Canal was appointed to act as Inspector?

(e) Have the Government considered the desirability of promoting deserving darogas to posts of inspectors?

The Hon'ble MR. GREEN replied :—

(a), (b), (c) and (e) "Inspectors of the Calcutta Canals are selected from amongst the most suitable men of—

(i) the Toll Daroga establishment,

(ii) upper Subordinates of the Public Works Department,

(iii) other candidates for such appointments.

Inspectorships have been held by men of all three classes either permanently or officiating. These appointments are not reserved for any particular class of officer, and it is not desirable that they should be. When a vacancy occurs the most suitable man is appointed. The claims of Toll darogas are always fully considered.

(d) The Daroga of the Chitpore Toll-station is not also *ex officio* Inspector of the Chitpore Canal. He exercises certain functions of an inspector directly under the orders of the Assistant Engineer, who lives on the spot and exercises the superior authority of an inspector over this length of the Canal. Darogas have occasionally been appointed to act as inspectors of the Canal in temporary vacancies."

[*Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur; Mr. Green; Mr. Cumming;*
• *Mr. G. H. C. Ariff; Mr. Twidell.*]

The Hon'ble RAI NALINAKSHA BASU BAHADUR asked :—

70. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the opening of the Kristopore Canal has contributed to the increase of revenue in the Calcutta Canals and to a considerable decrease in the revenue of the Dhappa Canal?

•• (b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, they intend to take to recoup the revenue of the latter?

The Hon'ble MR. GREEN replied :—

(a) and (b) "There has been no increase in the revenue of the Calcutta Canals owing to the opening of the Kristopore Canal, but there has been a decrease in the toll collections at the Dhappa Toll-station since the opening of this alternative route. No measures are in contemplation to render the Dhappa route more popular and consequently to increase the receipts at the Dhappa Toll-station."

The Hon'ble RAI NALINAKSHA BASU BAHADUR asked :—

71. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the leading articles in the "Bengalee" of the 25th and 26th July last and the correspondence signed "Justice", appearing in the same paper on the 1st August last, on what is called "The Diamond-Harbour Milk Case"? The Diamond Harbour Milk Case

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the statements contained in those articles and that correspondence are correct?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have held any inquiry in the matter, and if so, whether they propose to take any steps as a result of that inquiry?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "The answer is in the affirmative"

(b) and (c) "The matter is still under inquiry"

The Hon'ble MR. G. H. C. ARIFF asked :—

72. Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of Government pleaders in each district in the Presidency and the number of Muhammadans holding this post? Government Pleaders in the Presidency

The Hon'ble MR. TWIDELL replied :—

"A statement showing the names of Government pleaders and public prosecutors in each of the districts in Bengal is laid on the table. It will be seen that the public prosecutors in three districts are Muhammadans."

Statement referred to in the Answer by the Hon'ble Mr. Twidell to Question No. 72, asked by the Hon'ble Mr. G. H. C. Ariff at the Council Meeting of the 1st September, 1913.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NAMES OF GOVERNMENT PLEADERS AND PUBLIC PROSECUTORS IN BENGAL.

District	Names of Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors
Pakerganj	... { Babu Ganesh Chandra Gupta, Senior Government Pleader. " Rajendra Lal Banarji, Junior Government Pleader.
Bankura	... " Basanta Kumar Neogi.
Birbhum	... Rai Sahib Kalikanand Mukharji.

[Babu Surendra Nath Banerji.]

District	Names of Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors
Bogra ...	Babu Beni Madhab Chaki.
Burdwan ...	{ " Debendra Nath Mitra, Government Pleader. " Bunwari Lal Hati, Public Prosecutor.
Chittagong ...	{ Rai Satish Chandra Sen Bahadur, Government Pleader. Maulvi Abdul Sattar, Public Prosecutor.
Dacca ...	{ Rai Iswar Chandra Ghose Bahadur, Government Pleader. Babu Sarat Chandra Ghose, Public Prosecutor.
Darjeeling ...	" Rajani Kanta Mukharji.
Dinajpur ...	" Jatindra Mohan Sen.
Faridpur ...	{ " Srish Chandra Banarji, Government Pleader. " Kailas Chandra Das, Public Prosecutor.
Hooghly ...	" Khirode Krishna Biswas, Officiating.
Howrah ...	" Ashutosh Bose.
Jalpaiguri ...	" Preonath Banarji.
Jessore ...	Rai Jadunath Mazumdar Bahadur.
Khulna ...	" Bepin Behari Sen Bahadur.
Malda ...	Babu Harinath Palit.
Midnapore ...	{ " Shital Prasad Ghose, Government Pleader. " Brajendranath Roy, Junior Government Pleader.
Murshidabad ...	" Radhika Mohan Sen.
Mymensingh ...	{ " Sarada Charan Ghose, Government Pleader. Maulvi Mohammed Ismail, Public Prosecutor.
Nadia ...	{ Rai Bishwanubhai Roy Bahadur, Government Pleader. Babu Akbay Kumar Maitra, Public Prosecutor.
Noakhali ...	(Vacant).
Pabna ...	{ Babu Prasanna Narain Chowdhuri, Government Pleader. " Mohendra Chandra Mukharji, Public Prosecutor of Sirajganj.
Tippera ...	{ Rai Sasanka Kumar Ghose Bahadur, Government Pleader. Maulvi Abdul Karim, Public Prosecutor.
Rajshahi ...	{ Babu Hari Charan Maitra, Senior Government Pleader. " Sarat Chandra Roy, Junior Government Pleader?
Rangpur ...	Rai Sarat Chandra Chatterji Bahadur.
24-Parganas ...	{ Babu Kailas Chandra Bose, Government Pleader. " Hemendranath Mitra, Public Prosecutor.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI asked :—

73. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how many new Board schools for primary education it is proposed to establish in the current financial year in the eastern districts of the Province?

(b) Is it in contemplation to start similar schools in the western districts, and if so, how many?

(c) What is the average—

(i) cost of a Board school per annum;

(ii) area served by it; and

(iii) attendance in a Board school?

(d) Does the opening of a Board school involve the withdrawal of grants from other schools in its neighbourhood?

(e) Do the Government act, in respect of primary education, on the principle of concentration of grants?

(f) Is it a fact that such a policy led to the closing of nearly 700 primary schools in the eastern districts in 1909-10?

(g) If so, has this decrease been made up in subsequent years?

[*Mr. Cumming; Babu Surendra Nath Banerji.*]

The Hon'ble Mr. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "It is proposed to establish 511 Lower Primary schools in the Eastern districts.

(b) It is proposed to extend the Board Primary schools system to Western Bengal at the rate of one Upper Primary school for each Panchayati Union. There are 1,432 Panchayati Unions without such schools at present. The Director of Public Instruction is considering proposals for the immediate establishment of one-fifth of this number

(c) (i) The average annual cost of the establishment of a Board school is Rs. 162 in Eastern Bengal. In Western Bengal, where the schools are of an Upper Primary status, the cost is Rs. 216.

(c) (ii) The area served by such a school is a Panchayati Union.

(c) (iii) In Eastern Bengal, the average attendance is 52.

(d) The opening of a Board school does not involve the withdrawal of grants from other schools, except when the existence of other schools in the neighbourhood is considered unnecessary.

(e) The policy is one of concentration by withdrawing grants from weak and superfluous schools.

(f) Yes, about 900 schools were closed during 1909-10.

(g) The decrease has not been made up: on the contrary, there has been a further decrease in the number of aided primary schools. But the number of pupils increased by about 10,000 by the close of the year 1911-12."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI asked :—

74. Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is great difficulty of communication between the villages in the eastern districts, especially during the rains, and that the closing of schools in pursuance of the policy of concentration of grants has resulted in depriving a large number of boys, in the eastern districts, of the benefits of education owing to there being no schools within easy reach?

The Hon'ble Mr. CUMMING replied :—

"Government are aware that the means of communication in Eastern Bengal are difficult during the rains, but there is no evidence to show that the policy of the concentration of grants has resulted in depriving a large number of boys in Eastern Bengal of the benefits of education. On the contrary, it is found that, although the number of schools has diminished, the number of pupils has increased considerably."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI asked :—

75. Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances in which the Head Master of the High English School at Feni, Babu Kailash Chandra Chakravarti, was compelled to resign his appointment in June last? Resignation of the Head Master of the Feni High English School.

The Hon'ble Mr. CUMMING replied :—

"The Inspector of Schools visited Feni in June last, when he came across certain books which he considered to be objectionable. The matter was brought to the notice of the Managing Committee, who called on the Head Master for an explanation. The Head Master forthwith resigned his post and the resignation was accepted at a special meeting of the Committee. Government have no reason to believe that the resignation was not voluntary. On the 30th June, the Head Master asked for permission to withdraw his resignation, and as a majority of the Committee was in favour of this course, he was allowed to do so. The matter is at present being considered by the Director of Public Instruction."

[*Babu Surendra Nath Banerji; Mr. Cumming; Raja Hrishikesh Laha; Mr. Green; Dr. Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI asked :—

Proposed partition of the districts of Midnapore and Mymensingh.

76. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the principle of the contemplated partition of the districts of Midnapore and Mymensingh?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table an estimate of the cost, recurring and non-recurring, for the partition of the Midnapore and Mymensingh districts?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have finally decided on making the partition?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to the resolutions published in the Calcutta Gazette of the 9th July, 1913, and for the 12th July, 1912.

(b) Such detailed estimates have not been prepared.

(c) As regards the Midnapore district, the Bengal Government will decide after the 15th September, the last day for the receipt of the opinions called for. As regards the Mymensingh district, the Hon'ble Member is referred to the pronouncement of His Excellency the Governor at the Durbar held at Dacca in July last."

The Hon'ble RAJA HRISHIKESH LAHA asked :—

Erosion of the town of Noakhali.

77. Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any reason to apprehend the gradual disappearance of the town of Noakhali, and if so, will they please state what measures (if any) they propose to take to avert the threatened calamity?

The Hon'ble MR. GREEN replied :—

"The attention of the Hon'ble Member is drawn to the answer given on the 2nd April, 1913, to the question asked by the Hon'ble 'Nawab Saiyid Hossam Haider Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur.

Since that date, on the 4th August, 1913, the Chief Engineer, Bengal, has inspected the eroded river bank. He found from sections taken that silting in front of the station was going on satisfactorily. The Superintending Engineer has been directed to have more sections taken as soon as the rains are over, and if these show satisfactory progress in the silting, there will be no reason for entertaining any apprehension for the town of Noakhali for many years.

Nature at present seems to be doing all that is required."

The Hon'ble DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked :—

Proposed assimilation of the vernacular curricula in the two parts of Bengal.

78. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any difference in the vernacular curricula obtaining in Eastern and Western Bengal?

(b) If so, what is the difference and what is the reason of such difference being maintained?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they propose to adopt a common vernacular curriculum in both Eastern and Western Bengal?

(d) If the answer to question (c) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state whether a committee of experts will soon be appointed to consider the question of assimilating the vernacular curricula in the two parts of Bengal?

[Mr. Cumming; Dr. Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.]

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The difference is to be found in many minor details, not in principle. The syllabuses for the two parts of the Province were drawn up by special committees appointed by Government and framed with special reference to the requirements of the two parts of the Province—hence the difference in detail.

(c) The question has been carefully considered by Government, and it has been decided to maintain the two curricula side by side until the Director of Public Instruction has had the opportunity of forming an opinion in the matter, and until sufficient experience of their relative merits has been acquired.

(d) The answer already given covers this part of the question."

The Hon'ble DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked :—

79. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether a separate Text-book Committee is maintained at Dacca for Eastern Bengal? Separate Text
book Committee
for Eastern Bengal.

(b) Is it proposed to amalgamate such Committee with the Calcutta Committee, and if so, when?

(c) If the Government have no such intention, will they be pleased to state the reason for continuing a separate Text-book Committee for Eastern Bengal?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "A separate Committee is maintained at Dacca.

(b) The question is bound up with the question of co-ordinating the curricula, etc., of Eastern Bengal and Western Bengal. The future of the Text-book Committees is under consideration, but Government are not at present in a position to make any communication on this subject.

(c) So long as Eastern Bengal has its own curricula, it may be necessary to continue a separate Text-book Committee for that part of the Province."

The Hon'ble DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked :—

80. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the practice of selecting text-books in Western Bengal by a system of confidential examination has proved generally satisfactory?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state whether the same system will be adopted in selecting text-books in Eastern Bengal?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "It has proved generally satisfactory.

(b) No answer can be given, as the question is under consideration."

The Hon'ble DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked :—

81. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that text-books for all Government and aided vernacular schools in Eastern Bengal used formerly to be prescribed by the Director of Public Instruction in consultation with the Text-book Committee at Dacca?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether this practice has recently been departed from, and if so, to what extent and why?

(c) If the separate Text-book Committee at Dacca be maintained, will the former practice be reverted to?

[Mr. Cumming; Dr. Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari].

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

(a) Under the rules that obtained in Eastern Bengal, the Director of Public Instruction circulated lists of books confidentially to members of the Text-book Committee. After considering any suggestions made by them the Director prescribed the text-books, but his final list was subject to the approval of Government. The lists were not prepared in consultation with the Text-book Committee, which is merely an Advisory Body.

Recently the Director of Public Instruction has been empowered to prescribe text-books for Eastern Bengal without any reference to Government.

(b) The former practice has been recently departed from to the extent that the lists prepared by the Director of Public Instruction have not been circulated to the members of the Text-book Committee for suggestions. It is not necessary, at present, to add to the list of books prescribed by the Text-book Committee, which is sufficiently large and comprehensive.

(c) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the Answer given to Question No. 80 (b).

The Hon'ble DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked :—

82. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the following remarks in the third Quinquennial Review of Progress of Education in Bengal (1902, 1903, 1906, 1907)—“In Bengal one man, who is perhaps not even a teacher by profession, will produce text-books in three or four branches of education. A new profession has in fact been created, namely, that of a text-book writer, and as the Greek sophists went about the world offering to discourse at a moment's notice on all knowledge, and being so, the text-book writer requires only a few weeks' warning and he will produce a school-book on any subject whatever”?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether, in view of the remarks quoted above, they propose to take any action to discourage text-books of the kind indicated?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

(a) “The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The remark quoted by the Hon'ble Member has reference to a state of things which obtained more than five years ago. The matter appertains primarily to the Education Department and the Text-book Committees, and as there is no reason to suppose that they do not exercise continual vigilance, the Government do not propose to interfere with their discretion.”

The Hon'ble DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked :—

Separation of the
cadre of the
Provincial Educa-
tional Service
and Subordinate
Educational Service
of Bengal.

83. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the separation of the cadre of the Provincial Educational Service and Subordinate Educational Service of Bengal from those of Bihar has been completed?

(b) If not, what is the reason of the delay and when will the separation be completed?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of vacancies in each Service and when these are likely to be filled?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

(a) “The separation of the Provincial Educational Service cadre and Subordinate Educational Service cadre of Bengal from those of Bihar and Orissa involves two processes—

(1) the two Governments have to come to a mutual understanding about details;

(2) the sanction of the Government of India has to be obtained to the arrangements agreed upon by the two Governments.

The first process has been completed, but not the second.

[Mr. G. H. C. Ariff; Mr. Donald.]

(b) The negotiations between the Governments of Bengal and Bihar and Orissa and the Administration of Assam have necessarily involved much labour and time. The cases of the two services mentioned are almost ready for submission to the Government of India. It is impossible to say what time will elapse before the Government of India sanction, and the Secretary of State confirms, the proposals for the formation of the new cadres.

(c) Until the new cadres have been determined, it is impossible to state accurately the exact number of vacancies, which will depend on the number of posts allotted to each grade. Meanwhile steps are being taken to determine the principles which should regulate the relative seniority of the officers in the services so that such vacancies as may be available can be filled without delay after the formation of the cadres."

The Hon'ble Mr. G. H. C. ARIFF asked :—

84. Will the Government be pleased to state the system of advertisement for appointments in the Secretariat and other attached offices in Writers' Buildings, and what interval is ordinarily allowed between the date of advertisement and that of receiving applications?

System of advertisement for appointments in the Secretariat and attached offices.

The Hon'ble Mr. DONALD replied :—

"The system of advertisement for appointments in the Secretariat and other attached offices in Writers' Buildings is resorted to only in connection with vacancies in the Lower Division of the Secretariat and the attached offices. Vacancies are filled up by means of a competitive examination and the number of vacancies available for competition is notified annually in the Calcutta Gazette on or before the 30th April. Candidates applying for permission to appear at the examination must submit a written application by the 15th June."

The Hon'ble Mr. G. H. C. ARIFF asked :—

85. (a) Is it a fact that a new class of ministerial officer under the designation of "Muharrir" has recently been sanctioned by Government for the charge of the records of each of the Departments in the Bengal Secretariat?

Appointment of Muharrir for the charge of the records of the Bengal Secretariat.

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any such appointments have been made, and if so, how many of them are Muhammadans and how many Hindus, and what are their educational qualifications?

The Hon'ble Mr. DONALD replied :—

(a) and (b) "Ministerial officers under the designation of 'Muharrir' are not a recent institution. Such officers have been employed in the Financial Secretary's office to deal with records since the year 1899.

Five Muharris have recently been sanctioned for the Chief Secretary's and Revenue Secretary's offices. These posts have been filled up in all cases by Hindus with no special educational qualifications. No university qualification is required of officers of this kind."

The Hon'ble Mr. G. H. C. ARIFF asked :—

86. (a) Is it a fact that the late Eastern Bengal and Assam Government and its Heads of Departments used to invite applications from Muhammadan candidates from the various Muhammadan associations and anjuman in the province when vacancies occurred in their offices and when candidates were required for agriculture, forests and other scholarships?

System of inviting applications from Muhammadan candidates for vacancies occurring in the Secretariat and attached offices.

(b) Is that practice followed by this Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. DONALD replied :—

(a) and (b) "The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer given to Question No. 37 (b), asked by the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Haq."

[*Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur; Mr. Cumming.*]

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR asked :—

Prohibition of the
Rath Jatra procession
at Serampore.

87. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a letter signed by a resident of Bhadreswar, published in the "Bengalee" of the 28th June last, in which it is stated that, last year, the order of the Subdivisional Officer of Serampore, disallowing the Rath Jatra procession (the pulling of the holy car) of Sri Sri Iswar Nanda Dulal Jiu of Gaurhati, within the Municipality of Bhadreswar, on the *Rath Jatra* days, wounded the religious feelings of the people, and that this year the said officer again refused the permission?

(b) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the proceedings of the public meeting of the residents of Bhadreswar and Gaurhati, held on the 29th June, in which resolutions were passed expressing feelings of the deepest sorrow and grief at the refusal of permission to the *Rath Jatra* procession of the idol Sri Sri Iswar Nanda Dulal Jiu, of the latter place?

(c) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the letter published in the "Bengalee" of the 2nd July, and the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" of the 9th July, from two of the learned pandits of the day and other highly respectable people in which they besought the authorities to refrain from taking such steps as to forbid the *Rath Jatra* procession?

(d) Is it a fact that the original application praying for permission was submitted to the Subdivisional Officer, Serampore, by Babu Girindra Nath Roy, an executor of Sri Nanda Dulal Thakur, on the 9th of June last, i.e., 27 days before the date of the festival?

(e) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the report of the local police and the order of the Subdivisional Officer thereon?

(f) Is it a fact that the people of the locality submitted an appeal to the District Magistrate of Hooghly on the 26th of June, but that he also refused to give the permission on the ground that the Superintendent of Police had opposed the same and he asked the petitioners to submit such application two months earlier, next year, to enable the necessary Police arrangements to be made?

(g) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the report of the said Police Superintendent and the District Magistrate's order on the aforesaid appeal?

(h) Are the Government aware that the people again approached the District Magistrate on the 10th July last, who allowed the *Rath* to be dragged on the 14th *idem* on the occasion of the *Uta Rath Jatra* festival?

(i) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what police arrangements were made on that occasion, and whether similar arrangements were not possible on the first day, i.e., on the 6th July?

(j) Will the Government be pleased to state whether an inquiry has been made into the above alleged facts and what action (if any) has been taken in the matter?

(k) Are the Government aware that a special minute was issued in the year 1875 by Sir Richard Temple, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, laying down principles for the guidance of the Magisterial authorities in connection with the *Rath Jatra* festival? Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the Minute referred to above?

The Hon'ble Mr. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "The attention of Government has been drawn to the letter in question. It was not the same Subdivisional Officer who passed the order this year. The former Subdivisional Officer was transferred in March. The present Subdivisional Officer has no connection with the events of last year."

(b) The answer is in the affirmative.

(c) The answer is in the affirmative.

[Babu Ananda Chandra Ray.]

(d), (e), (f) and (g) An inquiry has been made, and the facts as now ascertained are as follows. This year the Subdivisional Officer of Serampore received four petitions from Bhadreswar for permission to draw cars. Two of these petitions referred to old cars and were granted. The other two petitions referred to another car which is a new one; and they were received by the Subdivisional Officer on 10th June and 30th June, respectively. The Assistant Superintendent of Police reported that the full strength of the local police would be required in connection with the other two cars, and accordingly the Subdivisional Officer refused permission on the 19th June and again on the 2nd July. The application, which was made on the 26th June, was made to the District Magistrate, and not to the Subdivisional Magistrate, as was previously understood by Government. After full consideration the District Magistrate refused the application on the grounds of the paucity of the local police force and the insufficiency of time within which to make adequate police arrangements. The applicants have been advised to give two months' notice in future of their intention to observe the festival, so that, if possible, necessary police arrangements may be made by drafting in police from other districts. The Hooghly district force is already overtaxed by the number of cars drawn, principally in the Serampore subdivision.

Government consider that no public purpose will be served by laying on the table the reports of the local officers.

(h) The answer is in the affirmative.

(i) On the occasion of the *Uta Rath* festival the applicants in their petition proposed to draw their car at a different time from that fixed for drawing a neighbouring car. This arrangement had not been proposed on the occasion of the *Rath* festival on the 6th July. The local officers, in their desire to oblige the applicants, arranged that the same police should attend at the pulling of both cars in succession. This course proved successful on the occasion in question; but it is not one which Government are prepared to insist that the local officers should adopt, since any lack of punctuality might result in the failure of the festival and thus cause grievous disappointment.

(j) An inquiry has been made, and the facts have been stated above. In the opinion of Government timely intimation of the intention to observe the ceremony was not given, and two months' notice should be given in future. It must be remembered, however, that the introduction of new cars involves the employment of a large additional force of police, and that the use of the police for these purposes must be limited by the force available and the other needs of the administration.

(k) Government see no necessity for placing on the table the Minute of 1876 recorded by Sir Richard Temple."

The Hon'ble BABU ANANDA CHANDRA RAY asked :—

88. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the correspondence that appeared in the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" of the 18th April 1913 (dak edition), and to the representation made to the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, and published in the said "Patrika" of the 13th May last (dak edition), both dealing with the action taken by Mr. H. E. Stapleton, Inspector of Schools, Dacca Division, regarding the High English School at Narayanganj? The High English School at Narayanganj.

(b) Is it a fact that the said Inspector has limited the number of boys in the tenth class to 40, and the ninth class to 30 in the said School, in the place of 50, prescribed by the Calcutta University for both the said classes?

(c) Is it fact that the said Inspector has reduced the Government grant to the said school from Rs. 150 to Rs. 100 from the month of January last?

(d) Is it a fact that the said school has not heretofore drawn the grant-in-aid from January last?

[*Mr. Cumming.*]

(e) Is it a fact that the said Inspector has kept in abeyance, for one year, the increment proposed by the said School Committee to be given to the deserving teachers on account of the satisfactory work they have been doing, and on account of the large increase in the income of the said School?

(f) Is it a fact that the said Inspector has ordered that the new building for the said School, proposed to be constructed by making additions and alterations, must be so small that accommodation for more than 580 boys may not be had in the building, and that no room should be so large as to accommodate 50 boys?

(g) Is it not a fact that the said Inspector has vetoed the principal recommendations of the School Committee, consisting of the Subdivisional Officer, the Hon'ble Lieut. Col. R. Glen (Honorary A. D. C. to His Excellency the Governor) and the Rev. T. D. Williams, and representative men of the locality, about the increase of pay of the teachers at once, and larger rooms for the accommodation of the maximum number of boys prescribed by the Calcutta University?

(h) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the aforesaid orders were passed by the said Inspector, and whether they have the sanction of the Government?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) On the occasion of the Inspector's visit there were 47 boys in class IX and 35 boys, in class X. To ensure better teaching and to provide for a larger number of boys, the Inspector suggested in the visitors' book that there should be 60 boys in class IX and 40 in class X, the boys in class IX being divided into two sections of 30 each. In Mr. Stapleton's opinion, the class-rooms are not large enough to accommodate more than 40 boys. The Committee has resolved to give effect to this suggestion from the beginning of 1914.

(c) The school is working at a profit and does not therefore require the grant of Rs. 150 tentatively sanctioned for it the previous year. The grant was reduced to Rs. 100 per mensem with effect from February last. It is not an uncommon practice to reduce grants which are not required, so that the savings which accrue may be devoted to the assistance of other schools which are in greater need of help.

(d) The former grant expired on the 31st January last. The terms of the new grant have been accepted by the Committee and the grant will now be paid.

(e) The proposal of the Committee regarding the increments of pay of certain masters was not approved in full by the Inspector. The terms of the new grant have, however, recently been accepted by the Committee and, under the terms of that grant, all teachers, who have served more than one year in the school, will receive increments from the 1st February last.

(f) The Inspector was of opinion that the supervision of a school with a larger number than 580 boys was beyond the capacity of one head master. Owing to the rapidly-increasing demand for English education, the opening of a second high school is contemplated. Mr. Stapleton, accordingly, framed a scheme of classes on the basis of a total number of 580 boys. On this basis it is unnecessary that there should be as many as 50 boys in any one class. Mr. Stapleton's scheme has been accepted by the School Committee.

(g) This question is covered by the previous answers.

(h) There is no question of the Inspector giving orders or of Government sanctioning them. Mr. Stapleton's proposals were in the nature of recommendations to the School Committee.

Government do not propose to take any action in the matter."

[*Babu Ananda Chandra Ray; Mr. Cumming; Babu Surendra Nath Banerji; Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.*]

The Hon'ble BABU ANANDA CHANDRA RAY asked :—

89. Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether there is any rule or practice regarding the length of the stay of the inspecting officers of the Education Department in one and the same place? Inspecting officers of the Education Department
- (b) if there be no such rule or practice regarding the inspecting officers in the Education Department, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of laying down the rule that officers shall not generally remain for more than five years in the same place?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "The answer is in the negative.

(b) "Government do not think it desirable to lay down any general rules. The case of each officer must be decided on its merits and according to the exigencies of the Education Department."

The Hon'ble BABU ANANDA CHANDRA RAY asked —

90. Will the Government be pleased to state when the cadres of the Provincial and Subordinate Educational Services in Eastern and Western Bengal are likely to be amalgamated, and what principles (if any) have been laid down for the determination of the relative positions of Eastern and Western Bengal officers in corresponding classes? Amalgamation of the cadres of the Provincial and Subordinate Educational Services in Eastern and Western Bengal

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied —

"The question of the cadres of the Provincial Educational Service and Subordinate Educational Service has been the subject of correspondence with the Government of Bihar and Orissa and the Assam Administration. The Governments concerned have now arrived at an agreement, but the final determination of the strength and grading of the cadres for the Presidency of Bengal rests with the Secretary of State. Some time must therefore elapse before the new cadres can be fixed and before the officers of Eastern and Western Bengal can be placed on one nominal roll. Meanwhile Government are considering the principles which should be adopted to determine the question of relative seniority in the various classes so that officers may be able to take their proper position immediately on receipt of the orders sanctioning the permanent cadres."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI asked :—

91. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received any memorial from some of the inhabitants of Chinsura and Hooghly complaining of the alleged interference of the District Superintendent of Police with the performance of the usual rites in connection with Shiva Puja Gajan and Rakhya Kali Puja at Chinsura? Alleged police interference in connection with Shiva Puja Gajan and Rakhya Kali Puja at Chinsura.

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what orders, if any, they have passed on the memorial?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied —

(a) "The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The matter is still under consideration."

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR asked :—

92. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the articles published in the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" of the 21st July, 12th August and 15th August, 1913, and in the "Reis and Rayyet" of the 26th July, 1913, under the heading of "Partition of the Calcutta Police Court"? Partition of the Calcutta Police Court

[Mr. Cumming; Maulvi A. K. Faz-ul-Haq; Babu Mahendra Nath Ray.]

(b) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of the Report of Mr. J. C. K. Peterson on the splitting up of the Calcutta Police Courts?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing, item by item, the estimated increase in expenditure (recurring and non-recurring) consequent on a partition of the Calcutta Police Courts?

(d) Is it a fact that the headquarters of the Calcutta Fire Brigade will be removed from Lal Bazar? If so, when?

(e) How do the Government intend to utilize the accommodation thus set free?

(f) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Police and the Magistrates will be housed in one and the same building in the Northern Police Court in Jorabagan, Calcutta? Or whether some arrangement will be made to keep them apart?

The Hon'ble Mr. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) This report is a privileged document and cannot be made available.

(c) As the partition is in an experimental stage, no detailed estimate of the increase in expenditure for a permanent partition has been framed.

(d) The headquarters of the fire brigade have been recently removed from Lal Bazar; but the staff and equipment for one fire station still remain at Lal Bazar.

(e) The matter is still under consideration.

(f) The northern Court will be located in a portion of the Duff College buildings in Nintolla which is at present occupied by the Jorabagan police. The Court and the thana will thus be housed in one building, but cut off from one another, and with separate compounds."

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZ-UL-HAQ asked :—

Suppression of papers by Government Pleader. 93. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a telegram in the "Mussulman" in its issue of the 20th June, 1913, under the heading "Papers Suppressed by Government Pleader"?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether the allegation contained in the telegram is well founded, and what steps (if any) they intend to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "The attention of Government was drawn to the telegram after the Hon'ble Member gave notice of his question.

(b) It is the case that certain progress reports were mislaid. This made no practical difference in the decision of the case as copies were available. Government have not taken any steps."

The Hon'ble BABU MAHENDRA NATH RAY asked :—

Frequent changes at the District Officers of Howrah. 94. (a) Are the Government aware of the serious difficulties caused by the frequent changes of the District Officers of Howrah who also happen to be Chairmen of the Howrah Municipality, especially in respect of the due control and supervision of the important and costly drainage and water-supply works now in progress in the town of Howrah?

(b) What measures, if any, have Government taken to prevent such changes?

[Mr. Cumming; Babu Surendra Nath Banerji; Mr. Twidell.]

The Hon'ble Mr. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) Government are constantly on the watch to prevent excessive changes, but they recognize that in the past year Howrah has been unfortunate in this respect. It is hoped that before long more stable conditions may be again established."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI asked —

95. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, from the 1st of January up till the 31st July, 1913, the number of cases in which the Cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpore has inflicted fines of twenty rupees and upwards for offences under the Cantonment Code and under the Act for the prevention of cruelty to animals (Bengal Act I of 1869) specifying the names and positions of the parties fined and the nature of the offences for which such fines were imposed?

Infliction of fines of twenty rupees and upwards by the Cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpore for offences under the Cantonment Code, &c.

The Hon'ble Mr. TWIDELL replied —

"A statement showing the number of cases in which the Cantonment Magistrate Barrackpore, has inflicted fines of Rs 20 and upwards for offences under the Cantonment Code and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (XI of 1890) is laid on the table."

Statement referred to in the Answer by the Hon'ble Mr. TWIDELL to Question No. 95, asked by the Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI at the Council Meeting of the 1st September, 1913 —

Serial No.	Name of accused	Position	Nature of offence	Date of sentence	Fine imposed
					Rs
1	Sakhi Choud Gouda	Owner of 11 cattle (cows and buffaloes)	Section 288, Cantonment Code (Grazing cattle on land belonging to Government in cantonment area, at night forbidden by public notice)	23rd January 1913	20
2	Hazi Chaitan Kahar	Carriage owner having a stable of his own	Section 6 of Act XI of 1890	19th February	50
3	Surendra Nath Banerji	Editor of Bengalee	Section 107 Cantonment Code (Non compliance with a notice to repair a bungalow certified to be in a dangerous condition)	16th April	50
4	Hazi Habib Bux	Carriage owner having a stable of his own	Section 6 of Act XI of 1890	21st "	50
5	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto	21st "	25
6	Munoo	Ditto	Ditto ditto	21st "	20
7	Sherazuddin	Carriage owner also possesses a brick-built house	Ditto ditto	21st "	20
8	Kherja Goolam	Owner of 57 cattle (cows and buffaloes)	Section 288, Cantonment Code (Grazing on land belonging to Government in cantonment.)	3rd July	20
	Panchabhai Dhoti	Washerman	Section 6 of Act XI of 1890 (Cruelty to a donkey.)	5th "	50

[Sir William Duke.]

FLOODS IN THE BURDWAN DIVISION.

The Hon'ble SIR WILLIAM DUKE said :—

" So many questions have been asked with reference to the floods that it was thought that it would be more convenient and intelligible to Members if, instead of disjointed answers, a connected statement were prepared giving all the information at the disposal of Government. Unfortunately, however, the Hon'ble Mr. Lyon, who had throughout been attending to everything in connection with the floods, has fallen ill; immediately afterwards the Hon'ble Mr. Samman, the Revenue Secretary, who had been working with Mr. Lyon, fell ill also. The statement which I have to present has, therefore, had to be prepared without the assistance of those who were really familiar with the case. I fear it will have neither the clearness nor the authority which those who had personal knowledge of the case would have given it, and I can only ask the indulgence of the Council to its shortcomings, premising merely that all the information available has been given.

" Full details of the damage done by the recent floods in the Burdwan Division are even now not available, but the following statement summarises the information at present in the possession of Government :—

" *Course of events.*—In the first week of August there was heavy rainfall both in the districts of the Burdwan Division and, outside Berhal, towards the head waters of the Damodar and other rivers rising in the hills of Chota Nagpur. The floods in the districts of Burdwan, Bankura, Howrah and Hooghly were due to the very high rise of the Damodar. On the night of the 8th August, the embankment on its left bank was breached at Raghobpore, about 8 miles above Burdwan town, and the whole town and the surrounding country was under water on the morning of the 9th August. Altogether there were 40 breaches in the embankments on either side of the Damodar and in other embankments; 25 were in the left and 10 in the right embankment of the Damodar, 14 of the former being above Burdwan town. A paper is laid on the table for the information of Hon'ble Members showing exactly at what places breaches occurred. The breaking of the bund was the cause of the flooding of the town and surrounding country. The flood was unprecedented, and at various points rose from two feet to as much as four feet and a half above the highest previous record. At Rangaj it was four feet and a half and at Edilpur near Burdwan two feet and three inches above the highest record. At the latter place it might have risen still higher, had the embankment not already breached above it. The left embankment has been maintained at the same height and in the same condition for a great number of years, except where certain portions were raised after the floods of 1897 and 1907, the object aimed at being to keep it three feet above highest-record level, this having been considered a sufficient margin of safety. It had successfully resisted previous floods, but it was obviously totally unequal to this one. The causes of the failure and the future measures of protection require and will receive full and careful investigation. The East Indian Railway line was breached a little to the west of the town. The attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that some of the culverts, intended to let out surplus water, on this railway were closed at the time of the flood. This could not, however, have contributed appreciably to the flooding of the town and neighbouring villages, as, within a few hours of the breach of the Damodar embankment, the embankment of the railway was topped, and also 300 feet of it was washed out, passing a quantity of water much in excess of what the closed culverts could have dealt with. The country on the right bank of the river in this district was also flooded. The embankments on the right bank were abandoned in 1859, as it was found impossible to protect the country fully on both banks. There are, therefore, many openings into the country and a great number of spill channels, which occasion a certain amount of flooding whenever the river is high. The floods on the right bank, although quite as great as on the left, were not so much in the nature of an unexpected calamity. The spill of the right bank passed southwards into

[Sir William Duke.]

the Arambagh and Khanakul thanas of Hooghly where it did extensive damage, and finally found its way back to the Damodar and into the Rupnarayan in the Bagnan thana of Howrah. On the left bank, the water from the breaches above Burdwan flowed eastwards across country towards Kalna without doing much further damage. That from the southern breaches, beginning from near Jamalpur through the Burdwan district and as far south as Champadanga in the Hooghly district not far from Tankeswar, flowed southwards over the west of the Serampore subdivision until it was eventually impounded in the low-lying embanked areas in the Howrah district. The floods passed away rapidly in Burdwan and Hooghly, particularly on the left bank; but in Howrah it was necessary to cut the Damodar embankment to let them out. In Bankura, which lies on the right bank of the Damodar in its upper course, considerable damage was done in Sonamukhi thana, but only in an isolated low-lying area. In Midnapore, there were extensive floods. Some small tracts in the north-east portion of the district were affected by the banking up of the water of the Selai river by the flood-water of the Damodar, but the country which has suffered most is the Contai subdivision. This area has no connection with the Damodar river, from which it is at a great distance, and the floods were caused by heavy local rain in the first instance, subsequently much aggravated by the breaching of the Amarsi embankment by the Kaliaghari river. All this water was pounded behind the Hijili Tidal Canal, and rose more rapidly than it could be discharged. Much of the southern part has already been drained, but the Jalamutha and Sugamutha estates have suffered severely.

Damage.—In every district damage of varying magnitude was done to standing crops, seedlings and houses. As regards the first, the extent of the damage depended on the length of time the crops were under water. There has been considerable difficulty in obtaining seedlings, but the local officers, with the assistance of the Director of Agriculture, have made arrangements to import them from all parts of the province where they are still available. In Burdwan, the total area affected was about 185 square miles on both banks of the Damodar, comprising some 250 villages. It is not possible to give the exact population of these villages. The country remained under water, the average depth being 1 foot, for about 60 hours. The number of deaths of human beings reported from this district has not yet been definitely ascertained, but from the latest reports received there is little likelihood that it will exceed 12. The people generally had ample warning of the coming of the flood. Losses of horses and cattle are estimated at about 560. About 60 per cent. of the mud and thatched huts in the flooded area in this district have collapsed or been washed away. Very few masonry houses have collapsed. Within the Municipality considerably more than half the huts have fallen. The Civil Court buildings were inundated to a depth of over three feet and over 80,000 records were under water. Of these 15,000 were damaged, of which about 2,000 may prove to be totally destroyed. A question has been asked by one Hon'ble Member as to the removal of these buildings. Plans and estimates have been prepared and will be considered in due course. The damage done to the crops in this district, while serious, is much less than it might have been, and is inconsiderable on the left bank of the river where the water passed off quickly. The people have begun to retransplant their fields and there is still time for a good crop to be grown if the end of the rainy season should prove propitious.

"In Hooghly, about 120 square miles were affected. The number of villages and population thereof affected has not yet been fully reported. The latest report as to the number of human lives lost places it at 32. Definite figures as to the loss of cattle are not yet available. Great havoc was wrought among the mud huts, and many thousands have been destroyed or damaged. It is difficult to estimate the actual amount of damage to the crops, the effect of the water being different in different localities, but the Collector considers that in no case will the paddy crop be totally lost.

[Sir William Duke.]

"In Howrah, the area affected was some 200 square miles comprising about 300 villages. Government is not in a position to give the population of these villages. Only two or three deaths from drowning have been reported, and no cattle are reported to have been lost. As there are no breaches in this neighbourhood, the flood did not take a violent form, but was caused by the gradual inflow of water across country from the north. Several thousands of houses have fallen down or been otherwise damaged. Widespread damage has been done to the paddy and jute crops, but there is still time to retransplant the former.

"In Bankura, the area affected was that lying close to the Damodar in the north-east portion of the district, comprising some 110 villages, of which those in Sonamukhi thana suffered the most severely. It is impossible to give the population of these villages. The deplorable loss of 71 human lives, of which Hon'ble Members are aware, occurred in Sonamukhi. It was this area which felt the first rush of the flooded Damodar as it entered Bengal. Over 1,000 head of cattle are reported to have been destroyed, and some 6,000 houses. The damage to the crops has been considerable in only a few villages, but in others remoter from the main flow of the flood and when it passed off quickly the loss has not been very considerable. In the immediate line of the flood a certain amount of damage has been done by sand deposit. It is only in Bankura that any very considerable area has been affected in this way.

"In Midnapore, the parts affected were the Ghatal subdivision in the extreme north-east and the Contai subdivision in the extreme south of the district, the floods in the former being an indirect result of the Damodar flood, while those in the latter were due to continuous local rain. No information has been received as to the number of villages and population affected, but the greater part of the subdivision appears to have been flooded to some extent, that is to say, to have been somewhat more under water than usual; for this is low-lying country which is always extensively covered with water in the rains. No loss of human life is reported and the loss of cattle is insignificant. In Contai, great damage was done to houses, but in Ghatal, very little; crops suffered to a considerable extent, but it is impossible as yet to say how great the damage will eventually turn out to be.

"Birbhum, which had been visited by serious floods towards the end of June, also suffered in August from the rising of the Adjai, which divides Birbhum from Burdwan on the south, and of the Hinglo. Forty-nine villages were affected and about 800 houses were damaged or destroyed. No loss of life occurred, and the loss of cattle was insignificant. About 2,000 bighas of crops have been damaged. If we attempt to sum up the total effect of the floods, there are so many points still uncertain that it is impossible to give more than a very rough estimate which is not entitled to be considered in any degree authoritative. Very roughly, however, it may be taken that the floods have affected in the six districts of the Burdwan Division—a total area of about 1,200 square miles with a population approaching a million. That the houses of nearly a quarter of these have been more or less damaged or destroyed, that the loss of cattle has been several thousands, but probably not more than 5,000 to 6,000, that the loss of human life has not exceeded 125. The loss of crops cannot possibly be estimated until much later in the season; all that can be said at present is that the loss that is already inevitable and beyond repairs is not very great.

"*Measures.*—The Public Works Department at once took steps to close the breaches and, where necessary, retired or advance bunds are being constructed as a temporary protection for the remainder of the flood season. The question of the protection of the town of Burdwan from future inundation will receive the careful attention of Government. In all districts the District Officers took immediate steps to aid the people by giving shelter, medical help, grain and money, in which they were aided by public-spirited local gentlemen. Special attention was given in all districts to sanitary measures, and steps were taken to provide an increased staff of medical

[*Sir William Duke.*]

officers. Eighteen sub-assistant surgeons have been arranged for, of whom, 12 are already on the ground, while the District Officers of Midnapore and Burdwan, respectively, obtained the services of 7 and 4 men of the same class locally. Not much sickness has yet been reported, but the flooding of tanks and wells always imports a risk of disease and doctors are held in readiness to be sent to threatened localities. In every district relief committees were formed, composed mainly of non-officials. Government has sanctioned Rs. 50,000 for immediate gratuitous relief, and two lakhs for agricultural loans over and above the normal provision for that purpose. As to what more will be required, Government awaits the reports and estimates of the local officers. The civil staff of the division was strengthened, three officers of the Indian Civil Service and three Deputy Magistrates having been placed at the disposal of the Commissioner of Burdwan. In Burdwan, in addition to gratuitous relief, a lakh of rupees has been placed at the disposal of the Collector for agricultural loans. Rupees 3,000 was also sanctioned for gratuitous relief from Ram Lal Mukherji's Fund, a trust fund established for relief in such cases. The Sanitary Commissioner has visited both Midnapore and Burdwan, and the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner has visited Burdwan town and various outlying villages and has given a favourable report of the state of public health. The outlook in this district is now on the whole favourable, and the Collector in his report comments on the people's remarkable power of recuperation.

"In Hooghly, a large amount of gratuitous relief has been granted both from official and non-official sources. Rupees 10,000 has been sanctioned for distribution in the form of agricultural loans.

"In Howrah, rice was distributed free to the destitute by various persons, many of them non-officials. The Collector reports that money and grain distributed in this way have been ample for the needs of the people. It has not so far been found necessary to grant any agricultural loans in this district. The most recent reports about the district are reassuring.

"In Bankura, Government has granted Rs. 10,000 for agricultural loans and this sum will probably be exceeded.

"In Midnapore, agricultural loans are being granted freely throughout the affected area, and gratuitous relief has been given where needed, and steps have been taken for the provision of relief works, should such be required. To guard against epidemics, 5 sub-assistant surgeons were sent to Contai and 2 to Ghatal.

"In Birbhum, Rs. 10,000 for agriculture loans and Rs. 5,000 for gratuitous relief had been sanctioned by Government on account of the floods in June. Much the same area has again been affected, but the Collector has not yet sent in further requisitions and is probably still disbursing the original grants.

"The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Lyon visited part of the flooded area and gave instructions to the local officers as to the manner of dealing with the situation. A public meeting was held on the 22nd August in the Calcutta Town Hall under the presidency of Your Excellency which was largely attended and at which considerable sums of money were promised for relief. It is understood that the funds so raised will be spent through the agency of the local relief committees. Considerable funds had already been collected and a great deal of extremely valuable voluntary work was done by private enterprise previous to the Town Hall meeting. In every district there was a large number of private organizations at work, but it is impossible to detail exactly the extent of their activities. Reports have been received by Government of excellent voluntary work carried on in circumstances of great inconvenience and hardship in the remotest and most difficult parts of the flooded area.

"The question of preventing the recurrence of such disasters as the present is engaging the attention of Government, but no pronouncement on the subject can at present be made."

[*Sir William Duke; Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda.*]

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

THE BENGAL LAWS BILL, 1913.

4. The Hon'ble Sir William Duke presented the report of the Select Committee appointed to consider the Bengal Laws Bill, 1913, and moved that the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, be recommitted to the said Committee, with a view to—

- (i) the extension of the Local Self-Government (Amendment) Act, 1908 (Ben. Act V of 1908), to Eastern Bengal; and
- (ii) the consideration of certain minor amendments which it is proposed to make in the Bengal Local Self-Government Act, 1885 (Ben. Act III of 1885), by incorporating the same in Schedules III and IV to the said Bill;

and with instructions to circulate their report in time for its consideration at the next meeting of the Council.

He said :—

"The Secretary to the Council has explained the matter so fully in his circular letter of the 18th August that, I think, it is necessary for me to add but little.

"The Select Committee had but little difficulty with the Laws Bill, as it was first made over to them, except in the careful consideration of the wording of items in the Schedule. But there was no difficulty as to substance. In that Bill the Local Self-Government Acts were not included: they were not amongst the measures which were originally proposed to be assimilated in the East and West of the Presidency by means of the Laws Bill, the reason being that it was in contemplation to revise and recast them thoroughly. It was, however, found that this revision was an extensive matter which is not likely to be taken up for the next two years or so. Then it was thought undesirable to leave parts of the Province under different sets of laws for two years, and it was thought desirable to introduce a separate measure introducing the Amendment Act of 1908 into East Bengal, and at the same time making some small amendments of substance. Eventually, however, it was found that the amendments, which could be conveniently brought forward at present, were very small indeed, and it seemed a pity to pass a measure which will be repealed within two years and thereafter merely swell the lists of repealed laws in our statute-books. It was therefore judged better, at the cost of delaying the Laws Bill a little, to include the Local Self-Government Act in it. The only conceivable difficulty in doing so is as to the amendments which we now propose to make in the Local Self-Government Act. In a measure like the Laws Bill the strictly correct course is to make no changes of substance, and the matters now in the schedules are all mere matters of machinery or of form, repealing portions of the law which are obsolete or spent and the like. The two matters of substance which we desire to introduce, however, are, as I have said, very small; one relates to giving the Local Government a general control over the exercise, by Commissioners of Divisions, of the power of nomination to local bodies, and the other is a slight extension of the powers of District Boards so as to enable them to grant technical scholarships. These are comparatively small matters and of small importance, if at all, against the general principle of the Bill, and I do not anticipate that the Committee will find any difficulty in dealing with them."

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE BENGAL MUNICIPAL (SANITARY OFFICERS) BILL, 1913.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"I beg to ask your Excellency to suspend the rules of business to enable me to make a motion with reference to the Sanitary Officers Bill."

[The President; Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda; Babu Surendra Nath Banerji.]

The PRESIDENT :—

"I am prepared to allow you to do so."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"My Lord, some time ago we received notice of a motion from the Hon'ble Mr. Chakravarti, asking that the consideration of this Bill be postponed to enable us to consult the municipalities. We felt at the time that such a course would be, inconsistent with the decision of the Council arrived at, at a previous stage when a similar motion was made and rejected, and we could not see our way to accept the motion and had to reject it. Since then, my Lord, we have met with other difficulties. The amendments to the Bill have come at a very late stage, and I got a number of them on the 28th of August only, just when I was coming to Calcutta, and the Government was on the move from Dacca with the result that we had little or no time to consider these amendments. Some of the non-official Members of this Council have also complained to me that they got notice of the amendments only yesterday."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said :—

"I got mine to-day."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA continuing said :—

"And that they had no time to consider them properly."

"There is, my Lord, another reason why I make this motion, and it is this : Two of the amendments have struck me to be such as to require careful consideration. I cannot pledge the Government to any definite views on them, but I think one of the amendments which suggests that, in the case of municipalities whose income is below Rs. 10,000, the provisions of the Bill should not be put in force. Although we want to keep as much discretion in our hands as we can, still, my Lord, I think that this is a point which requires careful consideration, and one as to which we may try to meet Hon'ble Members half way."

"There is another suggestion in the amendments, namely, that where more than one Sanitary Inspector is to be appointed, it should be left to the municipalities to fix the number. That is also a question as to which we may reconsider our position. We have, as I have said, my Lord, had no time to take the decision of the Council on these amendments, and the regrettable illness of the Hon'ble Mr. Lyon made it still more difficult, apart from the question of the shortness of time."

"On these grounds I think it would be much more satisfactory if the consideration of this matter were postponed, and I, therefore, beg to move, that items 5, 6 and 7* in the List of Business be not proceeded with at to-day's meeting, and that the consideration of the Bill be postponed until the next meeting of the Council."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said :—

"My Lord, I desire to congratulate the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill upon the decision which he has arrived at, and which he has laid before the House on behalf of the Government. We were going to make a suggestion from this side of the House that the consideration of this matter be adjourned, as some of my friends behind me have told us that they

* 5. The Hon'ble Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the appointment of Sanitary Officers for certain Municipalities outside Calcutta, and to move that the said Report be taken into consideration.

6. The Hon'ble Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda to move that the Secretary be directed to re-number the clauses and sub clauses of the Bill in consecutive order, and to make corresponding alterations in all cross-references thereto.

7. Also to move that the Bill, as settled in Council, be passed.

[*Mr. Hornell.*]

received notice of this amendment only yesterday, and I myself got the notice only to-day, and, consequently, we have not had time to consider the position. I therefore associate myself with my Hon'ble friend's motion, and desire to congratulate him on the decision which he has arrived at, the value of which is further enhanced by the fact that he is going to reconsider two very important matters which were pressed upon the attention of Government in Select Committee, but which the Government, as then advised, did not see its way to accept. I hope the recommendations of the Select Committee in regard to these two matters will be accepted by the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill."

The Hon'ble MR. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI said :—

"With regard to the resolution which I had intended to move, objection was taken to the form in which I sent and it was ruled out. I bow to the ruling. But I am deeply grateful to the Hon'ble Mover of the Bill, because the object which I had in view in seeking to move that resolution has now been practically attained, and I feel that this course which the Hon'ble Mover has taken will not only be acceptable to this House, but will be hailed outside this House, as a very prudent course which has been taken by Government."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"My Lord, I wish only to say a word in explanation with regard to the delay in sending out the notice of amendments. The difficulty was that these amendments had to be considered in detail under the standing orders of Government, and owing to the fact that Government has just been on the move, we have not had sufficient time to do this. I should like to add that it is not the Legislative Department that is to blame in any way for the delay."

The Hon'ble MR. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI said :—

"No, no, we do not blame anybody."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"It is a question whether we should not reconsider the rules about the period of notice requisite in the case of amendments."

The motion was then put and agreed to.

THE DOVETON TRUST BILL, 1913.

8. The Hon'ble Mr. Hornell moved for leave to introduce a Bill to abolish the Parental Academic Institution and Doveton College and Doveton Institution for Young Ladies, and to provide for the application of the property and funds thereof as nearly as possible in accordance with the intentions of the founders.

He said :—

"The history of the Society is a melancholy record of incompetence and mismanagement. We read that in 1823 'as the result of a great movement which, after years of indifference, led the Anglo-Indian community to determine on a scheme for securing for their children a substantial English education, a Society of parents, guardians, and friends was formed.' Subscriptions were raised and a school was opened under the designation of the Parental Academic Institution. The object of the Society was thus stated 'to establish one or more schools under its own control in order to procure the means of affording the youths the best education which existing circumstances will admit of as far as funds will allow; to provide education for the orphans of members, who might die not possessed of property sufficient to pay for educating their children.' The members of the Society

[*Mr. Hornell.*]

were to be Christian parents having a child or children receiving instruction in any school of the Society, and such other Christian persons who might be elected provided they contributed Rs. 2 a month, or paid down to the Society a lump sum of Rs. 300. The business arrangements of the Institution were conducted by a committee elected annually by the members of the Society.

"For some years the Society conducted the Parental Academic Institution on fees and contributions, but in 1853 a certain John Doveton, who had been formerly a captain in the service of the Nizam of Hyderabad died, and bequeathed to it a legacy of a little more than two lakhs of rupees. This legacy enabled the Institution to extend and, in 1855, a separate infant school was added, this development being followed in 1857 by the establishment of a College Department affiliated to the University of Calcutta. Another result of the legacy was that in 1855 the designation of the Society was changed to that of the 'Parental Academic Institution and the Doveton College.' It was under this designation that the Society was on the 29th August, 1881, registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860.

"In 1886, the Parental Academic Institution and the Doveton College, as the Society was then called, amalgamated with another Society called the Young Ladies Institution, which existed for the education of girls, and the designation of the Society was again changed to that of the 'Parental Academic Institution and Doveton College and Doveton Institution for Young Ladies.' The scope of the operations of the Society included therefore the Parental Academic Institution and Doveton College at No. 41, Free School Street, and the Doveton Institution for Young Ladies which was, I believe, originally in Park Street and subsequently at No. 16-1, Royd Street. The Doveton Institution for Young Ladies was closed some ten years ago.

"The connection of Government with the Society dates from 1896, when Sir Alexander Mackenzie was considering the appointment of a commission to examine the question of the higher education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians and to draw up a scheme for its reorganization and improvement. He was anxious to appoint to the commission representatives of the two leading institutions of this class then existing in Calcutta, the Doveton College and La Martinière. While, however, there was no difficulty with the latter, the Lieutenant-Governor found that there was no authority of the Doveton College whom he could address: Owing to certain unfortunate differences of opinion, two committees were in existence, each of which claimed to represent the College. The right to control the Parental Academic Institution originally vested, as I have already indicated, in those who were either paying for the education of their children in the Institution, or were contributing, or had contributed, at a prescribed rate, to the funds of the Society, but as time went on there were children both in the Doveton College and in the Doveton Institution for Young Ladies, the cost of whose education was met either wholly or in part from two charitable Trust Funds, namely, the D'Souza Fund and the Bruce Fund. The governors of these Funds were not represented in the management of either of those institutions and the point of contention was whether the parents of these children who either paid no fees at all or fees at reduced rates were or were not members of the Society. The matter was referred to Mr. Justice Sale, who decided that parents falling within the above category were members of the Society. A compromise was eventually arrived at; both the committees resigned and a new committee was appointed.

"A Resolution was then issued by Government appointing a committee with representatives from La Martinière and the Doveton College and presided over by Mr. Justice Stevens to consider the question of the amalgamation of the two institutions just referred to. This committee was a fiasco. The Doveton College representatives put forward conditions which were regarded as impossible, and incidentally it was suggested that the finances of the Society were in a very unsatisfactory condition. Government then attempted to find out how matters stood as regards the Trust

[*Mr. Hornell.*]

Funds, but failed to obtain information of any real value. The Secretary of the Society, however, took this opportunity of expressing the hope that Government would take no further part in (what he was pleased to term) agitation against the College; he also forwarded to Government a judgment delivered by Mr. Justice Phear in 1867, which ruled that the Trust Funds were at the absolute disposal of the committee. The Advocate-General was consulted and he advised that no further action should then be taken. This brings the history down to October 1898.

"Things then went from bad to worse. From subsequent enquiries it transpired that the Society's accounts opened in 1897 with a deficit of about Rs. 4,000; in 1898, with a deficit of Rs. 34,000; in 1899, with a deficit of Rs. 42,000; and in 1900, with a deficit of Rs. 49,000.

"In the year 1900, a committee of 12 was appointed by the Society but the validity of their appointment was challenged, and on the 22nd December, 1904, a suit was instituted by certain members of the Society against certain other members of the Society and against the Society asking (1) that a new Committee of Trustees of the Society should be appointed by the Court, (2) that a receiver should be appointed, (3) that the delendants should be restrained by injunction from interfering with the Society, and (4) that, if necessary, a scheme should be framed for the management of the Society. A settlement was arrived at and a new committee was appointed by the Court. This settlement was, however, disputed and litigation continued.

"In February, 1906, this new committee appealed to Government to have an enquiry made into the affairs of the Institution which, they submitted, were exceedingly complicated and embarrassed, and Sir Andrew Fraser appointed Messrs. Slacke, Earle, B. L. Gupta, Madge and myself to go into the whole matter. Mr. F. M. Leslie of Messrs. Leslie and Hinds, Solicitors, a former student of the Institution rendered us considerable assistance.

"In March of the same year, 1906, we reported to Government that the then existing Committee of Management had made a genuine attempt to re-organize the Institution; but that their numbers had dwindled, and that while they were in considerable danger of being left without a quorum there was no provision in the High Court's order for filling up vacancies. We reported that the sole assets of the Society consisted of No. 53, Park Street, upon which a mortgage had been raised and that the income from that source was insufficient to keep up the College. We stated further that, though the Institution was founded for Christians, out of 103 students then on its rolls, all but eight were non-Christian Asiatics. In these circumstances we advised that it was not obligatory on the Society to educate non-Christians, and, secondly, that it would be advisable for Government to legislate, so that the funds of the Institution could be vested in Government to be applied by Government to the education of Christian children. Otherwise we apprehended that the funds of the Society would be frittered away in litigation; we pointed out that even as things were then the funds were not sufficient to maintain a suitable educational institution.

"In August, 1906, a Draft Bill designed to attain the object advocated was submitted by the Government of Bengal to the Government of India. Meanwhile, however, litigation was still going on among the members of the Society, and this litigation did not terminate until a Full Bench decision was delivered in the High Court on the 3rd of January, 1907. In April, 1907, the High Court finally settled a scheme of management under which eight Anglo-Indian gentlemen were appointed members of the Committee of Management, two to retire in rotation each year, and elections to the Committee were to be made in accordance with the existing rules of the Society; but in the event of the Society's failing to hold its annual meetings or otherwise failing to appoint a Committee in any year, the members of the Committee with the approval of the Director of Public Instruction were empowered to appoint such members of the domiciled community as might be necessary for the purpose of completing the necessary number of the committee. The scheme also laid down that the committee should have its accounts audited by

[Maharaja Ranajit Sinha of Nashipur.]

Chartered Accountants every year, and should submit a copy of the balance sheet to the Director of Public Instruction.

"The publication of this scheme modified the intentions of Government as regards legislation and, on the advice of the Advocate-General, the proposal to legislate was dropped in order to give the new scheme a fair chance. Nothing was heard of the Society between September 1907 and April 1909 when Mr. W. C. Madge, one of the members of the Committee, asked Government to intervene in view of the hopeless mismanagement which was going on. A report from the Director of Public Instruction, which was then called for and received in September 1909, showed that the Committee had proved itself totally incompetent to manage the affairs of the College. The scheme of 1907 had in fact failed.

"The matter was again put before the Government of India and a revised Bill was submitted. This Bill provided for the abolition of the Doveton College and for the vesting of the property and funds of the Society in the Accountant-General, Bengal, to be applied in making provision for the education of children of the domiciled community by such officer as the Lieutenant-Governor might appoint in this behalf. The Bill, the introduction of which I am moving, is the outcome of subsequent discussions with the Government of India and with the legal advisers of this Government.

"I will not take up your Lordship's time by a detailed explanation of the Bill. It is a short Bill and a self-contained one. Its object is that the proper application of the funds and property of the Society may be secured. There is ample evidence that the conduct of the affairs of this Society has become not only a public scandal, but has involved both the waste of funds left in trust for a particular purpose and their misdirection to purposes for which they were never intended. The Society was founded and subsequently provided with funds for a particular purpose, but it is not fulfilling that purpose. The only remedy is legislation. It has therefore been decided to place this Bill before the Bengal Legislative Council."

The motion was put and agreed to.

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

9. The Honble Maharaja Ranajit Sinha of Nashipur moved the following resolution:—

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that a conference of officials and non-officials be convened to inquire into the sanitary condition of municipal and rural areas, and to draw up a comprehensive scheme for the provision of better sanitation and more widespread medical relief in such areas.

He said:—

"My Lord, this is a harmless resolution, and a similar one has been adopted by the sister Province of Bihar and Orissa. It is a well-known fact that our Province is the most unhealthy one, and the improvement of sanitation is nowhere more urgently needed than in this Province. There is not a single district which is not affected by malaria, and just after the rains, malaria breaks out and lasts for four or five months of the year, and several thousands of people are carried away by its effects. If one goes to the interior of a district, one finds that almost all the people are suffering—some from malarial fever, some from enlarged spleen and disordered liver, and some from dysentery and other bowel-complaints. My Lord, from the last year's Sanitation Report it appears that the

[Maharaja Benajit Sinha of Nashipur.]

Mortality from fever is gradually increasing. Last year 1,349,779 people died as compared with the previous year's 1,221,508, and the average for the last five years 1,315,449; and from fever alone 959,193 deaths occurred. So practically nearly 71 per cent. of the total number of deaths occurred from fever alone. Despite all the anti-malarial measures which your Excellency's Government have taken to check the progress of this fell disease, nothing practical could have been done. Your Excellency very justly remarked that the various anti-malarial measures that have been undertaken throughout the Province have so far been unproductive of any real permanent advantage. Last year quinine was distributed in the south-western districts in Nadia, Murshidabad and Jessore, but despite all the efforts made, the mortality from fever rose, and it is practically rising every year. We know full well that Government is not slow in recognising the importance of the subject, and that they are anxious to do what it is possible to do in this matter. My Lord, I am surprised to find that, in some of the districts and individual municipalities the population has considerably decreased. In the census of 1901 I find that the population of the Burdwan district was 1,445,744, whereas, according to the census of 1911, it was reduced to 1,244,185. Again, in the case of Jessore, the population at the previous census was 7,991,856, whereas, according to the last census, it was 1,737,066, and, if we take up the case of individual municipalities, I find that in Nadia the population was 24,547 in 1901 and, in 1911, it came down to 23,475. Such is the case in Santipur, also in Murshidabad and other municipalities. In Santipur, the population was 36,898 and it came down to 26,703, and in Murshidabad, it came down from 15,168 to 12,669. So, my Lord, something is necessary to be done which will be of permanent good and gradually improve the sanitation of our mufassal districts. The principal question is—How can this be done? I consulted all the District Boards and municipalities of this Presidency. They are all unanimously of opinion that, if we could improve the supply of drinking water, put in good drainage and clear jungles, the sanitation could be improved. Of course every one will admit that these are the principal things.

“As regards the clearance of jungles, there is a difference of opinion I understand. Some medical officers are of opinion that this will not be able to eradicate the evil from this Province; however there is no doubt that, if the supply of drinking water can be improved and a good drainage system introduced, the sanitation of Bengal would be much improved. But, my Lord, the conditions of the municipalities and of the municipal districts are not the same; they vary in many districts. There are municipalities whose incomes are so small that they cannot undertake a water-supply or drainage scheme. Their incomes are so limited that it would be impossible for them either to raise sufficient money or approach the Government for a loan. In those cases we may be satisfied with excavating or re-excavating tanks, and reserving them for drinking purposes, so in some cases we may have *kutchha* drains instead of *pucca* ones—there are rural areas where it would suffice our purposes if we could open out water channels, and they would serve all the neighbouring villages, and so in those cases it might not be necessary to dig wells or excavate tanks. First of all, we should have to consider how we could arrive at this conclusion. In my humble opinion, my Lord, I think, if a conference of experts and men who have practical experience in these matters be convened, they might devise some means as to how we could improve the sanitation. They might collect the necessary informations which is required for drawing up a scheme, and although some are of opinion that it is not possible for a conference to draw up any scheme, in my humble opinion there would be no difficulty in this respect, because these experts (I mean the men who would be convened to form a conference) would be able to suggest what information is required from all the districts and municipalities, and the information will be collected through the District Collectors who are on the spot, and who in their turn might also consult the Civil Surgeons, the other medical officers, and official and non-official

[Babu Surendra Nath Banerji

gentlemen who are competent to give information on these points. When all these informations are collected, I think it would not be difficult for the conference to draw up a scheme which would be suitable for different classes of municipalities and districts.

"As regards funds, Government has already doubled the resources of the District Boards, and there will therefore be no difficulty for them to carry out any scheme. If they get schemes, they will be able to follow them out methodically and systematically, and I am sure that in course of time our wants will be removed in that respect.

As regards municipalities, your Excellency's Government contribute every year a large sum of money, and I was told the other day that some of the municipalities did not approach the Government to take advantage of the Government's munificence in that respect, but, if a scheme was prepared, Government would be in a position to know the real wants of all the municipalities, and then the Government could call upon them to undertake the work systematically, and help with such contributions as the Government may consider necessary in the case of any municipality.

"My Lord, as regards medical relief, Government is already distributing quinine amongst the people, but, in my humble opinion, there are many villages where there are no doctors at all, and it is not possible for the people living in the interior to go to the Sadar for medical aid, and there are places where there are doctors, but people are so poor that they cannot afford to call them.

"So, if it be possible, and if the funds are sufficient, I think an outdoor dispensary should be established in each village, or they may try a travelling dispensary, and I understand that this has been successful in the United Provinces.

"My Lord, since the assumption of your exalted office, your Excellency has given your earnest attention to the question of the supply of pure drinking water in the rural areas and, through your kindness, my Lord, I hope this crying want will soon be removed, and I am confident that, during your Excellency's régime, sanitation in Bengal will be much improved.

"With these few observations, I beg to commend my resolution to your Excellency's favourable consideration."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said :—

"May I be permitted to make a suggestion? We have got two resolutions covering practically the same ground. The one which has just been moved by my Hon'ble friend recommends the convening of a conference for the purpose of settling a comprehensive scheme of sanitation for the whole Province. My Hon'ble friend, Babu Surendra Nath Ray, makes a recommendation that a committee be appointed with the object of assisting the Government in assigning the details of the fund allotted to us for sanitary purposes. My Lord, it is very obvious that a conference is very ill-adapted to the purpose of formulating a comprehensive scheme of sanitary reform. A conference sits only for two or three days. A conference is not a body that by its constitution or by its duration is in a position to draw up a satisfactory scheme for the whole Province. A conference may consider the sanitary situation of the Province or may lay down general principles, as conferences have done in the past, but it is for a committee to assist the Government in the assignment of the funds allotted for sanitary purposes. Therefore, my Lord, what I suggest is that a conference be held to consider the sanitary situation and deal with the principles of sanitation applicable to wide areas,

[*The President; Babu Surendra Nath Banerji; Maharaja Ranajit Sinha of Nashipur; Rai Hari Mohan Chandra Bahadur.*]

And that a committee be appointed for the purpose of assisting the Government in dealing with the details. The committee will be in a position to obtain knowledge and information from the districts; a conference cannot possibly do this. Therefore, my Lord, my suggestion is that the two resolutions be taken together. I suggest this as it would shorten the discussion and concentrate it upon the points which are really at issue. I therefore suggest that a conference be convened for the purpose of formulating the principles of sanitation, and that a committee be appointed to assist the Government in assigning the funds and dealing with the details."

The PRESIDENT said :—

"I quite understand the point raised by the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerji, but I think many of you may remember the inconvenience that was caused at an earlier period of the year when I consented to adopt a suggestion of a similar nature, and I do not think I shall venture to do so again. But, of course, one of these resolutions may be dropped; but that must be with the Hon'ble Movers."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said :—

"I beg your Lordship may permit me to suggest to my friend the Hon'ble Mover to drop his resolution, or to amend it."

The PRESIDENT said —

"No amendment would now be in order, but the Hon'ble Member may withdraw his resolution."

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA OF NASHIPUR said :—

"My Lord, I do not wish to withdraw my resolution."

The PRESIDENT said —

"If any Hon'ble Member wishes to speak on the resolution he may do so."

The Hon'ble RAI HARI MOHAN CHANDRA BAHADUR said :—

"My Lord, with your Excellency's permission I wish to say a few words in reference to the resolution moved by my Hon'ble friend the Maharaja of Nashipur."

"The Hon'ble Maharaja's proposals are (1) to enquire into the sanitary conditions of the Province, and (2) to draw up what is styled a 'Comprehensive Scheme' for the Province at a conference of officials and non-officials."

"I confess, my Lord, I do not understand how the sanitary conditions of the villages and the large number of trade centres of the 27 districts of the Province can be ascertained and a comprehensive scheme drawn up at a conference."

"To draw up such a scheme a complete survey of the sanitary requirements, including water-supply and medical relief, of each village and trade centre, should be made and such a survey can only be made by experts deputed to the spot. It is not necessary to pass a resolution at a conference as has been done at Ranchi in pursuance of a similar resolution accepted there, that such a survey should be made. I should think that we already know that such a survey is needed and that we must make it. How to make it is the question. Primarily, to make such a survey outside municipal areas

[*Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda.*]

and to draw up the scheme is the duty of the District Boards.* But I am humbly, yet strongly, of opinion that there should be at the headquarters, a central authority to advise and guide the District Boards and to have the surveys made in a systematic and business-like way and a complete record of the requirements of each district prepared, and gradually, to have schemes drawn up and have them carried out according to their relative importance and to see that the works done are kept up.

“As regards the central authority I have submitted to Government a rough scheme for consideration and circulated copies of my notes on the subject to almost all the official and non-official members of the Council. It would be premature at present to go into details of the scheme. If I am permitted to do so, I shall submit to the Council a resolution on the subject later.

“But I should submit at once that a central authority to advise and guide the Municipalities and the District Boards should not be construed as opposed to the principles of Local Self-Government or against the scheme of decentralization. There must, I take it, be some sort of authority to guide and control the decentralized departments of the administration. And the only question is whether such guidance and control is to be exercised by a department of Government or by some central authority constituted partly on a representative basis. We are likely to pass a law to compel municipalities to appoint Health Officers where necessary. We should at least have the power to advise and guide the District Boards in matters of sanitation, water-supply and medical relief. In the circumstances, my Lord, I am obliged to vote against the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Maharaja of Nashipur.”

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

“My Lord, I may assure my Hon'ble friend the Hon'ble Maharaja of Nashipur that, it is not for any want of sympathy with the object of the resolution, but on account of the practical difficulties that its acceptance would confront us with, that I am compelled to oppose this resolution. It has been already pointed out that a conference is not a suitable body for a business of this description. In the first place, such a conference has no continuity; it comes, sits for a day or two and then dissolves; and the other difficulty is that every district has its own special requirements and it is impossible for any conference, however representative it may be, to draw up a comprehensive scheme for the provision of better sanitation and more wide spread medical relief for the whole Province, I also think that the Municipalities and the District Boards will have some cause to resent such an action on the part of Government. So far as conferences go, my Hon'ble friend knows (he was a member of it) that we had a conference at Darjeeling on the question of water-supply. We do not deny the assistance we received from that conference; but that conference has now dissolved. New questions are arising as to which we cannot rely on the conference for an opinion; all these are matters of expert knowledge, and I doubt if you could get together a conference of official and non-official Members who will be competent to draw up a comprehensive scheme for better sanitation. Although we have the same object in view, that is, the efficient administration of the funds that are placed in our care for purposes of sanitation, and also for the proper expenditure of the augmented resources of the Boards by reason of the whole of the Public Work Cess being assigned to them; and although we are anxious that the money so available may be properly spent, we are not at all convinced that a conference such as is asked for by my Hon'ble friend would serve our purpose. I might inform my Hon'ble friend that we have been holding conferences recently in every Division. We have held one at Dacca, one at Chittagong, one in the Presidency Division and we are going to hold one in the Burdwan Division and then another at Darjeeling, and so these matters are being considered by us and we do not think, as I have said before, that a conference is either necessary or helpful. For these reasons I beg to oppose the resolution.”

[Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda.]

A division was then taken with the following result :—

Ayes 3.	Noes 35.
The Hon'ble Maharaja Ranajit Sinha of Nashipur. Mr. S. P. Sinha Dr. Nilratan Sarkar.	His Excellency the President. The Hon'ble Nawab Saiyed Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur. " Mr Glen. " Raja Shoshi Kanta Acharyya Chaudhuri Bahadur. " Mr. Woods. " Mr. Grice. " Raja Mahendra Ranjan Ray Chaudhuri. " Mr Apcar " Babu Ananda Chandra Ray. " Dr Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari. " Rai Nalinaksha Dasu Bahadur. " Babu Surendra Nath Ray. " Babu Prasanna Kumar Ray. " Rai Hari Mohan Chandra Bahadur. " Maulvi A. K Faz ul-Haq " Babu Upendra Lal Ray " Maulvi Musharraf Husain " Mr Moberly " Mr Lang " Mr Finnamore " Mr Beatson Bell, C I E " Mr Goode " Mr Hilary " Rai Priya Nath Mukherji Bahadur " Raja Hrishukesh Iaha C I E " Maulvi Mazharul Anwar Chaudhuri " Mr G H C Ariff " Sir Wilham Duke, K C I E, C S I " Nawab Syed Shams ul-Huda " Mr Macpherson, C I E " Mr Cunningham, C I E " Mr Donald " Mr Green " Mr Twidell. " Mr Hornell

The following Members were absent :—

The Hon'ble Sir Khwaja Salimullah Bahadur, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I.
 The Hon'ble Mr. McLeod.
 The Hon'ble Mr. Shorrock.
 The Hon'ble Mr. Chaplin.
 The Hon'ble Nawab Saiyed Hossam Haider Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur.
 The Hon'ble Mr. B. C. Mitra.
 The Hon'ble Mr. Lyon, C.S.I.
 The Hon'ble Mr. Samman.

The following Members abstained from voting :—

The Hon'ble Maharaja Jagadindra Nath Ray.
 The Hon'ble Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M.,
 Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan.
 The Hon'ble Mr. Chakravarti.
 The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerji.
 The Hon'ble Babu Mahendra Nath Ray.
 The Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.

[*Babu Surendra Nath Ray.*]

• The result of the division being Ayes 3, Noes 35, the resolution was accordingly lost.

10. The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY moved the following resolution :—

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that a committee be appointed, consisting of official and non-official Members of the Council, for the purpose of assisting the Government in the application of all moneys allotted for the purposes of sanitation in this Presidency.

He said :—

“ My Lord, on the 4th April last, in my speech on the Budget for 1913-14, I suggested the advisability of establishing an Education Board and a Sanitary Board for the purpose of advising Government not only on Educational and Sanitary problems, but also on the proper expenditure of the Provincial and Imperial grants on those heads. I then said that with the large grants both from the Provincial revenue and from the Government of India for Sanitation and Education, with the larger responsibilities thrown upon the Provincial Governments, it is necessary that there should be advisory boards to help Government in the proper expenditure thereof. If there are persons, Members of your Lordship's Council, willing to assist the Government with their advice and co-operation, I think the time has come when such assistance should be availed of. In introducing the Indian Budget in the House of Commons, the Under-Secretary of State for India, Mr. Montague, said only the other day :—

‘ The problem in India is not the problem of material advancement, of increasing her prosperity, or of new public buildings. It is not even a problem of efficiency. It is the problem of Government and co-operation, of giving the Indian increasing opportunity in his own country, and increasing assistance in the development of his capacity for local government and administration.’

“ The real and chief reasons for my moving this resolution are that we want to co-operate with Government in the distribution of moneys now allotted to sanitation, that we want to be associated, to use the words of the Reform Despatch of Lord Morley to Lord Minto, ‘ in the work not only of occasional legislation but of actual everyday administration.’ The amounts now allotted by Government for sanitation and education are large. The Councils have been expanded, and with it the desire on the part of the people to co-operate to a larger extent with the Government in the distribution of moneys for purposes which affect them most vitally has grown more and more. In framing the Provincial Budget, the practice has been to have a Finance Committee consisting of official and non-official Members. But the Budget, as framed by the Finance Committee, gives only the heads under which the money is to be spent. What I move for is that there should be a committee, one of whose objects should be to assist Government in framing the detailed Budget of the amounts allotted to sanitation. Such a committee as this may also be consulted as regards many sanitary questions which every now and then come up before Government. Questions are put in the Council both as regards sanitation and education simply because the public are quite ignorant of many of the facts. They are not put, I can assure your Excellency's Government, with a view to embarrass the Government, but with a view to know or to ascertain how matters really stand. If there be a committee of the Council consisting of official and non-official Members—an advisory committee and nothing else—there will be a sensible reduction in the number of questions put in the Council, there will be more light thrown on the actions of Government. The result then would be that the actions of Government will be viewed in a truer and better light. This committee will not trench upon the existing powers of Government in any matter—it will neither have any vote nor any controlling authority. It will no doubt carry us one step forward, but I humbly beg to submit that if we

[Babu Surendra Nath Ray.]

can advance a step forward with the help of Government, why should we not try to do it? The non-official Members of the Council practically represent the voices of the people. What I want for my committee is that the representatives of the people in the Council may be allowed to advise, to suggest and thus indirectly be allowed to have some voice in at least one of the branches of the administration of the Province and upon which the people of the Province are vitally interested. I need hardly assure your Lordship's Government that the appointment of the committee I move for is sure to be a source of strength to Government, it will be a source of removing much misapprehension which may exist in the public mind regarding the acts of Government. Actions now misconstrued will be correctly interpreted, seeming laches and delays on the part of Government officials, difficulties which the Government officials now meet with in carrying out sanitary reforms, but about which neither ourselves—the non-official Members of Council—nor the public know anything, will all then be put down to their true causes. I do not think there is anything to be kept back from the representatives of the people in this Council as regards sanitation. The Committee which I move for may be consulted as regards the usefulness of particular sanitary measures or the advisability of spending money on them. I do not suggest that the advice given by this committee is to be binding upon Government. But whether you take it in the light of a concession or not, this much may be said that the adoption of the resolution will be much appreciated by the public and the non-official Members of the Council, that it will raise the Government much in their estimation.

“My Lord, in all public or corporate bodies there are committees or sub-committees to assist them in their deliberations and to provide an easier and smoother method of working. The sub-committees of the Corporation are an instance in point. Why should not this Council have such a committee as that?”

“The Hon'ble Maharaja Ranajit Sinha of Nashipur's resolution is for convening a conference of officials and non-officials to enquire into the sanitary conditions of municipal and rural areas. My Lord, I am not opposed to the holding of conferences, but I doubt, however, their practical utility. One has simply to read the report on sanitation in Bengal for the year 1912 and the resolution of the Government of Bengal dated only the 12th July last, to enlighten one on the sanitary conditions of the municipalities and rural areas. We find from the report that, in this Province, mortality from such diseases as fever, cholera, small-pox, dysentery and diarrhoea were on the increase in the year 1912 as compared not only with the year previous thereto but also with the average of the previous five years. The resolution of the Government, dated the 12th July last, on the report on sanitation in Bengal is to the following effect.—

“The Governor in Council realises the difficulty of determining the causes which influence the healthiness of unhealthiness of a particular locality, particularly so when registration is far from perfect, but it should not, he considers, have been impossible to give some indication as to the cause of the large increase in the mortality, especially that from fever and cholera . . . The Governor in Council is also disappointed to find that despite the employment of Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the distribution of quinine in the districts of Nadia and Murshidabad, there has been no diminution in fever mortality, but the reverse. The various anti-malarial measures that have been undertaken throughout the Province have so far been unproductive of any real permanent advantage, and in many places they have been discontinued. The clearance of jungles and tanks and the destruction of mosquitoes have not proved successful measures, and a more extended use of quinine seems, on present knowledge, the only method by which it is possible to reduce the rate of mortality and the risk of infection.”

“The above extracts fully show the real sanitary state of the Province and the opinion of Government on the same. The facts are there. The

[*Babu Surendra Nath Banerji.*]

efforts of Government officials so far have proved to be unavailing. Mortality is on the increase, while its causes remain unascertained or at least unaccounted for. Under the circumstances I think that instead of making speeches and passing resolutions in conferences, we ought to do, or rather we ought to be allowed to do, some actual work. We ought to have some voice in the consideration of sanitary schemes and in the expenditure thereof.

"The resolution of my Hon'ble friend the Maharaja of Nashipur, which was similar to the one in the Bihar Council which was moved there on the 7th April last, does not, I am afraid, go far. My resolution may be considered as ancillary to the resolution of the Maharaja. We cannot rest satisfied with conferences. We cannot stop short there. We want, as I have already said, something more. We want step by step to be associated with the Government in actual work. If a committee such as that which I move for be accepted by Government, we get all that we get from a conference, and over and above that we get something more. We may render some practical assistance to Government.

"The mercantile community, who are practical men of business, know full well the futility of conferences and the value of committees. I think my resolution will commend itself to all business men.

"I beg to repeat what I have already said that, if my resolution is accepted, there will be no curtailment of the powers of the Executive, no surrender of any of their powers—that there is absolutely no apprehension of the non-official Members needlessly interfering with the powers now exercised by Government. Government will have the same control which they now have over the finances of the Province. There is nothing to prevent Government from dissolving such a committee if it is found to be obstructive or of no practical utility.

"The non-official Members are condemned because it is said they talk too much in the Council. Without pleading guilty to the charge, I may be allowed to say that there is no great scope for showing our business capacity on the Council; but if such a committee as that which I move for is constituted, we may be in a position to show, at least in some measure, our capacity for actual work, and there is, I need hardly say, always less talk when there is actual work to be done. I have every reason to believe that the committee I move for would be, to use the words of Carlyle, 'a better-Acting apparatus', the benefits of which would be invaluable now and henceforth."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said :—

"My Lord, I hope that the Government will accept this resolution. If I am permitted to say so, my friend's (the Hon'ble Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda's) observations, in which he replied to the resolution of my Hon'ble friend, the Maharaja of Nashipur, ought to lead him to accept this resolution. His objection, in the first instance, to the Hon'ble Maharaja's resolution was that a conference was ill-adapted for the purpose for which it was intended. A committee is admirably suited for the purpose, because it will be a permanent body; it will sit from day to day. The next objection was that it would be necessary to obtain expert advice from the mufassal, from the districts, in order to formulate a comprehensive sanitary scheme. This committee will be in a position to obtain such expert advice from the districts. Therefore, my Lord, the two objections upon which my Hon'ble friend (Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda) relied for the purpose of meeting the resolution of my Hon'ble friend, the Maharaja of Nashipur, ought to persuade him to support the resolution which has now been placed before the Council.

"My Lord, what does the Government lose by the acceptance of this resolution? The committee will be an advisory body, it will not have the right to dictate, it will not have the power to lay down principles which will be binding upon the Government; the Government may accept them.

[Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur; Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur; Babu Ananda Chandra Ray.]

or not. It would be absolutely advisory in its nature and, I am sure, my Lord, that in a matter like sanitation the advice of non-official experts is of the utmost value and importance. We talk around this table, and we have, I think, talked enough about the principle of co-operation. Here, my Lord, is a splendid opportunity for the practical illustration of that principle. My Lord, may I not appeal to your Excellency for the practical acceptance of the principle of co-operation in a matter of such vital importance as the sanitation of this province? I do earnestly appeal to the Government to accept this resolution subject to such safeguards as the Government may think fit to impose."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR said :—

"My Lord, the question of the ways and means of sanitary improvements has always occupied the serious attention of not only the Government but the people of the country whose appeals for better sanitation, among other things, have been exercising not a little the minds of all concerned. As time rolls on, we have reason to be hopeful for the many good measures that Government will bestow on us, and by far and away the most important of all these measures for our material and moral welfare are better equipments for sanitation. I think the motion made by the Hon'ble Member is a useful and salutary one and one that would meet the wishes of the people. The proposed committee composed, as it would be, of men who have a thorough knowledge of the needs and requirements of the country would most assuredly serve as an advisory body to the particular Department of Government that will control the work of sanitation. The representatives of the people and officials in touch with the actual needs of the country will be better able to advise and co-operate in the work. The representatives of the country on the committee in collaboration with their official colleagues will intelligently voice the wishes of the people, and thus the Department of Sanitation, assisted by a thoroughly representative body, will carry on the work to the satisfaction of all concerned, as funds will allow, attending to the needs most urgently required to be met. I heartily support the formation of a committee as proposed by the Hon'ble Member for the purpose of assisting Government in the application of all moneys allotted for the purpose of sanitation in the Presidency."

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR said :—

"My Lord, I have only this observation to make. As the Hon'ble Member has said, with reference to the Hon'ble Maharaja of Nashipur's motion, these two motions no doubt deserve the sympathy of the Members of Council, whether official or non-official. On the motion of my friend, Babu Surendra Nath Ray, although it commends itself to many of us here on this side of the House, it may be modified slightly, if I might throw out a suggestion. His resolution recommends that the Council should recommend to the Governor in Council that a committee be appointed consisting of official and non-official Members of the Council. My Lord, if a committee is appointed, I think that the Government ought to be left free to choose such members as not to restrict the selection of members to the Members of Council and, therefore, if my Hon'ble friend would omit the words 'of Council,' I think the resolution would be more acceptable to all."

The Hon'ble BABU ANANDA CHANDRA RAY said :—

"My Lord, I have just one suggestion to make. I suggested to the Hon'ble Member to leave out the words 'of the Council' from his resolution. The Council consisting of official and non-official Members will just leave the hands of the Government free, and they will be able to bring in experts and also representatives from all districts or divisions, so that it will be a representative committee and will be able to give proper advice to the Government. With these words I would support the resolution, provided the words 'of the Council' be deleted."

[*Babu Surendra Nath Ray; the President; Maulvi A. K. Faz-ul-Haq.*]

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY said :—

"I accept the amendment."

The PRESIDENT :—

"The Hon'ble Member does not perhaps realise that it is for me to permit amendments at this stage and I think it rather too late for me to permit this amendment being moved now. If you will look at rule 18 of the Resolution Rules you will see the point."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY said :—

"My Lord, I understand that my amendment is not in order, so I withdraw it."

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZ-UL-HAQ said :—

"My Lord, I rise with some reluctance to say a few words on the resolution that is now before us, because I recognise the inadvisability of swelling the number of speeches on a particular subject ; but, in this instance, I feel I cannot offer a mere silent vote in consideration of the importance of the subject under discussion. Of late years public attention has been very pointedly drawn to the need of sanitary improvements, and we have to confess with feelings of gratitude that Government has been putting forth its best endeavours to combat the ravages of preventible diseases in all parts of the Presidency. My Lord, my friend the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray, has moved a resolution for the appointment of a committee consisting of official and unofficial Members in order to advise Government to undertake measures of sanitary reform. My Hon'ble friend assumed your Excellency's Government that this committee will be nothing further than a mere advisory body, an advisory committee, with powers to offer suggestions merely, but no further. If I am permitted, my Lord, to draw an illustration, it seems to me that the committee for which he is moving will perform functions somewhat similar to those performed by assessors at a Court of Sessions—men whose opinions are supposed to be of very great weight, but whose opinions the judge can safely ignore, provided he is disposed to differ from them. In this particular instance my friend has assumed your Excellency's Government that this committee will in no way hamper the hands of Government, or interfere with their discretion in the disposal of their funds. I think, my Lord, that your Excellency's Government will feel no hesitation in accepting a resolution which to all intents and purposes seems so very innocent, and which, I submit, will possibly do some good, but which can never do any harm to anybody. But I think, my Lord, that I can put the case for this committee much higher than my Hon'ble friend has chosen to put it. That is to say, I think I can urge the acceptance of this resolution not merely on the grounds of expediency, but on the higher ground of principle. Of late years there has been a tendency—a very welcome tendency—on the part of the Government to try and associate the people in the councils of Government as far as it is practicable. We have not only heard the speeches to which my Hon'ble friend has referred, but we all acknowledge with gratitude that Government has done its best to translate its utterances into action, and has taken every conceivable opportunity of associating the people in the work of administration. I submit, my Lord, that the resolution which has been moved by my Hon'ble friend gives Government an excellent opportunity of associating the representatives of the people in matters which vitally affect the people in regard to sanitation. It is true that the officials are always full of information regarding matters relating to administration, but I think that, I may fairly claim that we, who are of the people, who move amongst the people, have always at our command information which officials, from the very nature of things, cannot hope to obtain, and when we want to place this information at the disposal

[Babu Mahendra Nath Ray.]

of officials, without in any way putting any restrictions on the offer which we make, I submit that the least that your Excellency's Government can do is to accept the resolution which has been moved by my Hon'ble friend. With these few words, my Lord, I beg to support the resolution."

The Hon'ble BABU MAHENDRA NATH RAY said:—

"I beg to support this resolution, not because I believe that it is fruitful of great consequences in the near future, nor that the committee itself would be capable of offering very useful and expert advice to Government on matters regarding the financial allotments to sanitary measures, but because one may welcome it as the first instalment of a very useful reform. It is not suggested, I believe, by the Hon'ble Mover of this resolution that the Government is in need of any expert advice or opinion regarding the application of funds allotted to sanitary measures. There is a Sanitary Board, constituted under the Bengal Municipal Act, to which most important duties are assigned under the provisions of that Act. In regard to matters scientific, and in regard to matters which require expert opinion, the Sanitary Board is the only constituted authority to which the Government must refer for advice, and if I had been of opinion that the resolution moved by my Hon'ble friend would in any way conflict with the jurisdiction of the Sanitary Board I would have opposed his resolution. On the other hand, I understand my Hon'ble friend's resolution to amount to this, that, if a number of non-official Members of this Council were associated with officials for the purpose of giving advice as to financial allotments in regard to sanitary matters, it would be advice which no doubt the Government would welcome, and therefore in principle there is nothing objectionable in the resolution,—in principle it is a resolution which Government can have no hesitation in accepting. Advisory boards are more or less harmless, and may sometimes be useful.

"If there were any chance of a conflict or friction between the Sanitary Board on the one hand, and a committee such as my Hon'ble friend's resolution suggests, on the other hand, no doubt Government could not welcome it, because, after all, when one has to consider schemes for sanitary improvements in any part of the province, many of us would not be quite competent to give proper information in the matter, or to make suggestions regarding the utility or the propriety of the many details involved in all schemes of sanitary improvement. The control of Government in financial matters must be absolute. The rules contemplate such a thing as a Committee to advise Government in regard to the framing of the Budget; that principle only finds a slight development in the suggestion involved in this resolution. There is the Finance Committee, which advises Government in regard to the framing of the Budget. The constitution of such a Committee is recognised by our rules. The Budget, however, as we all know, gives a very small number of major heads, and I believe only two or three heads under the head of sanitation. There, however, the functions of this Legislative Council as a body, in regard to giving the Government advice as to the allotment of money for sanitary matters, ceases.

"At the same time, when the allotments have to be distributed on different works—works in different parts of the Province—there is no reason why Government should not welcome any advice that the non-official Members of this Council, in consultation with some of the official Members, may render to Government. I had grave doubts at first whether such a resolution as this was really needed; but it seems to me that the principle involved in this resolution is not only perfectly harmless but is only a development of the principle under which the Finance Committee have been constituted for the purpose of helping Government in regard to the framing of the Budget itself.

"I do not desire to take up the time of your Lordship's Council any longer, but I must repeat that if I had the slightest suspicion that this committee, as suggested by my learned friend in his motion, would in

[*Dr. Nilratan Sarkar; Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda.*]

way conflict with the legitimate functions of the Sanitary Board, or of other expert advisers of Government, I would have been the last man to support it."

/The Hon'ble DR. NILRATAN SARKAR said :—

"It appears to me that the proposal is extremely moderate, and may be accepted without any difficulty. Hitherto the Government has been acting upon the advice of the Sanitary Board, and that, of course, is a Board of experts more or less under such control as the Financial Department can exercise. But if the Government now gets an opportunity of having as their advisers another Board upon which they may have some representatives of the people, I think the Government should avail themselves of that opportunity. My Lord, expert opinion sometimes requires check and control, and I think the other side—I mean the people's side—has hitherto remained unheard in sanitary matters, and it appears to me that it would be graceful for the Government to give us an opportunity of making ourselves heard on important sanitary questions, through the medium of such a Board as is proposed by my Hon'ble friend. My Lord, in other countries the Departmental authorities are all helped in some way or other, or even replaced by responsible Boards. That, of course, would be the ideal state of things. The substitution of individual departmental authorities by Boards having powers of initiative would be the ideal, but that cannot be attained at the present stage, and, though this measure does not go far enough, yet I feel that I should support it so far as it goes. With these observations I beg to support the resolution."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"My Lord, it is always an ungracious task to refuse proffers of assistance when they come, and come with the best of intentions, and it is not because we do not appreciate the object with which this resolution is moved, that I find it difficult to accept it. There is some danger in constituting a committee which we may not always take the occasion to consult, and, as has been referred to by some of the speakers we have another Board—a Board of Experts—whose functions are also advisory; and the constitution of two Boards, one a committee of officials and non-official members of this Council, and another a Board of Experts—the Sanitary Board—may lead to conflicts of opinion which may not be very desirable, and I feel, my Lord, that if my Hon'ble friends who have spoken in support of this resolution considered carefully the practice which we follow, and which at present we have no idea of altering, they will find that we do not suffer for want of advice, be it expert advice or non-expert advice."

"The practice now is this :—We have got a certain sum of money and we had before this only the sanitary grants. We have now the whole of the Public Works cess made over to us for being allotted to local bodies so that we have got a good deal of money to be spent on sanitation. It is not too much for the requirements of the country, but from one point of view it is too much. We do not undertake the execution of works of sanitation in any way—we leave that to the local bodies—and what we do is to assist local bodies in carrying out such schemes as they approve of and want us partially to finance. Of late we have been giving a third of what the local bodies themselves could find. We hope in future to be more liberal with our contributions, but we wait always for schemes to come up to us—matured schemes—and we always want to know to what extent local bodies are able to contribute towards those schemes. The result of it is this that we do not find opportunities for spending all the money that we have, not because we do not know the requirements of the country, but because we do not find schemes, I mean, matured schemes, to support and to finance. As an illustration of this, I would point out to my Hon'ble friends that for the year 1913-14 we have a total sum of about Rs. 23,00,000 at our disposal for sanitary purposes. This Rs. 23,00,000 is over and above the sum of, I think, Rs. 25,00,000 which will be allotted to the Boards on account of the Public Works Cess."

[Dr. Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.]

Now, as regards this Rs. 23,00,000. what have we been able to do? We have granted to various local bodies Rs. 2,14,000 up to this time, and we have earmarked about Rs. 1,96,000; and, as I said, if my Hon'ble friends—and there are here those who represent Municipalities and District Boards—would influence the Boards, and stir them up to come up to Government with schemes, definite schemes, which will stand expert examination, they will find us quite ready to finance them. Therefore, as I said, my Lord, we do not suffer for want of advice, but we suffer for want of schemes, and my Hon'ble friends would find it much more effective to try their influence with the local bodies than to come up to Government with advice.

“Then there is the other question. We already have a Sanitary Board. As I have said, the constitution of two Boards which would both be advisory may lead to difficulties, and I think the best way of attaining the object, which my Hon'ble friends have in view, would be to reconstitute the Sanitary Board in such a way as to include in it a certain number of non-official Indians. That probably would be the more desirable mode of meeting the situation, and, without making any definite promise, I may say that if such a proposal is made to us we will give it every possible consideration.

“In other provinces, I am informed, the whole of the Sanitary grant is made over to the Sanitary Board, and the administration of the fund is entirely left to that Board. The Sanitary Board, as at present constituted, will probably have to be enlarged before any such large powers are given to it, and although I am not able to accept the resolution in the form in which it is moved, but, as I have told my friends, if they come up with a proposal for the reconstitution of the Sanitary Board, and for the introduction of a non-official element in that Board, the Government will be prepared to give it fair consideration. With these few remarks I express my regret that we are not able to accept this resolution, although, as I have said, the same end may be attained by a different method. I omitted to draw attention to the fact that schemes are often prepared by our Sanitary Engineer. We depute our Engineers to go and examine various schemes, and I can show you a number of files in which you will find that schemes have been submitted by the Sanitary Engineer to Government, and that Government have been quite willing to finance these schemes, but the difficulty has been that the Municipalities have not accepted them. So I am perfectly certain that while the committee suggested to be constituted would give us excellent advice, it is doubtful if, in the absence of schemes, that advice would be of any great value. On these grounds I find great difficulty in accepting the resolution.”

The Hon'ble DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI said :—

“Whatever the fate of this resolution may be, and there can be no doubt that it will not be out of the usual routine, one cannot help being struck by the somewhat peculiar circumstances of the situation. My Hon'ble friend opposite has suggested that if we were to come up with a recommendation that the Sanitary Board should be reconstituted somewhat on the lines of the committee that has been proposed, he would be willing to consider the matter. If, my Lord, that is so, I do not comprehend why all this time should have elapsed, and why my Hon'ble friend should have waited for a recommendation by non-official members for reconstituting that Board, if he believed that such reconstitution would have helped the matter. My Lord, as I read that resolution, it seeks do no more than to call the attention of the Government to this somewhat peculiar and regrettable state of things. We are half the year through since the not very magnificent, though fair enough, grant of the Government of India for sanitary purposes was made. With our own Rs. 23,00,000 and the Rs. 25,00,000 the Government of India have given we cannot complain that we have a plethora of money. But we have enough to go on with, and although several months have elapsed, we are not ready with a scheme. My Hon'ble friend opposite, although he has spoken twice in the course of this day, has not been able to give us any definite information as to what the present state of affairs with regard

[Babu Surendra Nath Ray.]

to matters connected with the whole situation is. He has reported that his Department does not suffer for want of advice but requires schemes that will stand the test of experts. Why with all this wisdom, that is in no need of advice, expert-proof schemes are wanting to absorb the grant is beyond comprehension, though District Boards and Municipalities are loud in their demands. That discloses, my Lord, a state of things which certainly calls for comment, and calls for some intervention on the part of the Members of this Council; and that intervention has taken the shape of this resolution. If, as a result of moving this resolution, Government efforts are quickened, I think the object of moving the resolution will not have been wholly lost. Disappointment has been expressed, my Lord, in high quarters, high in status and in high latitude, I may say, that several months should have not helped us in bringing forth any scheme.

"My friend has drawn a distinction between schemes and advice which I am not able to follow. Unless there is a scheme there can be no advice, and unless there is advice, clearly there can be no scheme. We could not have quickened the District Boards and the Municipalities with their schemes, but my Hon'ble friend and his Department, and the other departments concerned could. They not having sufficiently moved, the non-official Members of your Excellency's Council are anxious to have an opportunity of helping and quickening them if possible. That is all that we are offering, and if our offer is not accepted, much stronger reasons than those that have been brought forth, would be needed in answer. We had Rs. 48,00,000 months ago, and we have not a single scheme to put forward to utilise even half or a quarter of the amount, even half a lakh. It looks almost like the case of the university examiner whose fancy picture is drawn by a supposed "Oxonion" in a recent newspaper letter who, finding that he had been promoted to examinership, rushes to the Librarian of the University and asks for text-books to be ready for his questions and does not know how to frame them. Government, having got this money, are casting about for schemes and trying to consider how to spend it, and at the end of the year they may have to reappropriate the budget allotment in any way open, whether suitable or unsuitable. That is not a position that this Council would like to see continue, and, nothing having been done during these months, Members come before your Excellency in the mildest possible manner and offer their services, and ask if they can be of any use. My Lord, I appreciate that all Members of this Council are not competent to offer advice, expert or otherwise, with regard to the momentous questions that will have to be considered, but some have local knowledge. We have machinery like the District Committees which are now working, the Flood Relief Fund. Admirable use may be made of them. We are having surveys made of things generally, including sanitary surveys, and it is possible that the Flood Relief measures and measures for the prevention of floods in the future, as well as sanitary measures, may have to go in hand. We have these agencies which are on the spot, and are now working. With the aid of some of them and non-officials upon whom Government choice may fall, some means may be devised for quickening the steps of the Government, so that this grant may be made use of. Otherwise the matter may be one for the attention of the Government of India if we do not know how to make use of funds which have been placed at our disposal.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY said :—

My Lord, my Hon'ble friend has spoken of the Sanitary Board, but that Board has been in existence for the last 25 or 30 years and we know what work has been done by that Board. Now that the Council has been reconstituted we want a new Board, consisting of official and non-official Members, and we want to have nothing to do with the old Sanitary Board. We want a new Board with the Sanitary Engineer as Secretary of the Board if necessary. My Hon'ble friend said that the District Boards and Municipalities have not taken full advantage of the moneys allotted for sanitation. Well, my own idea is that the non-official Members, on being

[Babu Surendra Nath Ray.]

appointed to the proposed committee would know how matters really stand and would be in a position to help Government in pushing forward all necessary schemes. With these few words, my Lord, I beg to commend the resolution to the House.

A division was then taken, with the following result :—

Ayes 22.	Noes 21.
The Hon'ble Nawab Saiyed Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur.	His Excellency the President.
" Mr. Sinha.	The Hon'ble Mr. Shorrock.
" Raja Shoshi Kanta Acharyya Chaudhuri Bahadur.	" Mr. Glen.
" Maharaja Jagadindra Nath Ray.	" Mr. Woods.
" Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Bardwan.	" Mr. Grice.
" Mr. Chakravarti.	" Rai Hari Mohan Chandra Bahadur.
" Babu Surendra Nath Banerji.	" Mr. Moberly.
" Mr. Apcar.	" Mr. Lang.
" Babu Manendra Nath Ray.	" Mr. Finnimore.
" Rai Radha Churan Pal Bahadur.	" Mr. Beatson Bell, C.I.E.
" Babu Ananda Chandra Ray.	" Mr. Goode.
" Dr. Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.	" Mr. Hilary.
" Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur.	" Rai Priya Nath Mukherji Bahadur.
" Babu Surendra Nath Ray.	" Sir William Duke, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.
" Babu Prasanna Kumar Ray.	" Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda.
" Maulvi Fazl-ul-Haq.	" Mr. Macpherson, C.I.E.
" Babu Upendra Lal Ray.	" Mr. Cumming, C.I.E.
" Maulvi Musharraf Husain.	" Mr. Donald.
" Raja Hrishikesh Laha, C.I.E.	" Mr. Green.
" Nilratan Sarkar.	" Mr. Twidell.
" Maulvi Mazharul Anwar Chaudhuri.	" Mr. Hornell.
" Mr. G. H. C. Ariff.	

The following Members were absent :—

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Salimullah Bahadur, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Mr. Norman McLeod.

The Hon'ble Mr. Chaplin.

The Hon'ble Nawab Saiyed Hossam Haider Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur.

The Hon'ble Mr. B. C. Mitra.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lyon, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Mr. Sanman.

The Hon'ble Maharaja Ranajit Sinha of Nashipur and the Hon'ble Raja Mahendra Ranjan Ray Chaudhuri abstained from voting.

The result of the division being Ayes 22, Noes 21, the resolution was accordingly carried.

The Council was then adjourned *sine die*.

A. W. WATSON,

Offg. Secy. to the Bengal, Legislative Council.

CALCUTTA ;

The 6th September, 1913.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861, 1892 and 1909, and the Government of India Act, 1912.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in Government House on Monday, the 1st December, 1913, at 11 A.M.

Present :

HIS Excellency the Right Hon'ble THOMAS DAVID, BARON CARMICHAEL OF SKIRLING, G.C.I.E., K.C.M.G., Governor of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, *presiding*.

The Hon'ble SIR FREDERICK WILLIAM DUKE, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., *Vice-President*.

The Hon'ble MR. P. C. LYON, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA.

The Hon'ble MR. D. J. MACPHERSON, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. J. LANG.

The Hon'ble MR. J. G. CUMMING, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. B. K. FINNIMORE.

The Hon'ble MR. H. F. SAMMAN.

The Hon'ble MR. H. H. GREEN.

The Hon'ble MR. H. L. STEPHENSON, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. J. H. KERR, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. B. C. MITRA.

The Hon'ble MR. C. F. PAYNE.

The Hon'ble MR. B. B. NEWBOULD.

The Hon'ble MR. W. W. HORNE.

The Hon'ble RAI PRIYA NATH MUKHARJI BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble MR. A. N. MOBERLY.

The Hon'ble MR. H. J. HILARY.

The Hon'ble MR. S. P. SINHA.

The Hon'ble DR. NILRATAN SARKAR.

The Hon'ble RAJA HRISHIKESH LAHA, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. R. GLEN.

The Hon'ble MR. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI.

The Hon'ble SIR BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA JAGADINDRA NATH RAY.

The Hon'ble RAJA SHOSHI KANTA ACHARYYA CHAUDHURI BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI.

The Hon'ble MR. J. G. APCAR.

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble MR. NORMAN MCLEOD.

The Hon'ble MR. J. C. SHORROCK.

The Hon'ble MR. W. T. GRICE.

The Hon'ble MR. V. WOODS.

The Hon'ble MR. A. W. C. CHAPLIN.

The Hon'ble MR. GOLAM HOSSEIN CASSIM ARIFF.

The Hon'ble MAULVI MAZHARUL ANWAR CHAUDHURI.

The Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZ-UL-HAQ.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA of Nashipur.

The Hon'ble RAI NALINAKSHA BASU BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble BABU PRASANNA KUMAR RAY.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY.

The Hon'ble BABU MAHENDRA NATH RAY.

The Hon'ble RAI HARI MOHAN CHANDRA BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY.

Questions and Answers.

[Mr. Stephenson; Mr. Kerr; Mr. Payne; Mr. Newbould; Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur; Mr. Cumming.]

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

The Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson, the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. Payne and the Hon'ble Mr. Newbould made the prescribed oath of their allegiance to the Crown.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

The following questions which had been starred, were put and answered—by the Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR:—

* 1. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a large number of crimes (including murders) are yearly perpetrated over the possession of "char" lands in the districts of Dacca, Faridpur, Pabna, Mymensingh and Bakarganj? Criminal disputes over "Char" lands.

(b) Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the number of criminal cases relating to disputes over "char" lands instituted in those districts within the last fifteen years?

(c) Will the Government also be pleased to show in this statement the number of cases of rioting leading to grievous hurt and murder?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that, in consequence of riots over "char" land, a large number of small landholders are being gradually dispossessed of property, which is being seized by more powerful people?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps (if any) they have taken as preventive measures?

The Hon'ble Mr. CUMMING replied:—

(a) "Disputes over 'char' lands are common; but it does not appear, after an examination of the figures, that the number of crimes committed is disproportionately large.

(b) Figures are not available for all the districts; but in the districts of Dacca, Bakarganj and Pabna the number of offences committed as a result of disputes over 'char' lands is reported to be 142, 211 and 110, respectively. (In the first-named district the figures are for cognisable offences only.)

(c) The cases of rioting, leading to grievous hurt and murder, in the districts of Dacca, Bakarganj and Pabna are reported to be 16, 14 and 10, respectively. The figures for Mymensingh and Faridpur are not available.

(d) Definite information is not available for all the districts in question. In Bakarganj no cases of dispossession of small landholders from 'char' lands by powerful landholders have been reported for the last 15 years.

(e) In cases of disputes over 'char' lands preventive action is taken by the local officers under sections 144, 145 and 146 of the Criminal Procedure Code; and in the district of Bakarganj disputes have been settled by the timely action of the Revenue officers. The number of cases is not in any district so abnormally high as to call for any special preventive measures."

by the Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR:—

* 2. (a) Are the Government aware of the deplorable condition of the Old Benares Road along the line of the Howrah-Seakhala Railway? Condition of the Old Benares Road.

(b) Are the Government aware that the portion of this most ancient and historic Trunk Road commencing from Baigachi to Seakhala is in such a condition that it is practically impossible for either vehicular or pedestrian traffic to use it?

(c) Is it a fact that a portion of this road near Kristorampore which was originally metalled has again lapsed into a *kutch*a road, and that the portion between Chanditala and Seakhala and beyond is absolutely *kutch*a and is now knee-deep in mud, slush and water in most places?

[Mr. Kerr; Babu Surendra Nath Ray; Mr. Samman.]

(d) Is it a fact that the District Board gets a considerable share of the earning of the Howrah-Seakhala line?

(e) What is the amount earned by the District Board from the establishment of the railway till now and what amount has been spent during that period for the repair, reconstruction and maintenance of the Old Benares Road over which the Howrah-Seakhala Railway passes?

(f) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps (if any) they intend to take to ensure proper repair and metalling of the unmetalled portion of the Old Benares Road?

The Hon'ble MR. KERR replied:—

(a) (b) (c) "The Howrah-Seakhala Railway passes over the Old Benares Road for a distance of $10\frac{1}{4}$ miles between Baigachi and Seakhala, of which $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Baigachi to Chanditala are metalled and the rest unmetalled. Government are not aware that the condition of the road, which is under the control of the Howrah District Board, is deplorable or impossible for vehicular or pedestrian traffic. The metalling of $1\frac{1}{2}$ th miles of road near Kristorampore was abandoned in 1897 by the District Board owing to the presence of the Railway and to want of funds. It is not a fact that the *kutcha* portion between Chanditala and Seakhala is knee-deep up in mud, slush and water in most places.

(d) The arrangement between the District Board and the Railway is that the former undertakes to pay to the latter any deficit of net profits below a 4 per cent. dividend while receiving in return $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of any excess over a 4-per-cent. dividend.

(e) The net receipts from the establishment of the Howrah-Seakhala Railway earned by the District Board between 1897 and 1913 amount to Rs. 22,977-14-3. It is impossible to say how much has been spent on that portion of the Old Benares Road over which the Railway passes. The total length of the Old Benares Road which runs through Hooghly district is 50 miles, $48\frac{1}{2}$ being under the District Board and $1\frac{1}{2}$ under the Arambagh Municipality.

(f) Government are not prepared to interfere with the discretion of the District Board with reference to the management of this road."

by the Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY:—

* 3. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the article "Insanitary Howrah" which appeared in the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" dated the 30th August, 1913, regarding the "Bharpara Swamp"? "Insanitary Howrah."

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the question of improving the sanitary condition of the town is under consideration?

The Hon'ble MR. SAMMAN replied:—

(a) "The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) No reference has been made to Government on the subject. The matter is primarily one for the consideration of the Municipality, and Government are not prepared to interfere with the discretion of the Commissioners."

by the Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY:—

* 4. (a) In view of the advance in education during the last twenty years, have the Government of Bengal considered the desirability of introducing the trial by Jury in the non-jury districts? Trial by jury in non-jury districts.

(b) Have the Government consulted the High Court on the subject?

[Mr. Cumming; Babu Surendra Nath Ray; Mr. Green.]

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "Within the last twenty years the Government of Bengal have considered the desirability of introducing trial by Jury into the non-jury districts. In 1897, the system of trial by Jury was extended to the districts of Chittagong, Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Jessore; and in 1905 to the district of Khulna.

(b) Both in 1897 and in 1905, the Government of Bengal consulted the High Court."

by the Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY :—

* 5. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Port Commissioners of Calcutta have definitely decided on the construction of a new bridge at Howrah over the Hooghly river in place of the existing floating bridge?

New bridge over the Hooghly river.

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the kind of bridge that it has been decided to erect, and the site that the Port Commissioners have decided upon for the purpose?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the decision of the Port Commissioners in the matter has been submitted to the Government for approval, and whether the Howrah Municipality has been consulted in the matter?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state what the total estimated cost of the said proposed bridge would be, and when the work is likely to be commenced?

The Hon'ble MR. GREEN replied :—

(a) "The decision as regards the construction of a new bridge over the Hooghly at Howrah does not rest with the Port Commissioners but with Government. The Port Commissioners have submitted certain proposals for consideration and these are now being dealt with by Government.

(b) The type of bridge to be adopted has not been finally decided upon.

The site which has been suggested is that of the existing bridge.

(c) The proposals of the Commissioners have, as stated in reply to question (a), been submitted to Government for approval. The Howrah Municipality has not yet been addressed, but it will be consulted in due course.

(d) The cost of the bridge cannot be estimated until the design has been finally determined. It is believed, however, that the new bridge will cost between 90 and 100 lakhs.

It cannot be stated at present when the work is likely to be commenced."

by the Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY :—

* 6. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state definitely the exact scope of the inquiry to be held by the Committee recently appointed to examine the conditions prevailing in the districts of Bengal, and to specify the particular "conditions" which will come within the purview of the said inquiry?

Objects and scope of the inquiry of the Committee appointed to examine the conditions prevailing in Bengal.

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Commission has been called upon to report whether the permanent settlement of Bengal can be modified in any way?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "The scope of the inquiry to be held by the Committee is indicated in the Press communiqué issued on the 17th of October, and the Resolution published in the Calcutta Gazette of the 29th October last.

(b) The answer is in the negative."

[Babu Surendra Nath Ray; Mr. Kerr.]

by the Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY :—

* 7. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what action (if any) has been taken on the various suggestions made in the report of the Royal Commission on Decentralisation for relieving the District Officers of a great part of their routine work, so as to leave them more time to mix with the people?

Relief of District Officers of routine work.

(b) If effect has been given to these suggestions, will the Government be pleased to state what results have ensued from their adoption?

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR replied :—

(a) "The Royal Commission made the following recommendations on the subject :—

- (1) Devolution to Subdivisional Officers of a large amount of revenue work done by Collectors.
- (2) Provision of separate Subdivisional Officers for the headquarters subdivisions of districts.
- (3) Division of large and heavy districts.
- (4) Lightening the work of the Collector by giving him a Personal Assistant.
- (5) Increase of the existing district staff.

The action taken was as follows :—

- (1) No action has yet been taken to delegate revenue functions to Subdivisional Officers. Certain proposals on the subject are under consideration, but it is unlikely that any final decision will be reached until after receipt of the report of the Committee which is now inquiring into the system of district administration in Bengal.
- (2) The Sadar Subdivisional system has been introduced in all the districts of the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions and in the Rangpur, Bogra, Tippera and Noakhali districts in Eastern Bengal. Proposals for appointing Sadar Subdivisional Officers at Dacca, Mymensingh and Bakarganj are now under consideration.
- (3) The question of the division of the districts of Mymensingh and Midnapore is now under the consideration of Government.
- (4) The late Government of Bengal deprecated the appointment of Personal Assistants for Collectors in view of the legal and administrative difficulties as to the position of the Personal Assistant in the district administration, and advocated the system prevailing in the province of appointing Joint Magistrates and Additional District Magistrates to afford relief to the district officer in times of exceptional pressure or in heavy districts. The late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam favoured the appointment of additional Magistrates in the larger districts.

Additional Magistrates have been appointed in the districts of Dacca, Mymensingh, Bakarganj, Tippera and Midnapore.

- (5) It has been decided that no general action is necessary, but that the case of each district should be considered when proposals for the increase of staff come up.

(b) The arrangements described above have not been in force long enough to enable any definite pronouncement to be made as to their effects."

by the Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY :—

* 8. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the result of the deputation of Messrs. C. H. Bompas and S. L. Maddox to study the system of administration in the Madras Presidency a few years ago?

Result of deputation of Messrs. Bompas and Maddox to the Madras Presidency.

(b) Did their reports suggest schemes for bringing the District Officers in contact with the people?

[Mr. Cumming; Nawab Saiyid Hossam Haider Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur.]

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state what action (if any) was taken on the reports of these officers?

The Hon'ble Mr. CUMMING replied:—

(a) "In March, 1910, Mr. Oldham, and not Messrs. Bompas and Maddox, as stated by the Hon'ble Member, was placed on special duty for a period of six weeks for the purpose of studying the system of district administration in the Madras Presidency, with special reference to the recommendation of the Royal Commission upon Decentralization. Mr. Oldham embodied the result of his inquiries in a report.

(b) The report contained certain information and suggestions with regard to the accessibility of the District Magistrate to visitors, the knowledge of the vernaculars and the tours of officers.

(c) The subjects specially referred to in question (b), as having been dealt with by Mr. Oldham, have since been under the consideration of Government, and detailed orders have been passed in which certain of his proposals have been adopted. Many of his other proposals regarding district administration were on the same lines as those of the Decentralization Commission. Some of them have been adopted in the course of dealing with the report of that Commission, and others separately."

by the Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID HOSSAM HAIDER CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR:—

* 9. (a) Are the Government aware of the great inconvenience and difficulty which the public, especially women, are subjected to when they are required to attend courts of law, Sub-Registry offices and similar places, as parties or witnesses, for want of shelter from the rain and the sun?

Want of shelter from the rain or sun to litigants attending courts of law, Sub-Registry offices, etc.

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to say whether they intend to take any steps to remove this want?

The Hon'ble Mr. CUMMING replied:—

"Government are aware of the inconvenience to which the question refers. It has been the policy of Government for some years past to set aside a sum of money every year for the construction of witness sheds. A statement is laid on the table showing the expenditure on this object in each Division during the last six years. The amount provided in the current year's budget is Rs. 6,000."

Statement referred to in the answer by the Hon'ble Mr. CUMMING to Question No. 9.

DIVISION.	1907-08.	1908-09.	1909-10.	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Presidency ...	4,546	2,508	...	3,661	3,732	655
Burdwan ...	1,757	1,368	...	2,805	4,773	2,495
Rajshahi ...	...	...	...	6	773	...
Dacca ...	1,189	3,369	946	213	1,001	7
Chittagong ...	128	1,120	11	422	...	1,130
Total ...	7,620	8,365	957	7,107	10,279	4,293

[*Maulvi Mazharul Anwar Chaudhuri; Mr. Cumming; Babu Surendra Nath Banerji; Mr. Kerr; Maharaja Ranajit Sinha of Nashipur; Mr. Samman.*]

by the Hon'ble MAULVI MAZHARUL ANWAR CHAUDHURI :—

* 10(a). Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a paragraph which appeared in the "Mussulman" of the 19th September last, to the effect that Mr. L. S. Bingenmann, Subdivisional Officer, Nator, did not close his court nor stop work in his treasury on the day of the last Id-ul-Fitr festival?

Alleged disregard of the Id-ul-Fitr festival by the Subdivisional Officer, Nator.

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have made any inquiry into the matter and whether the statements made in the "Mussulman" are correct?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) Government have made an inquiry in the matter. The suggestions that the Court was held and the Treasury opened in the usual way on the 3rd September are misleading. The facts are as follow :—

Cases were fixed both for the 2nd and 3rd September, as it was not known which of these dates would be a holiday. On the 2nd the Subdivisional Officer took up the hearing of a police case in which the witnesses were present and the accused in *hajāt*. Being unable to complete the examination-in-chief of all the witnesses on that date, and as he would be absent from Nator on the 4th and 5th September, the Subdivisional Officer arranged to take the examination-in-chief of the three remaining prosecution witnesses on the 3rd. This was done in order to avoid the unnecessary detention of the witnesses and the prolonged confinement of the accused in *hajāt*. In no other case were witnesses examined that day, though some cases were ready for hearing, but orders of adjournment or disposal were passed.

As regards the Treasury, the only transaction was the encashment of the Subdivisional Officer's pay bill, which had been presented on the previous day, but too late for encashment."

by the Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI :—

* 11. (a) Have the Government received a memorial from the Subdivisions of Tamluk, Contai and Ghatal in the Midnapore district signed by about seven thousand inhabitants, including many persons of position and distinction, praying for the suspension of the Settlement operations for two years in view of the devastation caused by the floods, the effacement of land-marks, the absence of the tenants from the localities and other causes?

Petition for suspension of Settlement operations in certain subdivisions in the Midnapore district.

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what action (if any) they propose to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble MR. KERR replied :—

(a) & (b) "Government have received various representations on this subject and have decided that no survey and settlement operations should be undertaken this season in those areas in the Midnapore district which have been affected by floods and which have been divided into circles for the purposes of relief."

by the Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA OF NASHIPUR :—

* 12. With reference to the answer given by the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr to the question asked by me at the Council meeting of the 5th March, 1913, will the Government be pleased to state whether they have come to any decision as regards reviving the public examination at the end of the middle school course?

Revival of the public examination at the end of the middle school course.

The Hon'ble MR. SAMMAN replied :—

"No conclusion has yet been arrived at, but Government expect shortly to have before them full materials for a decision."

[Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.]

by the Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR :—

*13. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of damage done to property by the recent floods at Contai, thana by thana, under the following heads :— Floods in the Contai Subdivision.

- (i) to Standing crops,
- (ii) to Huts of the inhabitants,
- (iii) to Cattle?

(b). Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken by them to alleviate the present distress of the people affected in that area?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing—

- (i) the amount of money sanctioned for agricultural purposes this year for the Contai subdivision and the amount already advanced;
- (ii) how many applications for agricultural loans have been received up to date from each of the flood-affected thanas;
- (iii) how many such applications have been granted and how many refused; and
- (iv) what is the average amount of loan granted?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some special officers on relief duty are demanding joint-application and joint-security from the inhabitants of a village before granting agricultural loans?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of loan that is usually advanced per bigha and the maximum amount that can be advanced to a raiyat?

(f) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are considering the desirability of relaxing the terms of repayment of loans by instalment, by deferring the payment of the first instalment for one year or by granting such other concession as the circumstances of the case may require?

(g) Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (i) the number of persons affected by the floods in Contai;
- (ii) what measures have been taken to relieve the distress of the people who do not own or possess any land;
- (iii) the amount of money (if any) distributed in gratuitous relief; and
- (iv) how much of this amount was paid from the public treasury and how much from the funds placed at the disposal of Government by private parties?

(h) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that people are selling off their cattle at a nominal price for want of fodder?

(i) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of money spent in purchasing fodder for distribution?

(j) Is it a fact that fodder was sold by Government to the distressed people?

(k) Is it a fact that the Bhagabanpur and Heria thanas and a part of Pataspur and Contai remained under water for over four months and that, in other years, the Bhagabanpur and Pataspur thanas remained under water till January at least?

[Mr. Kerr.]

(l) Was this due to defective drainage?

(m) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have any scheme in hand for the proper drainage of the Bhagabanpur and Pataspur thanas? If any, will the Government be pleased to lay the papers on the table?

(n) Is it a fact that the Rasulpur river has silted up? If so, is this due to the canalisation of the Sarfai river?

(o) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have any scheme in view for canalising the Rasulpur river, or throwing open the Sarfai river with a view to the proper scouring of the Rasulpur river?

(p) Have the Government any scheme in view for providing work to able-bodied labourers, and for the relief of the persons unable to work from physical disability or social reasons, till the advent of the next crops in the distressed areas?

(q) Do the Government propose to remit the Chaukidari taxes and to remit and suspend the rates and the land-revenue in the case of the people affected by the floods in question?

(r) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a scarcity of pure drinking water in the flooded areas, and if so, what steps are being taken to remedy this defect?

(s) Is it a fact, as reported in the papers, that the distress of the people in Argoal and Bhagabanpur thanas became very acute during the floods, and that cholera is now raging in Argoal? If so, will the Government be pleased to state what measures have been taken to afford medical relief?

(t) Will the Government be pleased to state what measures have been taken to purify the drinking water of the flood-affected areas?

(u) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any inquiries have been made into the causes of the floods in Contai? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay the papers relating to the subject on the table?

(v) Is it a fact that the floods did not subside quickly on account of the defective drainage system existing in the subdivision of Contai?

The Hon'ble MR. KERR replied :—

(a) (i) "The approximate area in which damage more or less severe was caused to standing crops by the floods was 57,000 acres in Contai thana including Basudebpur, 24,000 acres in Ramnagar, 30,000 acres in Pataspur, 30,000 acres in Egra and 104,000 acres in Bhagbanpur, including Heria. Total 245,000 acres."

(ii) The number of huts destroyed is estimated at about 2,800 in Contai thana including Basudebpur, 250 in Ramnagar, 2,500 in Pataspur, 100 in Egra and 2,500 in Bhagbanpur including Heria. Total, 8,150.

(iii) The number of cattle lost by drowning was estimated at 50 in Contai thana including Basudebpur, 20 in Ramnagar, 200 in Pataspur, 20 in Egra and 100 in Bhagbanpur including Heria. (Total 390) It is impossible to estimate the number which has since been lost owing to scarcity of fodder, but the Collector reports that it may be confidently said that there has been no very great or widespread loss on this account.

(b) Loans under the Agriculturists Loans Act have been freely issued. Government has made a special grant of Rs. 1,24,000, of which about Rs. 70,000 has been already distributed. The affected area has been divided into circles and an officer has been appointed to take charge of each circle for the purpose of granting these loans and distributing gratuitous relief where necessary. The Loans Act has been interpreted on generous lines, and loans have been granted for the rebuilding of houses, the provision of fodder for cattle and also for subsistence, as well as for actual cultivation. Where no

[Mr. Kerr.]

security could be given for loans, gratuitous relief has been distributed to assist in the rebuilding of houses and in the maintenance of cattle as well as in doles for actual subsistence.

(c) (i) The amount sanctioned for agricultural loans is Rs. 1,24,000, of which about Rs. 70,000 has been distributed up to date.

(ii) The number of applications cannot be stated without further inquiry, but the approximate amount of loans granted up to 23rd November, 1913, is Rs. 8,265 in Contai thana, Rs. 6,515 in Basudebpur, Rs. 1,100 in Ramnagar, Rs. 12,504 in Pataspur, Rs. 8,175 in Egra, Rs. 13,169 in Bhagbanpur, Rs. 19,405 in Heria. Total Rs. 69,133.

(iii) Detailed figures are not available, but every application has been carefully inquired into and the Collector reports that it may safely be said that in no case have loans been refused, where the security was sufficient and the need real.

(iv) On the information at present available, the average amount granted to each person is estimated to be as follows :—

				Rs.	A.
Contai	...	...	...	13	12
Heria	...	...	...	13	14
Bhagbanpur	...	...	...	12	15
Pataspur	...	...	...	17	0
Egra	...	...	...	9	12
Basudebpur	...	...	...	22	13
Ramnagar	...	...	...	11	12

(d) Most of the loans have been issued on the joint security of several raiyats. This system, which is usually followed in times of scarcity, has been devised to meet the case of applicants who have not sufficient individual security to offer.

(e) The maximum has been fixed by the Commissioner at Rs. 5 per bigha and Rs. 50 to a single individual.

(f) It is proposed to collect the loans in three equal annual instalments, the first of which will be due one year after the issue of the loan. The rules empower the Collector to suspend the realization of any instalment, if he considers this course necessary, and no interest is charged in such cases for the period of suspension.

(g) (i) The population of the area affected by the floods in the Contai subdivision is about 350,000. The greater part of these people no doubt suffered severely in different ways from the floods, but it is estimated that only a small proportion will require relief of any kind from Government.

(ii) Steps have been taken to provide work in the effected areas for all able-bodied persons, who require it, and further action will be taken in this direction as soon as the subsidence of the flood allows earthwork to be pushed on. The Public Works Department and the District Board have been asked to concentrate their resources as far as necessary in this area on the repair of roads and embankments, the digging of tanks and the clearance of khals. The rates paid will be those for ordinary labour. Gratuitous relief has been and will be provided, so long as necessary, for those who are unable to work.

(iii) Rupees 19,920 have been spent on gratuitous relief.

(iv) No funds have been placed at the disposal of Government by private parties, but of the above sum of Rs. 19,920, Rs. 9,367 was disbursed from Government funds and Rs. 10,553 from various relief funds which have been raised. These relief funds are now becoming exhausted, and a further grant will be made by Government to enable gratuitous relief to be continued where necessary.

[Mr. Kerr.]

(h) No reports to this effect have been received by Government, and the Hon'ble Mr. Lyon, who made special inquiries into this matter during his recent visit to the affected area, found that, while cattle were in many places in poor condition, there was no foundation for the rumours that the people were disposing of their cattle to any appreciable extent owing to want of fodder. The Collector reports that there is no ground for believing that the scarcity has led to the sale of cattle on any considerable scale.

(i) The amount of money spent on purchasing fodder for distribution was Rs. 185-3-3. It was found impossible to import fodder into so large an area on a scale that would be effective.

(j) It is reported that one Charge Officer sold fodder to the value of Rs. 7-6-6 to people who were willing and able to purchase it.

(k) It is a fact that portions of the Bhagabanpur and Heria thanas and parts of the Pataspur and Contai thanas remained under water for over 4 months during the current year, and that portions of the Bhagabanpur and Pataspur thanas have remained under water in some previous years up to January.

(l) The answer is in the affirmative.

(m) An officer has been placed on special duty to investigate four separate schemes for the improvement of the drainage of the whole tract which suffered from the recent floods in the southern portion of the Midnapore district.

The schemes are—

- (i) the excavation and sluicing of the Dhunia Khal ;
- (ii) the canalization of the Rasulpur river and the excavation of efficient drainage channels in connection with this canalization ;
- (iii) the improvement of the Panipia khal near Contai ;
- (iv) the improvement of the Pichaboni khal ;

As the schemes have not been fully investigated, it would be premature to place any papers on the table at present.

(n) The Rasulpur river has partially silted up. The canalization of the Sarpai river has to some extent hastened the process of silting, but the silting is mainly due to natural causes. Among the more serious of these are the silting up of other rivers, such as the Bagda and Sadar khals, and the general reclamation of lands for the purposes of cultivation.

(o) A scheme for canalizing the Rasulpur river is under consideration and is one of the four schemes mentioned above. It is not considered that the opening of the Sarpai river again to tidal action would have any permanent effect on the Rasulpur river, and it is not proposed to carry out this suggestion.

(p) As stated above, arrangements have been made to provide work for all who require it. Ample work is at present available along the Hijili Tidal Canal and the Orissa Coast Canal on full wages, but the Public Works Department have difficulty in procuring labourers, as many have gone to the Sundarbans for employment in harvesting the crops there. Later on, there will be ample work for the able-bodied all over the distressed area. For those suffering from acute distress, who are unable to work, arrangements have been made to provide gratuitous relief.

(q) It has been decided to remit for the present quarter, and possibly for the next quarter also, all amounts due for chaukidari tax below a certain limit to be determined by the Commissioner, the pay of the chaukidars being met by Government. The details are at present being worked out by the local officers. Suspensions and remissions of land revenue and cesses will be given where necessary in the Government and temporarily-settled estates.

[*Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur*; *Mr. Kerr*; *Maulvi A. K. Faz-ul-Haq*; *Mr. Cumming.*]

under the ordinary rules, which lay down a definite scale for suspensions and remissions according to the degree of crop failure. The question whether the owners of permanently-settled estates should be allowed a suspension or remission of revenue, if they agree to give their tenants a suspension or remission of rent, is under consideration.

(r) There has been, and is, no scarcity of good drinking water in the flooded area.

(s) The floods have undoubtedly caused considerable distress, particularly to the poorer classes of the population in Argoal and in the Bhagabanpur thanas, but the distress has fortunately so far not deepened into famine. There have been some sporadic cases of cholera, but nothing in the nature of an epidemic outbreak. Five special Sub-Assistant Surgeons have been deputed to the flooded area, where they have been working since August. They have been supplied with injection apparatus for treating cholera patients, as well as with ordinary medicines, and are constantly touring over the affected area and administering medical relief free of cost.

(t) As there has never been any scarcity of good drinking water in the affected areas, no special measures have been required.

(u) A careful inquiry has been made into the causes of the floods in Contai and a detailed report has just been received from the Superintending Engineer, South-Western Circle, which is now under consideration.

(v) Attention is invited to the answer to Question (1) above.

by the Hon'ble RAI NALINAKSHA BASU BAHADUR :—

* 14. Will the Government be pleased to state what is the total amount of money granted by them for the redress of the flood-stricken persons of the Burdwan Division?

Amount of money granted for redress of flood-stricken persons in the Burdwan Division.

The Hon'ble MR. KERR replied :—

"Government have sanctioned a special grant of Rs. 2,54,900 for agricultural loans and of Rs. 1,00,000 for gratuitous relief in the districts affected by the floods in the Burdwan Division."

by the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZ-UL-HAQ :—

* 15. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article under the heading "Civilian Vagary" in the issue of the "Mussulman" newspaper, dated the 31st October, 1913, commenting on the conduct of Mr. Dunlop, the District Magistrate of the 24-Parganas?

Allegations against the District Magistrate of the 24-Parganas.

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the facts stated in that article are true? If not, what is the correct version of the matter?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any inquiry has been made into the allegations and what is the result of that inquiry?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "The attention of Government has been drawn to the article in question.

(b) The facts ascertained after inquiry are as follow: Every quarter Magistrates are selected to preside at the distribution of pay to chaukidars at the various police-stations of the district. Maulvi Muhammad Ibrahim was selected to preside at the payment of chaukidars at Jaynagar on the 19th July and Maulvi Bazlur Rahman was selected for Maheshtola for the same date. The orders were communicated to these officers on the 7th and 5th July, respectively. On the 10th July Maulvi Bazlur Rahman asked that a Hindu officer might, if possible, be deputed in his stead, as the 19th was the date of a Muhammadan festival, the *Shab-i-barat*. It was found possible to comply with his request, but a similar request made by Maulvi Muhammad Ibrahim on the same day could not be granted as no other officer was available. The District Officer did not accept the suggestion

[Maulvi A. K. Faz-ul-Haq; Mr. Cumming; Babu Surendra Nath Banerji.]

that the Sub-Registrar should preside and ordered the Deputy Magistrate to perform the duty.

(c) No further inquiry has been made."

by the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZ-UL-HAQ :—

* 16. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article in the "Muhammadi" newspaper, in its issue of the 14th November, commenting on the conduct of Mr. Lindsay, the Additional District Magistrate of Bakarganj, in compelling Muhammadan Deputy Magistrate to come from Jamalpur to Barisal which resulted in his being on board a steamer the whole of the *Bakr-Id* day?

(b) Is it true that the Deputy Magistrate had pointed out that he would be deprived of his *Id* prayers if compelled to attend court at Barisal on the 11th instant because he would be on board the steamer on the previous day, viz., the *Id* day?

(c) Is it a fact that the Additional District Magistrate refused to accommodate the Deputy Magistrate even when these objections were pointed out?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any inquiry has been made into the allegations and what is the result of that inquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "The attention of Government has been drawn to the article in question.

(b), (c) & (d) Government have made an inquiry into the facts. The Deputy Magistrate wrote to the Additional Magistrate of Bakarganj requesting him to fix a date other than the 11th November for his appearance, as the *Iduz-zuha* fell on the 10th November. As the case had already been the subject of protracted inquiry, and eight witnesses were to appear on the 11th for cross-examination, before whose cross-examination it was desirable to examine the Deputy Magistrate, the Additional District Magistrate did not feel justified in postponing the case and informed the Deputy Magistrate that the date could not be changed. The Deputy Magistrate could have avoided travelling on the *Id* day, as the 7th and 8th November were also holidays, and the 9th a Sunday.

Government are of opinion that no intentional or unavoidable inconvenience was caused to the Deputy Magistrate."

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Faz-ul-Haq asked the following supplementary question :—

"With regard to the answer just given to question No. 16, have the Government any information as to whether the case was really finished on that day?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Cumming said :— "I am not in a position to answer that.

by the Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI :—

* 17. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the decision of the Subdivisional Magistrate of Barrackpore in the case in which an Indian workman was assaulted by one Robert O'Brien, an engineer employed in the Alexandra Jute Mill, resulting in his death?

Fatal assault on an Indian workman by an engineer of the Alexandra Jute Mill.

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what action (if any) they have taken in the matter?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Public Prosecutor was engaged to conduct the case on behalf of the Crown?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have considered the advisability of passing a standing order that in all trials for assault, in cases where the assaulted person has died, the Public Prosecutor should conduct the prosecution on behalf of the Crown?

[Mr. Cumming; Maulvi A. K. Faz-ul-Haq.]

(e) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article which appeared in the "Bengalee" of the 19th November commenting upon the case and also upon the case of Karoo Musafir?

(f) Will the Government be pleased to state what action (if any) they have taken in the case of Karoo Musafir?

The Hon'ble Mr. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "The attention of Government has been drawn to the case.

(b) Government have decided to move the High Court for the issue of a rule calling on the accused to show cause why the sentence passed on him should not be enhanced.

(c) The prosecution on behalf of the Crown was conducted by the Court Sub-Inspector of Barrackpore who, by virtue of Bengal Government Notification No. 2507 P., dated the 6th July, 1907, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 10th July, 1907, was a Public Prosecutor for the purposes of this case. Attention is invited to section 5 of Chapter II of the Bengal Practice and Procedure Manual, which lays down that where the charge is of a cognizable offence the prosecution will ordinarily be conducted by the police. If, in the opinion of the District Magistrate, the case is of a complicated and difficult nature rendering the employment of the Government Pleader or of some legal practitioner necessary for a proper prosecution, he may direct the Government Pleader to prosecute. The Government Pleader cannot, however, be deputed to the mufassal without the previous sanction of the Legal Remembrancer.

In this case it was not considered necessary to apply for the services of the Public Prosecutor.

(d) In view of the existing orders referred to above, Government do not consider it necessary to issue any such standing order.

(e) The attention of Government has been drawn to the article in question.

(f) Government have received a report of the case of Karoo Musafir and read the judgment of the Magistrate and are satisfied that, in the circumstances, no action is called for on the part of Government."

by the Hon'ble MAULVI A. K. FAZ-UL-HAQ :—

* 18. (a) Is it a fact that, on the occasion of the last visit of His Excellency the Governor to Barisal, one Maulvi Abdul Aziz, a Sub-Inspector of Police on duty to maintain order, was punished because a person, who considered he had a grievance, had personally handed in a petition to His Excellency?

Punishment
a Sub-Inspector
Police for neg-
of duty.

(b) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the statement relating to this incident which appeared in the issue of the "Barisal Hitaishi"? Is the account as there set out correct? If not, what are the facts?

The Hon'ble Mr. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "It is a fact that the Sub-Inspector was punished for disregard of orders in connection with the parking of carriages and also for his failure to prevent an unauthorised person from handing a memorial to His Excellency.

(b) The attention of Government has been drawn to the statement in question, which is substantially correct. The Sub-Inspector was awarded one black mark, which was cancelled, in the ordinary course, after six months' good conduct."

[*Babu Prasanna Kumar Ray; Mr. Green; Mr. Cumming; Mr. Stephenson; Raja Shoshi Kanta Acharyya Chaudhuri Bahadur.*]

by the Hon'ble BABU PRASANNA KUMAR RAY asked :—

*19. With reference to the answer given by the Hon'ble Mr. Finnimore at a meeting of the Council, held on the 2nd April, 1913, to my question regarding the improvement of the pay and prospects of the clerks, draftsmen, etc., in the Public Works Department offices in Bengal, will the Government be pleased to state what progress, if any, has since been made in that direction?

Improvement of the pay and prospects of the clerks, draftsmen, etc., in the Public Works Department offices in Bengal.

The Hon'ble Mr. GREEN replied :—

"The matter has not been lost sight of. The new scheme based on actual experience of the working of Public Works Department offices since the reconstitution of Bengal is now complete, and the orders of Government are about to issue."

by the Hon'ble BABU PRASANNA KUMAR RAY :—

*20. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is in contemplation to transfer permanently some of the headquarters offices from Calcutta to Dacca?

Transfer of certain headquarters offices from Calcutta to Dacca.

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state which offices will be transferred and when the transfer is likely to take place?

The Hon'ble Mr. CUMMING replied :—

(a) & (b) "The question is still under consideration and Government are not in a position to make any statement."

by the Hon'ble BABU PRASANNA KUMAR RAY :—

*21. Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to grant Presidency allowances to the ministerial staff of the Bengal Government offices located in Calcutta?

Grant of Presidency allowance to ministerial officers in Bengal.

The Hon'ble Mr. STEPHENSON replied :—

"The answer is in the negative."

by the Hon'ble BABU PRASANNA KUMAR RAY :—

*22.(a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether, under the rules now in force, the ministerial officers serving in the offices subordinate to the Board of Revenue are eligible for promotions to the grades of Sub-Deputy Collectors?

Promotion of ministerial officers serving in the offices subordinate to the Board of Revenue to the grades of Sub-Deputy Collectors.

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state how many of such appointments have been filled up from the time of enforcement of the rules referred to?

(c) Will the Government also be pleased to state whether similar privileges are enjoyed by the same kind of officers serving under the various other departments?

The Hon'ble Mr. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "The rules now in force are contained in the Notification No. 1650 A.—D., dated the 31st July, 1913, published in the Calcutta Gazette of the 6th August, 1913. Under rule 4 of the Rules for the recruitment of the Subordinate Civil Service, the Board of Revenue makes nominations from among officers serving under it. The Board of Revenue is at liberty to nominate ministerial officers, if it thinks fit."

(b) Since July last no ministerial officer has been appointed to the Subordinate Civil Service on the nomination of the Board of Revenue.

(c) Under rule 4 of the rules to which reference has been made, nominations are also made by the Financial and Revenue Departments."

by the Hon'ble RAJA SHOSHI KANTA ACHARYYA CHAUDHURI BAHADUR :—

*23. Will the Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken for the adequate supply of quinine in the Manikganj and Tangail Subdivisions where it is believed that malaria is raging?

Supply of quinine in the Manikganj and Tangail Subdivisions.

[Mr. Samman; Raja Shoshi Kanta Acharyya Chaudhuri Bahadur;
Mr. Stephenson; Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur; Mr. Green.]

The Hon'ble MR. SAMMAN replied :—

"All postmasters and dispensaries in Manikganj subdivision have an adequate supply of quinine. The District Board is also distributing treatments through the panchayats."

"In the Tangail subdivision the Municipality are distributing quinine free. All the dispensaries have been supplied with treatments for free distribution and, in addition to this, supply is provided for free distribution in the mufassal post offices."

by the Hon'ble RAJA SHOSHI KANTA ACHARYYA CHAUDHURI
BAHADUR :—

* 24.(a) Are the Government aware of the general overcrowding of patients, for the last three years, in the Lunatic Asylum in Dacca?

Alleged over-
crowding
patients in t
Dacca Lunat
Asylum.

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what steps are being taken in the matter?

The Hon'ble MR. STEPHENSON replied :—

"Government are aware that the Dacca Lunatic Asylum has been overcrowded during the last three years."

Additional accommodation has been provided for 40 patients this year, and the admission of patients from Assam has been stopped. The Central Indian Lunatic Asylum at Ranchi, when it is built, will relieve the pressure on Dacca, and the measures already taken will probably suffice till then."

by the Hon'ble RAI NALINAKSHA BASU BAHADUR :—

* 25. Will the Government be pleased to state what steps (if any), they have taken, or intend to take, on the representation of the villagers living on both sides of the Eden Canal, as to the silted-up condition of the canal, and praying for the removal of weeds therefrom and the keeping-up of a perennial flow of drinking water therein?

Silted-up con-
dition of the Ed
Canal.

The Hon'ble MR. GREEN replied :—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answers given to Question XI (a), (b) and (c) put by the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerji at the Council Meeting of the 30th June last."

It is believed that the Hon'ble Member, in making reference to the Eden Canal, includes also such rivers as the Kana Nadi, the Kana Damodar, the Saraswati, etc., which form part of the Eden Canal system. During the last two or three years great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining a sufficient supply of water for the Eden Canal through the Jujuti sluice, owing to the formation of a big 'char' in the river in front of this sluice. A proposal is now under consideration for the construction of a second supply sluice, about 2 miles lower down the river. The Superintending Engineer, South-Western Circle, has been asked to furnish certain information regarding the site of the proposed sluice. By the construction of this new sluice, a great improvement in the supply of water to the Eden Canal is expected, and it will then be possible to send a larger discharge down to flush the Kana Nadi, the Saraswati and the other rivers included in this system. There is also a project for a new canal from the Damodar with permanent head-works at Fakirbaria which is now being revised according to the instructions of the Inspector-General of Irrigation, who inspected the site selected for the proposed head-works last cold weather. The completion of the revised project will take some time, as in view of the recent high floods in the river, some further reconsideration of the project is required."

During the extraordinary flood of August last, a large quantity of the Damodar water which escaped through the several breaches on the left embankment in the neighbourhood of Jamalpur and Tarkeshwar entered into and passed through the Kana Damodar and cleared out the weeds in that channel to a great extent. The Kana Nadi and Saraswati were also flushed by the flood water from the Selimabad breach; but the discharge

[*Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur ; Mr. Kerr ; Mr. Cumming ; Maulvi Mazharul Anwar Chaudhuri.*]

was not sufficient to remove the weeds in these channels. Last year weed-clearing was done by hand on 3 miles of the Kana Nadi above the Gopalnagar weir, and on the Saraswati from Sankrail to Kalipur. It is also proposed to take up weed-clearing work on these two channels during next dry season."

by the Hon'ble RAI NALINAKSHA BASU BAHADUR :—

*26. Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have taken, or intend to take, any steps with a view to suggesting to the zamindars, as well as to the taluqdars, of the flood-affected areas the desirability of either granting an abatement of rent for the current year to their raiyats, or taking it from them by convenient instalments, and whether Government intend to grant any concession to the zamindars and taluqdars in case they and the taluqdars express their willingness to act in accordance with the above suggestion?

Abatement of rent for the current year to raiyats in the flood-affected areas.

The Hon'ble Mr. KERR replied :—

"Suspensions or remissions of land-revenue will be given where necessary in the Government and temporarily-settled estates, under the ordinary rules, which provide for suspensions and remissions being given on a definite scale proportionate to the degree of crop failure. The question whether the owners of permanently-settled estates should be granted suspensions or remissions of revenue, on undertaking to give their tenants suspensions or remissions of rent, is under consideration."

by the Hon'ble RAI NALINAKSHA BASU BAHADUR :—

* 27. (a) Are the Government aware that the record-room of the Judge's Court, Burdwan, has been disorganised as a result of the inundation of the Court during the recent floods, and that the public are experiencing great difficulty in procuring information and copies of documents in proper time?

Disorganized condition of the record-room of the Judge's Court, Burdwan.

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps (if any) they are taking to remedy this state of affairs?

The Hon'ble Mr. CUMMING replied :—

(a) "Government are aware of the disorganization of the record-room.

(b) Government have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 1,500 for the repair of books, registers, etc., and the entertainment of an extra staff to assist in the reorganization of the record-room."

by the Hon'ble MAULVI MAZHARUL ANWAR CHAUDHURI :—

* 28 (a). Are the Government aware that, ever since the establishment of the Hooghly College and the Hooghly Collegiate School, Hooghly has been a centre of Muhammadan education and that it attracts every year a large number of Muhammadan students, especially of the poorer class, from all parts of Bengal?

Tuition fees of Muhammadan students in the Hooghly College, the Hooghly Collegiate School and the Hooghly Branch School.

(b) Are the Government aware that, owing to the insufficiency of the yearly allotments from the Mohsin Fund towards the payment of the tuition fees of Muhammadan students in the Hooghly College, Hooghly Collegiate School and the Hooghly Branch School, the Muhammadan students in these institutions have, for the last three or four years, had to pay full fees for three or four months in the year, i.e., from December or January to March; and, further, that this year the Muhammadan students of the Hooghly College and the Hooghly Collegiate School are being charged full fees from the month of September, as the whole grant from the Mohsin Fund for the year was exhausted by the month of August, i.e., in five months only?

[Mr. Samman; Maulvi Mazharul Anwar Chaudhuri.]

(c) Is it a fact that the Principal of the Hooghly College made more than one representation for an increased grant from the Mohsin Fund to the Hooghly College and Collegiate School but without success?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state whether anything can be done adequately to increase the annual grants from the Mohsin Fund to the educational institutions in Hooghly, the native town of Hajee Muhammad Mohsin, from the next financial year?

(e) If there are no other means of suitably increasing the grants from the Mohsin Fund to the Hooghly College, Hooghly Collegiate School and Hooghly Branch School, will the Government be pleased to state whether it is not possible to withdraw the grant from the Mohsin Fund, at present given to Bihar and Orissa, and which was granted to those provinces at a time when they were under the same administration as Bengal, and when the demand for English education among the Muhammadans of Bengal was not so great as it is now, and apply the money thus set free for the benefit of the Schools and College at Hooghly, and, after them, for the benefit of educational institutions in other parts of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAMMAN replied :—

(a) "The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) Government are aware of the facts, which are correctly stated in the question.

(c) The answer is in the affirmative.

(d) The distribution of the grants from the Mohsin Fund among the various educational institutions in the Province is made after careful consideration of the claims of each and the funds available. But, in view of the fact brought to notice by the Hon'ble Member, Government will consider the possibility of increasing the grant by retrenchment in other directions.

(e) The subsidy given to Bihar and Orissa from the Mohsin Fund for 'short fee' payments of Muhammadan students is only Rs. 3,200. The Patna College appears to have enjoyed a share of this fund from the year 1874 and certain other institutions in Bihar and Orissa from 1888. The benefit which the withdrawal of this grant would confer on the Bengal Presidency is so slight that Government are unwilling to raise the question at present."

by the Hon'ble MAULVI MAZHARUL ANWAR CHAUDHURI :—

* 29. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that out of about 400 Middle English schools in the Burdwan Division only 4 are under Muhammadan management, i.e., one at Kolara in Howrah, one at Uchahar, one at Mahar in Midnapore, and one at Lodna in Burdwan? Middle English schools in the Burdwan Division

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is true, that the Middle English School at Kolara has not succeeded in getting any grant from the Howrah District Board because of want of funds, and that the Middle English Schools at Uchahar and Mahar receive only Rs. 12 and Rs. 10, respectively, a month, and that all attempts to have the grants to these schools increased have failed because of the Midnapore District Board's lack of funds, with the result that the authorities of these three schools are thinking of closing them?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether anything can be done to give a suitable grant to the Middle English School at Kolara and adequately to increase the grants to those at Uchahar and Mahar?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAMMAN replied :—

(a) "The number of Middle English schools in the Burdwan Division on the 31st March, 1913, was only 324, of which 3 were girls' schools. In addition to the four schools mentioned in the Hon'ble Member's question

[*Maulvi Mazharul Anwar Chaudhuri; Mr. Samman; Maharaja Ranajit Sinha of Nashipur.*]

the following Middle English schools in the Burdwan Division are mainly under Muhammadan management :—

Name of school.	District.
Kusumgram Middle English School	... Burdwan.
Korajgram Middle English School	... } Birbhum.
Margram Middle English School	... }
Sekeddar Middle English School	... }
Joraghat Middle English School	... } Hooghly.
Darila Kundu Middle English School	... }
Talpukur Middle English School	... Howrah.

(b) The District Board, Howrah, was unable to sanction a grant to the Kolara Middle English School for want of funds.

The District Board grants to Uchahar and Mahar have been raised to Rs. 16 a month.

Government are not aware that the authorities of the schools contemplate closing them.

(c) Orders are about to be issued sanctioning a monthly grant of Rs. 50 to the Kolara School. It is proposed to give an additional grant of Rs. 24 to the Uchahar School. The case of the Mahar School will be inquired into."

by the Hon'ble MAULVI MAZHARUL ANWAR CHAUDHURI :—

* 30. (a) Are the Government aware that the notification in the "Calcutta Gazette" of the 1st October abolishing the posts of special Inspecting Officers for Muhammadan Education in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions has created a sense of alarm among the Muhammadans as to the future prospects of the education of their community?

Special Inspecting Officers for Muhammadan Education.

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is not possible to appoint a special Inspecting Officer for Muhammadan Education in each of the five divisions of Bengal, to report direct to the Assistant Director for Muhammadan Education on the special educational needs and requirements of the Muhammadans in each of these divisions?

(c) If the Government do not propose to appoint special Inspecting Officers for Muhammadan Education in each division, will they please state what special agency or agencies it is intended to employ to keep the Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education fully informed of the special educational needs and requirements of the Muhammadan community?

The Hon'ble MR. SAMMAN replied :—

(a) "Government are not aware that the notification referred to has created a sense of alarm among the Muhammadans.

(b) & (c) These questions are engaging the attention of Government."

by the Hon'ble MAHARAJA RANAJIT SINHA of Nashipur :—

* 31. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact, that the Commissioners of the Murshidabad Municipality, at a special meeting, in pursuance of their resolution, dated the 15th September, 1913, appointed a sub-committee to inquire into the allegations against the Assistant Surgeon Maulvi Dabaruddin Ahmed, of the Murshidabad Charitable Hospital, for not attending a cholera patient who was lying in front of the cholera ward of the said Hospital?

Allegations against the Assistant Surgeon of the Murshidabad Charitable Hospital.

(b) Is it a fact that the said sub-committee, after examining some respectable persons of the locality, submitted a report to the Chairman of the Murshidabad Municipality, who is also the President of the Dispensary Committee, against the conduct of the said Assistant Surgeon?

(c) Is it a fact that, in pursuance of the said report, the Commissioners of the Murshidabad Municipality, at a special meeting held on the 30th September, 1913, asked the Local Government for the transfer of the said Assistant Surgeon?

(d) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table all the papers relating to the case and state what steps (if any) they propose to take in the matter?

[Mr. Samman; Babu Prasanna Kumar Ray.]

The Hon'ble MR. SAMMAN replied :—

(a), (b) & (c) "The answer is in the affirmative.

(d) Government are not prepared to lay the papers on the table. Full inquiry has been made into the allegations, which have been found by the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals to be groundless and merely the outcome of private jealousy. Government do not intend to take any further action in the matter."

by the Hon'ble BABU PRASANNA KUMAR RAY :—

* 32. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Sanskrit Tols existing in each district in the Presidency and what grant (if any) each of them receives from the Government or District Boards? Improvement of the Sanskrit Tol in the Presidency.

(b) Have the Government under consideration any scheme for the improvement of the Sanskrit Tols?

(c) If not, will the Government be pleased to state whether they contemplate taking up this matter?

The Hon'ble MR. SAMMAN replied :—

(a) "A statement giving the information required so far as 1912-13 is concerned is laid on the table. The amount of the grants varies each year as it depends on the examination results, the number of stipends and other considerations.

(b) & (c) The answer is in the affirmative."

Statement referred to in the answer by the Hon'ble Mr. Samman to Question No. 32.

NAME OF DISTRICT.	TOTAL NUMBER OF TOLS ON THE 31ST MARCH, 1913.				GRANTS PAID DURING 1912-13 TO AIDED TOLS FROM—					Average annual grants to aided tols from Provincial, District and Municipal Funds.
	Recognized tols.			Unrecogn- ized tols.	Grand total of tols.	Provincial Revenues.	District Fund.	Municipal Fund.	Total.	
	Aided.	Unaided.	Total.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
PRESIDENCY DIVISION.						Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Calcutta	7	23	30	...	30	275	...	173	448	64
24-Parganas	12	15	27	...	29	1,372	...	512	2,384	199
Jessore	20	...	20	...	20	211	680	82	893	45
Khulna	26	1	27	...	27	...	1,312	...	1,312	59
Murshidabad ... ..	...	5	5	...	5	...	...	...	...	...
Nadia	24	9	33	...	33	5,750	...	372	6,122	265
BURDWAN DIVISION.										
Bantura	7	15	22	...	22	339	...	24	363	52
Birbhum	4	8	12	...	12	29	...	60	339	85
Burdwan	3	26	29	3	32	96	84	...	180	60
Hooghly	13	53	66	19	85	...	240	588	828	64
Howrah	11	11	22	3	25	...	...	893	893	81
Midnapore	19	70	89	...	89	1,576	...	50	1,626	86
RAJSHAHI DIVISION.										
Bogra	2	2	4	...	4	108	275	60	443	222
Darjeeling ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dinajpur	2	1	3	...	3	...	456	190	646	323
Jalpaiguri ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malda	1	...	1	...	1	...	82	...	82	82
Rajshahi	10	1	11	...	11	327	762	96	1,185	118
Rangpur	3	...	3	...	3	...	1,020	...	1,020	240
Pabna	4	...	4	1	5	72	1,080	119	1,271	316
DACCA DIVISION.										
Bakarganj	5	20	25	2	27	1,365	...	...	1,365	273
Dacca	17	32	49	22	71	316	500	290	1,106	65
Faridpur	13	34	47	3	50	432	300	...	732	56
Mymensingh	21	8	29	4	33	140	1,210	276	1,626	77
CHITTAGONG DIVISION.										
Chittagong	9	4	13	...	13	966	509	240	1,706	180
Chittagong Hill Tracts ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Naokhal	9	4	13	...	13	48	559	25	742	82
Tippera	13	22	35	...	35	...	798	...	798	61

[*Babu Prasanna Kumar Ray; Mr. Samman; Mr. G. H. C. Ariff.*]

by the Hon'ble BABU PRASANNA KUMAR RAY :—

* 33. (a) Is it a fact that the course and standard of education in the primary and secondary schools of West Bengal differ from those of East Bengal?

Co-ordination of the curricula of the primary and secondary schools in East and West Bengal.

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any intention to take up the question of co-ordinating the curricula of East Bengal and West Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAMMAN replied :—

(a) "The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The question of co-ordinating the curricula of primary and secondary schools in East and West Bengal has been carefully considered, and it has been decided to maintain the two curricula side by side until sufficient experience of their relative merits has been acquired."

by the Hon'ble BABU PRASANNA KUMAR RAY :—

* 34. (a) Are the Government aware that the rules for admission, transfer, etc., relating to primary and secondary schools in East Bengal differ from those in West Bengal?

Uniform rules for primary and secondary schools.

(b) If so, is it proposed to adopt a uniform set of rules for the whole Presidency?

(c) If not, will the Government be pleased to state the reason for maintaining the difference?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAMMAN replied :—

(a) "The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) & (c) The matter is still under consideration, but the nature of the case is such that progress is necessarily slow, and it is not possible at this stage to say when final orders will be passed."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

The answers to the following questions which were unstarred were laid on the table :—

by the Hon'ble Mr. G. H. C. ARIFF :—

35. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total number of tanks for drinking-water in each of the subdivisions of the districts in the Presidency of Bengal under the care of the Local Boards, District Boards and Municipalities, respectively?

Number of tanks for drinking-water in the subdivisions in the Presidency.

[Mr. Samman.]

Answer by the Hon'ble Mr. SAMMAN :—

"A statement furnishing the information desired by the Hon'ble Member is laid on the table."

Statement referred to in the answer by the HON'BLE MR. SAMMAN to Question No. 35.

NAME OF DISTRICT.	Name of subdivision.	NUMBER OF TANKS FOR DRINKING WATER CONTROLLED BY—			REMARKS. (It may be noted how many are reserved tanks.)
		Municipalities.	District Boards, excluding Local Boards.	Local Boards.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
BURDWAN DIVISION.					
Burdwan ...	Sadar ...	...	3	...	3 tanks are reserved.
	Kaina ...	2	...	...	2 ditto.
	Katwa ...	1	...	...	1 tank is reserved.
	Asansol ...	3	...	...	1 ditto.
	Total	6	3	...	
Birbhum ...	Sadar	1	25	...	} All the tanks are reserved.
	Rampurhat	...	6	...	
	Total	1	31	...	
Bankura ...	Sadar ...	...	...	...	All the tanks are reserved.
	Vishnupur	4	...	2	
	Total	4	...	2	
Midnapore ...	Sadar ...	...	...	...	} All are reserved tanks.
	Contai ...	1	12	1	
	Tamluk ...	...	...	4	
	Ghatal ...	5	9	14	
	Total	79	1	14	25 tanks are reserved. 23 ditto.
		85	22	33	
Hooghly ...	Sadar ...	3	24	...	One tank of municipality and 24 tanks of District Board are reserved. 12 tanks of District Board are reserved. 20 tanks of District Board are reserved.
	Serampore	...	...	...
	Arambagh	1	12	...	
	Total	...	20	17	
		4	56	17	
Howrah ...	Sadar	...	1	...	} All are reserved tanks.
	Uluberia	...	19	...	
	Total	...	20	...	
PRESIDENCY DIVISION.					
24 Parganas ...	Sadar ...	10	...	6	8 tanks are reserved.
	Barrackpore	7	...	1	8 ditto.
	Basirhat	4	...	10	14 ditto.
	Baraset	11	...	5	6 ditto.
	Diamond Harbour	...	...	5	5 ditto.
	Total	32	...	27	41
Nadia ...	Krishnagar	6	9	...	3 tanks are reserved.
	Kushtia	2	1	...	1 tank is reserved.
	Melherpur	1	5	...	1 ditto.
	Chuadanga	...	...	...	...
	Ranaghat	21	...	...	2 tanks are reserved.
	Total	30	15	...	7

[Mr. Samman.]

NAME OF DISTRICT.	Name of subdivision.	NUMBER OF TANKS FOR DRINKING WATER CONTROLLED BY—			REMARKS. (It may be noted how many are reserved tanks.)
		Municipalities.	District Boards, excluding Local Boards.	Local Boards.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
PRESIDENCY DIVISION—<i>concd.</i>					
Murshidabad ...	Sadar ...	...	4	...	
	Berhampore ...	...	...	...
	Lalbagh ...	2	...	...	2 tanks are reserved.
	Kandi ...	8	4	...	2 ditto.
	Jangipur ...	...	...	...	...
	Total	10	8	...	4
Jessore ^o ...	Sadar ...	8	18	...	5 tanks are reserved.
	Jhenidah ...	6	5	2	5 ditto.
	Bongong ...	3	5	2	...
	Narail ...	...	13	5	...
	Magurah ...	...	12	7	...
	Total	17	53	16	10
Khulna ...	Khulna ...	4	46	...	46 tanks are reserved.
	Bagerhat ...	...	64	...	...
	Satkhira ...	9	63	...	7 ditto.
	Total	13	173	...	53
	Divisional Total	102	249	43	115
DACCA DIVISION.					
Dacca ...	Sadar ...	...	...	8	8 tanks are reserved.
	Narayanganj ...	...	...	11	...
	Munshiganj ...	...	1	18	18 ditto.
	Manikganj ...	...	5	16	3 ditto.
	Total	...	6	53	
Mymensingh ...	Sadar ...	3	2	36	
	Jamalpur ...	5	1	10	
	Kishorganj ...	31	1	60	15 reserved—14 in Kishorganj Municipality, 1 in Bazitpur Municipality.
	Netrakona ...	2	1	61	
	Tangail ...	...	1	2	
	Total	41	6	169	
Faridpur ...	Goalundo ...	...	30	55	
	Madaripur ...	6	5	34	
	Gopalganj ...	...	4	29	
	Sadar ...	6	16	85	1 Reserved tank of the District Board, 5 of the Local Board and 5 of the municipality.
	Total	12	55	203	
Bakarganj ...	Sadar ...	(a)6	(b)18	...	(a) 2 are reserved. (b) All the tanks are reserved.
	Nalchiti ...	2	...	...	Reserved.
	Jhalakhati ...	2	...	...	Ditto.
	Perojpur ...	(a)8	(a)94	(b)19	(a) Reserved. (b) One only reserved.
	Patnakhali ...	4	60	...	Reserved.
	Bhola ...	...	46	...	Ditto.
	Total	22	218	19	
RAJSHAHI DIVISION.					
Rajshahi ...	Sadar ...	1	...	45	
	Nator ...	4	...	19	
	Naogaon ...	...	...	10	
	Total	5	...	74	

* Besides there are 24 wells in the district of Jessore under the control of the Jessore District Board.

[Babu Surendra Nath Ray; Mr. Stephenson.]

NAME OF DISTRICT.	Name of subdivision.	NUMBER OF TANKS FOR DRINKING WATER CONTROLLED BY—			REMARKS. (It may be noted how many are reserved tanks.)
		Municipalities.	District Boards, excluding Local Boards.	Local Boards.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
RAJSHAHI DIVISION—concl'd.					
Dinajpur	.....	...	...	...	The soil of the district is not suitable for tanks. In most places it is porous. Drinking water is obtained from wells, which are innumerable and many of which are constructed of Raniganj pipes.
Jalpaiguri	.....	...	...	...
Total	...	...	...	...
Rangpur	Sadar	...	2	...	1 reserved. 5 ditto. ditto. ditto.
	Gaibandha	...	45	...	
	Kurigram	...	1	...	
	Nilphamari	...	2	...	
Total	...	...	50	...	
Bogra	.....	...	1	...	All reserved.
Pabna	Sadar	...	4	12	
	Sirajganj	...	...	1	
Total	...	4	1	13	
Malda	.....	1	...	...
Divisional Total	...	10	51	87	
CHITTAGONG DIVISION.					
Chittagong	Sadar	6	34	...	} All reserved.
	Cox's Bazar	1	3	...	
Total	...	7	37	...	
Tippera	Sadar	4	3	21	Of this 3 reserved. One reserved. All the tanks in the care of the municipality at Sadar and in the care of Local Boards are reserved
	Brahmanbaria	13	3	25	
	Chandpur	3	3	12	
Total	...	20	9	58	
Noakhali	Sadar	3	8	24	} All reserved.
	Feni	...	1	18	
Total	...	3	9	42	
Divisional Total	...	30	46	100	

by the Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY:—

36. With regard to the answer given to my Question 18 (b) at the meeting of Council held on the 1st September last, will the Government be pleased to state what would be the probable cost of the erection of additional laboratories and buildings in the Calcutta Medical College to enable the student who are refused admission at present to get themselves admitted into the said College?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. STEPHENSON:—

"No proposal has been made to increase the laboratory accommodation at the Medical College, and Government are not in a position to give any estimate of the cost. An increase of accommodation by nearly 400 per cent. would involve entire remodelling of the present buildings and the cost would be enormous."

Erection of additional laboratories and buildings in the Calcutta Medical College.

[Babu Surendra Nath Ray; Mr. Cumming; Maulvi Mazharul Anwar Chaudhuri.]

by the Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY :—

37. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing separately—

Request for statistics of cases tried by Jurors, Assessors, etc.

- (i) the number of cases tried during the years 1910, 1911 and 1912 with the aid of Jurors ;
- (ii) those tried with Assessors ;
- (iii) the number of cases in which the Judge differed from the Jurors, and the number in which the Judge differed from the Assessors ; and
- (iv) the result of references to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure,

in the districts which now form part of the Presidency of Bengal ?

Answer by the Hon'ble Mr. CUMMING :—

"A statement giving the desired information is laid on the table. The figures in columns 2 to 5 of the statement relate to persons; as statistics of the number of cases are not available."

Statement referred to in the answer by the Hon'ble Mr. Cumming to Question No. 37.

YEAR.	NUMBER OF PERSONS TRIED WITH THE AID OF—		NUMBER OF PERSONS AS TO WHOM THE JUDGE DIFFERED—		RESULT OF REFERENCE (CASES) UNDER SECTION 307, CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE.			
	Jurors.	Assessors.	From Jurors.	From Assessors.	Confirmed, i.e., Judge's view upheld.	Modified.	Reversed, i.e., Jury's view upheld.	Remanded for retrial.
1910 ...	1,123	974	185	290	22	1	9	1
1911 ...	1,200	1,139	203	405	25	1	11	1
1912 ...	1,038	932	154	233	13	2	7	...

by the Hon'ble MAULVI MAZHARUL ANWAR CHAUDHURI :—

38. (a) Are the Government aware that the subway leading from the town of Hooghly to Bandel junction station, on the East Indian Railway, remains under water, every year, to a depth of three to four feet, right through the rainy season, with the result that railway passengers to and from Hooghly are put to great hardship and inconvenience, and that even the passage of vehicles through the subway is a difficult and risky matter, as at most times they have to go through with their foot-boards under water ?

Inundation of the subway leading to Bandel junction station.

(b) Is it a fact that complaints as to the inconvenience caused by the inundation of the subway during the rains were made by the people of Hooghly to the Railway authorities as far back as the year 1908 ?

(c) Is it a fact that in June and August of the present year, numerous signed petitions were submitted by the residents of Hooghly to the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, requesting him to ask the Railway authorities to take effective steps to remedy the inconvenience, and that the Commissioner wrote to the Railway authorities in that behalf ?

(d) Is it a fact that the people of Hooghly again submitted a petition in September last to the Agent of the East Indian Railway reiterating their complaints and grievances ?

[Mr. Green; Maulvi Musharraf Husain; Mr. Samman; Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.]

(e) Has any scheme been prepared by the Railway authorities permanently and effectively to remove the inconveniences and hardships of the travelling public caused by the present state of the subway leading to the Bandel junction station?

(f) If not, will the Government be pleased to state what action (if any) they intend to take in the matter?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

(a) "The answer is in the negative.

(b) Government are informed by the Agent, East Indian Railway, that complaints as to the inconvenience caused by the inundation of the subway during the rains were made to him from time to time.

(c) The answer is in the affirmative.

(d) The Hon'ble Member's attention is drawn to the reply to Question 38 (b).

(e) & (f) Correspondence is proceeding between this Government and the Railway Company on the subject, and it is hoped that the Railway Company will be able to devise some effective means of removing the inconvenience referred to."

by the Hon'ble MAULVI MUSHARRAF HUSAIN :—

39. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(i) the number of villages comprised in the Presidency of Bengal, and in how many of them cholera broke out during the year 1912-13; Cholera in villages in Presidency.

(ii) the number of seizures in that year, and how many of them proved fatal; and

(iii) what amount of expenditure was incurred for the relief of the sufferers during that period?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. SAMMAN :—

(i) "The number of villages comprised in the Presidency of Bengal, exclusive of Municipalities, is 123,258. No information is available as to the number of villages in which there were outbreaks of cholera in the year 1912-13.

(ii) No record is kept of the number of seizures from cholera, and the figures for deaths are compiled by the calendar year. Ninety-five thousand four hundred and sixty-seven deaths from cholera occurred in 15,124 villages during the calendar year 1912.

(iii) It is impossible to say what amount of expenditure was incurred for the relief of the sufferers. A sum of money is set aside in the medical budget each year for expenditure in epidemics, but the main business of the relief of cholera patients is carried out by the ordinary staff at hospitals and dispensaries, and by special medical officers whose services are paid for by the District Boards."

by the Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR asked :—

40. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the engineer in charge of the survey for the proposed railway from Nabharan to Satkhira has submitted his report covering the question of alignment of the line? Survey of railway line from Nabharan to Satkhira.

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay the same on the table?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the engineer has proposed, in his report, any alignment other than that actually surveyed?

(d) If so, through what villages would the alternative alignment pass?

(e) Have the Government considered the question of alignments?

His Excellency's Address.[*Mr. Green; His Excellency.*]

(f) If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether any particular alignment has been approved of?

(g) If the answer to question (f) is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state through what villages the alignment would pass?

(h) If the question of alignment is still under the consideration of the Government, will the Government be pleased to state whether the local authorities (Collector, Local Boards, District Boards and other local representative and influential bodies) will be consulted before any final decision is arrived at?

Answer by the Hon'ble MR. GREEN :—

(a) to (d) “The answer is in the negative.

(e), (f) & (g) The question of the alignment has not yet been settled. The matter will be duly considered on receipt of the survey report and the estimates for the construction of the line from the Agent, Eastern Bengal State Railway.

(h) The question of consulting local public opinion further on the subject of the alignment will be considered when the report is received. The investigation made by the Railway authorities is being carried out in consultation with the local civil authorities, and the representations on the subject of alignment which have been made to those authorities by persons interested in the scheme are receiving full consideration.”

HIS EXCELLENCY'S ADDRESS.

“GENTLEMEN,—I welcome you here once more. I hope that, during this cold-weather season now beginning, we shall get a good deal of legislative business done. Last January I told you of eight Bills which my colleagues in Executive Council and I hoped, with your assistance, to pass into law. I don't complain of the slowness of our progress; but we have not got on quite so fast as I then hoped we would. We still have to deal with half of these Bills. Two of them—the Bengal Laws Bill and the Bengal Municipal (Sanitary Officers) Bill—have engaged the attention of Council a good deal, and I trust we may very shortly pass them. I merely remind you of the Chittagong Port Bill which still remains to be dealt with. The Calcutta Municipal Loans Bill has not been taken up in Council since last April, because, as you will remember, certain important proposals were made for its modification, which my colleagues and I felt ought to be discussed fully, both with the Corporation and with the Government of India, before dealing with them in this House. The discussions have nearly come to an end and next month we hope to proceed with the Bill.

Two other measures not referred to in January—The Doveton Trust Bill explained at our meeting of the 1st September, and the Bengal Medical Bill to be introduced to-day—may also I hope become law before long.

And there are two others which we should wish, if possible, to deal with during this session—though I don't wish to speak too sanguinely—a Bill to amend the Cess Act of 1880 in view of the recent decision of the Secretary of State to transfer to Rural Boards the proceeds of the Public Works cess hitherto credited to Government, and a Bill to amend the Excise Act.

Several other measures are engaging the attention of the Legislative Department, but it would be vain to pretend that we have any immediate chance of passing them; so I do not refer to any of them beyond saying that every effort will be made to push to completion an amending and consolidating Bill to take the place of the existing Calcutta Municipal Act of 1899. I know that much interest is taken in this matter both inside this House and out of it; but it is one of great complexity involving a good deal of work, and one on which other bodies besides the Bengal Government must have their say. So far as I can judge I see small chance of the Bill

[*His Excellency.*]

being introduced into Council before the rains session of 1915. Some men of longer and wider experience tell me there will be little chance even then.

Gentlemen, I feel sure you will agree with me that it is the interest of all concerned that the Council should not be burdened with other than budget work while the Financial Statement is under discussion, and I therefore confidently look to you all to help in securing that our present legislative work may be completed by the early part of next March.

It may be interesting to you to know that our Secretary, Mr. Watson—of whose accident we were sorry to hear, and who we all hope will soon be better—is working hard at getting together a library which will be of more use than the library hitherto available to you. Government gave a grant and will continue to give further grants for this purpose and in the course of the next two or three years I hope we shall have a library really worthy of the Council. Want of room here forces us for a time at least to house most of the books in Writers' Buildings, but Government will do its best for you; our Vice-President, Sir William Duke, and Mr. Watson are taking a great deal of trouble in this matter and Hon'ble Members doubtless will give them their assistance.

You may recollect that last January I told you that I would consider how the accommodation at our disposal could be improved. Many of you take interest in this. I know that among the non-official Members—and they are of course the majority of this House—opinion is practically unanimous that the Bengal Legislative Council ought to be housed in an entirely new building designed specially for the purpose of the Council—as, for instance, is the case in Madras. The objections to this Council room and to our accommodation as a whole, especially in the hot weather, are patent to all. I don't suppose it can be very long before either we must erect a completely new building on some other site or entirely rebuild on a larger scale this wing of Government House. Either alternative will be very costly. Cost must not deter us from anything which is for the good of Bengal, but there are many reasons for not undertaking large expenditure on building at present and, moreover, I dare say many of you look forward to possible changes in the constitution of the Council itself before very many years are over—when Councils have proved themselves to be all or almost all that their admirers in India claim for them, and to possess none or very few of the evil qualities which those more enamoured of another system of Government feared they might develop; it seems to me therefore that we should probably be wise not to commit ourselves just yet to any definite scheme involving new buildings or large changes in existing buildings.

I have, however, done as I promised—I have gone fully into the consideration of this wing of Government House and have had plans prepared showing how, as I believe, it can be made—at considerable but not unreasonable expense—to give more practical comfort than we have at present with better conditions in which to transact our business. I had hoped to have shown you the plans ere now; I have not managed that, but you will see them before many days are over. When you do, I hope you will give me the advantage of your advice.

And now I would like to say a few words which I feel prompted to say when I look back on what has happened since last January. You have helped considerably, that is, what as a Council you exist to do. Not only have you helped by criticism and advice to make legislation better than it would have been without your criticism but by your questions and by your resolutions you have called the attention of my colleagues and myself to questions or aspects of questions which we might perhaps have missed. For that I am grateful to you. This Council is not like those assemblies in other countries with which till I came to India I was familiar, which secure good government to their country by keeping in power or removing the individuals who form the executive. The members of such bodies often best perform their functions by purely partisan criticism—but here it is different. Here you have an executive whose duty it is to do all it can for

[*His Excellency.*]

your country, but which is not dependent for its existence on you. I know, speaking for myself at any rate, how often and in how many ways I am ignorant of facts which have a bearing on the problems which an executive Government must face, and how hard one who belongs to another race and has different traditions, often finds it to understand the point of view from which you look at things; sometimes, often it may well be, I fail even to see things which must appear to you obvious, and equally it cannot always be easy for you to grasp my point of view. Without accurate knowledge there cannot be efficiency either in legislation or in administration, for without accurate knowledge there cannot be the sympathy which is the best guarantee of efficiency. I and my colleagues therefore in the Executive Government cannot be too grateful to you when you enable us to appreciate the ideas of the people for whose good government we are responsible, and when you point out to us any deficiencies which we might overlook; but we want you to give us even more help. I don't know that you, non-official Members, always quite realize how much help you can give us: perhaps you do not quite realize how much you Indian non-official members can do for Bengal and for your own fellow countrymen by help of this sort; I believe if you do fully realize it, you will be even more anxious than you are to give us help. I will try to explain to you what I mean. Sometimes questions come to us, or ideas are put before us, which take a good deal of time on the part of our officers to investigate and which turn out to be based on mere rumours or incomplete statements of facts, questions of a sort which would not be admitted knowingly in, for instance, the House of Commons, where every member is expected to hold himself responsible for the accuracy of facts on which he relies; and here in India it seems to me to be even more important than it is in England to make certain of any facts. Our officers here are not too numerous in proportion to the population: they do a great deal if they keep abreast of such part of their work as is helpful to the people for whom they are paid to work; they have quite enough at any rate to do with routine work, which has to be done whether it be useful or not, and the use of which is often not apparent on the surface. I fear that when such men have, as they sometimes have, to investigate a matter, which would be serious if true, only to find it of no importance because it is not true, they naturally become sceptical and disinclined to look into other things into which it would be well if they did look thoroughly. I think you may be able to help a great deal in that matter. And I hope you will be thinking of this, for I am inclined to expect that, in the interest of good administration, we may have somewhat to modify our rules about questions perhaps in the directions indicated by the House of Commons Rules, and if so I shall want your help. Then, again, I feel sure that nothing will do more to secure good Government for Bengal than if the members of this Council show themselves to be thoroughly practical, as well as full of independence; you cannot be too full of independence in your views, provided only those views are firmly based on knowledge and your aims have been well thought out. My Government will always, I hope, listen to the views expressed here and will try to find a common point where our aims and your aims can unite; but this will only be brought about in proportion as we show each other what our real aims are. I don't say we don't do this, but I think there must be a risk—slight perhaps but still a risk—of your sometimes not doing it, and of our sometimes not doing it, if officials and non-officials get too much into the habit of treating each other as necessarily opposed. Government and opposition cannot exist in our assembly in the same sense as they exist in England, at any rate if those who are not members of Government are to work effectively for their country. You non-official members beat us—the Executive Government—once, not long ago. I was not sorry when you did it, for it showed you what you could do. You may beat us again; and it may be well that this happens sometimes; but power carries with it responsibility, and I trust you will resist all temptation to beat us merely for the sake of beating us. I hope this not because I wish to avoid trouble for myself or for Government, but because I am anxious for the reputation of Council Government in India and especially in Bengal. When the non-official members beat the Government nothing particular need necessarily

[Sir William Duke.]

happen. Government can go on just the same as if it had not been beaten ; Government will always, I hope, examine carefully any question on which it has been beaten, and if it honourably can, will meet the views of the non-official majority ; but it seems to me that, if once the beating of Government were to become common at the hands of men voting with a light heart against Government without any clear and well-thought-out idea of what the result would be if what they support is or is not carried out, a blow will be struck not to the prestige of Government but to the prestige of the Council, and that will be a great set-back to Indian progress. For the honour of Bengal it behoves the politicians of Bengal to recognise their responsibilities, to shape their political conduct deliberately, and to think out results. It specially behoves us all to be circumspect just now. Things have happened in Bengal which we all deplore : such things may happen again. I don't believe things such as I refer to will be common ; I feel sure they are not generally approved ; but they have happened. I quite sympathise with your reluctance to believe in such things, and with your hope that officials may perhaps at times have been unduly suspicious. Nothing hurts one more than to find that any one whom one loves or whom one admires has done things which one must hate or despise. You love and admire your country and I sympathise with you in your jealousy for the honour and reputation of Bengal. But Government, too, is jealous for the honour of Bengal, for it is by the state of Bengal that our Government must be judged. We must, if Bengal is to hold its proper place, all work together ; there is much wanted, much in the way of education, much in the way of development of the capacities of the Bengalee, which wants careful working out, and which can only come to a successful issue if both officials and non-officials unite in giving each other a fair chance. I am not going to elaborate this idea. I think you understand me well enough. I would merely say once more that as Governor I thank all of you, officials and non-officials, in this Council for the help you have given to my colleagues and myself in our work and I look confidently to you to continue giving us that help."

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS.

THE BENGAL LAWS BILL, 1913.

"The Hon'ble Sir William Duke moved that the Bengal Laws Bill, 1913, as further amended by the Select Committee, be passed.

He said :—"It will be observed that the report of the Select Committee, which, with the exception of myself, consisted entirely of legal members of the Council, is unanimous. I need therefore say very little to recommend the Bill to the Council.

Its object is to assimilate the law in the two portions of the Province which were united into this Presidency on the 1st of April, 1912. The procedure followed has been, when the law in the two parts of the Presidency was different, to select that which was most up to date or otherwise most desirable, and to repeal the other.

The only exception to this course is that the Select Committee have approved of two small substantive amendments of Bengal Act III of 1885. This Act had been amended in Western Bengal by the Bengal Local Self-Government Amendment Act of 1908 which the Bill extends to Eastern Bengal ; but it was felt that it was desirable that these two new amendments—the one subjecting the action of Divisional Commissioners in making appointments to District and Local Boards to the administrative control of the Local Government and the other empowering District Boards to establish scholarships for the furtherance of technical education, should also be passed into law. It is not likely that there will be a general amendment of the Local Self-Government Act for some time to come, and it did not seem worth while to make these petty amendments into a separate legislative measure. Accordingly, the opportunity was taken to embody them in the

[*Mr. Chakravarti; Sir William Duke.*]

- Laws Bill, although it may be admitted that they hardly come within the legitimate scope of such a measure. Had they been matters of much intrinsic importance, or of a controversial character, it would not have been proper. But it is merely a case of the extension of minor desirable improvements regarding which there seems to be no difference of opinion, and I do not think it will form a precedent for turning a laws Bill into an omnibus measure. I therefore move that the Bill be now passed into law."

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE RULES, 1912.

The Hon'ble Mr. CHAKRAVARTI said :—

"May I, before the Hon'ble Sir William Duke moves the amendments to the Bengal Legislative Rules, make a suggestion? In this part of the House we have felt that there is a necessity for the extension of time in order to enable your Lordship's Council to consider matters of amendment and other matters, and therefore more time ought to be given. But with regard to some of the matters we feel that a sufficient amount of time has not been accorded to us, and I am only making a suggestion, and I hope it will find favour with your Lordship as well as with the Hon'ble Sir William Duke, that this matter ought first to be considered by a small Committee, and then it will come before your Lordship's Council in a shipshape form. The ordinary method, as has been pointed out, was not followed because it was thought that it would be for administrative convenience and expedition that this matter should be considered by the Council, as a whole, at once, but we find that, especially with reference to one matter, the time for consideration of the amendments to the report has been cut down from one week to less, and our desire is to have a little more time. As the object of the amendments is for the purpose of considering the convenience of both sides, I sincerely hope that the Hon'ble Sir William Duke will see his way to accept my suggestion."

The Hon'ble SIR WILLIAM DUKE said :—

"I am somewhat surprised that this suggestion is made; because I believe I am correct in saying that the papers were circulated on the 14th November, and no amendments or suggestions have been received since then. I believe that, previous to that, Mr. Watson consulted the non-official members of Council, or at any rate warned them of what was coming. The proposals in their present form were, I think, circulated on the 14th November,—that is the date the circular bears—and we have heard nothing of it since."

The Hon'ble Mr. CHAKRAVARTI said :—

"I am afraid there is some misapprehension; it was not circulated as early as the date the Bill bears, at least so far as I am concerned I did not get it then. Further, there was a considerable amount of misapprehension as to the method in this particular instance, being an informal one, whether the amendments should be sent in beforehand. It was not in the nature of a report of the Select Committee, for which amendments, according to rule, have to be sent in within a particular time."

The Hon'ble SIR WILLIAM DUKE said :—

"There may have been misapprehension, but the Bill itself contained an explanatory note as to the procedure to be followed, from which, I think, it might have been inferred that whatever was to be done was to be done in Council. The Hon'ble Member is also under a misapprehension that the time has been curtailed. The time has not been curtailed by any means. In every case the time allowed for considering reports and making amendments has been increased, and it is desirable, I think, that we should have the benefit of these rules before we proceed to any heavier legislation, and it would be regrettable, and a misfortune, I think, if they were not passed

[*Babu Surendra Nath Banerji; Mr. Apar; Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur; His Excellency.*]

before any Bill of any considerable magnitude comes into force. It has also not been the practice in this Presidency, at any rate for two years, to employ the procedure of Select Committee with regard to the amendment of our Business Rules, and I do not know whether it would be convenient to employ it on this occasion. At the same time I have no wish to rush the Council. If it is understood that it is the desire among non-official members that they should have more time, I have no particular objection to postponing the matter to the next meeting of the Council. Perhaps your Excellency will obtain the opinion of the other side of the House. There is nothing in the Rules that I cannot explain now."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said :—

"I just want to say this : There does not seem to me to be any special case for urgency, because there are no heavy Bills which are likely to come before us within any measureable distance of time. Judging from the statement which your Excellency has just read out to us, and it seems to me that there is no special case for hurry in this matter. That being so, I think it would meet the wishes of both sides of the House, if there was a little time allowed and a small Committee appointed to go into the matter and submit their recommendations to the Council. I think that would be a procedure which would commend itself to the views of both sides of the House, and I therefore gladly recommend it."

The Hon'ble MR. APCAR said :—

"May I intervene and say that there is no necessity for any protracted delay? The matter may be considered within a week and everything settled. I am sure that our aims are the same, and the only thing is whether we have arrived at a common point of view. I think, if we are allowed to meet and discuss this measure, we could easily come to an understanding at a simple meeting. The only objection taken now is that there may be delay; that can easily be got over by your Lordship's Government by convening a small Committee, selected on your own initiative, and putting a limit as to the time. I do not know why the whole matter should not be settled within a week or ten days, and that would be well within time before any big measure could be brought forward. I earnestly ask that there should be this reference, because there are matters which require consideration from our point of view."

The Hon'ble RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR said :—

"I do not know whether the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerji has moved for reference to a Committee, and I don't know whether under the rules he can move that, but I think he has expressed the sense of this part of the House if he made the suggestion; because there are certain important points on which we should like to submit our views to Government, and if there was a mixed Committee made up of official and non-official members, our suggestions would be given due consideration by that Committee instead of a protracted debate in this Council."

HIS EXCELLENCY said :—

"I do not think we should waste any more time, but postpone the matter. There is no motion."

[Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda.]

The consideration of the following motions was accordingly postponed to the next meeting of the Council.

1. The Hon'ble Sir William Duke to move that in rule 21 of the Bengal Legislative Rules, 1912, for the word "five", the word "ten" be substituted.

2. Also to move that in rule 22 (1) of the same rules, for the word "five", the word "fifteen" be substituted.

3. Also to move that in rule 22 (2) of the same rules, for the word "six", the word "sixteen" be substituted, and for the word "five", the word "fifteen" be substituted.

4. Also to move that in rule 22 (3) of the same rules, for the word "fifteen", the word "thirty" be substituted.

5. Also to move that in line 1 of rule 22 (5) of the same rules, after the word "shall", the brackets and words "(if possible)" be inserted.

6. Also to move that in rule 41 (2) of the same rules, for the words "when he has not been furnished for a week with a copy of the Report", the following be substituted, namely,—

"unless such Report was forwarded to him at least five days before the final date fixed for the receipt of notice of amendments";

7. Also to move that for the first three lines of rule 51 of the same rules, the following be substituted, namely,—

"A list of the business to be brought forward at a meeting of Council shall, if time permits, be despatched by the Secretary to each Member at least four days before such meeting."

8. Also to move that in the proviso to rule 51 of the same rules, for the words "sent to each Member at least one day before the meeting," the following be substituted, namely,—

"sent so as to reach each Member at least two days before the meeting."

9. Also to move that for rule 54 (1) of the same rules, the following be substituted, namely,—

"(1) to draft all Bills originated by the Government of Bengal and the Reports of Select Committees to which such Bills are referred; to settle the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to such Bills and to prepare the Notes on Clauses (if any)."

THE BENGAL MUNICIPAL (SANITARY OFFICERS) BILL, 1913.

The Hon'ble Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda presented the report of the Select Committee on the Bengal Municipal (Sanitary Officers) Bill, 1913, and moved that the said report be taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to.

[*Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur; Babu Surendra Nath Banerji; Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda.*]

His Excellency then called upon the Hon'ble Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur to move amendment No. 1 standing in his name in the Appendix to the List of Business.

The Hon'ble RAI NALINAKSHA BASU BAHADUR said :—

"My Lord, in view of the agreement that we have now come to with the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill, with regard to the provisions of the Bill, we do not press the amendments."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said :—

"I think it would be satisfactory to all parties, and help the discussion, if the extent of the acceptance of these amendments was announced to us by the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill. Then we shall know in what position we stand, and what amendments are approved and what are rejected by the Government."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"I am quite glad at the outset to indicate the amendments which we are prepared to accept as that may have the effect of cutting short the discussion. There have been three amendments of considerable importance. One was that the provisions of the Bill should not be put into force in Municipalities with an income of less than ten thousand rupees. Another amendment was that the promise of Government to contribute half the pay of the Health Officers should be incorporated in the Act itself, instead of being confined to the Resolution. The third important amendment proposed was that Government should only prescribe for the appointment of one Sanitary Officer, and, as to the rest, the matter should be left to the Municipalities themselves. There are two other minor amendments, which it is not necessary to deal with just now.

With reference to the first amendment, namely, that Municipalities with an income of less than rupees ten thousand should be excepted, we have considered the matter and, in order to meet the wishes of Hon'ble Members, we have decided to accept that amendment. The acceptance of this amendment will have the following result :—Out of 111 Municipalities in the whole of Bengal, about 36 Municipalities will not be affected by the Bill at all. This is a most substantial concession that we have made, and I think it goes a long way to meet the wishes of Hon'ble Members.

As regards the second, we had no objection to put the obligation of Government on a statutory basis, but we have been informed that there is not one single instance where an obligation to make a contribution by Government has been put on a statutory basis. I may assure my Hon'ble friends that we have made a promise and we mean to keep it; as a matter of fact, I do not think Government have ever broken a promise. We have stated in our Resolution that we mean to pay half the salary of the Health Officers. The Government of India in their resolution also stated the same thing, and we have also stated that, even in the case of Sanitary Inspectors, where there is a question of real hardship, Government would be willing to help. I hope that my Hon'ble friends will accept this assurance as sufficient and will not press us to adopt a course that is unprecedented.

As regards the third amendment, we have been advised that it would not be right for us to accept it. The result is that we are going to accept only one amendment. As regards the second, above referred to, although it

[*Babu Surendra Nath Banerji; His Excellency; Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur.*]

is not formally accepted, we can give Hon'ble Members the assurance that our Resolution will be as binding as a statute, and I would ask my Hon'ble friends to consider their amendments in view of the statement I have made, and withdraw such of them as they think fit."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said :—

"I think, my Lord, that as a consequence of the announcement that all amendments which tend to limit the application of the Act to certain Municipalities will be, in substance, accepted, and of the further announcement that Government is precluded by precedent from making any financial compact in a statute, all amendments will be abandoned by us, but, of course, the other amendments relating to the other matters, on which any friend is not making a statement, they will be. I take it, the subject of discussion in this Council. That will simplify matters considerably."

HIS EXCELLENCY :—

"I cannot pretend to judge which amendments should be withdrawn and which should not : so that we had better take them in order."

The following motions were then, by leave of the President, withdrawn :—

Clause 1.

I.—The Hon'ble Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur to move that at the end of clause 1, the following words be added, namely,—

"and shall be deemed to be part of the Bengal Municipal Act, Ben. Act III of 1884. 1884."

Clause 2.

Proposed new Section 349 C.

II.—The Hon'ble Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur to move that for sub-section (I) of the proposed new section 349C the following be substituted, namely,—

(1) If the Magistrate of the District is of opinion that the

Power to declare this Part to be in force in any municipality.

provisions of this Part should be extended to any municipality within his jurisdiction, he may call upon the Commissioners of that municipality to apply to the Local Government, through him, for the extension of the said provisions to that municipality; and if, within four months of the receipt of such requisition, the said Commissioners fail to comply therewith, the Magistrate of the district may himself apply to the Local Government to extend the said provisions to such municipality.

(1a) On receipt of any application under sub-section (I), the Local Government may, by notification published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, announce its intention to declare this Part to be in force in the municipality referred to therein.

[*Babu Surendra Nath Ray; Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur, Babu Mahendra Nath Ray.*]

Provided that the provisions of this Part shall not be extended to any municipality the income of which falls below Rs. 10,000 a year.

III.—The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray to move that in the last line of the proposed new section 349 C (2), after the words "so sent", the following be added, namely,—

"together with any report submitted by the District Magistrate along with such objections."

IV.—If motion No. III be carried, the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray to move that in line 2 of the proposed new section 349C(3), after the words "or if it considers", the following be added, namely,—

"after giving due weight to the report of the District Magistrate."

Proposed new Section 349 D.

V.—The Hon'ble Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur to move that the proposed new section 349D be re-numbered as sub-section (1) and that for its last four lines the following be substituted, namely,—

"as may be deemed necessary by them : such Health Officer to be of such class, and such Sanitary Inspectors to possess such qualifications as the Local Government may, by notification in the *Calcutta Gazette*, direct."

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the Local Government may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, direct the appointment of a Health Officer and of such number of Sanitary Inspectors as it may deem necessary in any particular municipality.

VI.—The Hon'ble Babu Mahendra Nath Ray to move that in lines 12 and 13 of the proposed new section 349D the words "and such Sanitary Inspectors to possess such qualifications" be omitted.

VII.—The Hon'ble Babu Mahendra Nath Ray to move that the following proviso be added to the proposed new section 349D, namely,—

"Provided that the number of Sanitary Inspectors to be appointed for any municipality shall be fixed by the Commissioners of the municipality concerned at a meeting."

VIII.—The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray to move that the words [Cf. Nos. II and VI]
"such Health Officer to be of such class, and such Sanitary Inspectors to possess such qualifications, as may be so directed", in the second and subsequent lines of clause (b) of the proposed new section 349D, be omitted, and that the following provisos be added after the words "as the Local Government may, by notification in the *Calcutta Gazette*, direct", namely,—

"Provided that—

(i) the Local Government shall not have the power to compel any municipality to appoint more than one such officer and

[*Raja Hrishikesh Laha; Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur; Babu Mahendra Nath Ray.*]

(ii) the provisions of this section shall not be put into operation in any municipality, the income of which is less than Rs. 10,000, unless two-thirds of the Commissioners agree to the proposal.

IX.—The Hon'ble Raja Hrishikesh Laha to move that the following proviso be added at the end of the proposed new section, 349D, namely,—

“Provided that, with the approval of the Local Government, two or more municipalities may jointly retain the services of a Health Officer or a Sanitary Inspector appointed under this section, and make such proportionate contribution towards the pay of such officer as the Local Government may determine.”

Proposed new Section 349E.

X.—The Hon'ble Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur to move that for the proposed new section 349 E the following be substituted, namely,—

“349E. The Local Government shall, from time to time, fix the salaries to be paid to Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors and the allowances to be granted to them during absence on leave, one half of such salaries and allowances being paid out of the Municipal Fund and the other half by the Local Government.”

XI.—The Hon'ble BABU MAHENDRA NATH RAY moved that, in line 3 of the proposed new section 349E, the words “and Sanitary Inspectors” be omitted.

He said :—

“My Lord,—The object of the amendment is to leave it to the Municipal authorities concerned to fix the salaries to be paid to their Sanitary Inspectors. The wording of the clause, as it stands, is that ‘the Local Government shall from time to time fix the salaries to be paid to Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors out of the Municipal Funds, and the allowances to be granted to them during absences on leave.’ So far, my Lord, as the Local Government desire to have the power of imposing upon the Municipalities the duty of appointing Sanitary Inspectors, we do not object, but when the question is as to the salary to be paid to these people, I humbly submit that to take away from the Municipal Commissioners the power of fixing their salaries is really to go too far, and to interfere with the well-understood policy of Local Self-Government. I would have been, therefore, very glad, my Lord, if the proposal which is embodied in this amendment had been accepted by Government; but as it has not been accepted, I am compelled to press it to a division. Under the Local Self-Government Act, which controls the action of District Boards, the latter enjoy the power of not only appointing their own Sanitary Inspectors but of fixing their pay. It is difficult to see why Municipal Corporations in Bengal, which are more advanced in many places than the rural authorities, should not have this power of fixing the pay of their own Sanitary Inspectors. It is suggested that the practical difficulty in the way is that Government propose to train two classes of Sanitary Inspectors, and that, as we read in the Resolutions, the Sanitary Inspectors should be of two classes, classes 1 and 2; Sanitary Inspectors belonging to the second class to get a pay of Rs. 50 rising to Rs. 100, and Sanitary Inspectors of the first class to get a pay of Rs. 100 rising to Rs. 150, and that, if the question of pay and allowances of Sanitary Inspectors were left to the Municipalities concerned, they might not choose to pay Sanitary Inspectors enough, and the Sanitary Inspectors trained by Government under the system which has been in operation might not find it possible to accept service under some municipalities which might

[*Babu Surendra Nath Banerji; Babu Surendra Nath Ray; Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda.*]

grudge them even the small pay the Government has practically settled. But I have no doubt, my Lord, that Municipalities will never think of employing Sanitary Inspectors on a pay less than Rs. 50, but that they will be engaged on a proper pay. Whether a Sanitary Inspector to be entertained under a Municipality should be of second class or first class is a matter of detail which, I submit, should be left to the Municipalities concerned, and I do not see any sufficient reason for withdrawing that power from them. It is a very small matter, but a matter in which there will perhaps be a good deal of hardship, as the Municipalities will consider that even in these small matters of detail their hands are being unnecessarily fettered. I therefore am compelled to press this motion to a division."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANARJI said :—

"May I be permitted to make a suggestion, for the consideration of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill, whether we can arrive at a sort of compromise in this matter—namely, that the pay be fixed by the Municipalities subject to the approval of the Local Government? There are two partners to the transaction—one is the Municipality and the other is the Local Government. Both make a contribution towards the pay, and I think both ought to have a substantial voice in the matter; and, therefore, I think we ought to put it in that form, namely, that the pay should be fixed by the Municipality subject to the approval of the Local Government, so that both partners to the transaction may have a voice in regard to it. This is a compromise which I trust my Hon'ble friend will see his way to accept."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY said :—

"I have only one word to say. In the opinions that were circulated on the Bengal Municipal (Sanitary Officers) Bill, I find that Mr. Patterson, the District Officer of Howrah, a member of the Indian Civil Service, says on page 6 to this effect :—

'As the proposed section 349 F will empower Government to make rules prescribing the qualifications, etc., of sanitary officers, and as the proposed section 349 D will make the appointment of such officers obligatory, their salaries should be left to be determined by the Commissioners in accordance with the ordinary laws of supply and demand.'

After this opinion from one who is a trusted servant of Government and who has got experience of Municipalities, I think Government ought to accept the suggestion which is made by the Hon'ble Babu Mahendra Nath Ray."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"This question has been carefully considered. It was discussed at some length in Select Committee and it was rejected, and the reasons are these, my Lord : we have taken a number of men to give them a training. They want certain prospects, in order to be induced to go through this course of training, and it would be desirable that Sanitary Officers serving in different Municipalities should have about the same pay. If we left it to individual Municipalities, there may be in some Municipalities a great spirit of parsimony and they may refuse to pay the Sanitary Inspectors an adequate sum : and, unless a man is well paid, his work is never well done. There will be a large number of Municipalities that will employ Sanitary Inspectors. It has been considered desirable that the qualifications and pay should be fixed by Government to ensure uniformity. I am not convinced that the Hon'ble Babu Mahendra Nath Ray's argument completely answers this objection."

[Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda.]

Reference has been made to the practice in the District Boards, but my Hon'ble friend will remember that the number of Municipalities is much larger than the number of District Boards, and, so far as the few District Boards are concerned, they may make their own terms. I think it will raise discontent and will interfere with the efficiency of the work to be done by sanitary officers if it is left to the Municipalities to fix their salaries. For these reasons, my Lord, Government are not prepared to accept the amendment."

A division was then taken with the following result :—

Ayes 17.		Noes 28.	
The Hon'ble	Mr. Sinha.	His Excellency the President.	
" "	Babu Upendra Lal Ray.	The Hon'ble Sir William Duke, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.	
" "	Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M., Maharajahdiraja Bahadur of Burdwan.	" " Mr. Lyon, C.S.I.	
" "	Mr. Chakravarti.	" " Nawab Sayed Shams-ul-Huda.	
" "	Raja Shoshi Kanta Acharyya Chaudhuri Bahadur.	" " Mr. Macpherson.	
" "	Maharaja Jagadindra Nath Ray.	" " Mr. Cumming, C.I.E.	
" "	Mr. Apear.	" " Mr. Lang.	
" "	Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.	" " Mr. Kerr, C.I.E.	
" "	Babu Surendra Nath Banerji.	" " Mr. Stephenson, C.I.E.	
" "	Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur.	" " Mr. Samman.	
" "	Babu Mahendra Nath Ray.	" " Mr. Newbould.	
" "	Babu Prasanna Kumar Ray.	" " Mr. Green.	
" "	Rai Hari Mohan Chandra Bahadur.	" " Mr. Finimore.	
" "	Raja Hrishikesh Laha, C.I.E.	" " Mr. B. C. Mitra.	
" "	Dr. Nilratan Sarkar.	" " Mr. Payne.	
" "	Maulvi Mazharul Anwar Chaudhuri.	" " Mr. Hornell.	
" "	Babu Surendra Nath Ray.	" " Rai Priya Nath Mukharji Bahadur.	
		" " Mr. Moberly.	
		" " Mr. McLeod.	
		" " Mr. Shorrocks.	
		" " Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur.	
		" " Mr. Glen.	
		" " Maharaja Ranajit Sinha of Nashipur.	
		" " Mr. Chaplin.	
		" " Mr. Woods.	
		" " Mr. Grice.	
		" " Mr. Hilary.	
		" " Mr. G. H. C. Ariff.	

The following Members were absent :—

The Hon'ble Nawab Sir Khwaja Salimullah Bahadur, G.C.I.E.,
K.C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Maulvi Musharraf Hussain.

The Hon'ble Raja Mahendra Ranjan Ray Chaudhuri.

The Hon'ble Dr. Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.

The Hon'ble Babu Ananda Chandra Ray.

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Faz-ul-Haq.

The Hon'ble Nawab Saiyid Hossam Haider Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur.

The result of the division being ayes 17, noes 28, the motion was lost.

[*Babu Surendra Nath Ray; Babu Mahendra Nath Ray; Maharaja Ranajit Sinha of Nashipur; Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur; Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda.*]

The following motions were, by leave of the President, withdrawn:—

XII.—The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray to move that in lines 3 and 4 of the proposed new section 349 E the words "and Sanitary Inspectors out of the Municipal Fund" be omitted.

XIII.—The Hon'ble Babu Mahendra Nath Ray to move that the following proviso be added to the proposed new section 349 E, namely,—

"Provided that one half of such salaries and allowances shall be paid by the Local Government and not out of the Municipal Fund."

XIV.—The Hon'ble Maharaja Ranajit Sinha of Nashipur to move that the following proviso be added to the proposed new section 349 E, namely,—

"Provided that the Government shall ordinarily contribute half the amount required to meet the salaries of such Health Officers."

Proposed new Section 349 F.

XV.—The Hon'ble Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur moved that for the first two lines of the proposed new section 349 F the following be substituted, namely,—

"The Municipal Commissioners may from time to time make rules subject to the approval of the Local Government prescribing . . ."

He, said: "My Lord, the Bill as it stands says that the Local Government may from time to time make rules regarding the qualifications of Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors, as well as their classes and grades. My amendment is that the Municipal Commissioners be allowed the privilege of framing the rules. It is alleged that if power be conferred upon the municipalities, the rules are not likely to be uniform, and the rules for one municipality may clash with those framed by others. But with a view to avoid this sort of apprehended anomaly, I have proposed that the rules framed by the Municipal Commissioners shall be subject to the approval of Government or in other words, the rules made by them shall not have any effect unless sanctioned by Government. As the Government are the final authority with regard to the sanctioning of the rules, there cannot be any reasonable objection to the amendment proposed by me. The rules, no doubt, under the amendment proposed by me, will emanate from the Municipal Commissioners, but they cannot be final unless approved of by the Government and, consequently, my amendment is one which ought in my humble opinion to be accepted by the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill."

The Hon'ble Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda said: "My Lord, for the reasons which I gave in answer to the Hon'ble Babu Mahendra Nath Ray's amendment, I am sorry I cannot accept this amendment. We want uniformity in the rules, and that cannot be ensured if every municipality is allowed to make its own rules."

The motion was then, by leave of the President, withdrawn.—

The following motions were also, by leave of the President, withdrawn:—

XVI. The Hon'ble Babu Mahendra Nath Ray to move that in line 2 of clause (a) of the proposed new section 349 F the words "and Sanitary Inspectors respectively" be omitted.

[*Babu Surendra Nath Ray ; Babu Mahendra Nath Ray ; Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur ; Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda.*]

XVII. The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray to move that in line 2 of clause (a) of the proposed new section 349 F the words "and Sanitary Inspectors respectively" be omitted.

XVIII. The Hon'ble Babu Mahendra Nath Ray to move that in line 1 of clause (b) of the proposed new section 349 F the words "and Sanitary Inspectors" be omitted.

XIX. The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray to move that in line 1 of clause (b) of the proposed new section 349 F the words "and Sanitary Inspectors" be omitted.

XX. The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray to move that the following proviso be added at the end of the proposed new section 349 F, namely,—

"Provided that the Local Government shall be bound to contribute at least half the salary of every Health Officer or Sanitary Inspector appointed under this Chapter."

Proposed new Section 349 G.

XXI. The Hon'ble Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur moved that at the end of the proposed new section 349 G the following words be added, namely,—

"to whom the Health Officer shall be subordinate."

He said :—"This amendment is very simple. There are two Health Officers, and my proposal is that one should be made subordinate to the other, so that there may be no conflicting orders passed by them. That is what I have to submit for the consideration of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill."

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"My lord, I have not been able to accept this amendment. As a rule there will be one Health Officer, and there is no question of subordinating one Health Officer to another. I do not understand what the Hon'ble Member means. We propose to have more than one Sanitary Inspector, but we do not propose to have more than one Health Officer, and from that point of view, I think my Hon'ble friend's amendment is unnecessary."

The motion was then, by leave of the President, withdrawn.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA said :—

"In order to give effect to the concession which Government has announced in this matter, I beg to move—

that section 349 D be numbered as sub-section (1) of that section, and that the following be added as sub-section (2), viz.,—

the provisions of sub-section (1) shall not apply to any Municipality the income of which falls below Rs. 10,000 a year."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda moved that the Secretary be directed to renumber the clauses and sub-clauses of the Bill in consecutive order, and to make corresponding alterations in all cross-references thereto.

The motion was put and agreed to.

[Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda ; Mr. Hornell ; Babu Surendra Nath Banerji.]

The Hon'ble Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda also moved that the Bill, as settled in Council, be passed.

He said :—My Lord, I am glad that although we have had a somewhat stormy discussion some time ago about this Bill, that it has now been given a smooth passage through the Council. I appreciate the assistance which has been given by the Hon'ble the non-official members, and I have already referred to the three important amendments of which we had notice from the Hon'ble Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur, the Hon'ble Babu Mahendra Nath Ray, and the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray. We have found it difficult to accept them all, but I think we have met them half way, and I am glad that the concessions made by Government have been accepted in the spirit in which they have been given, and a large number of amendments have in consequence been withdrawn. We were all anxious that a Bill of this nature should go out of this Council with the approval of the representatives of the local bodies, and although some of the amendments moved by them have been lost, I take it that on the whole they are satisfied. I move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE DOVETON TRUST BILL, 1913.

The Hon'ble Mr. Hornell moved that the Doveton Trust Bill, 1913, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Samman, the Hon'ble Mr. Newbould, the Hon'ble Mr. Shorrocks, the Hon'ble Mr. Grice, the Hon'ble Babu Mahendra Nath Ray and the mover, with instructions to circulate their report in time for its consideration in Council at the meeting to be held on the 13th January, 1914.

THE HON'BLE BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said :—

"My Lord, now that the Bill is to be referred to a Select Committee I think I may take this opportunity of calling attention to a statement which has appeared in the newspapers and which I believe has been circulated among the members of this Council, bearing upon this Bill. The statement is signed by the responsible members of the Committee of Management of the Doveton Institution, and it traverses some of the statements which were made in this Council by the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill. One of the statements is this. I think it was stated in this Council, that the Committee of Management which now exists was a Committee which had been appointed by the High Court. These gentlemen say as a matter of fact that that Committee had long ceased to exist, and that the present Committee is a Committee which has been appointed by the shareholders or by the guardians of the pupils attending the Institution. Then charges of mismanagement had been brought against the Committee of the Institution. They deny these charges, and they bring forward some facts and figures which to my mind seem to lend colour to their assertion. The financial test is the crucial test in all institutions and organizations. In this statement which has been circulated I find facts given as to the revenue of the Institution in 1910, and the revenue of the Institution in 1912. In 1910 the revenue of the institution was Rs. 19,000, in 1912, it was Rs. 26,000, almost double, and the number of pupils has increased. Therefore, it seems to me, if these allegations as circulated in the statement have any basis, truth or substance, it is necessary to reconsider the proposals which have been laid before this Government. I do not pin my faith to this statement. I absolutely know nothing at all about it, but here are these allegations spread broadcast, for they have been printed in the newspapers, circulated among the members of this Council, and they are the talk of everybody connected with this Institution, and who wish the welfare of this Institution. Having regard of these facts, I appeal to my Hon'ble friend, the member in charge of the Bill, to throw some light upon the statement and to justify the measure which he has placed for the consideration of the Council."

[*Mr. Hornell ; Babu Surendra Nath Banerji.*]

The Hon'ble MR. HORNELL said :—

"Your Excellency, the letter to which the Hon'ble Mr. Banerji refers has been placed in my hands by Mr. Houghton and Mr. Claridge. The signatories to the letter, who claim to be the members of the Committee of Management of the Parental Academic Institution and Doveton College, complain that the notification has caused them considerable surprise, and that they feel seriously aggrieved that such a momentous step should have been initiated without the slightest reference to the Governing Body of the Institution. They complain that they received no preparatory official notice of the intentions of Government in this matter, and they claim to be completely ignorant of the grounds on which this tyrannical measure of spoliation is sought to be justified."

The Hon'ble SURENDRA NATH BANERJI—I did not use such strong language.

The Hon'ble MR. HORNELL, continuing, said :—

"In the speech in which I moved for leave to introduce the Bill, I attempted to set forth in outline the connection between the Government of Bengal and the Society. I need not repeat this melancholy story. I will merely point out that this connection began in 1896 and that in 1906 a Committee which had been appointed by the High Court to manage the institution appealed to Government to have an inquiry, made into the affairs of the institution and that as the result of this appeal Government appointed a Committee, which recommended legislation for the purpose of effecting the same purpose as that which the Bill, now before the Council, is designed to accomplish. A Bill was actually drafted, but as the result of the High Court order of the 8th April, 1907, it was dropped to give the Society a chance of working out its own destiny under the scheme settled by the decree. No further action was taken by Government until 1909, when, as explained at the last meeting of the Council, Mr. W. C. Madge, himself a member of the Committee of Management, wrote and asked Government to intervene. In the name of the Anglo-Indian community to which he belongs, Mr. Madge adjured Government to preserve the endowment 'from obviously incompetent control and to divert it to other means which might afford the best prospect of giving the domicilled community the relief and help of which they stand in great and pressing need.' Thus in a period of some 4 years Government was twice called upon by those intimately connected with, or interested in the society, to take the step which it is now contemplating.

In the speech with which I introduced the Bill, I referred to a report from the Director of Public Instruction, which was called for and received in September 1909. It must be remembered that this report was written when the new scheme of management had been in operation for over two years. I said that the report showed that the Committee had proved itself totally incompetent to manage the affairs of the College. This statement has in effect been challenged. I have referred above to Mr. Madge as a member of the Committee. He certainly had been such, and he claimed still to be at the time of writing, though the Committee contended that he had resigned, a contention which Mr. Madge declared to be false. At any rate Mr. Madge's indictment was couched in no uncertain terms. 'The institution' he wrote, 'is now in the hands of a Committee whose competence for their charge may be estimated from the fact of their having recently illegally removed their Chairman from their number, on the false pretext of his having resigned, because he had objected to improper proceedings on their part, which may possibly be held to be illegal if tested in a Court; and from the fact of their also having lately expelled, with violence from the room in which they met, the Assistant Director of Public Instruction who had attended by invitation. These are not the only circumstances which call for prompt and searching investigation on the part of the Government. The endowment, or remaining portion of it, on which the institution subsists, was for the benefit of the community variously styled 'East Indian' and 'Eurasian,' whereas it is stated that a very few of this class are boarders in it, while the majority are Asiatics, the diversion of specially endowed funds to whose benefit may amount to a serious breach of trust.' It is also perhaps interesting to note

[*Mr. Hornell.*]

that when this letter of Mr. Madge was received by the Director of Public Instruction from Government, the then Honorary Secretary of the Committee of Management was given an opportunity of reporting on the facts. He refused to do so, and questioned the Director's authority to call for such a report at all. He was informed on the 6th July that failing a reply by the 21st July the report would have to go to Government with such information as could be obtained from other sources. The report of the Director of Public Instruction did not actually go to Government till the 9th September. If the Committee let this opportunity slip of stating their version of these transactions, they can scarcely blame my predecessor or Government.

To the report submitted by the Director of Public Instruction there was attached a statement from the gentleman, who was so effectively prevented from taking part in the deliberations of the Committee of Management, together with a statement from another member of the Committee who accompanied the former gentleman and was a witness to the rough and tumble which by the way took place in the public street. It is not necessary to dwell upon this incident. The account of it which runs into many pages suggests comic-opera, an admirable thing in its place,—but perhaps a little inappropriate in the management of the affairs of a society constituted to establish and control schools 'in order to procure the means of affording the youths the best education of which the circumstances admit.'

The term of the schedule attached to the decree of the High Court of the 8th April 1907, provided that in the event of the Society failing to hold its annual meetings in terms of the said rules or otherwise failing to appoint a Committee in any year, the members of the Committee other than those who in terms of the scheme should retire—the scheme provided that a certain proportion of members should retire at each annual election—should be at liberty with the approval of the Director of Public Instruction for the time being to appoint such members of the domiciled community for the purposes of completing the necessary number of the Committee. The signatories of the letter of protest declare that they are not a Committee appointed under the terms of the decree of the High Court above referred to, but that since October 1910, the affairs and management of the Society have been conducted by a series of Committees elected annually under the rules of the Society. In the Director's report to Government it is stated that the Committee had placed it on record that they believed that there were no members of the Society, and that there was not in any case a quorum sufficient to hold a general meeting. It appears that in 1909 there were only 4 members. Under rule 36 of the Rules of the Society no business can be transacted at any meeting of the Society, unless a quorum of 20 members be present. The Director's report of the 9th September gave the history of the Committee since the date of the High Court decree. Of the 8 members named by the High Court, 3 declined to act. Four new members were appointed before the close of 1907, and, on 2 of these members retiring by rotation in the terms of the scheme, a Committee of 10 members was reconstituted by the Director of Public Instruction. By July 1908, this Committee had dwindled down to 6, this number having been further reduced by 2 before the end of 1908. On the 31st March 1909 there were 4 members of whom 2 were to retire by rotation, while under Rule 13 of the Society 5 members are necessary to form a quorum. This remnant proceeded to elect a full Committee of Management, and in April 1909, the Honorary Secretary submitted the list of names to the Director of Public Instruction for his formal approval. This the Director of Public Instruction refused to give, but called for some explanation. The Honorary Secretary declined to give this information declaring that the powers of the Director of Public Instruction were confined to the bare approval or disapproval of the nominations of the Committee. A correspondence ensued between the Society's Solicitors and the Director of Public Instruction. The result of which was that the latter, not considering the information which was made available either sufficient or satisfactory, refused to exercise the powers of approval conferred on him by the High Court. In reporting this to Government, the Director of Public Instruction stated that he inclined to the view that in the absence of a quorum of duly

[Mr. Horpell.]

appointed members of the Committee, the then existing management was unauthorised and could only be regularised by an order of the Court. So far as I can make out, there are no further records either in my office or in the Secretariat with regard to any subsequent relations with the Committee.

The order of the High Court required that the Committee should have its accounts audited by Chartered Accountants every year, and that a copy of the balance sheet should be submitted to the Director of Public Instruction. No such balance sheets were submitted and consequently on the 25th May 1909, the Director of Public Instruction wrote and asked the Committee to let him have the audited balance sheets for the financial years 1908-09 and 1907-08. In response to this the Committee submitted a copy not of a balance sheet but of a cash abstract giving outstandings and liabilities on the 31st December 1908 by a firm not of Chartered but of Incorporated Accountants. This document the Director of Public Instruction found to be quite useless as a guide to the financial administration and the Committee refused to supply a copy of a similar document for the preceding year which might have enabled the Director of Public Instruction to have checked the abstract submitted. The Committee now state that their accounts are audited annually by Messrs. Lovelock and Lewes, whom they quote as stating in 1910 that the account books were 'as usual' well kept and free from errors. It is a little difficult to fix the precise significance of 'as usual.' If Messrs. Lovelock and Lewes had knowledge of the Doveton College Account Books before 1910, why did the Committee in 1909 decline to provide the Director of Public Instruction with any statement other than a statement of outstandings and liabilities vouched for by a firm of Incorporated Accountants?

In the speech with which I introduced the Bill, I was bold enough to state that the conduct of the affairs of the Society had involved the misdirection of funds left in trust to purposes for which they were never intended. The Committee of which I was a member represented in 1906 that it was not obligatory on the Doveton College Committee to educate non-Christians. We further reported that of the 103 boys then on the rolls of the College, only 8 were reported to be Christians, and that they all belonged to the DeSouza foundation. When in 1909 the Director of Public Instruction attempted to find out the denominations and nationality of the pupils then in the school, he was refused the information. I have recently ascertained that the 113 pupils now on the rolls of the college are drawn from the following communities :—

Europeans	...	...	...	Nil
Anglo-Indians	...	...	...	40
Hindus	...	...	...	29
Muhammadians	...	...	...	11
Burmese	...	...	...	21
Chinese	...	...	...	7
Parsees	...	...	...	2
Native Christians	...	...	...	3
				113

The school was undoubtedly founded and endowed for that section of the community which is now known as Anglo-Indian. The school was once one of the most famous institutions for the education of the domiciled European and Anglo-Indian community. Now it is entirely cut off from the European school system. It has only been recognized by the University since 1910, and the report attached to the letter of protest is merely the usual report called for by the University as a result of the application for recognition. The University is not of course concerned with anything other than the fitness of the school to prepare pupils for its Matriculation Examination."

The motion was then put and agreed to.

[Mr. Lyon.]

THE CHITTAGONG PORT BILL, 1913.

The Hon'ble Mr. LYON moved for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the port of Chittagong.

He said—"My Lord, I have the honour to move for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the port of Chittagong.

As noted in the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to this Bill, it is required by the considerable developments which have taken place since the original Act for the regulation of the port of Chittagong was passed in the year 1887. At that time there was no railway connection with Chittagong, nor were there any jetties in existence for ocean-going ships. In view also of the limited extent of the port, and the inexperience of the Commissioners who were called upon to conduct its affairs, the provisions of the Act were extremely restrictive. The Commissioners are unable to undertake works of any importance without the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council, and the same approval is required from time to time to all changes in the electorate of bodies or firms engaged in commerce in the port. The by-laws passed by the Commissioners also require confirmation in certain cases, and the Local Government are given powers which restrict the employment of servants by the Commissioners, and their purchase, sale or leasing of movable as well as immovable property.

These restrictions have naturally been found very inconvenient in practice, especially since the large extension of the operations of the port due to the advent of the Assam Bengal Railway and the institution of regular steamer services of ocean-going vessels. I may add that the restrictive nature of the present Chittagong Port Act attracted the attention of the Royal Commission on Decentralisation during their sitting at Dacca.

The present Bill follows the lines of the Calcutta Port Act and the Act for the Port of Rangoon of 1905, which is the most recent of the various Port Acts in India. It was originally drafted by the late Mr. Lusson as Chairman of the Port Commissioners, in communication with the Agent of the Assam Bengal Railway and the Chairman of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce, and I may take this opportunity of acknowledging the noticeable services which have been rendered to the port and to Government in the preparation of this Bill by the late Mr. Lusson and his successor, Mr. Fischer, as Chairman of the Commissioners. It is proposed by means of the present Bill to amplify the powers of the Commissioners of the port and to relieve them from unnecessary restrictions in the exercise of their functions, and it is hoped that the new provisions will greatly facilitate the conduct of business in connection with the port. The Bill was originally prepared in the year 1908, and has since then been exhaustively examined by the commercial community of Chittagong, the Port Commissioners, the Government of India and Railway authorities of all grades. Its provisions were practically settled shortly before the recent territorial changes, when its consideration was postponed until the present Government should be constituted. In the course of its examination by our Government it appeared that various minor amendments were necessary, and opportunity was taken to include in the Bill some additional provisions suggested by the Port Commissioners.

While the general principles of the Bill and its main provisions will, I believe, meet with general acceptance, as providing the machinery necessary for the conduct of the affairs of the port, there are certain sections dealing with the compulsory use of the jetties provided by the railway company which have met with opposition from some of the local branches of firms engaged in shipping and agency business. These provisions of the Bill follow in the main the similar provisions which have been incorporated in the Acts applying to other ports in India, but the position in Chittagong differs somewhat from that which exists in other ports, in that the Assam Bengal Railway Company is the owner of the jetties instead of the Port Commissioners. The disadvantages of this position are somewhat mitigated, however, by the fact that the Assam Bengal Railway Company is not in all respects a private company, and that the jetties were built by public funds provided through the Secretary of State, who has what may be termed

[Mr. Stephenson.]

a reversionary interest in them. And apart from the interest thus possessed by the Government in the working of the railway company, a definite safeguard has been provided in the Act in the provision that the tolls and charges to be imposed at the jetties shall not be modified without the express approval of the Railway Board, who will consult the Local Government before making any changes in the rates at which such charges are to be levied. The compulsory clauses have been accepted by the Port Commissioners, among whom the commercial interests of Chittagong are strongly represented, and they will be later on subjected to careful consideration in Select Committee. And I may note here that the chief reason why I am only asking leave on the present occasion for the introduction of this Bill, and do not propose to move that it shall also be referred to a Select Committee, is that we wish to give ample time for the consideration by members of the whole Bill, and that we wish to secure also the services of a member of the European commercial community of Chittagong as an expert member of the Select Committee to assist us in the detailed consideration of its provisions.

I believe that the Bill will command the approval of this Council, and I now beg to move for leave to introduce it."

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE BENGAL MEDICAL BILL, 1913.

The Hon'ble MR. STEPHENSON moved for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the registration of medical practitioners in Bengal.

He said—"My Lord, I ask for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the registration of medical practitioners in Bengal. The question of a Medical Registration Act in India was first raised by the Government of Bombay in 1882, but the Bengal Government at that time considered that the question raised was really one of prevention of the unauthorised practice of medicine, and as this was not within the range of practical politics, they were not prepared to proceed with the legislation then proposed. Since then the situation has been completely changed by the growth of unrecognized medical schools and colleges which have conferred degrees purporting to guarantee the possession of an efficient knowledge and training in the practice of the western schools of medicine. The demand for a Medical Registration Act grew stronger and stronger and culminated in 1908, when the Faculty of Medicine of the Calcutta University, the Council of the Medical College, the Medical Section of the Asiatic Society and the Medical Graduates of the University all approached Government insisting on the urgent need of legislation. The grounds for this demand were threefold: *firstly*, the system of western medicine is only starting to spread in India, and it is essential at the outset that it shall not fall into disrepute owing to the want of training or qualifications on the part of those who purport to be its exponents; *secondly*, as the authorised degrees and licenses connote a definite training and knowledge of a fixed standard, the public have a right to a reasonable opportunity of readily distinguishing those medical men who have received this training and teaching; and *thirdly*, the holders of authorised degrees have a right to be protected from a competition which is unfair in so far as it relies upon the inability of the public to distinguish between authorised and unauthorised degrees. Since 1908, the question has been under discussion, and the delay has been so far advantageous that we are able to make use of the experience of Bombay where a Medical Registration Act, on which the present Bill is largely based, has been passed and has been working for some time. If we may judge from the speeches at the farewell of the late Surgeon-General of Bombay, we need have no doubt about the utility of the Bill or apprehensions as to its working.

The main object of the Bill then is to distinguish those practitioners who have received the teaching and training that are accepted as being adequate. The central feature is the register of such practitioners, and a Medical Council with a Registrar is set up to compile this register and to keep it efficiently up to date. The Council consists of 9 members, 4 of whom are *ex-officio* and 5 elected; though, as one of the electing bodies is the Medical College Council, there will probably always be an official majority. The

[Babu Surendra Nath Banerji.]

powers of the Council are confined to matters affecting the compiling of the register, but it is hoped that if the Bill is successful, the Council will in time form a most powerful instrument for the advancement of the medical profession. In order to encourage those who are entitled to it to claim registration, it is provided that where an Act in force in Bengal requires a certificate by a medical practitioner, the privilege of giving such certificate shall be confined to registered practitioners. There is only one penalty clause in the Bill, and that is the necessary provision for punishment for falsely pretending to be a registered practitioner.

In view of the misconceptions as to the scope of the Act disclosed in the proceedings when the Bombay Act was discussed in Council, I wish to make it quite clear that this Act does not interfere with the practice of medicine by any person whatever. Its only effect is to create a register of the names of medical practitioners who are in possession of degrees which in the opinion of Government are a sufficient guarantee of training and qualifications. It does not prevent the public from utilising the services of any practitioner they please, but it does give them an opportunity of knowing which practitioners hold authorised degrees."

The motion was put and agreed to.

RESOLUTIONS

(under the rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest).

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI to move the following resolution :—

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that—

- (i) the collection of Government revenue in the areas affected by the recent flood be suspended until the end of March 1914, and that the said revenue be subsequently realized in five yearly instalments, on the understanding that the same concession is extended by all zamindars to intermediate land-holders and actual cultivators ; and
- (ii) the same principle be applied to the collection of rents in the Government *khas mahals*.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said :—

"My Lord, with reference to the resolution which stands against my name, I desire to congratulate the Government on the action which has already been taken. The Hon'ble Mr. Lyon was recently on a visit to Contai and the flooded area, and from the official *communiqué*, which has appeared in to-day's morning papers, I understand that the orders which he has passed are such as will commend themselves to the strong approbation of public opinion. In the first place, he has directed the suspension and remission, where necessary, of rents in the *khas mahals* and temporarily-settled estates according to the rules of Government. Practically, therefore, he has gone beyond the resolution which I had ventured to suggest to this Council, and, as regards the first part of the resolution, I understand from the same official *communiqué* that the matter is under consideration. That being so, I desire to congratulate Your Excellency's Government and beg leave to withdraw my resolution."

The motion was then, by leave of the President, withdrawn.

The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerji moved the following resolution :—

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council the appointment of a mixed commission of official and non-official members of the Council to

[*Babu Surendra Nath Banerji.*]

inquire into, and report upon, the prevalence of dacoity in the Presidency, and to recommend such preventive and remedial measures as may be thought necessary.

He said—"My Lord, this question of the prevalence of dacoity in this Presidency has been the subject of keen and animated discussion both in the newspapers in this country as well as in England. Hon'ble Members are aware that Government have recently appointed a Commission to enquire into the existing machinery of district administration. The Commission is exclusively official in its composition, and what is more, of the five of the members of this Committee, three are gentlemen who belong to the Indian Civil Service outside this province. The resolution definitely states the object of this Committee, and suggests what the Committee has to do. The Committee has to concert measures so as to bring the executive officers of Government into closer contact with the people. The belief prevailing in some quarters is that by reason of the permanent settlement the Bengal officials are not so familiar with the people as are the officials in other parts of India. The Committee is not left without guidance as to some of the measures which they might consider for the attainment of the object which they have in view. Amongst them are the partition of districts and the multiplication of subordinate official agencies. The discretion of the Committee, however, is not fettered; the Committee is at liberty to consider any other proposals which may be laid before it. I hope and trust that among the proposals which the Committee will take into consideration is one which has been pressed upon public attention in this province with some little emphasis, namely, the creation of Advisory Boards, consisting of representative men, to advise and counsel the District Magistrate in regard to the discharge of his executive duties. My Lord, this is a proposal which, I believe, was for the first time broached by Sir Herbert Roberts from his place in the House of Commons in 1906 in the amendment to the address to the Throne which he moved. This was pressed before the Supreme Legislative Council by the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale, and this principle has been accepted by the Decentralization Commission which has recommended the wider acceptance by District officers of the practice (which has been followed by some) of consulting District Boards as their Advisory Councils.

My Lord, my Committee is much less comprehensive in its scope; it refers in a special degree to a matter which will only incidentally engage the attention of the larger Committee, and it consists of officials and non-officials. My Lord, I am anxious, through the medium of my resolution, to concentrate attention upon an evil which has attracted a large measure of public interest, and which, I am sorry to have to say, has cast a slur upon the fair fame of our province. The Hon'ble Sir William Duke, than whom there is no greater authority in a matter of this kind, in the course of the speech that he delivered in April last in this Council, gave us some facts with reference to the prevalence of dacoities which are useful and interesting. He said that in 1910 the number of dacoities in the eastern districts of Bengal was 179, in 1911 the number rose to 181, and in 1912 there was a drop and the number fell to 130. My Lord, in the light of these facts we are driven to the conclusion that there is a considerable element of exaggeration in the ideas prevalent on the subject in England and in this country. The Hon'ble Sir William Duke's authority is indisputable, but the exaggerations continue, and they have been accentuated by the recent anarchical crimes. My Lord, we deeply deplore them. We hold them in horror and detestation, as involving a stigma on the law-abiding character of our people and also as doing grave injury to our public interests. My Lord, it is said that we do not aid the police and authorities to the extent that we ought to. I think that the Hon'ble Sir William Duke has given us the answer, and I quote his words. In the speech, to which I have already adverted, he said: 'I am very willing to believe that in the large majority of cases the dacoits, not being known to the people, they can give very little help.' That, My Lord, states it a nut-shell the whole situation. These men, these dacoits, these anarchists, do not take the people into their confidence; they do not take even those near and dear to them into their confidence. In one case, the

[Babu Surendra Nath Banerji.]

father was entirely ignorant of his son's doings; in several others, the relatives were profoundly in the dark as to the proceedings of the conspirators. Point out to us—this is my appeal to our critics—what we have to do to suppress or prevent these dacoities, these anarchical crimes, and we shall do it with alacrity and enthusiasm. Show us the way and let it only be practical and reasonable, and we shall follow it. How can you expect us, helpless, defenceless and unarmed people, to assist the police in combating mauraders armed with deadly weapons? I am reminded of a statement which appeared the other day in a newspaper and which was suggestive and instructive alike. There were some cases of dacoity in the Midnapore district where some of our young men were at work in connection with the relief operations. The Magistrate asked them to help the police and the authorities. What was the reply given by the young men? 'Give us arms and we will fight the dacoits; unarmed we cannot fight men provided with deadly weapons.' The difficulty of the situation is this, and it has to be realized by those who find fault with us, namely, that the people are unarmed and defenceless, but that the dacoits can get any amount of arms they like. The Government are prepared, very properly as I think, to give out arms to suitable persons; but as the Hon'ble Sir William Duke has pointed out in the speech, from which, I am afraid, I am making very large quotations, these arms are a dangerous possession and an incentive to the dacoits to attack those who possess them and deprive them of their weapons at any time. Is it not possible—and this is the suggestion which I venture to make to the Government—to train, say, half a dozen men in every considerable village or every group of villages in the use of fire-arms? They will afford protection to their co-villagers, and what is more important the fact will be known to all the country people, and when it is known the dacoits will be more careful. Add to the police if you will, but let me ask you, are the police likely to be efficient without popular co-operation. My Lord, I may, for a moment, be permitted to advert to an instance of popular co-operation, which, judging by the results, was admirably successful. Hon'ble Members will remember that in the height of the excitement in the years 1907 and 1908 the passenger trains running from Sealdah were exposed to serious danger; bombs used to be thrown at them. There were several cases. I am a resident of Barrackpore, and I am proud to be one. What did we do? We formed ourselves into a vigilance committee. The mill industries and several Europeans joined it. We formed ourselves into sub-committees, and we kept watch and ward on every movement that took place in every village; we kept watch and ward over every stranger who went to a village and every stranger who left a village. We raised subscriptions and we went further and offered the Government of the late Sir Edward Baker to police the line from Barrackpore to Naihati with our men, but the offer was declined. But what happened? Our activities were followed by the immediate cessation of these outrages. My Lord, I do not know whether I am entitled to link them as cause and effect; but the fact is indisputable that, as soon as our organizations were placed upon a satisfactory working order, these outrages ceased. My Lord, our critics tell us, the *Times* being one of them—that we are wanting in civic spirit. We have only to quote an instance like the above. We have only to cast our eyes across the waters and see what is taking place in South Africa in evidence of the fact that we possess, in an abundant degree, the civic spirit which we are told we do not possess. If, by civic spirit, we mean the dignity, the self-respecting spirit of the citizen, the consciousness of his obligations to his fellow-citizens and to the state to which he belongs, then I say this, that my countrymen possess it in an abundant degree. Has the history of the world presented a nobler spectacle of the civic spirit, of courage, of endurance, of absolute submission to the law and its penalties, in order to amend the law, than we are witnessing in South Africa? The display of the civic spirit, has extorted the admiration of the highest personages in the realm, including His Excellency the Viceroy, to whom we are all very grateful for his outspoken praise of the Indians in South Africa, and, I venture to add, that His Excellency has done a service to India and the Empire, the magnitude of which it would be difficult to exaggerate.

[Sir William Duke.]

My Lord, we hear a great deal about political dacoities ; but dacoities are dacoities, whether they be political or otherwise. The conscience and the judgment of mankind make no difference between them. I venture to think that political dacoities occupy a lower moral plane, because they are committed by men who ought to know better, who add to their criminality by seeking to sanctify their guilt by an appeal to higher considerations. I believe that is only an insignificant fraction of the dacoities that are political in their character. I am sure my Hon'ble friend in charge of the department will be able to enlighten us on the point, and dissipate the mischievous delusion that political dacoits are abroad in the eastern districts scouring the country in their countless gangs and spreading desolation and horror all around.

We are anxious to co-operate with your Excellency's Government in solving the great question which awaits you. It is in this spirit that I have ventured to submit this resolution for the acceptance of this Council and your Excellency's Government. We are anxious to help Government in the arduous task that lies before them. We want to proclaim to the world that we do not wish to stand aloof, but that we are eager to share with the Government their anxieties for the protection of the public peace which is menaced by these dacoities, and therefore the recommendation which I have made is a recommendation for the appointment of a mixed commission of officials and non-officials to report on the situation and to suggest remedial measures. Such a commission would command public confidence, and its recommendations would carry great weight ; it would be a striking example of co-operation between the people and the Government, and above all it would be the sign and symbol of the new régime and the new policy, and it is for these reasons that I have ventured to recommend this resolution for the acceptance of this Council."

The Hon'ble SIR WILLIAM DUKE said :—

"My Lord, the Hon'ble Mover of the resolution spoke on some subjects of considerable public importance but perhaps of not very strict relevance to the actual subject of his resolution. I do not propose to follow him afield, and I shall confine myself strictly to the main point, the question of the prevalence of dacoity in Bengal and the measures which he proposes with regard to it.

No one can have a keener interest in the subject of this resolution than the Government, for not only are they interested in preventing loss and damage of every kind to the people and in the maintenance of law and order, but every Government must feel that its reputation and that of all its members and its officers charged with the administration of justice and police depends upon the degree of success which it attains in this respect. I have already stated in this Council, and I repeat it, that it would be a blot on the civilization of any country that organized gang robbery should occur in it with impunity and so far as this is the case the Government of Bengal has cause for dissatisfaction and indeed for shame.

The Council may therefore take it that we are not likely to reject lightly any suggestion which might help to its extirpation. We are indeed open to consider every reasonable proposal to that end, whatever its source, and if we do not accept the Hon'ble Member's resolution, he must take it that it is because we are sincerely convinced that his proposals do not afford the promise of any effective progress towards the diminution of such offences.

I looked forward, with considerable interest, to the Hon'ble Member's speech in order to ascertain whether his views as to the prevalence of dacoity in Bengal were in any way affected by the constant discussions which have occurred in the press on the subject of political dacoity.

I should like to point out, at the outset, that political dacoity, important subject as it is can hardly be said to have anything to do with the prevalence of dacoity in Bengal. In the five years from 1908

[Sir William Duke.]

to 1912, 1,511 cases were reported in Bengal. Of these 54 were political. Reporting is believed to be now much better than it was a few years ago, but even so, it is possible that some dacoities went unreported. There is, however, I think, little chance that any political dacoity was unreported or was not identified as such. These cases are so peculiar in their character, and have so many incidents never found in ordinary professional crime that there is very little chance of their being mistaken. We may take it therefore that the proportion of political to ordinary cases is certainly no higher than I have stated, *i.e.*, not more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. What are known as political dacoities, that is to say, dacoities committed by young men of the *bhadralok* class working apparently under a very widespread organization are important for very different reasons than their numbers. They are important, because of the spirit of violent opposition to all settled Government which they display, of the widespread and carefully prepared organization of which they give evidence and of the enterprise and success with which they are carried out. Ordinary dacoits frequently make bad shots and risk long terms of imprisonment for the sake of a handful of rupees, but the political variety have been wonderfully successful in spotting likely subjects and have frequently netted very large sums indeed. Still, important as the subject is, it has little to do with the prevalence of dacoity to which the Hon'ble Member's resolution is directed. So far as the subject is concerned with the relations between the Government and the people, it will no doubt come under the notice of the District Administration Committee, although, that Committee is no more concerned with dacoity than with any other important question of administration in the Presidency, and we cannot well trench at present on the ground which will be covered by that Committee, but in any case, I think I have shown that the subject is hardly relevant to the resolution in the form in which it has been proposed.

Turning now to ordinary or professional dacoity, the matter is sufficiently serious. In Bengal, during the last five years, the average annual number of cases has been about 300. In 1912, it was very much less; in the current year, there will apparently be more than in 1912 but fewer than in the previous years. It is a curious circumstance that, bad as this condition may seem, intrinsically it is nothing like so bad as the state of things in other great provinces of India such as Madras and the United Provinces. In 1911, 417 dacoities were reported in Madras and 554 in the United Provinces; in 1912, 464 dacoities in Madras and 511 in the United Provinces. As the population of these provinces is smaller than that of Bengal, dacoities were more frequent in them in proportion to population to the extent of $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 times. Yet we hear very little about this serious state of things, probably because these provinces, fortunately for them, are free from the political variety, so that public opinion is not aroused. The fact that the condition in other provinces is much worse, would, however, be no excuse for neglecting the matter in Bengal. But I am in a position to assure the Council that it has not been neglected and is not being neglected.

In past years, our police has undoubtedly been weak in certain parts of the province, notably in East Bengal. Under the Eastern Bengal Reorganization scheme which has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State, we are establishing more than 50 new investigating centres in that part of the Province.

The completion of the new river police and of the arrangements for station and patrol boats in the river districts proceeds steadily and appears already to have had a great effect in checking river dacoity. A number of river posts has also been established as part of the jute protection scheme. Similarly, with police patrols on land these have been established in portions of the Dacca, Faridpur, 24-Parganas, Midnapur, Howrah, Hooghly, Bankura and Birbhum districts, and are being further extended. In certain parts of the country, defence parties have been organized. The intention of these arrangements is that on an alarm being given, villagers should rally to a fixed point and then oppose a united front to the dacoits. The Council are aware that in East Bengal some hundreds of Government guns had been

[Sir William Duke.]

distributed to selected villagers. The result, however, has been disappointing, for instance, when a dacoity occurred at Midarpur in the Tangail subdivision of Mymensingh, there were three Government guns in the village, but no attempt was made to use them, and it is to be feared that however freely weapons were licensed, there would be little disposition on the part of the ordinary villagers to use them against dacoits. Government has therefore especially encouraged wealthy persons likely to be the object of attack to keep durwans of a class trained and habituated to the use of arms and has promised that licenses would be freely granted for these.

I may mention, in this connection, a further encouragement to show a bold front to dacoits. Considerable rewards have been offered for the capture of dacoits in the act and much larger rewards when they are armed. Although it is a difficult crime to detect, because the dacoits are seldom identified at the time and because even when property is recovered it does not follow that any one else except the person who is found in possession of it will be convicted, yet the measure of success attained is by no means negligible, and in some cases clever and courageous captures have been effected, as for instance when a gang of North-West Frontier men who had committed a dacoity in Satkhira were captured *en masse* in Basirhat, a result which was only attained by prompt, concerted and courageous action on the part of all concerned from the Subdivisional Officer and the police to the panchayats and chaukidars.

The Criminal Investigation Department contains a number of men who are experts on dacoity, and the standing orders are that each case with its salient features should be reported by telegraph to that department in order that from their expert knowledge they may advise as to the most probable direction to look for the criminals. Dacoity is emphatically a matter for experts. The criminals of different districts and of different gangs vary in their methods of procedure, their disguises, their cries and the expressions they use, and the expert is not infrequently able from such indications to suggest the actual gang to which the criminals belong.

As I said a little while ago, dacoity is an extremely difficult offence for which to obtain convictions, because persons can so seldom be identified on the spot, but a gang can hardly pursue the trade for any length of time without becoming known to an expert police engaged in hunting it, and the most successful means of keeping the crime in check has been found to be by proceeding against such gangs as they become known. At present, the bad livelihood sections of the Criminal Procedure Code are being worked with great energy and considerable success. No less than 19 gangs have been attacked under them during the current year.

Another resource for the discomfiture of professional dacoits is the Criminal Tribes' Act. Under it one notorious tribe and another gang of hereditary professional dacoits have been notified during the current year, and 12 other tribes or gangs are at present under inquiry.

I think I have shown that the activity of Government and the police for the prevention of this form of crime is being pushed not in one but in many directions. I have enumerated only some of the principal. I confess that I have some degree of doubt as to the amount of assistance which in matters so technical is likely to be obtained from persons who have not a first-hand acquaintance with the facts. The subject is often enough ventilated in the public press, including the powerful organ which the Hon'ble Mover of the resolution controls; but the only suggestion which is generally pressed is that licenses under the Arms Act should be granted more freely. As the weapons which already exist in thousands in the different districts are practically never used against dacoits, and as the latter, who are probably a good deal more courageous than the general run of the population, have been successful in many cases in stealing arms and so improving their equipment, it is probable that if the number of weapons in the country were increased, they would still be rarely used for defence, while the dacoits would have still greater opportunities and become still better armed than before. For the rest

[Mr. Chakravarti; Babu Surendra Nath Banerji.]

the Hon'ble gentleman's main suggestion is that the public have no assistance to give, and that they look to Government for a lead. When suggestions of value are made, and there are ample opportunities for making them, Government will be only too ready to consider them, and, if in doubt as to their applicability, to consult the opinion of qualified members of the public or of the Council upon them. In the meantime, I think the Hon'ble Mover and the Council would be well advised to leave Government to pursue the various lines which it has in hand, which have already had no small measure of success and which promise, if pursued steadily, to impose a very real and effective check upon an extremely exasperating and scandalous form of crime."

The Hon'ble Mr. CHAKRAVARTI said :—

"I had no intention of taking part in this debate, but I feel that, after the explanation given by the Hon'ble Sir William Duke, my friend, the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerji, will see his way to withdraw this resolution. We were, I frankly confess, under a certain amount of misapprehension with regard to what we noticed by way of criticism in the papers as to what our conduct ought to be in connection with crime, and specially political crimes—and when I use the expression 'political crimes,' I refer to political decoities. But it appears from the information that has been given that the percentage of political dacoities is only 3 to 3½. On the other hand, about 96½ per cent. are ordinary dacoities, which have existed in the country as long as I have lived, and probably longer. In these circumstances I think it would be of no use at all to have a commission of official and non-official Members of this Council to inquire into and report upon the dacoities which have existed, and with which the Government in previous years have coped, and with which the Government are now coping and for the prevention of which the Government are taking various measures; and if there is no breach of confidence, I might say that with regard to the amount of expenditure which is being provided for the equipment of the police, whether it is river police or land police, and the amount of money which is being spent for their residences and so on, probably the action which is being taken by the Government will be successful in future; and in all events I do not fancy, however clever we may be, that we shall anywhere near the expert police officers who have been advising, and who will be able to advise the Government, with regard to the detection of dacoity. Therefore in those circumstances, I sincerely hope that my friend will see his way not to press this resolution upon the attention of the Council, but will perceive that, in point of fact, it is really a resolution which he has moved under a misapprehension, because I frankly confess that it was thought in this part of the house that we were being blamed for not taking any action for the purpose of co-operating with Government in connection with political dacoity."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said :—

"My Lord, I cannot say that I have been quite convinced by the facts and figures, and the arguments, which have been brought forward by the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department. In the course of his observations he said that the Government would be pleased to receive suggestions that might be made by individuals with regard to the prevalence of dacoities, and that those suggestions would be very carefully considered. I have not the slightest doubt that they would be, but it seems to me that if we had a committee inquiring specially into this matter there would be more numerous suggestions, and more responsible suggestions, coming from authoritative quarters, and the Government would be in a better position to consider them and form their decision upon better and ampler material. I think that that argument seems to me to point to a conclusion very reverse of what the Hon'ble Member would like to suggest, having regard to the fact that you do not want this committee, the object of which was to help the Government, there is no reason why we should press it upon you. We were anxious to help the Government in the matter in which we thought Government might require help."

[Babu Mahendra Nath Ray; Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda.]

have said :— 'We don't want your help.' We have no desire to thrust ourselves upon the Government if the Government do not want any aid or co-operation from us, and that is our situation ; and in these circumstances, we have no desire to press the resolution upon you. But let it go forth to the world, let it be reiterated, that we were, from this side of the house at any rate, anxious to help the Government, that we made a suggestion which we thought a good suggestion in the circumstances, and if that suggestion is not accepted the responsibility is no longer ours. Let it not be said that we stood aloof from the Government, that we did not want to share with the Government their anxieties for the maintenance of the public tranquillity. We offered help, and if the Government will not accept that offer the fault is no longer ours. With those observations, My Lord, I beg to withdraw this resolution."

The resolution was accordingly, by leave of the President, withdrawn.

The Hon'ble BABU MAHENDRA RAY said :—

"My Lord, the Resolution which stands in my name runs thus :—

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that every Rural Board in the Presidency be directed to set apart a minimum percentage, to be fixed by Government of the Public Works Cess surrendered to them, with effect from April 1913, for expenditure on sanitation and water-supply."

Some time ago, Your Excellency's Government impressed upon the Rural Boards the necessity of improving sanitation and water-supply. The complaint was made, and, I believe, rightly made, that the funds placed at their disposal were not adequate. Since that time Your Excellency's Government have, with the sanction of the Imperial Government, placed several lakhs of rupees at the disposal of these Rural Boards. The time, I therefore venture to think, has come when Government should take the power of reserving a portion of this large sum of money for expenditure on improved sanitation and water-supply. I must admit—or I must confess—and people of the experience of District Boards will perhaps agree with me,—that a majority of District Boards represented by their Chairmen are not yet fully alive to the necessity of improved sanitation and water-supply in the areas under their jurisdiction. This apathy no doubt arises from the fact that there is a want—a conspicuous want—of district schemes for the improvement of sanitation and water-supply—schemes which have been found in practice very difficult to devise and frame. They find it easier to spend money upon communications and other purposes, very useful in themselves, than to devise comprehensive schemes for the improvement of water-supply and sanitation. I venture, therefore, to suggest in these circumstances, that Your Excellency's Government will approve of the principle involved in this Resolution. There is, however, one matter which has not escaped my notice. Before Government can take the power of reserving a portion of the Public Works Cess surrendered to the rural authorities, the Cess Act may have to be amended. Your Excellency has just informed us that it is in contemplation to introduce a bill to amend the present Cess Act; and, that being so, perhaps at this stage, I should not press this Resolution, and I would accordingly with Your Excellency's leave, beg to withdraw it."

The Resolution was then by leave of the President withdrawn.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA, said :—

My Lord, I would beg, with Your Excellency's permission, to make a statement which will probably cut short the discussion on the next step of business—that is, the resolution to be moved by the Hon'ble Sri Mohan Chandra Bahadur. It is likely to be within the recollection of this Council that on the 1st September, which is rather a memorable day, when the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Ray had the credit of defeating the Government over a resolution which he had on that day moved, while opposing that resolution in the form in which it was made, the Government had in view would be to reconstitute the Sanitation

[Rai Hari Mohan Chandra Bahadur ; His Excellency ;
Maulvi A. K. Faz-ul-Haq.]

Board in such a way as to include in it a certain number of non-official members. This offer was not at that time accepted, and the resolution for the constitution of an Advisory Board consisting of official and non-official members was carried. After this resolution was carried we considered the matter, and we thought that a case had been made out for some opportunity being given to non-official members to advise Government, and the question received a certain amount of impetus from a resolution of which we got notice from the Hon'ble Rai Hari Mohan Chandra Bahadur.

We have, my Lord, reconstituted the Sanitary Board. We have added three non-official members to that Board, two of whom are Indians, and one a mill representative, and we have also revised the rules relating to conduct of business by the Sanitary Board, and, I believe, having regard to what we have already done, that my Hon'ble friend Rai Hari Mohan Chandra Bahadur will not think it necessary to press his motion."

The Hon'ble RAI HARI MOHAN CHANDRA BAHADUR, said :—

"My Lord, as the Government orders have already been published enlarging the constitution of the Sanitary Board practically on the lines suggested by me in my resolution, with Your Lordship's permission, I beg to withdraw the resolution."

The Resolution, below, was accordingly by leave of the President withdrawn.

The Hon'ble Rai Hari Mohan Chandra Bahadur to move the following resolution :—

This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that the existing Sanitary Board of this Presidency be enlarged by the addition of non-official Indians, to whom should be specially assigned the duty of—

- (i) advising the District Boards and Municipalities as to the drawing up of schemes for the sanitary improvement and medical relief of, and for the provision of an improved water-supply for, the areas comprised within their jurisdiction, and
- (ii) subsequently assisting the said bodies to give effect to any of the schemes aforesaid to which Government sanction may be accorded.

HIS EXCELLENCY—

Under rule 10 of the Resolution Rules, I postpone the moving of the resolution below to the next meeting of Council.

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Faz-ul-Haq to move the following resolution :—

The Council recommends to the Governor in Council that—

- (i) steps be taken to place specially selected Muhammadan Inspectors in charge of Muhammadan education in all the Divisions of the Presidency, and
- (ii) the orders recalling the special Inspectors in charge of Muhammadan education to general duty be withdrawn.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council was then adjourned to Tuesday, the 13th January, 1914, at 11 A.M.

CALCUTTA ;

A. W. WATSON,

6th December, 1913.

Secretary to the Bengal Legislature