

budget head and sub-head under which expenditure has been made.	Nature of scheme.	ESTIMATE OF ULTIMATE MAXIMUM COST.			ESTIMATE OF EXPENDITURE IN 1913-14.			REMARKS.
		Non-recur- ring.	Recurring	Total.	Non-recur- ring	Recurring	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>h.—Police—concluded.</i>		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Police—River	Re-organization of River Police, Dacca	6,28,015	1,61,825	7,89,870	3,00,000	1,49,555	4,49,555	The cost during the year 1912-13 is— Rs. Recurring ... 73,640 Non-recurring ... 6,000 Total ... 79,648  It has been decided to provide in the next year's budget Rs. 4,49,555.
Ditto	Station boat scheme	...	58,709	58,709	.....	45,000	45,000	Rs. Faridpur and Dacca (already sanctioned) ... 27,626 Tippera and Mymensingh (do.) ... 13,641 Addition for Faridpur, Dacca and Barisal ... 17,442 Total ... 58,709  It is proposed to allow Rs. 45,000 in 1913-14 against Rs. 30,000 sanctioned in 1912-13. These boats are most useful and the reduction of crime must be largely attributed to them.
Ditto	Re-organization of the Dacca and Hooghly Military Police.	11,253	8,429	19,682	11,253	8,429	19,682	This is for the re-organization of the Dacca Military Police battalion and for converting the Hooghly Military Company into a Jharua Company and amalgamating it with the Dacca battalion. The cost is for recruitment of sepoy, purchase of kits, armoury and ammunitions, etc.
Total Police	.....	12,07,767	7,66,272	19,74,039	6,11,932	5,35,296	11,47,228	

Direction	...	Re-organisation of the office of the Director of Public Instruction.	.....	25,186	25,186	.....	9,480	9,480	The proposal is under consideration. In 1913-14 it has been proposed to give— Rs. 6,000 for Director of Public Instruction's office 3,000 for the office of the Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan education. 480 for probationers to be made permanent.  <u>9,480</u>
Inspection	...	Re-grading of Sub-Inspectors.	... ..	12,000	12,000	...	12,000	12,000	This is for re-grading the subordinate inspecting staff. The scheme is not yet ready.
Government Professional.	Colleges,	An additional Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering College.	. ...	6,000	6,000	.....	6,000	6,000	This is intended for the creation of an Indian Educational Service appointment for the Civil Engineering College in place of an appointment in the Provincial Educational Service which will be available on Mr. Bruhl's retirement
Government General—	Schools,	New preparatory class in the Dow Hill School.	... ..	6,450	6,450	.....	6,450	6,450	This is a sort of preparatory class for small boys in the girls' school before they are transferred to boys' school. The details are— Rs. Boarding charges ... 4,672 Servants ... 528 Prize and library allowance ... 50 Contingencies ... 300 Apparatus ... 300 Nurse-matron ... 600  Total ... 6,450
Government Special—	Schools, Normal Schools	Re-organisation of 1st grade Training Schools.	.....	6,800	6,800	.....	6,800	6,800	As the sanctioned budget for 1912-13 which included the amount in full was not issued till July when the training school session was far advanced the full amount has not been appropriated, but it is proposed to give effect to the scheme at once.



Major budget head and sub-head under which provision has been made.	Nature of scheme.	ESTIMATE OF ULTIMATE MAXIMUM COST.			ESTIMATE OF EXPENDITURE IN 1913-14.			REMARKS.
		Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Total.	Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
<b>SS.—Education—continued.</b>								
<b>Government Schools, Special—continued.</b>	Reforming the system of training in Eastern Bengal districts.	.....	29,000	29,000	.....	29,000	29,000	The non-recurring charges for equipment and building will be met from the Imperial grant. It is only for recurring charges that a provision is necessary. The scheme was approved by the Secretary of State and will be brought into operation as funds permit. It is proposed to start ten schools next year and the details of the charges are as below:— <div style="text-align: right;">           Rs.            Staff ... .. 24,000            House-rent ... .. 1,000            Substitutes of teachers to be trained ... .. 4,000  <hr/>           29,000         </div>
<b>Ditto ... ..</b>	Provincialization of Victoria Technical Institute, Chittagong, and Diamond Jubilee Industrial School.	23,400	14,775	38,175	10,600	.....	10,600	The Director of Public Instruction asks for the provision of Rs. 11,600 (non-recurring Rs. 4,200 and recurring Rs. 7,400) for Victoria Technical Institute. Until the building is completed recurring charges will not be necessary. The proposal is to provide Rs. 2,200 for non-recurring charges in 1913-14. The Director of Public Instruction asks for provision of Rs. 15,775 (non-recurring Rs. 8,400 and recurring Rs. 7,375) for Diamond Jubilee Industrial School. Until the building is completed recurring charges will not be necessary. The proposal is to provide Rs. 8,400 for non-recurring only in 1913-14.
<b>Ditto ... ..</b>	Improvement of Madrasahs, Eastern Bengal districts.	.....	15,000	15,000	.....	5,000	5,000	The scheme is under the consideration of Government and a small provision of Rs. 5,000 is made here to give effect to the scheme partially.

Engineering and Survey Schools.	Survey Schools	...	75,000	10,000	85,000	40,000	10,000	50,000	This is on account of opening new survey schools under the Director of Surveys, Bengal and Assam. At the request of the Director of Surveys a lump provision of Rs. 50,000 has been made.
Miscellaneous	Supply of maps	...	16,000	.....	16,000	16,000	.....	16,000	This is for the supply of school maps. The Director of Surveys wants Rs. 6,000 each year for five years at present and the balance Rs. 10,000 is wanted by the Director of Public Instruction for the supply of maps to certain schools, etc.
Total Education	...	...	1,14,400	1,25,211	2,39,611	66,600	84,730	1,51,330	
<i>4.—Medical.</i>									
Medical establishment, Superintendence.	Appointment of an Indian Medical Service Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals.	.....	.....	10,800	10,800	...	9,600	9,600	
Medical Schools and Colleges	Professor of Physics and an Assistant Professor of Physics and Chemistry, Medical College, Calcutta.	.....	.....	15,300	15,300	...	8,400	8,400	<div>Rs.</div> <div>Pay of Professor of Physics ... 420</div> <div>Pay of Assistant Professors (180 + 100) ... 280</div> <hr/> <div>700 × 12 = 8,400</div>
Ditto	Lieutenant-Colonel Sutherland's Special Serological work.	32,000	.....	32,000	20,000	.....	20,000	20,000	<div>Rs.</div> <div>Dr. Sutherland's salary (1,650 + 150) ... 1,950</div> <div>Pay of Assistant Surgeon (150 + 50) ... 200</div> <div>Servants ... 27</div> <hr/> <div>2,177</div> <div>Rs.</div> <div>For seven months 15,189</div> <div>Working expenses 1,876</div> <hr/> <div>17,065</div> <div>Contingencies, etc. 2,945</div> <hr/> <div>20,000</div> <div>The charge for five months will appear in 1912-13</div>

Major budget head and sub-head under which provision has been made.	Nature of scheme.	ESTIMATE OF ULTIMATE MAXIMUM COST.			ESTIMATE OF EXPENDITURE IN 1913-14.			REMARKS.																																
		Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Total.	Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Total.																																	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																
24.—Medical—concluded.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.																																	
Medical Schools and Colleges—continued.	Allowances to the Resident Surgeon and Resident Physician, Medical College Hospital.	.....	7,200	7,200	.. ..	7,200	7,200	<div style="text-align: right;">Rs. 2 Resident Surgeons at 200      400 1 Resident Physician at 200      200 <hr/>Total ...      600 × 12 <hr/>7,200</div>																																
Hospitals and Dispensaries	Appointment of additional nurses in the Campbell Hospital.	.....	5,280	5,280	.....	5,280	5,280	<p>This is required in consideration of the large amount of teaching work they have to do in connection with the college.</p> <p>The Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals wanted an allowance of Rs. 100 per month for the Apothecary, but this has not been approved.</p> <p>It is proposed to appoint six additional nurses on the following rates of pay and allowances:—</p> <table><tr><td></td><td>Pay.</td><td>Diet allowance.</td><td>Lodging allowance.</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Rs.</td><td></td><td>Rs.</td></tr><tr><td>1 Nurse for operation ...</td><td>60</td><td>+ 15</td><td>+ 20</td></tr><tr><td>1 Assistant to matron ...</td><td>50</td><td>+ 15</td><td>+ 20</td></tr><tr><td>1 Ditto ...</td><td>30</td><td>+ 15</td><td>+ 20</td></tr><tr><td>3 Nurses ...</td><td>90</td><td>+ 45</td><td>+ 60</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>230</td><td>+ 90</td><td>+ 120</td></tr><tr><td></td><td colspan="3">= 440 × 12 = 5,280</td></tr></table> <div style="text-align: right;">Rs. 3 Deputy Sanitary Commissioners      22,000 Establishment ...      3,000 <hr/>25,000</div>		Pay.	Diet allowance.	Lodging allowance.		Rs.		Rs.	1 Nurse for operation ...	60	+ 15	+ 20	1 Assistant to matron ...	50	+ 15	+ 20	1 Ditto ...	30	+ 15	+ 20	3 Nurses ...	90	+ 45	+ 60		230	+ 90	+ 120		= 440 × 12 = 5,280		
	Pay.	Diet allowance.	Lodging allowance.																																					
	Rs.		Rs.																																					
1 Nurse for operation ...	60	+ 15	+ 20																																					
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3 Nurses ...	90	+ 45	+ 60																																					
	230	+ 90	+ 120																																					
	= 440 × 12 = 5,280																																							
Sanitation and vaccination	Three new Deputy Sanitary Commissioners and their establishments.	... ..	25,000	25,000	.....	25,000	25,000	<p>One of these officers will be from the Indian Medical Service.</p> <p>This has already been sanctioned by the Government of India.</p> <p>They will be posted to Dacca, Rajshahi and Burdwan Circles.</p>																																

Ditto	...	Contribution towards the pay of 1st and 2nd class Health officers.		26,100	26,100	.....	26,100	26,100	The entertainment of six 1st class and 17 2nd class Health officers has been sanctioned on the understanding that Government will contribute half the pay of these officers, and the municipalities to which they will be attached would bear the other half. This amount represents the Government share of the pay of these officers, which the Government of India have promised to contribute.
Ditto	...	Jungle clearing	50,000	..	50,000	50,000	.....	50,000	This amount has already been paid by the governing body of the Indian Research Fund for carrying out experiments in the decrease of malaria by jungle-clearing in notoriously malarious tracts.
Chemical Examiner	..	A Probationary Officer	..	9,000	9,000	...	7,200	7,200	This appointment has been sanctioned by the Government of India.
Total Medical	...	.....	82,000	98,680	1,80,680	70,000	88,780	1,58,780	
<b>26.—Scientific and other Minor Departments—</b>									
Agriculture	...	Other demonstrations and experiments.	25,000	...	25,000	25,000	...	25,000	The provision is intended for the following purposes:— Rs Bonemeal demonstration .. 10,000 Purchase of seed potatoes for free distribution among cultivators... 10,000 Crop-cutting experiments by district officers— Cost of experiments to be undertaken to test the efficiency of the measures recommended by Mr. Lefroy for combating the mango weevil ... } 5,000 2,000
Ditto	...	Rangpur Dairy Farm...	.....	16,000	16,000	.....	16,000	16,000	A non-recurring expenditure of Rs 40,000 will be incurred in 1912-13.

Major budget head and sub-head under which provision has been made.	Nature of scheme.	ESTIMATE OF ULTIMATE MAXIMUM COST.			ESTIMATE OF EXPENDITURE IN 1913-14.			REMARKS.
		Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Total.	Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>36.—Scientific and other Minor Departments—continued.</b>		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
<b>Agriculture—continued. ...</b>	Contribution to Tea Association.	4,000	.....	4,000	4,000	.....	4,000	This is required in connection with the experimental station at Toklai in Assam.
<b>Ditto ...</b>	Sericulture—opening and extension of central nurseries.	51,500	8,000	59,500	51,500	8,000	59,500	This is for the following nurseries—  Rs. Extension of Mirganj nursery ... 9,400 Malda scheme ... 20,700 Bogra do ... 3,700 Extension of Chandpur nursery ... 9,000 Ditto of Kamarpur nursery ... 5,700 Other experiments ... 11,000 <u>59,500</u>
<b>Miscellaneous ...</b>	Steam launches for fishery Department.	45,000	6,000	51,000	45,000	6,000	51,000	A launch is essential for the working of the Department.
<b>Total Scientific and other Minor Departments.</b>	...	1,25,500	30,000	1,55,500	1,25,500	30,000	1,55,500	
<b>37.—Irrigation—Minor Works and Navigation in charge of Public Works Department.</b>	Dredging of the entrance of Gorai River.	.....	7,000	7,000	.....	7,000	7,000	This is strongly recommended by the Standing Committee for water-ways.
	Provincial share ...	.....	3,500	3,500	.....	3,500	3,500	

<b>15.—Civil Works in charge of Civil officers.</b>								
Contribution to municipalities—								
Special grants at the disposal of Divisional Commissioners.	To meet minor local requirements without the delay incidental to a reference to headquarters.	23,500	.....	23,500	23,500	.....	23,500	The system has worked well and it is proposed to increase the allotment to one lakh against the present grant of Rs 76,500 in the budget.
Special grant at the disposal of District Magistrates.		52,000	.. ..	52,000	52,000	.....	52,000	
Appointment of overseers of water-supply enquiry.		38,000	.. ..	38,000	38,000	... .	38,000	This is intended for the appointment of Sub-overseers in each subdivision in Bengal temporarily for one year to report on the real condition of rural water-supply.
Total Civil Works in charge of Civil officers.	.....	1,13,500	.....	1,13,500	1,13,500	... .	1,13,500	
GRAND TOTAL ..	... ..	16,75,147	15,13,671	31,88,838	10,19,532	9,81,006	20,00,533	

[Sir William Duke.]

The HON'BLE SIR WILLIAM DUKE said :—

MY LORD,—I have now to present the Amended Draft Financial Statement. It is already in the hands of Hon'ble Members with my note of 26th February upon it and the additional note which was circulated yesterday in consequence of the orders of the Government of India upon the original draft. To-day I will explain the main features, while other Members will introduce the several Heads of which they are in charge. There will be no debate to-day, but Hon'ble Members will have three days in which to prepare any resolutions which they desire to have discussed. These will be considered on the 13th March. The third edition will then be submitted to the Government of India, and the final Budget will be submitted to the Council on some date after the 25th March, and after a further interval has been allowed for its consideration, the final debate will take place.

This is the first Budget which has been submitted to the Legislative Council of the New Province, and while I do not propose to go into details which have already been explained in the Draft Financial Statement and the Notes or to trench on ground which will be covered by other Members while explaining the Heads, I will give such explanations as seem necessary of the general lines on which the Budget has been framed. I fear that I shall have to do so at somewhat more than usual length since I shall have to refer not only to the actual Budget but to the fact that it is a stage in a new Provincial Settlement which has not hitherto come before any Legislative Council. Last year, there was no Legislative Council for this Province as now constituted, and the Government of India had therefore to frame an experimental Budget in consultation with the Local Government. It so happened that at the same time the Government of India had set itself to frame settlements of a *quasi*-permanent character for the several Indian Provinces. This course could not be applied to Bengal where so many factors were new and uncertain and an experimental settlement was therefore made for three years from 1912-15. The Provincial Budget on the Expenditure side consisted of the charges which were actually being incurred in the area which was to form the new Presidency so far as these could be located together with the further charges rendered necessary by the change in the constitution of the Government and the appointment of a Governor in Council. The Receipts consisted of the usual Heads of revenue allotted in sufficient proportion to meet the expenditure, and the policy of giving as much as possible from Heads of expanding revenue and as little as possible by fixed assignments which the Government of India had adopted in other Provincial Settlements was also followed in Bengal.

I may remind the Council that a considerable advance in this direction had commenced in 1911-12, when the provincial shares of excise and forest receipts were increased from half to three-fourths and from half to the whole respectively, while irrigation receipts were reduced from the whole to the half, the net result being that the provincial receipts from expanding revenue were upon the whole largely increased while the policy thus inaugurated was continued in our new settlement for 1912-13, a further step was taken by increasing the provincial share of excise from three-quarters to the whole.

It was an essential condition of such an experimental settlement where much was uncertain and many unforeseen causes of expenditure might arise that the new Presidency should start with a substantial balance. In this respect the Government of India were liberal. They provided us with a total opening balance of 150 lakhs to which they added the special grants from the Opium surplus of 1911-12 in aid of sanitation, agriculture, veterinary and forest objects, for a Quinine reserve and for a school of tropical medicine, aggregating in the total 16½ lakhs. Our gross opening balance was therefore 166½ lakhs. Out of this, 40 lakhs were earmarked for the Calcutta Improvement Trust.

	Lakhs.
For Police reorganization in East Bengal	20½
„ Sanitation ... ..	14.86
„ Education ... ..	20.10
„ Agriculture ... ..	4
„ School of Tropical Medicine ...	5
„ Net minimum balance ... ..	20



[*Sir William Duke.*]

Thus leaving us with  $41\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs of free balance. The revenue of 1912-13 originally estimated at  $566\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs is now expected in the Revised Budget to rise to  $606\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs. Of the increase of 40 lakhs,  $34\frac{1}{2}$  is due to special assignments made by the Government of India during the year of which no less than  $31\frac{1}{2}$  are for educational purposes. Apart from these unexpected assignments much of which could not be spent within the year, the Budget—regarded as an experimental Budget—has worked out well. There has been an improvement in the main heads of revenue except Excise and Provincial Civil Works. As regards Excise, the settlements of country liquor especially did not produce as much as was expected, and there was a shortage of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs. The shortage in Civil Works is due to the fact that instalments amounting to 7.14 lakhs to be paid by the Port Commissioners as the price of the Sibpur College were not received, because the eventual destination of the College is still unsettled. But, upon the whole, the increase of ordinary revenue due to general expansion has come to about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs. The expenditure which was estimated at 599.38 is expected to work out at 595.55 lakhs, and in the result we have arrived at a closing balance in the revised estimates of 176.98 lakhs, of which 60.7 will be free. It may interest the Council to know that the ordinary recurring charges of the Province are :— $563\frac{1}{2}$  against the ordinary revenue  $574\frac{1}{2}$ . Eleven lakhs per annum is therefore all that we have with which to meet non-recurring expenditure, and I am afraid that without assistance from outside this would not go far.

Coming now to next year, we open with that closing balance. We expect from revenue, including the assignments previously fixed by the Government of India, 578.78 lakhs. The receipts are thus placed 12.93 higher than the original estimate for this year. But so far as our ordinary revenue is concerned as the resultant of minor increases and decreases—none of them of very great intrinsic importance—its total is practically the same as the revised estimate of the current year. The estimates include assignments of 18 lakhs from Imperial revenue, which are detailed on pages 4 and 5 of the Financial Statements. The following sums included in the total of 578.78 lakhs are either merely passed through the accounts and not really revenue of this Government, or are revenue of a special and temporary character—Rs. 1,50,000 annual grant by the Government of India to the Calcutta Improvement Trust, Rs. 20,000 cost of Lieutenant-Colonel Sutherland's deputation on the Serological inquiry, and Rs. 2,32,000 cost of supply of forms and printing work done for the Government of Bihar and Orissa.

For 1913-14 we estimated an expenditure of 629.26 and a closing balance of 126.5 lakhs. The deficit is fully accounted for by expenditure from the non-recurring grants previously received from the Government of India. The free balance for which we budget is 51.28 lakhs. As has been explained in the note of 26th February, it has been our object to maintain our free balance fairly constant through the earlier part of the settlement in order to meet certain heavy items of expenditure. I may give rough figures for the principal of them; 20 lakhs for the Ranchi Asylum, 10 lakhs for a new press, and 10 lakhs for buildings in East Bengal, which are tolerably certain to fall upon us before the end of the settlement. In view of these facts and the unknown possibilities of the future, the reserve at our disposal will be none too high. At the end of 1913-14 we shall still retain in our balances some  $55\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs earmarked for expenditure in future years. Twenty lakhs of it is destined for the Calcutta Improvement Trust and the rest for Police, Educational and Sanitary purposes.

This then was the position as we estimated it in the Draft Financial Statement circulated on the 26th February. Since then the Imperial Financial Statement has been presented at Delhi, and the position has been materially altered, as explained in the supplementary note. With your Excellency's permission, I would turn aside for a few moments to speak of matters of Imperial finance as they affect this Presidency. It will have been observed from the speech of the Hon'ble the Finance Member that during the year the position of the Government of India has, owing to various causes of which the principal are general prosperity, extraordinarily active trade and the very high price received for opium, improved to the extent of about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  millions sterling. As the Government of India had estimated for a surplus of just under  $1\frac{1}{2}$  millions, their total available surplus works out to



[*Sir William Duke.*]

nearly 9 millions. Of this, they have retained £3,362,000 for themselves and have distributed the rest, say, £5,600,000 to the Provinces. In this distribution Bengal has shared to the extent of upwards of £1,000,000. This has been mainly earmarked for various Heads which have been explained in the supplementary note circulated yesterday, and this Council will appreciate what solid proofs the Government of India have given of their determination to promote the policies of education and sanitation which they have lately published. Of the whole sum now granted to us, 43·13 lakhs is for recurring and 109½ lakhs for non-recurring expenditure. Out of the latter figure, however, 12 lakhs is left discretionary, and this has been explained as meaning that the money will be transferred from Imperial to Provincial balances in order that it may be allotted to important Provincial schemes for which we should otherwise have had to ask special assignments from the Government of India. Of course, we are not expected, and very little reflection will convince any one that it would not be possible for us to spend such sums immediately. Schemes are in most cases not matured, and if they were, the machinery does not exist by which so much money could be economically and profitably disbursed, except over a rather prolonged period. Thus the Hon'ble the Finance Member has been careful to point out. He has indicated that one principal source of this surplus, the opium revenue, is unlikely to produce any more in future, while the enormous expansion of railway revenue has been due to favourable seasons and remarkably active trade. When the opposite conditions recur as they are tolerably certain to do before very long expansion will necessarily receive a check. He, therefore, warns us that the money now received should be expended with due forethought in providing for the wants of several years. The actual increases which the Government of India have directed in our expenditure for 1912-13 are 40 lakhs on Sanitation; 14 on Medical, most of which will probably prove to be Sanitation, and 4 lakhs on Public Works which last item provides for expenditure from the 12 lakhs discretionary grant. The effect is to raise the provincial expenditure to 689·26 lakhs and the closing balance to Rs. 1,94,95,000. I think that this Council will be little disposed to look a gift horse in the mouth and that it will share with me the hope that as the disposal of this great accession to our resources will be spread over a considerable period, we shall escape those of the evils usually attendant on a policy of doles which arise from ill-considered schemes and hasty, and therefore, extravagant expenditure. At the same time I may be permitted the pious hope that, as the Government of India become more assured as to the certainty of expansion in their revenue as they recognize for instance that the steady annual expenditure of 10 or 12 or more millions on railways whatever the ups and downs from year to year must in the end produce a corresponding average increase in receipts, as they acquire more certainty. Of this they may be willing to assign us an increasing share of expanding revenue, for it is only so that we can develop a regular and progressive policy of provincial finances that the Local Government can feel that it really possesses and can exercise the responsibility for internal development which should rest upon it, and that this Council can exercise the influence on provincial finance which is contemplated by its constitution and which the Government desires to accord to it.

The Council will recall that we had already 18 lakhs of fixed assignments from the Government of India, and we shall now have 63·71 lakhs. This portion of our revenue contains no element of expansion, although the expenditure to which it is devoted must inevitably expand. Expansion must therefore be provided for by further assignments from the same source, and it is an element of weakness that over so considerable a field of expenditure prospects should be uncertain and the control over expansion not in our own hands. While making these observations which are, I hope, not without sufficient basis, it is right that I should refer to one very important portion of these boons which is, I think, free from drawbacks. The transfer to the District Boards of the whole of the Public Works Cess will be welcomed by everyone in this Council, and will, I am sure, be appreciated in quarters where interest in the financial policy of Government seldom penetrates. I believe that it is the case that the idea of this great measure of liberality, many will think of justice, to Local Bodies originated with

[Mr. Lyon.]

Sir Edward Baker and that it was due to his initiative that the 25 per cent. of the Public Works Cess was, in 1905, handed over as an augmentation grant to the District Boards. So far as I can understand, the Government of India has treated us with a degree of liberality which we could hardly have hoped for, for apparently there is no intention of deducting at present this 25 per cent. from the assignment now made. The amount will apparently be gradually reduced as the natural growth of the Public Works Cess overtakes the total which is now received, but for the present, that will amount to nearly a quarter more than the proceeds of the Cess. The deduction which will be made is that of the equilibrium grant which was originally given to District Boards to pay for services which by their nature were proper to Local Bodies but for which their income would not suffice. The net effect, however, will be that the District Boards will profit to the extent of about 25 lakhs annually. This great accession of means to District Boards ought to have a most beneficial effect on their activities. We do not yet know what conditions the Secretary of State may attach to this grant, but, whatever they be, I venture to say that it will be strange if it does not result in Local Self-Government becoming much more real, being extended downwards until it is in much closer contact with the people and finding itself in a position to deal with those questions of village sanitation and village water-supply which have so forced themselves upon our attention of late.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lyon introduced the following heads :—

Revenue—

1.—Land-revenue.

Expenditure—

3. Land-revenue.

8. Provincial Rates.

18. General Administration.

He said :—

My Lord,—I have now the honour to introduce in Council the following headings of the budget :—on the Receipt side 1.—Land-revenue and on the Expenditure side, 3 Land Revenue, 8 Provincial Rates, and 18 General Administration. The very full notes given in the draft Financial Statement leave me very little to say upon these subjects. There is a slight improvement in the receipts under the head Land-revenue, due to the gradual growth of our revenues through resettlement in temporarily-settled areas. As to expenditure, under the same head, an explanation is given, on pages 14 and 15 of the Statement, of the slight increase in the charges of district administration compared with the revised estimate for the current year. This small increase is chiefly due to the expected working of a scheme for the regrading of Joint Magistrates which has recently been recommended to the Government of India. I may note that the main expenditure upon our settlement operations does not appear in this budget estimate, and the small entry made of Rs. 1,82,000 under Settlement includes only the expenditure on the resettlement of temporarily-settled estates. The main district settlement operations are financed by advances from the Government of India who bear eventually one-fourth of the cost, the remaining three-fourths being met by the landlords and tenants.

The figures under the heading Provincial Rates, both on the Receipts and Expenditure side, have been modified, since the budget estimate was first prepared, by the determination of the Government of India, recently announced, to make over the collection of the Public Works Department cess to district funds. The loss thus sustained by Provincial Revenues will be made good by a recurring assignment from the Government of India, and the expenditure hitherto debited to Provincial Funds in connection with Provincial Rates will now be borne by the Funds concerned.

[Mr. Kerr.]

I may add that it appears that detailed proposals have been submitted to the Secretary of State on the subject of the purposes and conditions of this grant now to be made to District Funds. The Secretary of State's orders are still awaited as to the conditions under which the grant will be made.

Under the heading Expenditure—General Administration, the budget estimate for 1913-14 amounts to 23 lakhs as compared with 22 lakhs, the original estimate for 1912-13. The increase is due partly to additional expenditure consequent upon the constitution of a Presidency Government in Bengal and also in part to the necessity which has occurred for appointing several officers to conduct special inquiries in connection with various branches of the administration.

The Hon'ble Mr. Kerr introduced the following heads :—

Revenue—

IX—Forests.

Expenditure—

11. Forests.

Revenue—

XXI—Scientific and other Minor Departments.

Expenditure—

26. Scientific and other Minor Departments.

He said :—

My Lord,—I have the honour to introduce the budget heads relating to the Forest Department. It is, I think, not generally realised what a very valuable property the Presidency of Bengal has in its forests. The present Bengal forest circle contains 10,500 square miles of State forest, or 2,500 square miles more than the old province, and not only is our forest area larger, but it is also more valuable. We have lost the forests in Chota Nagpur and Orissa, which in spite of their natural beauty and their great potential value, are not at present very profitable concerns, and we have gained in their place the valuable forests at the foot of the Himalayas in the Jalpaiguri district and two important Forest Divisions in Chittagong. The last forest budget presented for the old province of Bengal was for the year 1911-12 when the net revenue was estimated at 5 lakhs. Actually, the net revenue obtained in that year from the forests in the existing Presidency amounted to nearly 8 lakhs. This year we expect to have the large and unprecedented net revenue of 9½ lakhs. This large profit is, however, due in part to somewhat exceptional circumstances which cannot be expected to recur. In the first place, the work in the Sundarbans last year was hampered very greatly by the inroads of tigers, which for some time made it impossible to get labour to work in the forests. Special measures have been taken for the destruction of tigers, and during the current season we are making up the arrears which accumulated last season. The other reason for the large profit this year is less satisfactory. For some years past special measures have been adopted for the extraction of dead *sāl* from the forests of the Buxa Division in the Jalpaiguri district. Specially low rates were given and special facilities offered to contractors. It has, however, been found that the extraction of dead *sāl* is proceeding at a pace far exceeding that which was contemplated when the working plan of the forest was framed. An enquiry into the matter is now going on, and it is impossible at present to say whether this mortality among the *sāl* trees is due to natural causes, or whether there has been some organised manufacture of dead *sāl* on the part of persons interested in obtaining the commodity at low rates. Meanwhile the extraction of dead *sāl* has been restricted and the royalty has been raised. For these reasons, we do not anticipate that the profits of the Forest Department will be so great next year as in the two preceding years, and our budget shows an estimated net revenue of a little over

[Mr. Kerr.]

7 lakhs. It will not, I think, be necessary for me on this occasion to go into the details of the budget. Our receipts are estimated at 14 lakhs as against 16½ lakhs in the current year, and the expenditure at Rs. 6,76,000 as against Rs. 6,88,000 in the current year. Of the expenditure Rs. 3,76,000 represents the normal provision for establishment charges, including some additional rangers whom we hope to appoint. The remaining Rs. 3,00,000 will be devoted to the extension, constitution, improvement and exploitation of our valuable forest properties.

I turn now to the consideration of the head "Scientific and other minor departments." The revised estimates for the current year under XXI show a decrease of Rs. 1,05,000 as compared with the sanctioned estimates for the year. This decrease is entirely due to a fall in the sales of quinine. The budget estimate for 1913-14 shows a further decrease of Rs. 58,000 under the same head. The decrease is due to lessened demands from the medical depôts for quinine in pice-packets. But it does not indicate any decrease in the actual consumption of quinine. In the eastern districts of the province and also in Jessore, Nadia and Murshidabad, pice-packets have been replaced by hydrochloride of quinine in treatments. Forty-thousand of these treatments were taken over from Eastern Bengal and Assam on the 1st April last, and 13,000 more were purchased from Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. The sale proceeds have been credited to the Medical budget. In view of an anticipated rise in the price of quinine it was decided to increase the reserve of stock in the cinchona plantation, and a sum of 4½ lakhs, including a grant of 3 lakhs made by the Government of India has been spent on the purchase of bark and of manufactured quinine sulphate. The reserve stock of quinine at the quinine factory is now ample and it is proposed to produce sulphate of quinine in treatments during the year 1913-14.

Head 26 on the expenditure side of the budget contains a large number of items with which it is not necessary for me to deal in detail. The most important head is that of Agriculture. It will be seen that we have budgetted for an expenditure of Rs. 4,81,000, being an increase of a lakh and-a-half over the revised estimate for the current year. Of this increase nearly a-lakh will be devoted to Sericulture. I have sometimes seen it argued that silk-weaving in this country is a moribund industry, and that it is a waste of money for Government to try to keep it on its legs. Now it cannot be denied that there has within the past 10 years been a great decline in the export of raw silk to foreign countries. In 1902-03 nearly 600,000 lbs. of raw silk was exported from Calcutta, but in 1911-12 the export had fallen below 200,000 lbs. But this decline in the export figures is due mainly to the fact that Europeans are withdrawing from the trade. There is still in this province a very large production of silk for consumption in the country. A careful census of the silk-producing areas in the Malda district was undertaken last year. It showed that the area under mulberry cultivation was over 17,000 acres, and assuming that 25 seers of raw silk are produced from every acre of mulberry, Malda produced last year 10,800 maunds of raw silk, the value of which was over 75 lakhs. A similar census is now being undertaken in Murshidabad, another very important silk-growing district, and so far as it has gone, it has been found that there has been a slight increase in the mulberry cultivation in recent years. It cannot be said therefore that the silk industry in this province is dead or that any efforts of Government to assist it to regain its former prosperity will be thrown away. The causes for the present depression in the industry are (1) the rise in the price of labour without a corresponding rise in the price of silk, (2) disease, and (3) Chinese and Japanese competition. The rise in the price of labour is responsible to a great extent for driving European enterprise out of the industry, but it does not affect the ordinary cultivator to anything like the same extent. His main trouble is the disease which has unfortunately attacked the cocoons within recent years and which it has not yet been found possible to eradicate. The supply of pure seed is of vital importance to the industry. Hitherto the measures taken have consisted mainly in the erection of model nurseries at which improved methods of production can be carried out and demonstrated to the village rearers. These model nurseries have, however, proved,



[Mr. Kerr.]

insufficient to eradicate the disease. They supply a certain quantity of pure seed to the rearers, but the rearers do not understand the advantages of disinfection, and they allow the pure Government seed to become infected with diseased seed reared locally. Another scheme has now been put forward which has not yet been accepted by Government or fully worked out in all its details, but its main feature consists in the substitution of central for model nurseries. These central nurseries will be capable of supplying seed to all the rearers living in their neighbourhood, and if the rearers can be induced to use the Government seed exclusively, it is hoped that diseased cocoons will be wiped out of existence. The problem is largely one of finance and success depends on whether the rearers can afford to pay Government the price for the seed, which will be required to cover the expenses of rearing it under proper conditions and adequate precautions. We propose this year to make a start with the scheme on a small scale and to erect a nursery in Malda and another in Bogra, where the conditions are believed to be specially favourable, and to extend various model nurseries so as to enable them to fulfil the functions of central nurseries.

Another scheme of great importance, which the Agricultural Department proposes to undertake, is that of a dairy farm at Rangpur. It is proposed to acquire an area of 700 or 800 acres in the neighbourhood of Rangpur, and to stock it with cows selected for their breeding and milking capacities. If the scheme is a success, it is hoped that a considerable profit will be realised by the sale of the milk, while the manure will be used on the lands of the Rangpur farm. Experience alone can show whether the scheme will be so successful as its framers anticipate. But if it is a success, it will show that dairy farming can be run at a profit, it will increase the supply of good milk to the great benefit of the public health, it will give the dairy farmer a supply of manure with which to improve his ordinary crops, it will show him that it pays to feed his cattle well, and it may even open up a new industry in the country, for the want of good milk is notorious in many towns in the interior. It is proposed to devote Rs. 40,000 out of the grant made by the Government of India to the purchase and equipment of the farm, and a sum of Rs. 16,000 has been entered in the budget for recurring expenditure next year.

Under the head of other experiments I may notice the sum of Rs. 11,000 which was put into the budget by the Finance Committee for work in connection with the prevention of the *ufra* disease. This disease is doing a great deal of damage to the paddy crop in many parts of the province. The disease has for some time been under the investigation of the Economic Botanist, who has found that its cause is a worm which lives in the ground from harvest to seed time and multiplies exceedingly when the paddy-fields come under water. The only way of eradicating the disease is to destroy the worm in the ground before the crop is sown. There is no royal method of effecting this. Like most things connected with agriculture, it is a matter which man must tackle by his labour and the sweat of his brow. Apart from the treatment of fields with lime, which is too expensive for practical purposes, the only known way of destroying the *ufra* worm is by burning immediately after the harvest all stubble left in the ground and by ploughing the fields frequently before sowing the new crop. The efficacy of this measure has already been shown in a small way, but unfortunately the ploughing up of an isolated field here and there is insufficient to stay the spread of the disease, since the worm gets washed in from neighbouring fields when the lands come under water. If the worm is to be eradicated, it will be necessary to treat a large area, and the sum of Rs. 11,000, which the Finance Committee has provided, will enable demonstrations to be carried out on a large scale next cold weather. Mr. Hector, the Economic Botanist, who has been studying the subject for some time, has already drawn up a scheme. It will, however, be understood that the eradication of the worm cannot be effected by Government agency. All we can do is to show the cultivator what he can do, and what he ought to do, if he wants to get rid of the pest.

The revised financial statement, which has been placed in the hands of Hon'ble Members, shows that the Government of India have given us a

[Mr. Stephenson]

non-recurring grant of 1½ lakhs for expenditure on agriculture and allied objects but we only received information regarding this grant last Saturday, and have not yet had time to consider how it should be spent. There can be no doubt, however, that it can be put to profitable uses.

Turning now to the case of other departments, I may notice a small increase of Rs. 10,000 for Co-operative Societies, which is to be used partly in increasing the audit staff, which is required owing to the increase in the number of societies, and partly for the upkeep of a launch which has been provided for the use of the Registrar and his staff in their tours throughout the eastern portion of the province. Provision has also been made for Rs. 51,000 for a steam-launch for the Deputy Director of Fisheries. This officer, who joined last year, is engaged at present in investigations regarding both river and tank fish which are being carried on both in this province and in the province of Bihar and Orissa. For the study of the habits of river fish and the work in the Sundarbans, which is very important, a steam-launch is essential.

I do not think I need go into details regarding any other minor heads of this portion of the budget, although if any Hon'ble Member desires any further explanation, I shall be very glad to furnish it before the meeting next week.

The Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson introduced the following heads :—

Revenue—

V—Excise.

Expenditure—

6. Stamps.

7. Excise.

10. Assessed Taxes.

He said :—

It falls to me to introduce the figures under Stamps, Assessed Taxes and Excise. Under the first two heads it is only the expenditure that is open to discussion. The figures under the head "Stamps" are to be found in pages 46-47 of the Financial Statement. It is estimated that the expenditure next year will be Rs. 7,25,000 against Rs. 6,87,000, the revised estimate for the current year. The difference is chiefly in regard to the increased provision made for discount on the larger sale of both general and Court-fee stamps, and to the increased cost of a larger supply of stamp paper from the Central Stores owing to the increase in the sale of stamps anticipated in 1913-14. Half of this expenditure is Provincial. The figures relating to expenditure under the head "Assessed Taxes" are concerned with the establishment employed to collect the income-tax. They will be found in page 49 of the Financial Statement. The charges are estimated at Rs. 1,57,000 for next year which is the same as the budget in the current year. Half of this expenditure is Provincial. The figures do not call for any remarks. I now turn to the most important of the Departments I have to deal with, namely, Excise, the receipts of which are under the present settlement entirely Provincial. The actual receipts in 1911-12 were Rs. 1,33,88,200, and an increase of nearly 5 lakhs was estimated in the current year. This estimate being based on the average growth probably did not make sufficient allowance for the difference of growth between the present Province of Bihar and the eastern districts of this Presidency. In the Revised estimate has been placed at 135 lakhs, and shows an increase of just under a lakh and half on last year's actuals, and for the coming year we anticipate an income of Rs. 1,38,55,000 allowing for a normal growth of Rs. 3,55,000. Turning to the details, the receipts from foreign liquor have increased by 1½ lakhs over the estimate and by nearly half a lakh over last year's figure. When the duty on foreign liquor was raised to Rs. 9-6 a few years ago, it was expected that country liquor would displace foreign liquor to a larger extent

[Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda.]

than has actually turned out to be the case. The current year's estimate was, therefore, put at nearly a lakh less than last year's actuals. For next year we are repeating the current year's revised estimate of 4 lakhs. As regards country liquor we estimated for a rise of nearly 3 lakhs in license fees and duty combined. The Revised shows a drop of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs on the estimate, and is nearly a lakh lower than last year's actuals. The normal rate of growth was placed too high in this year's estimate, and the license fees at the settlement did not bring in nearly as much as had been anticipated. From the 1st April next the duty on country spirit is to be increased by about 20 per cent., and the incidence of duty on the total receipts which is at present about half will thereby be considerably increased. We allow for a normal growth of about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs over this year's revised figures in the coming year. Opium licenses show an improvement of about three-quarters of a lakh. There has been a slight drop in the Revised on ganja licenses, and a very considerable fall in the amount of duty realised. The available figures for consumption show a slight decrease throughout the province, and this is probably due to the short crop last year and the consequent high prices. From the 1st April next the duty is to be raised by Rs. 4 a seer or about 33 per cent. This will probably check consumption and the estimate will fall in license fees in the coming year, and the receipts from duty will remain practically stationary. On the expenditure side the only item that requires notice is the provision of half a lakh for the reorganisation of the Department. This reorganisation is due mainly to the amalgamation of the Salt and Excise establishments, and has been under discussion for six years. Full proposals have now been submitted to the Government of India for the establishment of a close Excise Service with reasonable prospects and emoluments, and the eventual increase in cost will be about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs, and we hope to make a beginning this year at a cost of half a lakh.

The Hon'ble Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda introduced the following head :—

## Expenditure—

## 19A. Courts of Law.

He said :—

MY LORD,—I beg to introduce the figures relating to Courts of Law. The points noticeable on the expenditure side are as follows:—

The total charges show a gradual decrease from Rs. 98,39,000 in the current year as originally estimated, to Rs. 98,05,000 in the revised estimate, and Rs. 96,10,000 in the estimate for 1913-14.

Some of the principal features of the estimate for 1913-14 are the following:—

The increase in the budget of 1913-14 over the revised estimate of the current year under the Original Side of the High Court is due to provision having been made for the post of Registrar in Insolvency. Provision was made for this appointment in the current year's budget, but the post not having been filled up, in the current year's revised estimate, provision for the post was excluded. The High Court having recently applied for sanction to the entertainment of this appointment for three years, the usual provision has been retained in the next year's budget.

The revised estimate for the current year under the head " Legal Remembrancer and High Court Pleaders " shows that a grant of Rs. 5,97,000 has been sanctioned. This is due to increased charges in connection with the Midnapore case. The decrease in the next year's budget is due to a smaller grant for fees to pleaders, as it is hoped that political cases will no longer occur. The increased estimate during 1913-14 under the head " Presidency Magistrates—Calcutta Police Court " includes a provision of Rs. 4,632 for additional ministerial establishment.

[Sir William Duke.]

Under the head "Civil and Sessions Court—Munsifs" and an additional provision of Rs. 50,000 has been made for the regrading of Munsifs, and of Rs. 32,000 for additional Munsifs. The regrading is intended to raise the average stipends of the Munsifs in the Bengal service to a level with that of Bihar and Orissa. This will to a certain extent remove the grievances of a very deserving body of public servants who have contributed so much to the efficiency of the Judicial administration in the Province. An increased provision has also been made under the head Process-serving establishment on account of charges for journeys of process-serving peons by rail or other public conveyances. The system of payment from the Provincial revenues of travelling expenses of peons serving revenue processes was adopted by the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The High Court have recommended the scheme for the consideration of this Government, and as the proposal has many advantages, it has been considered desirable to accept it in respect of all processes—Civil, Criminal and Revenue—throughout this Presidency. The system is now being tried experimentally.

The total estimate under the head "Civil and Sessions Court" includes Rs. 23,000 for arrear pay of the ministerial establishment in the Eastern Bengal districts.

To relieve the congestion of cases in the Presidency Small Cause Court, the appointment of a temporary Additional Judge for that Court, and the entertainment of an establishment for him have been sanctioned. An extra provision for Rs. 15,000 has been made on this account in the next year's estimate.

As the amount of money available for new building schemes is very limited, it has been found possible to provide in the next year's estimate funds for six urgent works upon which it is proposed to expend a lakh of rupees during 1913-14, viz., the construction of a residence of the District Judge of Khulna, the construction of Civil Courts at Bankura, and the construction of two Munsifs at Magura and Asansol.

The Hon'ble Sir William Duke introduced the following heads:—

Revenue—

XVII—Police.

Expenditure—

20. Police.

Revenue—

XVIB—Jails.

Expenditure—

19B. Jails.

He said:—

*Police Receipts—XVII.*—The only point under this head which seems to require notice is that a larger sum than estimated was collected on account of the additional police in the central and eastern districts. This, however, was practically all due for police appointed in the previous year. These have since been withdrawn and the collection on account of them completed. The estimate for next year is much smaller, and I hope there will be no necessity to exceed it.

*Expenditure 20.*—The details of increases in the Presidency or Calcutta Police are given in page 17 of the Financial Statement. I shall only notice three main items.

*Grant of approved service increment to constables (Rs. 33,936).*—The grading of constables has been very defective. A fixed number of men was allotted to each grade of pay without regard to length of service. Increments will now be given in consideration of length of service.



[Sir William Duke.]

*The strengthening of the armed police by raising an additional company.* This was provided for last year, but not carried out. The sum is Rs. 48,845.

*Provision for bringing up the reserve to the full sanctioned strength in order to provide for sickness and leave, Rs. 29,600.*

Much of the discontent which prevails in the lower grades of the Calcutta Police, and is evidenced by frequent resignations is attributed to the difficulty of obtaining leave when it is due and the short periods for which it can be given. It is hoped that with the reserve at its proper strength this condition will be remedied.

*District Police.*—Before commenting on the principal items of expenditure, I will give some general explanations regarding the finance of the police force in Bengal. In the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, the Secretary of State had sanctioned a thorough re-organization of the police and a lump grant of Rs. 22,52,000 had been given in 1910-11 for the re-organization of subordinate and river police in East Bengal. This grant was intended for non-recurring expenditure only, but it will be appreciated that with such an amount of non-recurring expenditure a very considerable expansion of recurring expenditure was also contemplated. It takes time, however, to increase a permanent force like the police, and when the territorial re-arrangements took place but little way had been made in either direction. Out of the non-recurring grant, the Eastern Bengal and Assam Government had spent about 1½ lakhs in 1911-12. We have spent about half a lakh in the present year and budget to spend Rs. 4,75,000 next year. On the other hand, the standard for recurring police charges taken in the Provincial settlement was 91 lakhs, a good deal above the actual charges at the time, and as a matter of fact, still well ahead of the recurring charges which we have budgeted for 1913-14. It will be understood then that the non-recurring charges so far as they relate to Eastern Bengal come almost entirely out of the lump grant made for the purpose; only those for West Bengal falling on the ordinary Provincial balance, while the items of increase in recurring charges are still within the settlement standard. With this general explanation, I will refer to some of the principal items of new expenditure.

*Temporary force for the Criminal Investigation Department (Rs. 71,277).*—This is the Intelligence Branch of the department which was formerly much larger but has recently been provisionally sanctioned for three years at the figure mentioned.

*Re-organization of subordinate police in East Bengal (Rs. 2,92,014).*—Rupees 1,75,000 of this is non-recurring and comes out of the lump grant. Rupees 1,17,014 is recurring and has been allowed for in the settlement.

*Increase of armed reserve (Rs. 24,797).*—This has been sanctioned by the Government of India as the armed force in the districts mentioned at page 17 was inadequate to requirements.

*Revision of the superior police cadre (Rs. 5,700).*—In East Bengal, five additional Superintendents of Police had been appointed to specially heavy districts, and application has been made to the Secretary of State to make the posts permanent. The 24-Parganas and Midnapore are at least as heavy as any of the East Bengal districts in question. Provision is therefore made to appoint Additional Superintendents to them. The charge is for a part of the year, and will work up eventually to Rs. 34,000.

*Constables Training Schools at Dacca and Sarda (Rs. 34,142).*—This is mainly due to provincial re-organization. The Bengal constables used for the most part to be trained at Nathnagar which is now in Bihar. With the territorial re-arrangements the whole business had to be re-organized, and a new school is being opened at Sarda in combination with the college for officers and cadets at that place.

*Police guards for sub-treasuries (Rs. 18,154).*—These were considered to be too small for efficient protection, and in many places they will be increased, a unit of double sentries being posted.

[Sir William Duke.]

*Re-organization of the Dacca Town Police (Rs. 10,000).*—The arrangements in the Dacca City are antiquated and ineffectual, as is shown by the fact that serious crimes, including murders, have been committed with impunity in crowded parts of the town. It is proposed to establish new police centres and re-organize the beats. The scheme is at present before the Government.

*Approved service increments (Rs. 28,000).*—Here, as in the case of the Calcutta Police, these increments have been given upon an unsatisfactory system. It may be said that to postpone these increments too long is to make them not worth working for. The revised rules should do something to improve the position of the ordinary constable.

*Increased pay of armed reserves (Rs. 25,000).*—At present, the armed reserves draw the same pay as the ordinary constable, i.e., Rs. 8 rising to Rs. 11. This in itself is much too low for the present conditions, while the duties of the armed police are hard and monotonous, and service in it especially unpopular. It is, therefore, proposed to raise their pay to a scale of Rs. 12 rising to Rs. 15, but the figures are still under consideration.

*Enlistment allowances to recruits (Rs. 10,504).*—This has been lately approved by Government. It was found that the expenses incurred by men at the time of enlistment and the length of time before they obtain pay form a deterrent to recruiting, and small allowances have been sanctioned in order to enable a man to have something in his pocket or to provide for those whom he has to support at the commencement.

*Re-organization of the Dacca and Hooghly Military Police (Rs. 19,682).*—The territorial redistribution has left us with about two-thirds of a battalion at Dacca and a single company at Hooghly. It is proposed to form the whole into one corps.

There are three items referring to boats and rivers which I will explain together to avoid confusion—

	Rs.
Lump provision for construction of steamers and cutters ... ..	75,186
Re-organization of the river police in Eastern Bengal districts ... ..	4,49,555
Station boat scheme ... ..	45,000

The second item of Rs. 4,49,555 concerns the police of the river district alone. It consists of 3 lakhs non-recurring and Rs. 1,49,555 recurring. The former head is for the general equipment of the river police and consists largely of floating police station launches and boats, while the recurring portion is for the establishment which is gradually being recruited and trained, operations which considering that men of special class are required for river work necessarily take some time. The other two items are concerned with the ordinary district police, and have as their object the provision of facilities to police officers in districts where waterways are numerous to move about rapidly and to act promptly on the water.

The first item of Rs. 75,185 is towards the provision of launches and boats for the Deputy Inspector-General of the Eastern Range and certain Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents in that range. The total expenditure to be worked up to in future is Rs. 1,55,056. The last item of Rs. 45,000 is for the retention and development of the station boat scheme under which boats are attached to riparian police stations for the maintenance of patrols and to enable the officers to get rapidly about their jurisdictions. The expense which is at present Rs. 27,626 is to be brought up to Rs. 45,000.

Jails—

Receipts XVII B.

Expenditure 19 B.

As regards receipts no remark is necessary, except that large orders for the Delhi Durbar swelled the receipts for 1911-12, and they have now again become normal.

*[Mr. Kuchler.]*

On the expenditure side there are few changes.

Under medical officers an increased allowance has been given to sub-assistant surgeons in West Bengal to put both halves of the province on an equal footing. Similarly, provision has been made to equalise the pay of clerks in sub-jails on both sides. Proposals have also been made, and are still before the Government of India to revise the grading of jailors and sub-jailors. These items, however, only account for Rs. 11,000 in all. The Eastern Bengal Jails when taken over were found to be very deficient in stock and supplies of prisoners' clothing and a considerably increased provision has been made for these under Miscellaneous, Services and Supplies.

The Hon'ble Mr. Kuchler introduced the following heads :—

Revenue—

XIX—Education

Expenditure—

22. Education.

He said :—

I HAVE the honour to introduce the heads of the Financial Statement which are concerned with Education, XIX—Revenue and 22—Expenditure.

One of the most interesting features of the present Educational budget is that it co-ordinates the wants of two parts of the Province, which have only recently been recombined under one administration, and which during the previous short period of separation had developed a considerable measure of divergence in their educational systems. It does not of course follow that because, with one or two exceptions which appear in the detailed budget statement, the financial requirements of the two parts of the Province in the various branches of educational work have been brought under the same budget heads the actual educational system and methods of educational administration in East and West Bengal have been again unified. Such unification is replete with difficulty and is necessarily a matter of time. The whole question is at present under consideration, and, wherever co-ordination is possible and desirable, measures to secure it will be taken at an early date.

Apart from co-ordination, the most noteworthy element in the financial statement for education is formed by the allotments made from the Imperial grants for education. These allotments, it will be noticed, fall under different heads according as they are recurring or non-recurring and also as they represent new grants made this year or grants in previous years, the whole of which it has not yet been possible to spend, and which have therefore had to be reallocated in part for the year 1913-14, in accordance with the principle laid down that the money thus placed at the disposal of the Local Government is earmarked for education and cannot be permitted to lapse.

With the limited time at my disposal it will, I am afraid, be impossible to do little more to-day than give a brief account of the objects to which these additional funds are being and will be devoted ; but as it is always the new schemes of expenditure in the budget which attract attention and require explanation, and as by far the greater number of these schemes will be financed from the Government of India grants, the limitation which I suggest to my remarks will be seen to be perfectly natural. Moreover, as the apportionment, more especially of the recurring grants, will indicate the objects of educational expenditure which the Local Government regard as the most appropriate, the proposed distribution of these grants will throw light on the educational policy pursued in this Province and incidentally on some of the differences that have arisen in the educational aims of East and West Bengal.

[Mr. Küchler.]

It will be convenient to take first the necessary grant for truly popular education originally fixed at Rs. 9,10,000, but subsequently increased by Rs. 65,000 and which commenced with the financial year 1912-13.

As the grant was announced too late to make it possible to frame a complete scheme for recurring expenditure for the present year, it was decided to spend the money thus made available for that period on objects of a non-recurring nature. The heads for which the Government of India had earmarked this grant and the approximate amounts they assigned to these heads were—

		Rs.
Primary education	...	5,77,000
Female ditto	...	1,07,000
Hostels ...	...	1,32,000
Technical education	...	34,000
European ditto	...	50,000

Later on, as has already been indicated, an additional sum of Rs. 10,000 was given specially for the education of poor European children in Calcutta and Rs. 25,000 as a general increase. The distribution of the grant, which was actually sanctioned by the Local Government, is as follows : Taking first the Rs. 5,77,000 for primary education, a sum of two lakhs was set apart for the erection of board school-houses in East Bengal. The Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, with the help of former recurring Imperial grants, initiated a scheme for the institution of board schools throughout the province, it being contemplated, according to the final form of the scheme, to establish a lower primary school in each panchayati union which did not already possess an aided upper primary school. The scheme had already developed to such an extent that there were at the beginning of 1912-13 about 1,300 board schools in the eastern divisions of the province. When the Imperial grant was announced it was decided to accelerate the rate of progress, and a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 was therefore set aside for the construction of schools at an estimated cost of Rs. 600—650 per school in addition to those already allowed for in the regular programme. In West Bengal no primary schools have as yet been placed under District Board management. But the question of creating a certain number of board schools has also arisen there, though in a different way. In 1906 it was decided to devote the whole of the Imperial grant for that year to the construction of improved buildings for upper and lower primary schools in places where the people of the locality were willing to assist by a proportionate contribution towards the cost. In accordance with this scheme a number of school-houses were erected in different parts of the province, but unfortunately no definite provision was made for their ownership or for their maintenance in a proper state of repair. On account of the difficulties which thus arose, it was suggested some years ago that the District Board should take over these buildings and that they should also bring the corresponding schools under their direct management. This very reasonable suggestion came to nothing owing to want of funds, but in view of such funds being available from the present Imperial grant the proposal has now been revived, and it is intended that the school buildings in question, except where they are in the possession of properly constituted managing bodies, be handed over to the approximate District Boards and that the schools be converted into board schools. In order to give effect to this proposal it was necessary to put the existing buildings in thorough repair, and for this purpose Rs. 28,700 have been assigned from the Imperial grant. The schools in question number 187 in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions, and further board schools will from time to time be established, their distribution being arranged on a natural geographical basis.

For the construction of additional training schools during the present year Rs. 1,00,000 was assigned to East Bengal and Rs. 65,000 for the two western divisions. The method of training elementary school teachers is not the same in the two parts of the province. In West Bengal, under a scheme



[*Mr. Küchler.*]

drawn up in 1906, a comparatively large number of small training schools, each accommodating 16 pupils with a two years' course, have been established, and for these schools buildings have been and are still being provided at an approximate cost of Rs. 6,000. In East Bengal, on the other hand, a scheme was recently sanctioned by the Secretary of State, according to which schools of a larger type providing for 40 pupils with a one or two years' course according to circumstances were to be created, larger school-houses, which were estimated to cost from Rs. 10,000 to 15,000, being of course necessary. The expenditure of Rs. 1,00,000 was intended to accelerate the construction of the latter class of schools, but it is probable that a considerable portion of this amount will remain unspent at the end of the present year.

Another interesting item of the expenditure sanctioned under this head for the present year is that of Rs. 90,000 for the erection of a cheaper type of school buildings in small villages. It has repeatedly been represented that, if the co-operation of the villagers themselves be secured, a building of a type which would be quite satisfactory for the purposes of a small village school could be erected at a much smaller cost than if the work were, as is usually the case, carried out by a contractor. It has been estimated that lower primary school-houses could in this way be provided at a cost of Rs. 250, of which the villagers themselves would provide Rs. 50 partly, perhaps in money, but mostly in labour and material. The scheme is of course largely experimental, but it has already met with very promising success, and although the whole of the allotment will not be spent this year, a large number of villagers have already expressed their willingness to co-operative and a number of school-houses are now being constructed on this system.

Of the balance of the grant for this year Rs. 1,25,000 has been or is being spent on the equipment of the more efficient of the existing primary schools, the schools selected in East Bengal being those under the direct management of the boards. The equipment and furniture of existing primary school is, as is well known, of the most rudimentary description, and the money now allotted will be most usefully expended. A similar allotment of one lakh was made last year from the Imperial grant for West Bengal.

The remaining items of the primary educational grant are unimportant and need not be detailed here.

The second head to which an allotment was made from this grant was that of female education, the amount set aside for this purpose being approximately fixed at Rs. 1,07,000. Pending preparation of schemes of recurring expenditure, it was decided to spend the money this year on capital works. Rupees 60,000 were set aside for the erection of a new block of class rooms for the Bethune College, the total cost being estimated at Rs. 72,000: the additional accommodation to be thus provided is most urgently wanted. The balance of Rs. 47,000 was to be utilized for the construction of buildings in connexion with girls' schools in East Bengal. Owing to various causes it has not been possible to make much progress as yet in the work of construction, but the money will not lapse and the various buildings will be completed in the course of the year 1913-14.

The third allotment from the Imperial grant was a sum of Rs. 1,32,000 for hostels, and here, too, it was decided to spend the whole of the first year's grant on capital works. Private institutions have, however, experienced considerable difficulty in maturing schemes for hostel construction, and, though the allotment will of course be fully and readily utilized, a considerable portion of it will have to be carried over to next year.

A sum of Rs. 34,000 was provisionally allotted by the Government of India to the head of technical education for the improvement of workshops and equipment, and there has been no difficulty in distributing this amount. Rupees 10,756 were assigned to Civil Engineering College, Rs. 10,376 for the Dacca School of Engineering, Rs. 2,000 for Mining instruction in the coal fields, and the balance divided between the smaller technical schools in the Province. The whole amount will probably be spent before the end of the present financial year.

[Mr. Küchler.]

Finally, half a lakh was earmarked for European schools, and, of this grant, Rs. 19,500 were set aside for the construction of a new block of buildings for the Dow Hill School, the remainder being distributed in the shape of smaller grants chiefly for furniture and equipment among a large number of European schools in the Province.

Two additional grants as already indicated were made later in the year by the Government of India, one of Rs. 25,000 for general purposes and one of Rs. 40,000 for the education of poor European children in Calcutta. The former sum has been distributed for capital expenditure this year among a few Indian and European schools in the Province which were able to present fully-matured schemes admitting of immediate expenditure; the latter, which has been transferred to the ordinary grant-in-aid allotment and is not, therefore included in the lump provision of Rs. 9,25,000, was divided among the orphanages and free schools in Calcutta in connection with building projects to be carried into execution before the end of the financial year.

A summary of the expenditure of the whole grant will be found on page 22 of the financial statement, and it will be seen from it that a sum of Rs. 3,32,000, which will remain unspent on the 31st of March, is carried forward for expenditure next year.

I pass now to the more interesting question of the utilization of the Imperial grant for schemes of permanent improvement in connexion with education. I had hoped at one time that it would have been possible definitely to allot the Imperial grant in accordance with sanctioned schemes to the appropriate heads of expenditure in the budget and thus to avoid the necessity of presenting it in the amorphous condition of a lump provision. Unfortunately there has been so much delay in obtaining the necessary figures especially in the matter of primary education that, although my proposals for the utilization of the grant are now complete, they have only in one case, viz., that of female education, been submitted to Government. As things are, I must content myself with giving a brief explanation of the recommendations I am making or have made to Government with regard to the objects on which the grant might usefully be expended.

Primary education has naturally been given the major portion of the grant, but though Rs. 5,77,000 may at first sight appear to be a fairly large sum, it will be readily recognized by all who are familiar with the magnitude of the problem that it will go only a very small way to ameliorate the condition of primary education in Bengal. The allotment will suffice, however, to improve to a certain extent the condition of our primary school teachers, and even the most ardent advocates of expansion have now come round to the view that this is in Bengal at least the most urgent need. It is proposed therefore to put funds at the disposal of the District Boards, which will enable them to make a small general increase, amounting on an average to one rupee a month, in the stipends now paid to *gurus* and an additional increase of two rupees in the case of those *gurus* who have passed through a training school. It cannot be said that these proposals, which will raise the total emoluments of an untrained *guru* to Rs. 8 and of trained *gurus* to Rs. 10 approximately, are extravagant; in fact they only constitute the initial step towards the ultimate improvement in the pay and prospects of primary school teachers indicated in the resolution recently issued by the Government of India; yet, modest though they are, they will absorb in the first year no less than Rs. 4,47,648, while in five years the cost of this one reform will rise to Rs. 5,04,381.

As I am proposing to add Rs. 23,000 for primary education out of the additional grant of Rs. 25,000 already referred to, the total amount available under this head will be Rs. 6,00,000, showing a balance after providing for increased stipends which will decrease from Rs. 1,52,352 in the first year to Rs. 95,616 in the fifth. This balance will be utilized as follows: It has already been stated that in East Bengal buildings for additional board schools are being constructed from this year's Imperial grant and that a certain number of schools in West Bengal are being made over to District Boards. The cost of the maintenance of these schools will amount to

[Mr. Kuchler.]

Rs. 96,782 and will have to be met from the Imperial grant. It has to be borne in mind that the institution of board schools is itself a factor in the improvement of the position of primary school teachers, as the pay in these schools is considerably better than that which a *guru* in a stipendiary school will draw from all sources even with the improved scale of stipends now proposed. In East Bengal board schools, where the teacher is allowed to retain the school fees, his present emoluments average slightly over Rs. 13, and in West Bengal it is proposed to introduce a similar scale of remuneration. The board schools in East Bengal work up to the lower primary standard only, but it will be necessary, in accordance with the policy enunciated in the Government of India Resolution, to raise them ultimately to the upper primary standard. New schools opened under the present scheme may, however, when it is found convenient, start in the first place on a lower primary basis. In addition to the objects here enumerated, a portion of the grant will have to be reserved for the education of factory children, to which the Government of India attach special importance, and for this purpose an annual sum Rs. 20,000 will probably be required at the beginning. There is a sufficient residue, as will be seen from the figures, to admit of this expenditure in the first three years, but later on there will be a deficit which will have to be made good from other sources. Finally, the small balance which appears in the estimates of the first three years will be devoted to capital expenditure in the way of buildings and equipment, etc., as occasion arises.

In addition to the above, it had been hoped to provide even from the present grant for the establishment of schools in backward areas and among backward classes, as well as for a slight general expansion of aided schools. The figures now show that this is impracticable, but the further liberal grants that have been lately announced will make it possible not only to include these additional items in the programme of reform, but to frame our proposals generally on a more generous scale, and it will also enable us to make an advance in other directions as well in which an improvement of the conditions of primary education is called for. Fortunately, in view of the possibility of further assistance being forthcoming, the scheme for the improvement of the position of teachers has been framed in such a way as to allow of a gradual increase of rates of pay, and materials have, moreover, been collected for the preparation of detailed schemes dealing with the other heads of reform already referred to; so that the announcement of fresh grants does not necessitate a scrapping of all that has already been done and the preparation of new projects *ab initio*.

The allotment of Rs. 1,07,000 for female education it is proposed to spend in the following way: The present staff of Assistant Inspectresses is insufficient for the steadily increasing volume of work in connexion with the education of girls, and the appointment of three additional Inspectresses is urgently required. One of these will be specially engaged in work in Calcutta, a second will take up zenana work and Muhammadan female education in the mufussal, and the third will divide with the present Assistant Inspectress for the Dacca Division the heavy duties now falling entirely upon the latter. The total charges on account of this increase in the inspecting agency will amount to Rs. 18,621.

The second project, which it is proposed to finance from this allotment, is the extension of the scope of the Calcutta Women's Training College. At present this institution only provides for the training of elementary teachers, and it is now proposed to add a secondary training department. The need for such a department has long been felt in Calcutta, but its establishment has hitherto been held up for want of funds. The annual cost will be Rs. 18,585.

A small sum of Rs. 2,060 will also be spent on the improvement of the Training School at Dacca.

A larger number of scholarships for girls is a crying want, especially in West Bengal in view of the rapid increase in the number of girls reading in our schools and colleges, and it is intended to set aside Rs. 10,092 to provide for this necessity.

[*Mr. Kuchler.*]

The balance of Rs. 57,572 will, if my recommendations are accepted, be transferred to the grant-in-aid allotment and will, in accordance with the wishes of the Government of India, be disbursed chiefly to elementary and training schools.

With regard to the third allotment, viz., that of Rs. 1,32,000 for hostels, the Government of India has stated that they are deeply impressed with the importance of making proper provision for superintendence in hostels. This view is undoubtedly shared by all who are interested in student life, and the improvement of superintendence should therefore be the first object to which the funds now available should be devoted. A considerable measure of reform in this direction had already been initiated by the Government of Bengal a few years ago when a scheme was sanctioned for providing adequate remuneration and accommodation for superintendents of hostels attached to Government schools and colleges. It has thus been made possible to appoint superintendents of better standing than those to whom the duties of supervision were previously entrusted, and if the application of the scheme, as is now proposed, be extended to the whole Province and be made to include institutions under private management, a considerable step will have been taken in the matter of the establishment of a sound system of superintendence in school and college hostels. A detailed estimate has been prepared of the cost to Government of carrying this scheme into effect on the supposition that private institutions will contribute the small proportion of one quarter of the pay of the superintendents, and it is found that an expenditure of Rs. 72,092 a year will be required at the outset. There will therefore be an annual balance of Rs. 60,000, but this sum will diminish gradually as the scheme expands. In the meantime the funds thus made available will be utilized in giving non-recurring grants for the construction, repair or equipment of hostel buildings.

The allotment of Rs. 34,000 for technical and industrial education presents no difficulty. As indicated by the Government of India, the money will be spent partly on the improvement from year to year of the workshops of the various technical and industrial institutions throughout the Province, partly on schemes for industrial education which involve recurring expenditure. A list of the institutions, which it is intended to benefit from the allotment for 1913-14 and of their requirements, is under preparation and will shortly be ready.

Finally, there is the grant for European schools. This was originally fixed at Rs. 50,000, but a further sum of Rs. 40,000 was added by the Government of India later on, and, although the latter has been transferred to the grant-in-aid allotment, its distribution may fittingly be referred to here. With regard to the former grant of Rs. 50,000, it was stated that some portion of it should be spent on increasing the number of free pupils or reducing fees in elementary classes, while the subsequent allotment of Rs. 40,000 was for the extension of education among the poorer classes of the domiciled community in the City of Calcutta. Taking the latter first, it has been decided, after consultation with the representatives of the institutions concerned, to recommend to Government that, as far as the available funds permit, they should be applied to substitute for the present grants-in-aid grants, which would cover the whole cost of the staff of teachers of free schools and orphanages in Calcutta, and that, in calculating the amount due to the schools, an allowance should be made for unpaid religious workers to the approximate amount of Rs. 100 a month for each male and Rs. 60 a month for each female teacher. The idea underlying this proposal is that, if the institutions be freed from the financial responsibility for their teaching staffs, they will be able to devote the funds thus set free to the expansion of their work in connexion with the education of destitute children.

A tabular statement has been prepared of the orphanages and free schools in Calcutta and of the cost of their staffs, including allowance for such members thereof as are unpaid, and it appears that a sum of Rs. 40,000 will very approximately suffice to increase the present grants to such an amount as will cover the total expenditure on teachers' salaries calculated on the above basis.



[*Mr. Küchler.*]

With regard to the other allotment of Rs. 50,000. we are left a freer hand, and it is permissible to admit European schools of all kinds to the benefits of this grant. As at present proposed, Rs. 10,000 will be reserved to meet in part the extra expenditure which will be incurred in extending the scope of the training department at Dow Hill School, and the balance will be distributed among certain European schools in the Province in the form of supplementary grants chiefly with the object of increasing the number of free or partially free scholars in the lower classes. The final apportionment of the grant will be made very shortly.

So far for the 9 lakhs grant. Quite independently a further recurring grant was made by the Government of India of Rs. 1,50,000 for the improvement of secondary aided schools. As in the case of the other recurring grants, it was decided to utilize the funds available this year for non-recurring expenditure, and a large number of schools both in East and West Bengal have received or will receive substantial grants-in-aid for building projects. Some of the East Bengal schemes, however, are not sufficiently matured to allow of the grants being made this year and, as will be seen from the financial statement, a sum of Rs. 46,000 has been carried over for expenditure in 1913-14.

As regards the distribution of the grant in that year and in future years, the conditions laid down by the Government of India are that the grant should specifically be given for the improvement and not the multiplication of privately managed secondary schools. The instructions given therefore to Inspectors were that the money allotted to the various divisions should be utilized for the improvement of the staffs of selected schools, and that, as far as possible, the scale of salaries for high schools proposed in the scheme for the improvement of secondary education which was formulated in the year 1908 should be adopted. It had also been proposed to devote a portion of the grant to the institution of a provident fund for teachers in such schools. The information, however, received from the Divisional Inspectors shows that the demands in the matter of higher salaries even of those schools merely which are willing to contribute themselves for this purpose are so numerous and well founded that it will probably be better to drop the question of a provident fund for the present. The Inspectors' lists are now nearly complete, and, after they have been scrutinized, the final distribution of the grants will be made.

With the Imperial non-recurring grants for education, I may perhaps deal more briefly. As the Council is aware, large grants of this nature were made to the old provinces of West Bengal and of East Bengal and Assam at the beginning of the financial year 1911-12, it being intended that the expenditure of these grants should be distributed over a period of two years. When the territorial changes took place in the beginning of 1912 it was found that, of the unspent balance of the grants made to the two former provinces, the new Presidency was entitled to a sum of Rs. 16.84,000. It has not been possible to spend the whole of this amount in the present year largely owing to the difficulties experienced by the private colleges in Calcutta which were beneficiaries under the scheme for new hostels, in the matter of the acquisition of suitable sites, and, as will be seen from the financial statement, a sum of Rs. 7,45,000 has been transferred to the budget of 1913-14. As the difficulties referred to have now been removed, there is every reason to anticipate that the whole of the projects, for which funds were originally assigned, will be completed before the end of the next financial year.

Of the new non-recurring grants announced at the beginning of the present year, the most important is the ten lakhs grant for hostels in Calcutta and a new building for the University Institute. After setting aside Rs. 2,00,000, provisionally for the latter, Rs. 2,37,000 have been reserved for Government institutions as represented by the Presidency College Bethune College and the Baker Madrassa Hostel. Rupees 45,000 have been assigned to the Moslem Institute, and the following private institutions and bodies have received grants according to their varying needs,

[*Mr. Küchler ; Sir William Duke.*]

in some cases supplementary to the allotments made from the Imperial grant of the preceding year : the City, Ripon and Bangabasi Colleges, the Metropolitan Institution, the London Missionary Institution, the Scottish Churches, St. Xavier's, and Diocesan Colleges, the Young Men's Christian Association and the Church Missionary Society. The final distribution was made with the approval of the Calcutta University. As will be seen from the financial statement, the bulk of the grant will be disbursed next year.

In addition to the hostel grant for Calcutta, a grant of four lakhs was made by the Imperial Government at the beginning of this year for hostel buildings outside Calcutta and Dacca. The grant was sanctioned in two instalments of Rs. 2,00,000 for 1912-13 and Rs. 2,00,000 for 1913-14. The assignment of the former amount was made during the course of the current year, Rs. 1,45,167 being allotted to Government institutions, Rs. 41,702 to private institutions, and Rs. 13,181 held in reserve. As in the other cases, a considerable proportion of the grant has been held back for disbursement next year.

It is unnecessary to say much about the normal heads of expenditure in the budget. The new items for the most part speak for themselves and do not require explanation. I would, however, call attention specially to the fact that, deducting the provision from Imperial revenues, the budget estimate of expenditure on education from purely provincial revenues for 1913-14 shows a large increase amounting to Rs. 7,00,000 approximately on that for the current year if we leave out of account the allowance which has been made for savings which will arise chiefly in connection with the Imperial grant. The increase appears not only in the list of new schemes on pages 7, 9, 10, 83, 84 and 85 of the financial statement, but also in the form of a considerable expansion under some of the ordinary heads of expenditure, especially that for grants-in-aid.

The new schemes which involve an expenditure of more than Rs. 5,000 are contained in the schedule at the end of the financial statement, and their nature is briefly explained in the accompanying marginal notes. I shall be glad to give any further information that may be required by Hon'ble Member before the next meeting of the Council.

The expenditure on Government educational buildings is shown as usual in the Public Works Budget. The only point to which I need call attention is that the allotment from provincial revenues remains of normal amount, notwithstanding the large sums which have been transferred from the Imperial grants to the Public Works Department for building purposes.

Finally, there comes the head of revenue, though, strictly speaking, this should have been dealt with at the beginning instead of at the end of my remarks. Education is, however, not a paying department, and the revenue side is of little interest compared with that of expenditure. It will suffice to express satisfaction once more that the fees in our schools and colleges are doing their best to emulate in a modest way the increase shown in the expenditure side of the budget.

One word, in conclusion, with regard to the fresh grants from the Imperial Government which have recently been announced. It is impossible at this stage to say in what particular way these grants may be utilized ; but whatever be the objects to which they are devoted, it is perfectly obvious that they will greatly facilitate the advance of education in a great many directions. I must add my thanks to those of others to the Government of India for providing this most munificent contribution towards the advance and spread of education.

The Hon'ble Sir William Duke introduced the following heads :—

Revenue—

XX—Medical.

Expenditure—

24. Medical.

[Sir William Duke.]

He said :—

On the receipt side the revised estimate has been taken at Rs. 4,30,000, and it shows an improvement of Rs. 69,000. This is chiefly due to the special contribution of Rs. 50,000 from the Indian Research Fund Association for carrying out experiments in jungle clearing in suitable localities and also to larger receipts from college fees owing to the opening of a sixth-year course in the Medical College. The budget for 1913-14 has been placed at Rs. 3,76,000, and generally follows the revised estimate for the current year, excluding special receipts.

Turning to the expenditure side, the revised estimate stands at Rs. 22,07,000 (excluding sanitation) and is  $3\frac{1}{4}$  lakhs less than the budget, chiefly due to the transfers of Rs. 4,00,000 for the acquisition of land for the construction of the school of tropical medicine and of Rs. 3,000 for contribution to the Lady Minto Nursing Association from this head to 45—Civil Works and 32—Miscellaneous respectively. On the other hand larger grants have been made to hospitals and dispensaries.

As for next year, the budget has been placed at Rs. 24,18,000, excluding expenditure on sanitation. It includes Rs. 1,00,000 for the school of tropical medicine, which will also be transferred to the Public Works Department after the 1st April next, for the completion of land acquisition proceedings and for the cost of the collection of materials for the construction of buildings. The Government of India made a contribution of Rs. 5,00,000 in 1911-12 for this purpose.

Provision has been made for an Indian Medical Service officer as Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals in place of a ministerial officer on lower pay. The post has not yet been sanctioned, but on the analogy of similar appointments in Bombay and Madras an application has been made to the Government of India. Provision has been made for a Professor of Physics and an Assistant Professor of Physics and Chemistry and local allowances for two Professors and three Assistant Professors of the Medical College in consideration of the larger amount of teaching work they have to do in connection with the college in addition to hospital duty for the new University Regulations. It is probably known to the Hon'ble Members that Lieutenant-Colonel Sutherland is now enquiring into the serological test in the Medical College, for which Rs. 15,000 has been provided for in the revised estimate for the current year and Rs. 20,000 in the budget. The Government of India agreed to bear this charge, and provisions of Rs. 15,000 in the revised estimate and Rs. 20,000 in the budget have been made for assignment from the Imperial Revenues under Land Revenue adjustments. We have also provided for additional teachers and demonstrators in the Medical School and for the appointment of a probationer Chemical Examiner in the Medical College. The nursing staff of the Campbell Hospital being inadequate and overworked, provision has been made for the appointment of six additional nurses at a cost of Rs. 5,280. Several other small provisions have been made which are noted at pages 7 and 10 of the Financial Statement.

The new buildings to be undertaken in the Medical Department (although they appear in the Public Works Department budget) are detailed in page 26 of the Financial Statement. We are going to acquire land for the construction of residence of the Civil Surgeon, Jalpaiguri, and providing for the construction and improvement of residences for the Civil Surgeons of Chittagong Hill Tracts, Khulna, Suri and Dinajpur. At the Campbell Medical School the dissecting room and lecture hall will be completed, while a new diphtheria ward will be built at the Medical College Hospital.

The Government of India have sanctioned a non-recurring grant of one lakh for medical, but the orders detailing the purpose to which it is to be devoted have not yet been received.

The Government of India have raised the expenditure side by  $12\frac{3}{4}$  lakhs. Of this,  $11\frac{3}{4}$  lakhs is for expenditure from the lump grant of 20 lakhs for urban sanitation and one lakh is a non-recurring grant for medical relief.

[Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda.]

The Hon'ble Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda introduced the following heads :--

Revenue—

X—Registration.

Expenditure—

12. Registration.

24. Sanitation.

He said :—

MY LORD.—I beg to introduce the budget estimates relating to the Registration branch. The receipts under the head of Registration are estimated at Rs. 19,00,000 for 1913-14 against Rs. 16,77,000 for 1912-13. The actual collections in the first nine months of 1912-13 amounted to Rs. 12,47,000. For the remaining three months of the year the receipts have been taken at Rs. 6,03,000, and the revised estimate has been placed at Rs. 18,50,000 by the Inspector-General of Registration. Allowing for an increase of Rs. 50,000, the estimate for 1913-14 has been passed for Rs. 19,00,000. The increased estimate is due to a large extent to the anticipated expansion in registration work which will result from the opening of new offices and from the carrying out of survey and settlement operations in some of the districts in the Province.

The expenditure for 1913-14 has been estimated at Rs. 11,16,000 against Rs. 10,55,000, the revised estimate for 1912-13, and Rs. 10,67,406, the actuals of 1911-12. The estimate includes (1) Rs. 5,400 for the revision of the office establishment of the Inspector-General of Registration, (2) Rs. 2,100 for increase of the pay of the ministerial officers in the office of the Registrar of Calcutta, (3) Rs. 12,300 on account of the regrading of Sub-Registrars necessitated by the amalgamation of the two parts of the Province, (4) Rs. 10,000 for the opening of new sub-registry offices to afford increased facilities for registration, and (5) Rs. 57,000 for the revision of the salary of the ministerial establishment in the offices of the District Sub-Registrars. The scheme for improving the pay of the ministerial staff has been pending for some time, and it is satisfactory to note that it has been found possible to include provision for this scheme in the estimate for the next year.

A sum of Rs. 26,000 has also been provided for the construction and extension of sub-registry offices where no rented houses are available, and for the safe custody of records.

Expenditure—

24. Sanitation.

I have to explain the budget estimates of the Sanitation branch. In the budget for the current year  $7\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs plus 5 lakhs or a total of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs were provided for expenditure on works of sanitary improvements and Rs. 4,39,200 for expenditure on establishment and contingencies, etc., of the Sanitation and Vaccination Departments under the Sanitary Commissioner. The expenditure which has already been sanctioned or will probably be sanctioned from the grant for works of sanitary improvements is shown in paragraph 59, page 30 of the Financial Statement under Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers. The expenditure is chiefly for grants to District Boards and Municipalities which are shown in the Civil Works budget. Out of this amount, the grants for the prevention of malaria, etc., are debitable to the Medical (Sanitation) budget, and are roughly estimated at about one lakh. The whole grant will not probably be utilised before the 31st March, and the saving will be regrant in 1914-15 for similar expenditure. In the current year the Indian Research Fund Association gave a special contribution of Rs. 50,000 for carrying out experiments in jungle clearing in suitable localities under conditions which will ensure the collection of accurate data. The sum was not spent in the current year as it took time to prepare definite



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

schemes after consulting the local officers. This has been provided for in the budget for next year.

In the budget estimates for the current year a provision of Rs. 1,20,100 was made for the purchase of hydrochloride of quinine from England and for the cost of its distribution and sale in the Eastern Bengal districts in accordance with the practice followed there, but only a small quantity has been bought and charged into the accounts up to date, as a large quantity was left as a legacy to this province by the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. This explains the cause of the saving in the Departmental grant and the total revised estimate has been reduced from Rs. 4,39,200 to Rs. 3,81,000.

It will appear from paragraph 59 of the Financial Statement that in the budget for next year we have provided for expenditure of Rs. 11,61,000 on works of sanitary improvements. This sum is made up of an annual grant of 4½ lakhs for two years 1912-13 and 1913-14, no portion of which is expected to be spent in the current year, and the unutilised balance of the Imperial non-recurring grant made in 1910-11 to both old Bengal and Eastern Bengal districts. The Government of India have just sanctioned an additional non-recurring grant of 20 lakhs and a recurring grant of 5 lakhs for sanitation and the major portion of the increase of about 13 lakhs under Medical expenditure alluded to in the memorandum circulated yesterday is accounted for by this. It may be hoped that with this large amount now available, we will be able to make good progress with drainage schemes and also push on the question of water-supply. It is well known to the members of this Council that in October last year a meeting was held in Darjeeling to consider the question of water-supply in rural areas, and in the budget a lump sum of Rs. 38,000 has been provided to meet the pay of sub-overseers, who may be employed in subdivisions in Bengal to report on the real condition of rural water-supply. It is anticipated that when these reports are received, Government and the local bodies will be in a better position to judge of the needs of each subdivision.

Hon'ble Members will have seen from the speech of the Finance Member in the Imperial Council and also from the speech of Sir William Duke in this Council that the Government of India, with the sanction of the Secretary of State, have decided to set free for the use of local bodies the whole of what is known as the Public Works Cess. They have indicated that in their opinion a substantial portion of this sum should be set apart for the improvement of the rural water-supply, for anti-malarial measures, for the protection of grain stores and markets in plague-infected localities, and generally for the sanitation of villages and small towns. But the actual conditions on which the grant is to be handed over to the local bodies have not yet been definitely stated. It is not unlikely however that it will be left to the discretion of the Local Government to determine the actual conditions of the grant. I need hardly assure the Council that this Government is fully alive to the importance of rural water-supply and of all effective anti-malarial measures. These two matters will be specially borne in mind in the event of our being called upon to lay down the condition on which we shall hand over this magnificent gift of the Government of India to the District Boards. The Boards have been receiving 25 per cent. of the net receipts from Public Works Cess in the shape of augmentation grants since 1905. In addition to this they will now receive the full amount of the Public Works Cess. What are known as equilibrium grants, will however be withdrawn. It will be observed that the assignment to the Local Government to make up for the loss of Public Works Cess is based on the average receipt of the cess for the last three years. Consequently when the actual receipts increase the average, a corresponding deduction will be made from the augmentation grants in order to make up the loss to the Provincial revenues; should the receipts be below the average, which is not likely, a corresponding addition will be made to it. The net gain to the District Boards therefore will be the average receipts of the Public Works Cess, viz., Rs. 29,42,000 minus the equilibrium grants Rs. 4,49,000 or, roughly speaking, about Rs. 25,00,000 in all. This is a large accession to the income of local bodies which, we trust, will be appreciated by

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

the country at large, and will materially contribute to the improvement of their health and comfort. The local bodies will, it is hoped, also show their appreciation by a greater attention to their duties and by a judicious expenditure of the funds placed at their disposal.

As for departmental expenditure we have provided Rs. 1,14,200 for the purchase of hydrochloride of quinine and its distribution. Provision has also been made to help Municipalities with half the pay of six 1st and 17 2nd class Health Officers who may be employed, as well as for three additional Deputy Sanitary Commissioners for Dacca, Rajshahi and Burdwan Circles with the cost of their establishment and contingencies. Government is opening a training class for the 2nd class Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors. Government contemplates to assist the Municipalities, if their resources are insufficient, to meet the cost of Sanitary Inspectors. Provision has also been made for the introduction of antiseptic system of vaccination in the Eastern Bengal districts.

It may be mentioned here that we are going to raise the lump grants annually placed at the disposal of the Divisional Commissioners to one lakh next year and to provide the District Magistrates with small grants of about Rs. 2,000 each on the average in order that minor defects and local requirements which are brought to their notice may be remedied promptly without a reference to head-quarters.

The Hon'ble Sir William Duke introduced the following heads :—

Revenue—

XXIII—Stationery and Printing.

Expenditure—

30. Stationery and Printing.

He said :—

As regards the estimates of the Stationery and Printing Departments' the revised estimate of receipts show a small decrease of Rs. 3,000, which is due to smaller sale-proceeds of official publications. The budget for next year (Rs. 1,30,000) is only Rs. 2,000 less than the revised estimate for the current year, and is due to smaller receipts from the sale of Indian Law Reports as the back numbers are out of print.

The figures of the expenditure side are shown in page 68 of the Financial Statement. The revised estimate amounts to Rs. 14,24,000, and shows an increase of Rs. 1,69,000, chiefly due to the fact that while framing the budget for the current year no provision was made for expenditure on the Dacca Jail Press, which has been retained to print forms. Provision was made subsequently, and the amount deducted for probable savings reduced correspondingly. The budget for 1913-14 has been placed at Rs. 13,60,000. The only important difference is under the head of Government Presses, the estimate under which head has been framed with reference to actual requirements. A provision of Rs. 5,000 has been made for the revision of the establishment of the Forms Department.

It is hoped that the forms block in the new Alipore Jail will be completed next year, and a provision of Rs. 3,22,600 has been made for this in the Public Works Department budget.

As explained in the Council in March 1910 the Secretariat Press is hopelessly congested and work is carried on there under conditions of extreme difficulty. The paid section of the Presidency Jail Press, which it had been intended to amalgamate with the Secretariat Press when that jail was vacated, could not for the most part be received into Writers' Buildings, and it is almost certain that at no very distant date the province will have to face the expenditure of constructing a new Press building elsewhere.

[Mr. Lyon.]

The Hon'ble Mr. Lyon introduced the following heads :-

Revenue—

XXIX—Irrigation—Major Works.

Expenditure—

42. Irrigation—Major Works (Working Expenses).

Revenue—

XXX—Minor Works and Navigation.

Expenditure—

43. Minor Works and Navigation.

He said :—

I now have the honour, My Lord, to introduce for the consideration of Council the Public Works headings of the budget entitled Irrigation Major Works—XXIX, Receipts, and 42 Expenditure and Minor Works and Navigation—XXX, Receipts, and 43 Expenditure.

It will be realised that a great deal of work under the heading of Irrigation proper has passed from under the Government of Bengal to the new Government of Bihar and Orissa. The main Sone and Orissa Canal systems, and the Irrigation channels connected with the Tribeni system in North Bihar are all now under the new Government and we are left with only two major works, the Midnapore and Hijiili tidal canals. On the other hand, while we have lost much work in the way of irrigation we have taken over a great deal from the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam in the nature of embankments and drainage schemes besides the management of a large proportion of the various waterways leading to Eastern and Northern Bengal.

Under the budget estimate for 1913-14 it will be seen that the provincial share of receipts on account of major works is estimated at Rs. 1,40,000, while the provincial share of expenditure is 1,20,000. It is hoped that during the next few years there will be a steady increase in the receipts from the Midnapore canals, owing to the raising of the rates levied for irrigation on long-term leases from Re. 1-8 per acre to Rs. 2 per acre, as those leases fall in.

Turning next to Minor Works and Navigation, there is a slight increase of Rs. 5,000 estimated under the heading of Receipts, which is due to an expected improvement in the tolls to be levied for navigation on the Calcutta Canals and the Madaripur Bhil route, which has recently been completed. A new canal, about 10 miles in length, has been opened in extension of the existing Calcutta Canals, called the Krishtapur Canal, between Ultadinghi and Bamanghata.

Under the Expenditure head there is a considerable increase over the revised estimate for 1912-13, and the total expenditure estimated in the coming year is Rs. 18,66,000. This increase is due chiefly to (1) a provision of Rs. 50,000, out of an estimated total cost of one lakh, which is being granted by Government to clear the bed of the Saraswati river in connection with the Rajapur Drainage Works in the district of Howrah. These drainage works were originally constructed under the Bengal Drainage Act, and were paid for by the persons interested, but it has been decided that the cost of this necessary improvement should be borne by Government; (2) to a special provision of Rs. 2,65,000 under the heading Maintenance and Repairs, for the work to be carried out by the dredger *Foye's* in improving the waterways between Calcutta and Eastern Bengal. This is one of the first instalments of the very considerable expenditure which we hope to be in a position to incur for the general improvement of the waterways in Eastern Bengal during the next few years. I need scarcely add that I believe that all such expenditure will prove productive in the long run.

The expenditure estimated also includes Rs. 1,96,000 in connection with the completion of the Madaripur Bhil scheme, including the dredging of the

[Mr. Lyon ; Mr. Finnimore.]

lower Kumar river, and also a sum of Rs. 21,800 on account of a lock in connection with the Mogra Hât Drainage Scheme. The expenditure on this lock will be recouped by a toll on the boats passing through it. The drainage scheme itself provides for the drainage of an area of 290 square miles in the Diamond Harbour subdivision, and is now being carried out under the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act of 1895, at an estimated cost of 21 lakhs, towards which the Government of Bengal has contributed 5 lakhs and makes no charge for the Public Works establishment employed in carrying it out. Government has also undertaken to bear all maintenance charges, recouping itself from such income as may be derivable from the scheme.

There is also expenditure on training works for the benefit of navigation on the Ganges, Buriganga and Dhaleswari rivers.

These are all the figures connected with the present estimate of expenditure on Minor Works and Navigation that it is necessary to dilate upon at the present time, but I should like to say before sitting down that the classification of these works connected with the navigation of our waterways as Minor Works does not represent the view which the Government of Bengal takes of its responsibilities towards the Presidency of Bengal in the matter of the treatment of the deltaic rivers, whether as regards drainage or as regards navigation. We are well aware of the potentialities of these rivers for both these purposes, and we are most anxious to work out and forward any schemes that may be found feasible for the improvement of the waterways connected with them. We must of course consider how far we are entitled to spend our tax-payers' money upon such schemes, and in many cases it will be necessary to insist upon reducing a scheme to a business proposition before we can undertake to deal with it. But at the same time we appreciate the importance of taking a long view in such matters, and of facing such expenditure as may be required in cases in which the ultimate benefit to be secured, although it may appear somewhat remote, cannot be gainsaid. The question of the improvement of these waterways, so far as expenditure is concerned, resolves itself mainly into a question of dredgers, and we are now in the midst of a careful investigation into the merits of various classes of dredgers and we are preparing an estimate as to the dredging plant which is absolutely necessary if we are to make an impression upon the silt which is constantly blocking some of our more important channels, or the heavy clay banks which have to be cut through before new ones can be constructed. In these matters we are glad to have the benefit of the valuable advice which is given us by the newly constituted Waterways Committee, and we shall not fail to keep carefully in touch with the interests that are chiefly concerned with these waterways when preparing our schemes and allotting our expenditure. This Council is aware that at the instance of that Committee, Mr. Oswald Lees is now carrying out an elaborate investigation into the feasibility of opening a steamer canal between Calcutta and the inner boat route through the Sunderbans. The importance of this canal is self-evident to any one who studies the maps of the Sunderbans routes, but it still remains to be seen whether it can be constructed at such a cost as will make it possible to obtain any reasonable return for the money spent, and this matter is one of the chief branches of Mr. Lees' present investigation. A special meeting of the Waterways Committee is to be held within the next few days to consider the question of the alignment now proposed by Mr. Lees for this canal, and the whole scheme will receive the full and sympathetic consideration of the Government when it is finally submitted for consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. Finnimore introduced the following heads. —

Revenue—

XXXI—Civil Works.

Expenditure—

45. Civil Works.



[Mr. Finnimore.]

He said :—

My Lord, I have the honor to introduce for the consideration of the Council the head in the financial statement for *Civil Works*—XXXI Receipts and 45 Expenditure.

This is divided into two parts—

- (1) That relating to Civil Works in the charge of the Public Works Department.
- (2) That administered by the Civil Department.

I will first deal with those under the Public Works Department.

In the revised figures shown on page 74 of the financial statement for the current year under the head of Revenue, there is a decrease of Rs. 7,14,000 in our anticipated receipts. This decrease has been explained by the Hon'ble Sir William Duke in presenting the Financial Statement.

On the expenditure side, the large increase of Rs. 9,00,000 is accounted for by additional grants received after our budget for the current year was framed. The principal works for which these grants were made are—

	Rs.
(1) Acquisition of land for the extension of the Presidency College ... ..	4,30,425
(2) Acquisition of land for the School of Tropical Medicine and Biological Laboratory in the Medical College ... ..	4,00,000
(3) Completing the Physical Laboratory, Presidency College ... ..	50,000
(4) Acquisition of land for the Presidency College Hostel ... ..	49,000

The increase of Rs. 51,000 in repairs to Civil Buildings is due to cost of upkeep of Government Houses at Calcutta and Barrackpur not included in the budget.

The increase of Rs. 56,000 in repairs to communications is due to extra grant given to the maidan roads found necessary owing to the increased traffic.

The increase of Rs. 22,827 in establishment was made to meet the pay of the Superintendent of the Governor's Estates and his establishment.

The increase of Rs. 22,000 in stock is due to surplus materials for works in Dacca being taken on to stock. These will be utilized shortly on other works.

For the year 1913-14, the amount budgetted for receipts is Rs. 3,69,000 against our revised estimate for the current year of Rs. 4,09,000. The decrease is due to the abnormal receipts last year of Rs. 40,000 on account of the sale-proceeds of the Garden Reach old Thana building, a new building having been constructed there.

The grant for expenditure during the coming year is Rs. 74,30,000 against Rs. 71,00,000, the revised estimate for the current year. From this we have first to meet our recurrent expenditure on Establishment, Tools and Plant and Repairs and make adequate provision for carrying on original works in progress.

For establishment, we have provided Rs. 10,94,600 against Rs. 10,32,000. This difference is due to the fact that we anticipate that the Imperial contribution of 23 per cent. on works executed for the Government of India will be less by Rs. 63,000 than it is in the current year.

For Tools and Plant, Rs. 37,000 is provided against Rs. 52,000 in the current year.

[Mr. Finnamore.]

For repairs, the amount budgetted is Rs. 19,60,000 against Rs. 17,14,000 in the current year.

The increase is due to provision for upkeep of Government buildings and lands at Dacca amounting to Rs. 33,000.

To an extra provision of Rs. 86,400 for improvements to the roads on the Calcutta Maidan. To Rs. 38,000 provided for rent for the Dilkusha property at Dacca which is occupied by Government House there, and the balance, Rs. 88,600, is owing to the fact that quadrennial repairs are due to a very large number of large buildings during the current year.

To provide adequately for the carrying on next year of works now in progress, a provision of Rs. 12,86,000 is made.

This leaves a sum of Rs. 30,52,400 available for works not yet commenced.

This has been distributed between—

	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Minor works costing less than	5,000	3,39,000

This has been placed at the disposal of Commissioners of Divisions and Heads of Departments.

	Rs.	Rs.
To Commissioners	... 71,500	
Excise	... 6,500	
Jails	... 55,000	
Police (Mufassil)	... 40,000	
Do. (Calcutta)	... 15,000	
Education	... 75,000	
Medical	... 50,000	
Registration	... 20,000	
Agriculture	... 6,000	
(2) Major works	... ..	25,00,000
(3) Reserves	... ..	2,13,400

The necessity for the new Major Works under the heads "Police," "Jails," "Sanitation," "Excise," "Medical," "Education," "Registration," "Judicial" and "Revenue" has been explained by the Hon'ble Members in charge of the Departments concerned. The remaining items are—

- (1) One lakh for the Tista Valley Road.
- (2) Two lakhs for the Duars Roads.
- (3) Rupees 2,13,000 for Government House at Darjeeling.
- (4) Rupees 3,12,000 for Body Guard lines, Alipore.
- (5) Two lakhs for railway saloons for His Excellency the Governor.

The lakh provided for the Tista Valley Road is to provide for widening and realigning the section of the road from the 26th to the 30th mile.

During heavy floods in 1900-02, the old low level road from the 12th mile to 26th mile was practically destroyed, and it was decided to reconstruct it at a higher level. This has been done. The portion from the 26th mile to the Tista Bridge was not so urgent, as this was above high flood-level. It is now necessary to take this up also, as the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway are extending their line up the valley, and it is very desirable that the construction of this portion should be taken up at the same time as the construction of their line, as they have undertaken to contribute towards the cost of

[Mr. Finnimore ; Mr. Lyon.]

the reconstruction for the portion of the road they will utilize. Moreover, the present road is very narrow and badly graded, and it is very necessary to reconstruct it on the same lines as the portion between the 12th and the 26th miles, this being the main line of communication between Bengal and Sikkim and Tibet. The provision of two lakhs for the Duars roads is to meet a long-felt want for the improvement of the roads in that district.

The provision for the Government House, Darjeeling, provides funds to complete the work now in progress—while the provision for the Body Guard lines at Alipore covers the cost of completing the work during 1913-14.

The Rs. 25,00,000 includes Rs. 4,00,000, part of Rs. 12,00,000 discretionary grant given by the Government of India and which is at present unallotted and it is not necessary that it be spent on Civil Works in the charge of the Public Works Department.

A reserve of Rs. 13,000 is provided for electrical accessories in public buildings in Calcutta, Rs. 1,10,900 under Civil Buildings and Rs. 15,000 under Communications, including Rs. 3,000 for Arboriculture. Other reserves are—

	Rs.
(1) Residences for Local Government ...	25,000
(2) Witness sheds ...	6,000
(3) Munsifs' Courts ...	3,600
(4) Munsifs' residences ...	15,600
(5) Mufassil officers' residences ...	15,000
(6) Replacing inflammable buildings ...	6,000
(7) Miscellaneous Public Improvements ...	3,300

Funds will be allotted from these reserves as necessity arises for the works specified under each head by the Local Government.

The Public Works Department have nothing to do with the administration of Civil Works in charge of the Civil Department, and these have already been noticed by the Hon'ble Nawab Syed Shams-ul-Huda in dealing with sanitation. The estimate of receipts needs no explanation. The budgetted expenditure is Rs. 36,04,000, but, under the orders of the Government of India, this has been reduced by Rs. 5,84,000—the amount of the equilibrium and other grants resumed from District Boards in consequence of the decision to grant them the amount of the Public Works cess. The principal items are—

	Rs.
Calcutta Improvement Trust ...	11,50,000
Grants at the disposal of Commissioners and District Magistrates ...	1,52,000
Sanitation grant ...	11,61,000

and grants to District Boards and Municipalities.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lyon introduced the following heads :—

Revenue—

XVIII—Ports and Pilotage.

Expenditure—

21. Ports and Pilotage.

He said :—

My LORD,—I have nothing to add to the explanation which has been given in the Amended Draft Financial Statement of the figures under the head of Ports and Pilotage.

[*Sir William Duke.*]

The Hon'ble Sir William Duke introduced the following heads :—

Revenue—

XII—Interest.

Expenditure—

1. Refunds and Drawbacks.

Revenue—

XXII—Receipts in aid of Superannuation.

Expenditure—

29. Superannuation.

Revenue—

XXV—Miscellaneous.

Expenditure—

32. Miscellaneous.

Revenue—

XII—Interest.

He said :—

The Interest Budget represents for the most part the loan transactions of the Local Government. We borrow money from the Imperial Government at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. calculated on the mean outstanding balance and lend it under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists Loans Acts loans to Co-operative Credit Societies, to drainage and embankment advances, to land-holders, etc., and to local bodies such as Municipalities and District Boards (excluding Presidency Corporations). The receipts comprise the interest we realize and the expenditure is the interest we pay to the Imperial Government. The gradual decrease under receipts from 1911-12 is due to the repayment of advances being greater than the payment to agriculturists and land-holders.

Revenue—

XXII—Receipts in aid of Superannuation, etc.

Expenditure—

1. Refunds and drawbacks.

26. Superannuation allowances and pensions.

These heads do not call for particular remarks. In the Superannuation budget the receipts are chiefly contributions for pensions and gratuities of officers left to foreign services and for the management of private estates and deductions for Pilotage Pension Fund and the expenditure is the pensions and gratuities actually paid. The charges under this head tend to rise year after year owing to increase in the number of claims to pensions and provision is made with reference to the average increase in the past.

Refunds and drawbacks occur in different departments and we budget on the basis of the average actuals of the past three years, excluding special payments.

Revenue—

XXV—Miscellaneous.

Expenditure—

32. Miscellaneous.

The Miscellaneous Budget comprises of several small items. The detailed figures are shown in page 41 of the Financial Statement. On the

receipt side the revised estimate is Rs. 6,36,000 against Rs. 4,87,000 in the budget. The increase is chiefly under "Unclaimed Deposits," the estimate under which has been raised from Rs. 3,82,800 to Rs. 5,00,000 with reference to the actual collections of the first nine months of the year. The collections from Court of Wards of arrear fees for Government audit have raised the estimate under this sub-head by nearly Rs. 12,000. The estimate for 1913-14 is Rs. 5,91,000, and includes Rs. 4,80,000 under "Unclaimed Deposits" which is a very uncertain and fluctuating head. The sale-proceeds of Durbar presents will in future be smaller as it has been decided to make no presents to title-holders below the rank of Maharajas and Rajas.

On the expenditure side the revised estimate shows a nominal saving of Rs. 2,56,000, which is mainly due to (a) the transfer of Rs. 2,07,000 to Education, as the equilibrium grant to District Boards in the Eastern Bengal districts was provided for by the Accountant-General of Eastern Bengal and Assam under this head and not under the appropriate head, (b) to the adjustment under the appropriate heads of expenditure sanctioned by His Excellency from the provision for petty grants, and (c) to the re-appropriation of the reserve provision of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs in order to meet expenditure under other heads. On the other hand a lump provision of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs has been made to meet the cost of grain compensation allowances to the menials of all provincial departments which has recently been sanctioned with effect from the month of October 1912. The revised also includes Rs. 44,000 for charges of the Dacca University Commission and Rs. 16,000 for the salary of two officers placed on special duty in connection with the Public Service Commission.

The budget for 1913-14 amounts to Rs. 9,53,000, and shows an increase of Rs. 1,40,000 over the budget and Rs. 3,96,000 over the revised estimate for 1912-13. The budget includes Rs. 3,60,000 for payment of grain compensation allowance to the menial servants of all departments against  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs in the revised. It also includes the usual provisions of one lakh, being the amount placed at the disposal of the head of the province for petty grants and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs as a general reserve for unforeseen requirements. Provision of Rs. 3,000 has also been made for the payment of pensions to literary title-holders, Rs. 4,000 for the cost of portraits of His Majesty the King-Emperor to be supplied to the several Government offices and Rs. 6,600 for the Lady Minto Nursing Association.

The Council was then adjourned to Thursday, the 13th March, 1913, at 11 A.M.

F. G. WIGLEY.

*Secy. to the Bengal Legislative Council.*

CALCUTTA ;  
*The 10th March, 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 Thursday, the 13th March, 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. E. W. COLLIN.

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

The Hon'ble MR. C. J. STEVENSON-MOORE, C.V.O.

The Hon'ble MR. N. D. BEATSON BELL, C.I.E.

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

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

The Hon'ble MR. H. L. STEPHENSON.

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

The Hon'ble MR. J. DONALD.

The Hon'ble MR. S. L. MADDOX, C.S.I.

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

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

The Hon'ble MR. G. W. KÜCHLER, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble RAI PRIYA NATH MUKHARJI BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble SIR FREDERICK LOCH HALLIDAY, Kt., C.I.E., M.V.O.

The Hon'ble SIR FREDERICK GEORGE DUMAYNE, Kt.

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 SIR ALLAN ARTHUR, Kt.

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 ABUL KASEM.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SAIYID HOSSAM HAIDER CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble RAJA MAHENDRA RANJAN RAY CHAUDHURI.

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.

*Oath of allegiance.*

[Dr. Nilratan Sarkar; Mr. Kerr.]

The Hon'ble BABU MAHENDRA NATH RAY.

The Hon'ble RAI HARI MOHAN CHANDRA BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble BABU ANANDA CHANDRA RAY.

The Hon'ble BABU UPENDRA LAL RAY.

## OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE.

The Hon'ble Sir Frederick Loch Halliday and the Hon'ble Sir Allan Arthur made the prescribed oath of their allegiance to the Crown.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

## THE SIBPUR ENGINEERING COLLEGE.

The Hon'ble DR. NILRATAN SARKAR asked :—

I.—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the agreement for the sale of the premises of the Sibpur Engineering College to the Port Commissioners has been completed?

(b) Has the Government come to any decision with regard to the future location of the Sibpur Engineering College?

(c) Is the Government aware that there exists a considerable body of opinion adverse to the removal of the Engineering College to a place situated far from Calcutta?

The Hon'ble MR. KERR replied :—

I.—(a) "The agreement for the sale of the Sibpur Engineering College and site to the Port Commissioners has not yet been finally completed. The matter is still the subject of correspondence between this Government and the Government of India

(b) Government has not yet come to any decision with regard to the arrangements to be made on the transfer of the Sibpur Engineering College to the Port Commissioners. The Dacca University Committee have proposed that provision should be made in connection with the new University for the instruction in Civil Engineering now given at Sibpur, and a scheme is being worked out for the creation of a fully-equipped Technological Institute in Calcutta which will make provision, among other things, for instruction in all the other subjects included in the curriculum of the Sibpur College.

(c) Government is aware that a considerable body of opinion desires that provision should be made for the teaching of Civil Engineering in Calcutta or its neighbourhood on the abandonment of the Sibpur College. Public opinion has already been invited upon the proposals made by the Dacca University Committee, and the scheme for the Technological College referred to above will also be published for public consideration before any final decision is come to upon it."

## APPOINTMENTS HELD BY GRADUATES OF THE SIBPUR ENGINEERING COLLEGE

The Hon'ble DR. NILRATAN SARKAR asked :—

II.—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of appointments carrying salaries of Rs. 200 per mensem and upwards held by graduates of the Sibpur Engineering College?

[Mr. Kerr.]

The HON'BLE MR. KERR replied :—

II.—“A statement giving the information desired by the Hon'ble Member is laid on the table.”

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE ANSWER BY THE HON'BLE MR. KERR TO QUESTION NO. II ASKED BY THE HON'BLE DR. NILRATAN SARKAR AT THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 13TH MARCH, 1913.

*Appointments in the Engineer Establishment carrying salaries of Rs. 200 per mensem and upwards, held by graduates of the Sibpur Engineering College.*

		Pay Rs.
1.	A. P. Sarkar, B.C.E., Superintending Engineer ...	1,750
2.	B. M. Mitra, B.E., Executive Engineer ...	1,250
3.	G. J. St. C. Sedgley, L.E., Ditto ...	1,200
4.	M. S. Sengupta, B.E., Ditto ...	1,100
5.	Paresh Ch. Chatterji, B.E., Ditto ...	800
6.	Amar Nath Das, B.E., Ditto ...	1,000
7.	Bhola Nath Banarji, B.E., Ditto ...	750
8.	Gyanesh Ch. Bhattacharji, B.E., Asstt. Engineer	400
9.	Shailendra Nath Banarji, B.E., Ditto ...	400
10.	H. C. Vieyra, B.E., Ditto ...	375
11.	P. H. Barboza, B.E., Ditto ...	325
12.	Binay Ranjan Halder, B.E., Ditto ...	250-25-475
13.	Sarada Charan Mitra, B.E., Ditto ...	250-25-475
14.	Adya Nath Basu, B.E., Ditto ...	250-25-475
15.	A. J. King, B.E., Ditto ...	250-25-475
16.	Jotindra Nath Mallik, B.E., Ditto	500 rising to
	(supernumerary).	Rs. 600, District Engineer, Burdwan.

*Appointments in the Upper Subordinate Establishment carrying salaries of Rs. 200 per mensem and upwards, held by graduates of the Sibpur Engineering College.*

		Pay Rs.
1.	P. K. Biswas, L.C.E., Sub-Engineer, 1st grade	400
2.	B. B. Mukharji, L.C.E., Ditto 2nd "	300
3.	Ananga Mohan Pal, L.E., Ditto ...	300
4.	T. N. Mazumdar, L.E., Sub-Engineer, 3rd grade	250
5.	Satya Ranjan Khastgir, L.E., Ditto ...	250
6.	Sharat Chandra Sur, L.E., Ditto ...	250
7.	Surendra Nath Bhattacharji, B.E., Ditto ...	250
8.	A. T. Guha, B.E., Ditto ...	250
9.	Nanda Lal De, L.E., Ditto ...	250
10.	N. N. Datta, B.E., Supervisor, 1st grade ...	Not shown in the Civil List.
11.	Nilmani Dey, B.E., Ditto ...	Ditto.
12.	Prithwiraj Mukharji, B.E., Ditto ...	Ditto.
13.	Kedar Nath Mazumdar, L.E., Ditto ...	Ditto.
14.	Chittasukh Sanyal, B.E., Ditto ...	Ditto.
15.	Krishnadhnan Banarji, L.E., Sub-Engineer, 2nd grade (supernumerary).	300, Sanitary Board, Bengal.
16.	Pyari Charan Gupta, L.E., Sub-Engineer, 3rd grade (supernumerary).	200-20-400 District Engineer, Tippera.

[*Mr. G. H. C. Ariff; Mr. Stephenson; Mr. Stevenson-Moore.*]

MINISTERIAL OFFICERS OF EASTERN BENGAL TRANSFERRED TO CALCUTTA.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOLAM HASSEIN CASSIM ARIFF asked :—

III.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether any relief has been granted to the ministerial officers of Eastern Bengal transferred to Calcutta, on account of the hardship they have had to undergo—

- (a) in connection with house building at Dacca or Shillong, and
- (b) on account of their being obliged to pay higher house-rent at Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Mr. STEPHENSON replied :—

III.—(a) “It was never intended that the location of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam at Shillong should be anything but temporary, and any clerks who may have built houses at that station did so at their own risk. As regards Dacca, all those clerks who had incurred expenses in building or collecting materials for building and were transferred from Dacca in consequence of the rearrangement of the Province have been reimbursed their expenses.

(b) Clerks transferred to Calcutta have been brought up on the sanctioned establishment of the Calcutta offices, and the pay of this establishment is fixed with due regard to the expenses of living in Calcutta. No question of any relief, therefore, arises.”

PRESIDENCY ALLOWANCE TO OFFICERS OF GOVERNMENT WHOSE PAY IS  
RS. 500 OR LESS.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOLAM HASSEIN CASSIM ARIFF asked :—

IV.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether, in view of the gradual and steady rise in the price of food-grains and the fact that living in Calcutta has become more and more expensive, it is in contemplation to grant some sort of Presidency allowance to all officers of Government whose monthly emoluments are Rs. 500 and below?

The Hon'ble Mr. STEPHENSON replied :—

IV.—“No.”

CONTINUANCE OF ORDERS, APPOINTMENTS AND NOTIFICATIONS ISSUED BY THE LATE  
GOVERNMENTS OF BENGAL AND EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOLAM HASSEIN CASSIM ARIFF asked :—

V.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether all appointments made, orders passed and notifications issued by the late Governments of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam still hold good in those cases where they have not yet been explicitly replaced, modified or cancelled by the present Government of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. STEVENSON-MOORE replied :—

V.—“The answer is in the affirmative.”

DRAINAGE AND SANITATION IMPROVEMENTS IN DACCA.

The Hon'ble Mr. GOLAM HASSEIN CASSIM ARIFF asked :—

VI.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the improvements in drainage and sanitation in Dacca, which were contemplated by the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, are going to be carried out, and whether Government is going to advance funds for the purpose?



[*Mr. Stephenson ; Mr. G. H. U. Ariff ; Mr. Kerr.*]

The Hon'ble MR. STEPHENSON replied :—

VI.—“It is understood that the sewerage scheme originally prepared for Dacca has been found to be in certain respects unsuitable and it is now being revised and modified by the Sanitary Engineer.

As no final scheme has been submitted to Government, the question of finance has not yet come under consideration.”

#### VILLAGE DRAINAGE SCHEME FOR THE BENGAL PRESIDENCY.

The Hon'ble MR. GOLAM HASSEIN CASSIM ARIFF asked :—

VII.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is in contemplation to introduce a village drainage scheme gradually throughout the Bengal Presidency ?

The Hon'ble MR. STEPHENSON replied :—

VII.—“There is no scheme for village drainage throughout the Bengal Presidency at present before Government.”

#### DEMONSTRATIONS IN AGRICULTURE.

The Hon'ble MR. GOLAM HASSEIN CASSIM ARIFF asked :—

VIII.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the officers of the Agricultural Department hold any demonstrations in remote rural areas to explain the methods of modern agriculture to the agriculturists ?

The Hon'ble MR. KERR replied :—

VIII.—“A large amount of demonstration work is carried out by the Agricultural Department, with a view to bringing to the knowledge of the cultivators improvements in agricultural methods, the value of which has been tested by experimental work on the agricultural farms. The demonstrations are carried out either by ordinary cultivators under the supervision and with the assistance of officers of the Department, or by fieldmen demonstrators. In the former case, the seed or manure or other appliances required, are supplied by the Department, and applied by the cultivator in accordance with the instructions received. In the latter case, a fieldman demonstrator, after a training at one of the agricultural farms, is placed in charge of the cultivation of specific plots in different places, with the object of demonstrating to the other cultivators in the neighbourhood definite improvements which have been explained to him at the farm. Eight such fieldmen demonstrators were employed last year, and it is proposed this year to increase the number to 30.”

#### BREEDING BULLS.

The Hon'ble MR. GOLAM HASSEIN CASSIM ARIFF asked :—

IX.—Will the Government be pleased to specify the names of places where breeding bulls are maintained by the Agricultural Department ?

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

The HON'BLE MR. KERR replied :—

IX.—“A copy of Table VIII of the Annual Report of the Bengal Veterinary College for the year 1911-12, which gives the information desired by the Hon'ble Member, is laid on the table.”

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE ANSWER BY THE HON'BLE MR. KERR TO QUESTION NO IX ASKED BY THE HON'BLE MR. GOLAM HOSSEIN CASSIM ARIFF AT THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 13TH MARCH, 1913

TABLE VIII.

*Return of Stud-bulls for the year 1911-12.*

PROVINCE	PROPERTY OF GOVERNMENT					PROPERTY OF LOCAL BODIES				
	Number on 1st April	Obtained during the year		Casualties during the year	Balance remaining on 31st March	Number on 1st April	Obtained during the year		Casualties during the year	Balance remaining on 31st March
		Number	Average price paid				Number	Average price paid		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
			Rs					Rs		
Darjeeling ...	7	1	78	1	7	...	...	...	...	...
Bengal Veterinary College, Belga-chia	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
Dacca ...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	1	3 °
Mymensingh ...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	80	1	5
Faridpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4
Bakarganj ...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	3	9 †
Chittagong ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	3 ‡
Tippera ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Noakhali ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	20	...	3
Rajshahi ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2 §
Dinajpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Jalpaiguri ...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4
Rangpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	7	2	80	2	7
Bogra ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Pabna ...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	2	2
Malda ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Total ..	10	1	...	1	10	48	10	...	9	49

\* 2 Jail bulls, 1 D. B. bull  
† 6 D. B. bulls, 8 Jail bulls  
‡ Jail bulls  
§ Ditto

## NUMBER OF POLICE OFFICERS IN THE BENGAL PRESIDENCY.

The HON'BLE MR. GOLAM HOSSEIN CASSIM ARIFF asked:—

X.—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of—

- (i) head constables,
- (ii) sub-inspectors, and
- (iii) inspectors of Police.

in the Bengal Presidency?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the numbers of Hindus and Muhammadans separately employed under (i) (ii) and (iii)?

[Mr. Stevenson-Moore; Mr. G. H. C. Ariff.]

The HON'BLE MR. STEVENSON-MOORE replied :—

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE ANSWER BY THE HON'BLE MR. STEVENSON MOORE TO QUESTION NO X ASKED BY THE HON'BLE MR. GOLAM HOSSEIN CASSIM ARIFF AT THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 13TH MARCH, 1913

*Statement of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police and Head Constables in the Bengal Presidency.*

	I NSPECTORS			SUB-INSPECTORS.			HEAD CONSTABLES.		
	Total strength	Hindu	Muham- madan	Total strength,	Hindu	Muham- madan	Total strength	Hindu	Muham- madan
Bengal Police	232	159	15	1 648°	1 179 °	454 °	2 075	1,527	413
Calcutta Police	27	10	3	85	41	11	455	290	165
Total in the Bengal Presi- dency	259	169	18	1,733	1,220	465	2,530	1,817	578

° Including supernumerary Sub Inspectors

N.B.—The difference between the total strength and the total of Hindu and Muhammadan officers represents the number of vacancies plus the number of officers of other religions

## DACOITIES IN EASTERN BENGAL.

The HON'BLE MR. GOLAM HOSSEIN CASSIM ARIFF asked :—

XI.—Will the Government be pleased to state how many cases of dacoities have been reported in Eastern Bengal from the year 1906, and how many of them were detected and how many resulted in the conviction of the offenders?

The Hon'ble Mr STEVENSON-MOORE replied :—

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE ANSWER BY THE HON'BLE MR. STEVENSON-MOORE TO QUESTION NO XI ASKED BY THE HON'BLE MR. GOLAM HOSSEIN CASSIM ARIFF AT THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 13TH MARCH 1913.

*Statement of dacoities reported from Eastern Bengal districts from 1906 to 1913, with number of cases ending in conviction.*

Serial No	DISTRICTS	1906		1907		1908		1909		1910		1911		1912		1913	
		Number of dacoities reported	Number of cases ending in conviction	Number of dacoities reported	Number of cases ending in conviction	Number of dacoities reported	Number of cases ending in conviction	Number of dacoities reported	Number of cases ending in conviction	Number of dacoities reported	Number of cases ending in conviction	Number of dacoities reported	Number of cases ending in conviction	Number of dacoities reported	Number of cases ending in conviction	Number of dacoities reported	Number of cases ending in conviction
1	Bakarganj..	24	8	25	8	22	8	17	...	19	4	17	1	21	4	7	...
2	Bogra ..	19	1	2	1	5	2	18	1	13	2	3	3	5	...	1	...
3	Chittagong ..	6	...	2	2	2	2	1	1	8	...	1	...	3	0	...	...
4	Dacca ...	19	1	18	1	18	2	11	1	10	...	17	1	22	1	1	...
5	Dinajpur ...	9	8	7	1	13	8	17	8	24	2	18	1	7	1	4	...
6	Faridpur ...	6	1	13	...	17	2	22	1	19	2	21	2	10	1	5	...
7	Jalpaiguri...	10	...	11	...	10	...	18	2	14	1	14	...	7	...	1	...
8	Malda ...	4	1	5	...	5	1	8	2	4	1	2	1	3	...	...	...
9	Mymensingh	16	5	25	6	42	1	11	2	11	1	30	8	11	8	8	...
10	Noakhali ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
11	Pabna ...	15	3	13	...	14	2	6	1	7	1	9	...	9	1	4	...
12	Rajshahi ...	15	2	8	4	3	2	14	2	23	7	23	1	5	...	4	1
13	Rangpur ...	9	1	5	...	9	...	15	1	19	2	11	2	15	...	...	...
14	Tippura ...	9	...	5	1	6	...	7	1	18	1	28	4	12	...	8	1
	Total ...	155	26	181	19	166	26	160	18	179	24	181	19	180	11	28	2

Total number of cases reported from 1906 to 1913 ... 1,185

Ditto ditto ending in conviction .. ... 145

This figure includes cases declared false or non-cognisable or finally disposed of under other sections

[*Maulvi Abul Kasem ; Mr. Stephenson ; Dr. D. P. Sarbadhikari ;  
Mr. Stevenson-Moore.*]

INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF LOCAL BOARDS AND VILLAGE UNIONS  
IN BENGAL.

The HON'BLE MAULVI ABUL KASEM asked :—

XII.—Does the Government propose to increase the number of local boards and village unions in any division of the Presidency ?

The HON'BLE MR. STEPHENSON replied :—

XII.—“ Under section 6 of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885 (Bengal Act III of 1885), a Local Board may be established in any subdivision. There are Local Boards in all the subdivisions of the Province except in the Lalbagh subdivision of the district of Murshidabad, the Sadar subdivisions in the districts of Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri and the Sadar and Cox's Bazar subdivisions of the Chittagong district.

The question of the establishment of Local Boards in the Chittagong district is under the consideration of Government.

As regards Village Unions, Government is prepared to sanction their establishment in any area where the elements necessary to their success can be found.”

ELECTORAL ROLL FOR LOCAL BOARDS.

The HON'BLE MAULVI ABUL KASEM asked :—

XIII.—Will the Government be pleased to state how and through what agency the electoral roll for the local boards is formed ?

The HON'BLE MR. STEPHENSON replied :—

XIII.—“ Under rule 22 of the Election Rules framed under section 138 (a) of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885 (Bengal Act III of 1885), the District Magistrate is the authority who prepares the register of persons qualified to vote in Local Board elections. The register is prepared from assessment lists, from inquiries made by persons specially deputed for the purpose and in such other manner as may appear expedient. The register is corrected and added to from time to time as the Magistrate of the district may direct.”

NUMBER OF SERIOUS POLICE CASES IN CALCUTTA DURING THE LAST FIVE  
YEARS.

The HON'BLE DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked :—

XIV.—Will the Government be pleased to state the number of serious Police cases sent up by different thanas in Calcutta during the last five years under the Indian Penal Code ?

The HON'BLE MR. STEVENSON-MOORE replied :—

XIV.—“ A statement of Police cases is laid on the table. Cases of obstruction of thoroughfares, etc., under section 283 of the Indian Penal Code are excluded from the figures.”

[*Mr. Stevenson-Moore ; Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.*]

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE ANSWER BY THE HON'BLE MR STEVENSON-MOORE TO QUESTION NO. XIV  
ASKED BY THE HON'BLE DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI AT THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 13TH  
MARCH, 1913.

*Statement of Penal Code cases sent up for trial by different th nas in  
Calcutta, during the last five years, compiled from the Register of  
Statistics kept at each police-station.*

Name of Police station.	1908	1909.	1910	1911	1912.
Snampukur ... ..	84	68	90	88	86
Kumartolli ... ..	79	55	78	103	78
Burtolla ... ..	103	89	89	96	83
Sukeas' Street ... ..	86	63	64	80	78
Jorabagan ... ..	193	156	182	173	222
Jorasanko ... ..	131	131	139	149	151
Burra Bazar ... ..	236	235	280	417	477
Collootollah ... ..	180	201	200	185	259
Muchpara ... ..	112	104	134	158	194
Bow Bazar ... ..	107	98	107	105	99
Puddopukur ... ..	57	53	48	59	84
Waterloo Street ... ..	108	91	110	97	127
Fenwick Bazar ... ..	176	166	188	186	180
Taltola ... ..	85	92	79	85	88
Elliot Road ... ..	52	23	40	47	17
Park Street ... ..	28	30	32	31	32
Victoria Terrace ... ..	10	11	16	12	15
Hastings ... ..	21	12	31	12	43
1st Division, Port Police ...	7	17	64	107	122
2nd ditto ... ..	70	68	92	96	114
3rd ditto ... ..	152	102	88	106	83
Total ... ..	2,077	1,865	2,151	2,392	2,632

#### CONTINUOUS SERVICE FOR EMPLOYÉS UNDER THE COURT OF WARDS.

The HON'BLE RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR :—

XV.—(a) Is the Government aware of the following conditions of service of the employés of the Court of Wards :—

- (i) that as soon as an estate is released, the employés are liable to be thrown out of employment without pension and in many cases without being able to obtain re-employment ;



[Mr. Kerr.]

- (ii) that in not a few cases some of the employes have spent the best years of their lives in service under the Court of Wards and at the time of the release of the estate are not in a position to start afresh in life?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to consider whether a continuous service can be organised for employes under the Court of Wards?

(c) Will the Government consider the feasibility of employing the discharged employes, under the Court of Wards, in Government Khas Mahals and settlement of estates?

The HON'BLE MR. KERR replied :—

XV.—(a) “Service under the Court of Wards is necessarily temporary, since employes are appointed to individual estates, and the period for which an estate remains under management depends on causes beyond the control of the Court of Wards. It is not, however, the case that no provision is made for employes discharged on the release of an estate. There is a Provident Fund to which employes are required to subscribe at the rate of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of their salaries. The Court of Wards makes a contribution from the funds of the estate not exceeding half the amount so subscribed, and the whole amount with interest is paid to the employe on his discharge. In deserving cases, a bonus of 5 per cent. of the amount standing at the credit of the employe may be added. The rules regarding the management of these Provident Funds will be found on page 216 of the Bengal Wards Manual, 1909.

Section 16 of the Court of Wards Act, 1879 (Bengal Act IX of 1879), authorises the Court of Wards to charge against estates under the Court the expenses incurred on the establishments employed for the management of such estates, inclusive of salaries and gratuities. It has been held that the term ‘gratuities’ includes pensions, but as there is no means of enforcing the continued payment of pensions after the release of an estate from the Court of Wards, it is usual to give lump-sum gratuities to officers of the Court of Wards on their discharge or retirement. In some cases, however, where it is probable that the estate will remain under the Court throughout the lifetime of the recipient, annual or monthly pensions have been sanctioned, provision being made for converting them to a gratuity in the event of the estate passing out of the hands of the Court of Wards before the recipient's death. Pensions and gratuities, when given, are fixed in accordance with the rules in the Civil Service Regulations.

(b) As the number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards fluctuates greatly from time to time, and as it is usually impossible to tell how long any individual estate will remain under management, it would not be possible to organise a continuous service for employes under the Court of Wards.”

(c) Every effort is made to provide re-employment for employes of the Court of Wards, who are discharged on the release of estates, and who are fit for further work. In the case of subordinates lists of discharged employes are circulated to Collectors, who are required to consider their claims in filling up vacancies in the local offices. The names of officers of higher status, who desire, and are fit for, re-employment, are entered in the register of candidates kept by the Board, which endeavours as far as possible, to find them suitable posts in other estates under the management of the Court of Wards, or in Government Estates. It would not be possible to employ discharged employes of the Court of Wards in the Settlement Department except in subordinate capacities, as only Deputy and Sub-Deputy Collectors are now appointed Assistant Settlement Officers.”

[*Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur ; Mr. Kerr ; Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri Khan Bahadur ; Mr. Stevenson-Moore ;*]

CREATION OF A SPECIAL SERVICE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ESTATES, KHAS MAHALS SETTLEMENT WORKS, ETC.

The HON'BLE RAI RADHA CHARAN PAL BAHADUR asked :—

XVI.—Will the Government be pleased to consider the feasibility of creating a special service like the Registration, Police, etc., for the management of estates, Khas Mahals, Settlement works and works of similar nature in which trained, able, experienced and successful officers will have an opportunity to rise to the highest rung of the ladder?

The HON'BLE MR. KERR replied :—

XVI.—“ It would not be feasible to create a special service for the heterogeneous purposes mentioned in the question. As stated in the reply to Question No. XV (b), the number of estates under management fluctuates so greatly from time to time as to preclude the possibility of forming any regular service of estate managers, while it is desirable and convenient for many reasons that the higher posts in the Settlement Department should be held by revenue officers in the regular line, to whom settlement work affords an invaluable training.”

THE PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVICE.

The HON'BLE NAWAB SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR, in the absence of the HON'BLE MAULVI A. K. FAZ-UL-HAQ, asked :—

XVII.—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state the names of those officers of the Provincial Civil Service whose services have been lent elsewhere, e.g., Calcutta Municipal Corporation, Native States, etc., and whether these officers, during such deputation, are treated as being in foreign service?

(b) Is it not a fact that some of these officers are not likely to revert at all, and others not within some years at any rate?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the officers referred to in Questions (a) and (b) above have been *seconded* in their own grades by gradual promotion from lower grades?

The HON'BLE MR. STEVENSON-MOORE replied :—

XVII.—(a) “ Babu Charu Chandra Chatarji and Babu Debendra Prasad Ray are employed as Secretary and Assessor, respectively, to the Calcutta Municipality. The services of Babu Prasanna Kumar Das Gupta have been lent to the Hill Tippera State. These three officers are treated as on Foreign Service of the first kind as defined in article 750 of the Civil Service Regulations. Babu Dasarathi Chatarji and Babu Nibaran Chandra Ghatak are employed as Assistant Manager, Tagore Raj Mortgaged Estates, and Municipal Magistrate respectively. The former is on Foreign Service of the second kind; the latter on Foreign Service of the third kind. The services of Mr. David MacDonald have been lent to the Government of India, but he is not on Foreign Service within the meaning of the article above referred to

(b) The answer is in the affirmative.

(c) There is provision in the *cadre* of the Provincial Civil Service for the appointment of officers to work under Municipalities, Native States, Private Estates, etc., and that being so, officers employed on such work cannot be seconded. The first five officers named have therefore not been seconded. Mr. MacDonald, on the other hand, has been seconded in his grade, because there is no provision in the *cadre* for such an appointment as he holds.

[*Maulvi Abul Kasem ; Mr. Kerr ; Mr. Finnimore.*]

TEACHING OF ARABIC, PERSIAN AND URDU IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The HON'BLE MAULVI ABUL KASEM asked :—

XVIII.—(a) Is the Government aware that the teaching of Arabic, Persian and Urdu in public schools is very defective for want of efficient and qualified teachers?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of providing qualified teachers in Government and aided schools for the teaching of these languages?

(c) Will the Government also be pleased to consider the desirability of assisting private institutions with funds in order to enable them to maintain qualified teachers for the teaching of Arabic, Persian and Urdu?

The HON'BLE MR. KERR replied :—

XVIII.—(a) "Government is not aware that the teaching of Arabic, Persian and Urdu in public schools under Government management is defective for want of efficient and qualified teachers. Detailed information regarding the qualifications of teachers in these languages in public schools not under the direct control of Government is not immediately available, but Government has not received any complaints that such schools suffer from inefficient instruction.

(b) Although the Higher Madrassa, or an equivalent qualification, together with an adequate knowledge of English, is not an indispensable condition of appointment of teachers in these languages, generally speaking, only teachers so qualified are as a matter of fact selected for Government schools. There is no reason to believe that these qualifications are inadequate.

With regard to aided schools, the grant-in-aid rules direct that provision to the satisfaction of the Inspector of Schools and the Director of Public Instruction must be made for instruction in any subjects which may be required by the local conditions of the place in which the school is situated. Unless qualified teachers are appointed in the languages named where there is a local demand for such teaching, the school would not receive a grant-in-aid from the Education Department.

(c) If private institutions desire assistance from Government to enable them to appoint qualified teachers in Arabic, Persian and Urdu, they can obtain such assistance by means of grants-in-aid, provided they comply with the rules of the Education Department referred to in answer to the second part of this question."

FENCING ON THE HOOGHLY-KATWA BRANCH OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

The HON'BLE MAULVI ABUL KASEM asked :—

XIX.—(a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that the Hooghly-Katwa Branch of the East Indian Railway Company is not provided with fencing, with the result that accidents to cattle are frequent?

(b) Does the Government propose to direct the Railway to provide fencing for this line?

The HON'BLE MR. FINNIMORE replied :—

XIX.—(a) "The attention of the Government of Bengal has not been drawn previously to this matter.

(b) The Government of Bengal does not propose to issue any orders on the subject. It has been ascertained that the authorities of the East Indian Railway are considering the question of fencing this line should traffic increase over it, but no proposal for this work has yet been formulated."

STATION PLATFORMS ON THE HOOGHLY-KATWA BRANCH OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

The HON'BLE MAULVI ABUL KASEM asked :—

XX.—(a) Is the Government aware that there are no platforms for stations on this line, causing great inconvenience to passengers, especially women and old men?

[Mr. Finnimore; Maulvi Abul Kasem; Mr. Newbould;  
Mr. G. H. C. Ariff; Mr. Stevenson-Moore.]

(b) Does the Government propose to direct that suitable platforms be provided for stations?

The HON'BLE MR. FINNIMORE replied :—

XX.—(a) & (b) “The Railway Board report that, in accordance with the usual practice on new lines other than main lines, raised platforms have not been provided on the Hooghly-Katwa line. It is understood that the traffic at present dealt with on this line is insufficient as yet to justify the construction of such platforms.”

#### EXHUMATION OF A DEAD BODY AT BURDWAN.

The HON'BLE MAULVI ABUL KASEM asked :—

XXI.—(a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article published in “The Bengalee” newspaper, dated the 24th May, 1912, headed “A Dead Body Exhumed at Burdwan”?

(b) Is the Government aware that the exhumation of the dead body of a Muhammadan lady has wounded and hurt the feelings of the Muhammadan community and their religious sentiments?

(c) Is the Government aware that the order for the exhumation of the dead body of the Muhammadan lady was obtained by the police officer from the Magistrate from whom the fact that a police inquiry had previously been held was concealed?

(d) Does the Government propose to order an inquiry into the matter?

The HON'BLE MR. NEWBOULD replied :—

XXI.—(a) The attention of Government was drawn to the article mentioned at the time it appeared.

(b) The body was exhumed at the request of the lady's husband, who suspected foul play. The District Magistrate who passed the order was reluctant to do anything that might possibly wound the feelings of the relations of the deceased or of the Muhammadan community, but thought it absolutely necessary that the cause of death should be inquired into. The Government consider that under the circumstances the Magistrate could adopt no other course.

(c) The Magistrate at the time when he ordered the exhumation was aware of the previous police inquiry which had been held by a head constable.

(d) An inquiry was held as soon as the attention of Government was drawn to the article. It is not proposed to hold any further inquiry.

#### NUMBER OF MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS UNDER GOVERNMENT.

The HON'BLE MR. GOLAM HASSEIN CASSIM ARIFF asked :—

XXII.—Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the number of ministerial appointments held by—

- (i) Hindus,
- (ii) Muhammadans, and
- (iii) others,

- (a) in the Secretariat,
- (b) in the attached offices of the heads of departments,
- (c) in offices of Divisional Commissioners, and
- (d) in offices of Magistrates and Collectors?

The HON'BLE MR. STEVENSON-MOORE replied :—

XXII.—The returns which Government receive in regard to this matter are not due until after the 1st April in each year. Complete and up-to-date figures cannot therefore be furnished until their receipt after the 1st April next. A statement giving such information as is now available is laid on the table.

[Mr. Stevenson-Moore.]

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE ANSWER BY THE HON'BLE MR. STEVENSON-MOORE TO QUESTION NO. XXII ASKED BY THE HON'BLE MR. GOLAM HOSEIN CASSIM ARIFF AT THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 13TH MARCH 1913.

*Statement showing the number of Muhammadans employed in ministerial appointments on the 1st April 1912.*

Division and District.	Name of Office	Number of Muhammadans holding ministerial appointments.	Number of Ministerial Officers other than Muhammadans.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5
Burdwan Division	Office of Commissioner	1	29	
Burdwan District ...	Office of Magistrate and Collector.	9	95	
Birbhum do. ...	Ditto ...	8	64	
Bankura do. ...	Ditto ...	1	48	
Midnapur do. ...	Ditto ...	12	99	
Hooghly do. ...	Ditto ...	8	72	
Howrah do. ...	Ditto ...	3	62	
Rajshahi Division	Office of Commissioner	2	24	
Rajshahi District	Office of Magistrate and Collector.	28	106	
Dinajpur do. ...	Ditto ...	20	90	
Jalpaiguri do. ...	Office of Deputy Commissioner.	10	77	
Rangpur do. ...	Office of Magistrate and Collector.	40	99	
Bogra do. ...	Ditto ...	40	79	
Pabna do. ...	Ditto ...	29	99	
Malda do. ...	Ditto ...	17	59	No statistics received from Darjeeling.
Dacca Division ...	Office of Commissioner	5	22	
Dacca District ...	Office of Magistrate and Collector.	21	111	
Mymensingh do. ...	Ditto ...	12	130	
Faridpur do. ...	Ditto ...	5	112	
Bakarganj do. ...	Ditto ...	27	111	
Chittagong Division	Office of Commissioner	3	19	
Chittagong District	Office of Magistrate and Collector.	56	132	The office of Superintendent, Chittagong Hill Tracts, where no appointments are held by Muhammadans has not been included.
Tippera do. ...	Ditto ...	25	76	
Noakhali do. ...	Ditto ...	16	67	



[Mr. G. H. C. Ariff; Mr. Stevenson-Moore; Mr. Finnnore.]

VACANCIES IN THE SECRETARIAT BETWEEN THE 1ST APRIL, 1912 AND 28TH FEBRUARY, 1913.

The HON'BLE MR. GOLAM HOSSEIN CASSIM ARIFF asked :—

XXIII.—Will the Government be pleased to state how many vacancies have occurred between the 1st April, 1912, and 28th February, 1913, in the ministerial service (both higher and lower grades) of the Secretariat and attached offices located in Writers' Buildings at Calcutta, and how many of such vacancies have been filled up by Muhammadans?

The HON'BLE MR. STEVENSON-MOORE replied :—

XXIII.—For the reasons given in the answer to the previous question, Government have at present no information relating to the period subsequent to the 1st April, 1912. It will be available before the next Sessions of the Council.

PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION AS TO VACANCIES IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

The HON'BLE MR. GOLAM HOSSEIN CASSIM ARIFF asked :—

XXIV.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether information as to the occurrence of vacancies in Government offices is published so as to attract the attention of the public, and whether Muhammadan Associations are notified of such vacancies as used to be done by the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam?

The HON'BLE MR. STEVENSON-MOORE replied :—

XXIV.—The orders of the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam regarding the notification of vacancies in Government offices have not been made applicable to the districts in Western Bengal. The co-ordination of the rules and orders in force in the two parts of the Presidency is now under the consideration of Government.

EXPENDITURE ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS.

The HON'BLE MR. GOLAM HOSSEIN CASSIM ARIFF asked :—

XXV.—Will the Government be pleased to state what amount is proposed to be spent on the construction of roads in the three divisions of Eastern Bengal and in the two divisions of Western Bengal during 1913-14, and what amounts were spent in 1911-12 and 1912-13 for that purpose?

The HON'BLE MR. FINNIMORE replied :—

XXV.—The expenditure by the Public Works Department on roads is—

				Proposed during 1913-14	Expected expen- diture during 1912-13	Actual expen- diture during 1911-12
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
In the Burdwan Division	2.	...	...	Nil	13,915	39,504
" Presidency "	...	...	...	30,000	27,000	31,271
" Dacca "	...	...	...	Nil	17,133	1,02,456
" Chittagong "	...	...	...	1,02,600	47,705	10,012
" Rajshahi "	...	...	...	3,16,800	82,163	1,02,117
Total	...	...	...	4,49,400	1,87,916	2,85,360

[Mr. Finnimore; Mr. G. H. C. Ariff; Dr. D. P. Sarbadhikari;  
Mr. Stevenson-Moore.]

TOTAL MILEAGE OF RAILWAY IN EASTERN AND WESTERN BENGALS.

The HON'BLE MR. GOLAM HOSSEIN CASSIM ARIFF asked :—

XXVI.—Will the Government be pleased to state the total mileage of railways in Eastern and Western Bengals?

The HON'BLE MR. FINNIMORE replied :—

XXVI.—The mileage of railways in Western Bengal on 31st March, 1912, was 1,425.

The mileage of railways in Eastern Bengal on the same date was 1,151.

NUMBER OF PRIVATE CASES INSTITUTED IN THE CALCUTTA PRESIDENCY  
MAGISTRATE'S COURT DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

The HON'BLE DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked :—

XXVII.—Will the Government be pleased to state the number of private cases instituted in the Calcutta Presidency Magistrate's Court on the complaint of private parties during the last five years which came up for trial after issue of process?

The HON'BLE MR. STEVENSON-MOORE replied :—

XXVII.—The figures are furnished in a statement (A) which has been laid on the table.

*Statement (A) referred to in the answer by the Hon'ble Mr. Stevenson-Moore to Question No. XXVII asked by the Hon'ble Dr. Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari at the Council Meeting of the 13th March, 1913.*

The number of private cases instituted in the Calcutta Presidency Magistrate's Court on the complaint of private parties during the last five years (1908 to 1912) which came up for trial after issue of process.—

Year.				Number of cases.
1908	...	...	...	2,240
1909	...	...	...	2,999
1910	...	...	...	2,876
1911	...	...	...	3,042
1912	...	...	...	2,340

HONORARY PRESIDENCY MAGISTRATES.

The HON'BLE DR. DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked :—

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

- (i) how many Benches of Honorary Presidency Magistrates sat on working days during the last five years, day by day;
- (ii) how many and what class of cases were disposed of by them during the period;
- (iii) what proportions of serious cases were disposed of by them during the period;
- (iv) how many Honorary Magistrates were available for service during the period (the figures being given year by year) and how many were called?

[Dr. D. P. Sarbadhikari; Mr. Stevenson-Moore.

(b) Will the Government be pleased to say whether it is a fact that several Honorary Magistrates, whose services were available, were not called within the last year?

(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons why they were not so called?

The Hon'ble Mr. STEVENSON-MOORE replied :—

XXVIII.—(a) (i) A statement (B) giving the information for the last three years is laid on the table. Information regarding the previous two years is not available.

(a) (ii) The total number of cases disposed of by the Honorary Magistrates during the period (1908 to 1912) year by year is given below :—

1908	...	...	...	2,115
1909	...	...	...	4,009
1910	...	...	...	2,220
1911	...	...	...	3,113
1912	...	...	...	7,166

These include all classes of cases under the Indian Penal Code (except Sessions cases) and cases under Local Acts.

(a) (iii) A statement (C) giving the required information is laid on the table.

(a) (iv) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the Civil Lists for the last five years. No statistics are kept to show how many Honorary Magistrates were actually available for service during the period. The Chief Presidency Magistrate reports that all Honorary Magistrates upon whose attendance reliance could be placed were called on to sit.

(b) & (c) The Chief Presidency Magistrate reports that it is not a fact that several Honorary Magistrates whose services were available were not called within the last year.

*Statement (B) referred to in the Answers by the Hon'ble Mr. Stevenson-Moore to Question No. XXVIII asked by the Hon'ble Dr. Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari at the Council meeting of the 13th March, 1913.*

Days of the month	Number of Benches.	Number of Honorary Magistrates attended	Days of the month.	Number of Benches	Number of Honorary Magistrates attended
1910. January.			1910. February.		
4	2	3	1	3	3
5	1	3	2	3	3
6	2	4	3	2	2
7	1	1	4	2	4
8	1	1	5	2	2
10	3	3	7	4	7
11	1	1	8	2	3
12	2	2	9	1	1
13	1	1	10	3	3
14	1	1	11	1	1
15	2	2	12	2	2
17	3	5	16	3	3
18	1	1	17	5	6
19	2	4	18	3	3
20	2	2	19	2	2
24	1	1	21	2	2
25	1	3	22	1	1
26	2	2	23	2	2
27	3	4	24	2	2
28	1	1	25	1	1
29	5	5	26	5	6
31	2	2	28	1	1

[Mr. Stevenson-Moore.]

Days of the month.	Number of Benches.	Number of Honorary Magistrates attended	Days of the month	Number of Benches	Number of Honorary Magistrates attended
1910.			1910.		
March.			May—concl'd.		
1	2	2	13	3	3
2	2	2	14	1	1
3	2	2	16	2	3
4	3	3	17	2	3
5	1	1	18	2	2
7	1	1	21	2	2
8	3	3	23	1	2
9	2	2	24	3	3
10	2	2	25	1	1
11	3	3	26	1	1
12	1	1	27	3	3
14	1	1	28	3	4
15	2	3	31	1	1
16	1	1	June.		
17	1	1	1	3	4
18	2	2	2	2	2
19	3	3	3	3	3
21	3	3	4	2	2
22	1	1	6	5	5
23	1	3	7	1	1
26	3	3	8	3	4
29	3	3	9	2	2
30	1	2	10	3	3
31	1	1	11	3	4
April.			13	3	3
1	2	2	14	2	2
2	3	3	15	4	5
4	3	4	16	2	2
5	1	1	18	2	2
6	2	2	20	3	4
7	3	4	21	4	5
8	4	4	22	2	2
9	2	2	23	2	3
11	3	5	25	1	1
12	3	4	27	4	4
14	3	3	28	2	2
15	2	2	29	1	1
16	2	2	30	2	2
18	3	4	July.		
19	3	4	1	1	1
20	1	1	2	3	3
21	2	3	4	4	5
22	1	1	5	1	1
23	3	4	6	3	5
25	2	3	7	1	1
26	2	2	8	2	3
27	2	2	9	3	5
28	2	3	11	2	2
29	2	2	12	2	3
30	3	3	13	1	1
May.			14	2	2
2	1	1	15	3	3
3	1	1	16	2	2
4	1	1	18	2	2
5	1	1	19	3	4
6	2	2	20	2	3
9	1	1	21	2	3
10	3	4	22	3	3
11	2	3	23	3	6
12	2	2	25	2	3

[Mr. Stevenson-Moore.]

Days of the month	Number of Benches	Number of Honorary Magistrates attended	Days of the month	Number of Benches.	Number of Honorary Magistrate attended
1910.			1910.		
July—concl'd.			October.		
26	5	6	1	1	1
27	2	3	3	1	1
28	5	5	4	2	2
29	3	3	5	1	1
30	2	3	7	2	2
			10	2	2
			14	2	2
			18	2	2
			21	1	1
			22	2	2
			25	1	1
			26	1	1
			27	1	1
			28	1	1
			31	1	1
August.			November.		
1	3	4	3	1	1
2	3	3	4	2	2
3	5	7	5	2	2
4	1	1	7	1	1
5	2	3	8	2	2
6	3	4	9	1	1
8	2	2	10	2	2
9	3	4	14	2	2
10	3	3	15	1	1
11	1	1	16	1	1
12	3	4	17	2	2
13	1	1	18	1	1
15	4	5	19	1	1
16	4	4	21	1	1
17	3	4	22	1	1
18	3	3	24	1	1
19	3	4	25	1	1
20	1	1	26	2	2
22	4	4	28	1	1
23	2	2	29	2	2
24	3	3	30	1	1
25	5	6			
26	1	1			
29	3	3			
30	4	4			
31	5	5			
September.			December		
1	2	2	1	1	1
2	3	5	2	1	1
3	1	1	3	1	1
5	3	3	6	1	1
6	5	6	8	1	1
7	3	3	9	1	1
8	1	1	10	1	1
9	3	3	14	1	1
10	3	3	15	2	2
12	3	3	16	1	1
13	1	1	17	1	1
14	2	2	19	1	1
15	1	1	20	1	1
17	2	2	23	1	1
20	2	2	27	2	2
21	1	1	30	2	2
22	1	1			
24	2	2			
26	2	3			
28	3	3			
29	1	1			
30	2	2			

[Mr. Stevenson-Moore.]

Days of the month	Number of Benches	Number of Honorary Magistrates attended	Days of the month	Number of Benches	Number of Honorary Magistrates attended
1911			1911.		
January.			April.		
3	1	1	3	1	1
4	1	1	4	3	3
6	2	2	5	1	1
9	1	1	6	1	1
10	1	1	7	2	2
15	1	1	8	1	1
17	1	1	9	1	1
19	1	1	11	2	2
21	1	1	12	2	2
23	2	2	15	2	2
24	1	1	18	1	1
25	1	1	19	1	1
27	2	2	20	2	2
28	2	2	21	1	2
31	1	1	22	1	1
February.			24	1	1
1	1	1	25	1	1
2	3	3	26	1	1
3	1	1	27	2	2
6	1	1	28	2	2
7	2	2	29	1	1
9	2	2	May.		
10	1	1	1	2	2
11	2	2	2	2	2
13	1	1	3	1	1
14	1	1	4	3	3
16	1	1	5	2	2
17	2	2	6	1	1
21	1	1	8	2	2
23	2	2	9	2	2
24	1	1	10	1	1
25	1	1	11	1	1
27	1	1	12	3	3
28	1	1	13	1	1
March.			15	1	1
1	2	2	16	1	1
2	2	2	17	1	1
3	1	1	18	2	2
4	1	1	19	1	1
6	1	1	20	1	1
7	2	2	23	1	2
8	1	1	24	1	1
9	2	2	25	2	2
13	1	1	26	2	2
16	2	2	27	1	1
17	2	2	29	2	2
18	1	1	30	1	2
20	2	2	31	1	1
21	1	1	June.		
23	1	1	1	1	1
24	1	2	2	1	1
25	2	2	5	2	2
27	1	1	7	3	3
29	1	1	8	2	2
30	1	1	9	2	2
31	1	1	12	2	2
			13	2	4
			14	2	2
			15	2	2
			16	3	3



[Mr. Stevenson-Moore.]

Days of the month.	Number of Benches.	Number of Honorary Magistrates attended.	Days of the month.	Number of Benches.	Number of Honorary Magistrates attended.
1911.			1911.		
June—concl'd.			August—concl'd.		
17	2	3	29	1	1
19	1	1	30	1	1
20	2	2	September.		
21	2	2	2	2	3
23	3	3	4	1	1
24	3	3	5	3	3
26	2	2	6	2	2
27	1	1	8	2	2
28	1	1	9	1	1
29	2	2	11	2	2
30	3	3	12	1	1
July.			13	1	1
1	2	3	14	1	1
3	1	1	15	2	3
4	2	2	16	2	3
5	1	1	18	1	1
6	2	2	19	2	2
7	3	3	20	1	1
8	2	2	21	1	1
10	2	2	23	1	1
11	3	3	28	3	3
12	1	1	October.		
13	3	3	3	3	3
14	3	4	6	2	2
15	2	2	8	1	1
17	3	3	10	2	2
19	1	1	12	1	1
20	3	3	14	2	3
21	4	5	16	1	1
22	1	1	17	1	1
24	2	2	18	1	1
25	3	3	19	1	1
26	2	2	20	1	1
27	4	4	23	1	1
28	1	1	24	1	2
29	3	3	26	1	1
31	1	1	27	1	1
August.			28	2	2
1	3	3	30	2	2
2	2	2	November.		
3	3	3	2	1	1
4	5	7	3	2	2
5	2	2	4	2	3
7	2	2	7	2	2
8	2	2	8	1	1
9	1	1	9	3	3
10	3	3	10	3	4
12	4	5	11	2	3
13	1	1	13	1	1
15	1	1	14	1	1
16	3	3	15	2	2
18	1	1	16	1	1
19	2	3	17	1	1
21	2	2	18	1	1
22	3	3	20	2	2
23	2	2	22	1	1
24	3	3	23	2	2
25	1	2	24	1	1
26	2	2			
28	1	1			

## [Mr. Stevenson-Moore.]

Days of the month	Number of Benches	Number of Honorary Magistrates attended	Days of the month.	Number of Benches	Number of Honorary Magistrates attended
1911.			1912.		
November—concl'd.			March.		
25	2	2	1	1	1
27	1	1	5	1	3
28	1	1	6	2	2
29	1	1	7	1	1
30	2	2	9	1	1
December.			11	1	2
5	3	3	14	1	1
6	1	1	15	1	1
8	2	2	19	1	1
11	2	2	20	1	1
13	1	1	21	2	2
14	2	2	23	1	1
15	1	1	25	1	1
16	1	1	26	2	2
20	1	1	28	2	2
21	2	2	30	3	3
22	1	1	April.		
26	2	2	2	1	1
29	2	2	4	2	2
1912.			8	2	2
January.			9	1	1
9	3	3	10	1	1
10	1	1	11	1	1
11	2	2	12	1	1
12	1	1	15	1	1
13	1	1	16	2	2
15	1	1	18	2	3
16	2	2	22	3	4
18	2	2	23	1	1
19	1	1	24	1	1
20	1	1	25	1	1
22	1	1	26	1	1
23	1	1	27	1	1
26	1	1	30	1	1
27	1	1	May.		
29	2	2	1	1	1
30	1	1	2	2	2
31	2	2	6	1	1
February.			8	2	2
1	1	1	9	1	1
2	3	3	10	1	1
5	1	1	11	1	1
*6	1	1	13	2	2
9	1	3	14	1	1
10	2	2	15	2	2
12	1	1	17	1	1
13	1	1	18	1	1
14	1	3	20	1	1
19	1	1	21	1	1
20	1	2	22	1	1
21	1	3	23	1	1
22	1	1	25	1	1
24	1	1	27	1	1
26	1	1	28	1	1
27	1	1	30	2	3
28	1	1	June.		
29	2	2	1	1	1
			4	1	1
			5	1	1

[Mr. Stevenson-Moore.]

Days of the month.	Number of Benches	Number of Honorary Magistrates attended	Days of the month.	Number of Benches.	Number of Honorary Magistrates attended.
1912.			1912.		
June—concl'd.			August—concl'd.		
6	1	1	23	1	1
7	1	1	24	2	3
8	1	2	26	2	2
10	1	1	27	1	1
11	2	2	28	1	1
12	2	2	29	2	2
13	1	1	30	2	3
15	1	1	September.		
17	2	2	2	2	2
18	1	1	3	1	1
19	1	1	5	1	1
20	1	1	6	2	2
21	1	1	7	2	3
22	2	3	9	2	2
24	2	2	10	2	1
25	1	1	11	2	2
26	1	1	12	3	3
27	1	1	14	2	2
28	1	1	16	2	2
29	2	3	17	1	1
July.			18	2	3
1	2	2	19	3	4
2	1	1	20	5	7
3	1	2	21	1	1
4	1	1	24	1	1
5	2	2	25	1	1
6	1	2	26	1	1
8	1	1	27	1	1
9	1	1	29	2	2
10	2	2	30	2	2
11	1	2	October.		
12	1	1	1	1	1
13	1	1	2	1	1
15	1	1	3	1	1
16	1	1	4	4	8
17	1	1	5	2	3
18	2	3	7	1	1
19	1	1	8	1	1
20	1	1	9	1	1
22	1	1	11	3	4
25	2	2	12	2	2
26	2	3	14	1	1
27	3	4	16	2	2
30	3	3	21	2	3
August.			24	3	4
1	2	2	29	2	2
3	1	1	30	1	3
5	1	1	November.		
6	1	1	1	1	1
7	1	1	2	2	4
8	1	1	4	1	1
10	1	1	5	3	3
12	1	1	6	1	1
13	1	1	7	2	3
14	2	2	11	2	4
15	2	3	12	1	1
19	2	2	13	1	2
20	3	4	14	2	2
21	1	3	15	2	2
22	2	2			

[Mr. Stevenson-Moore.]

Days of the month.	Number of Benches.	Number of Honorary Magistrates attended	Days of the month	Number of Benches	Number of Honorary Magistrates attended
1912.			1912.		
November— <i>concl'd.</i>			December— <i>concl'd.</i>		
16	1	1	5	2	3
21	1	1	6	1	2
23	2	2	7	1	1
25	2	2	9	1	1
26	2	2	11	1	1
27	3	4	12	3	4
28	1	1	13	2	2
29	2	2	14	1	2
30	2	2	16	3	4
December.			17	2	2
2	1	1	18	2	3
3	2	3	21	3	4
4	1	1	23	1	1
			27	2	2
			30	2	2

[Mr. Stevenson-Moore.]

STATEMENT (C) REFERRED TO IN THE ANSWER BY THE HON'BLE MR STEVENSON-MOORE TO QUESTION NO XXVIII ASKED :  
THE HON'BLE DR DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI AT THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 13TH MARCH, 1913.

## STATEMENT C.

*Proportion of Serious Cases disposed of by the Honorary Magistrates during the last five years.*

YEAR	Class of Magistrates	Cases disposed of	Cases under Local Acts, including section 283, Indian Penal Code	Cases under the Indian Penal Code, excluding section 283	Proportion between (a) and (b) in column 5	Percentage of cases tried by Honorary Magistrates.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1908 ...	Stipendiary Magistrates ...	27 059	23,276	3,783 (b)	1 : 5 39	18 6
	Single sitting Honorary Magistrates	1,915	1,378	537		
	Bench sitting Honorary Magistrates	200	36	164		
	Total ...	29 174	24,690	4,484		
1909 ...	Stipendiary Magistrates ...	40,241	36,130	4,111 (b)	1 2·83	35 4
	Single-sitting Honorary Magistrates	3,921	2,543	1,378		
	Bench-sitting Honorary Magistrates	88	15	73		
	Total ...	44,250	38,688	5,562		
1910 ...	Stipendiary Magistrates ...	41,259	37,487	3,772 (b)	1 6·84	14·7
	Single sitting Honorary Magistrates	2,131	1,656	475		
	Bench-sitting Honorary Magistrates	89	13	76		
	Total ...	43,479	39,156	4,323		
911 ...	Stipendiary Magistrates ...	50,680	46 023	4,657 (b)	1 7·96	12 6
	Single-sitting Honorary Magistrates	3,073	2,518	555		
	Bench sitting Honorary Magistrates	40	10	30		
	Total ..	53,793	48 551	5,242		
912 ...	Stipendiary Magistrates ..	78,870	73,938	4,932 (b)	1 · 11 41	8 8
	Single sitting Honorary Magistrates	7,096	6,725	371		
	Bench sitting Honorary Magistrates	70	9	61		
	Total ..	86,036	80 672	5 364		

*The Calcutta Burial Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1913; The Calcutta Municipal (Loans) Bill, 1913.*

[Mr. Chakravarti; Mr. Stephenson; Mr. Lyon.]

GENERAL AMENDMENT OF THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL ACT, 1899.

The Hon'ble Mr. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI asked :—

XXIX.—(a) Does the Government intend to introduce a Bill to amend the provisions of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1899, as a whole? If so, when?

(b) Is it not a fact that Mr. C. F. Payne has for many months past been engaged in drafting such a Bill as is mentioned in Question (a)? If so, how long has he been so engaged?

The Hon'ble Mr. STEPHENSON replied :—

XXIX.—(a) The question of amending the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1899, is under the consideration of Government. Government expects to be in a position shortly to consult the principal public bodies concerned as to the main principles involved in the amendment, but after their views have been received it will take some time to put the final proposals of Government in the shape of a Bill and to get the sanction of the Government of India and the Secretary of State to its introduction. The matter, therefore, has not advanced sufficiently far for Government to say when the Bill will be introduced in Council.

(b) Mr. Payne has been on special duty in connection with the question since 15th October last.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS.

THE CALCUTTA BURIAL BOARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1913.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lyon moved that the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend section 14 of the Calcutta Burial Boards Act, 1889, be taken into consideration.

He said :—

"MY LORD.—No opposition has been evinced to this Bill, and the Select Committee have presented an unanimous report. The only changes which they have introduced into the Bill have been some small ones which are intended to carry out more fully and clearly the intentions of the promoters of the Bill. In these circumstances, I do not wish to detain the Council any longer, and I beg to move that the report be taken into consideration."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lyon also moved that the Bill be passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL (LOANS) BILL, 1913.

The Hon'ble Mr. Chakravarti moved that, in view of the fact that a Bill for the amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1899, as a whole, is expected to be introduced in this Council at an early date, the consideration of the Bill to amend the provisions of that Act relating to loans be postponed *sine die*, and that the provisions of the latter Bill be embodied in the former Bill.

He said :—

"The object of the Bill is to amend a portion of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1899, viz., Chapter X, relating to the constitution of the Sinking Fund for the repayment of Calcutta Municipal loans. In moving for leave to introduce this Bill on the 5th March last, the Hon'ble Member in charge of this Bill stated that all parties concerned were agreed that legislation was necessary to provide against what he called the defective constitution of the Sinking Fund. It may be conceded at once that the Corporation agreed that steps should be taken to make good the shortage that had already accrued in the Sinking Fund as well as to prevent its



[Mr. Chakravarti.]

accrual in future. If the Draft Bill stopped there, the occasion for this Resolution might have been obviated. The Draft Bill, however, proposes to introduce certain modifications which are novel in character and which run counter to the declared intentions of the Government. I refer to the attempt to make 'the term of the loan and the period of indebtedness to coincide.' This coincidence of the two periods had been avoided by the Legislature in 1881, 1889 and 1899, and there is high authority in favour of the soundness of this course. In the financial circles of Europe and America periods of repayment are not fixed arbitrarily, but on the equated life of the work. Looking nearer home, we find that the objections to such coincidence were fully explained by the Corporation to the Government in 1910 and that such objections were considered to be well founded by the Government of Sir Edward Baker, as would appear from the letter (Municipal No. 1213 M., dated 16th August 1910), which was sent by the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson to the Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta. After that expression of opinion the Corporation could not have reasonably conceived that the feature which had been condemned in 1910 would be attempted to be introduced in the latter end of 1912. But nevertheless that is what has taken place when the Draft Bill was sent to the Corporation towards the end of last year: the Corporation found that this objectionable feature, *viz.*, to make the period of repayment of a loan coincide with the period of repayment of the debentures of that loan, was sought to be introduced. The Corporation thereupon and on the 19th February last expressed an opinion that 'the time at their disposal for the careful consideration of the Bill was too limited' and they therefore desired 'that legislation for the present should be confined to the prevention of the accrual in future of shortages in the Sinking Fund and to making compulsory the contributions by the Corporation towards the deficit which has already accrued,' and they proposed that 'the other amendments to Chapter X should be taken up when the Act as a whole comes under the review of the Legislative Council.' The reply of the Government to this modest request of the Corporation was characteristic. Of course it was 'unable to accept this proposal.' And why? 'Because the matter had been under discussion with the Corporation for three years.' But, as I have already tried to show, this statement is not accurate. So far as I have been able to gather, the most important provision as to the coincidence of the periods had never been under discussion—since the 16th August, 1910, until the draft Bill was circulated to the Corporation towards the end of the year 1912. Another reason for the rejection of the proposal of the Corporation was that any such change in the character of the Bill could not be made without reference to the Government of India and the Secretary of State: and as any such reference would prevent the introduction of the Bill during the cold weather session of legislation, it could not be allowed to stand over.

"My Lord, this is an argument and an attitude that does not commend itself to the public. Is that the way to meet a representation from a public body like the Corporation of Calcutta?"

"Is this the way to put into the Statute-book of the land a provision of law which is urged by competent authorities to be not only inequitable but also to be financially unsound? Is it any answer to this request for time, on the part of the Corporations to hint that the Government of India may be unwilling to sanction any further loan until the Act has been amended as proposed? That would be reducing the activities of this Council to a farce. For if the Government of India do not see its way to leave a matter of this kind to the judgment of this Council and to give effect to such judgment in the way suggested by this Council, then what is the use of our meeting and discussing the provisions of a Bill and what is the use of any Select Committee? The Government of India has to say that it will not sanction anything except a particular course, and this Council will be forced to give effect to it. If that is the intendment of the letter No. 518 M., dated 25th February, 1913, from the Government of Bengal to the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, then I for one strongly protest against it as it tends to interfere with the legislative independence of this Council within its own scope. I resent any attempt to coerce this Council as it were to take a particular course, because any other

[Mr. Chakravarti; Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.]

course, however just and however reasonable, may not, it is assumed, commend itself to the Government of India. The last reason in its own support is that the full consideration of this 'a very important chapter on finance' might be neglected by the public if taken up at the time when the Calcutta Municipal Act as a whole comes under review. But what opportunity has so far been afforded the public to consider 'this very important chapter on finance'? The Bill was published in the Calcutta Gazette only on the 26th February last. That does not show any very great regard for public opinion.

"Be that as it may, it is a matter of common knowledge that it is in the contemplation of the Government to introduce into this Council before long a Bill dealing with the Calcutta Corporation as a whole and that Mr. C. F. Payne has been entrusted to prepare a draft Bill for the purpose which, even if not quite ready yet, must surely be nearing its completion. We find that Mr. Payne has been occupied with it since October last, and we understand he is going home on furlough shortly. One does not see why the draft Bill, which is on the anvil and in charge of Mr. Payne, should not deal with the amendments now proposed. What possible objection can there be to this? None has been suggested. On the other hand, we find from the speech of the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson, to which I have already referred, that the defects in the present Municipal Act regarding the Sinking Fund were realized in 1910 when the attention of the Government was called to them. The very fact that two years have been allowed to elapse since then without any steps having been taken goes to show that there cannot be any great urgency about the matter, and I am quite sure the Government would never have permitted this delay had there been any public danger. Nor has this delay caused either any tangible public loss or inconvenience.

"Apart from the fact that there is no public danger or public inconvenience if the Resolution is adopted, apart further from the fact that the Government by its own conduct and delay in the matter has shown that there is no urgency about it, one can suggest several apparent advantages in favour of the course suggested in the Resolution.

"In the first place, for obvious reasons, piece-meal legislation is always objectionable. I need hardly dilate on them. I am sure this Council will not encourage it while legislation regarding the Calcutta Corporation is impending.

"Secondly, the question of fixing the period of loans is after all a somewhat technical question and ought to be fully and properly considered. The Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson has himself admitted that there may be differences of opinion about it. It is proposed that future loans may be incurred on works other than works of a permanent nature; next, there is the question of the appreciation of land values as time goes on. Then there is the question of the rate of interest payable on these loans in the future. It is a matter of common knowledge that the Corporation in the past had to pay a very much larger rate of interest on its loans than it is doing now. One may presume that as the town becomes more developed and the country is opened up the rate of interest will further go down. There are other questions of a similar technical character which have to be considered in fixing the period of loans.

"Lastly, it is always desirable in all public questions to consult public opinion and in respect of technical questions also expert opinion. It does not appear that in this case the Government has consulted either. While the Resolution, if carried, will enable the Government to do this, it will undoubtedly not cause any inconvenience and will not prejudicially affect either the interest of the Government or of the Corporation or of the public. Moreover, it will enable this Council and the public to view the provisions of the proposed Act as a whole and thus reduce the possibility of having inconsistent or contradictory provisions about the same matter. I therefore move the Resolution standing in my name."

The Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur moved that, with a view to ascertaining the correct data on which the contribution from the revenues

[*Kai Raddha Charan Pal Bahadur.*]

of the Corporation of Calcutta to the Sinking Fund of its loans should be fixed, the Government should appoint a Committee of experts to inquire into and report upon—

- (a) the life of all the works of the Corporation financed out of the loan funds since 1881 (the year in which the contribution of the Corporation to the Sinking Fund was fixed at 1 *per cent.* by the Legislature). and
- (b) the life of all such other works as are in contemplation to be financed out of the loan funds in future ;

and that, until the report of such Committee is published and considered, the Bill to amend the provisions of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1899, relating to loans be not referred to a Select Committee.

He said :—

“ My LORD,—The Calcutta Municipal Act will come up for amendment next year and piece-meal amendment of it by taking up a single chapter out of the many evokes criticism. Chapter X of the Calcutta Municipal Act is perhaps the only chapter which does not require extensive amendment. This chapter, which relates to loans, has got one solitary defect.

“ The existing law provides that as soon as the debentures of any loan fall due on a certain date, the Corporation shall draw the accumulations in the common Sinking Fund to repay the debenture-holders, as far as the amount of accumulations is sufficient, and the balance is to be paid by raising fresh loans in the market. On the latter sum 1 *per cent.* contribution is continued, whereas no interest can be paid into the Sinking Fund for the former. The money withdrawn from the unmatured Sinking Fund should be deemed as money borrowed from it, and 1 *per cent.* must be paid as interest for its steady growth. But the difficulty has arisen from the defect which I shall explain in a few words : In section 135 (3) it is stated that if any part of the Sinking Fund is applied in paying off any part of a loan before the prescribed period, the interest which would otherwise have been payable on such part of the loan shall be paid into the Sinking Fund. Now there has been a *loan and debenture of a loan*. If it had been clearly expressed in the Act that if any part of the Sinking Fund is applied for repayment of debentures of a loan at the end of the period of their currency, but before the period of maturity of a loan, *i.e.*, 47 years, interest shall be paid into the Sinking Fund on money withdrawn for payment to debenture-holders ; the intention of the Legislature would have been clear and the chapter free from defect. The intention of the Legislature in section 135 (3) was to provide for the continuance of 1 *per cent.* contribution to the Sinking Fund as well as additional payment of interest on the money withdrawn from the unmatured Sinking Fund for repayment of debentures. But that intention has been obscured by the defective wording of that section. Annual payment of 1 *per cent.* contribution from the revenues of the Corporation to the Sinking Fund by regular investment of its accumulation will grow to a sufficient sum to pay up that loan at the end of 47 years. Although the statutory period of a loan is 47 years, the Corporation have issued debentures of loans for a period considerably less, namely, 30, 20 and 15 years only with a view to leave themselves unfettered to reduce the rate of interest from time to time. In this way they succeeded during the last 10 years in reducing the rate of interest of their debentures from 6 to 5 to 4 *per cent.* and even to 3½ *per cent.*

“ My Lord, notwithstanding this disability to which I have referred, the Corporation is, however, making a voluntary contribution to the full amount of interest on the money withdrawn from the Sinking Fund to make up the deficit. They have paid up to date nearly 5½ lakhs of rupees on this account, and will continue to do so till the Sinking Fund matures to the full amount of the loan. There is, therefore, no urgent necessity of hasty legislation. The solvency and constitution of the Sinking Fund will be placed on a sound footing if the intention of the Legislature were clearly expressed by a proper wording of the section. Although this fact is admitted, yet the Bill goes

[*Rai Badha Charan Pal, Banpur.*]

considerably beyond the necessity of the case. Several new provisions have been inserted. The most important of them relates to the withdrawal of the statutory provision of 1 *per cent.*, and leaving the rate and contribution to the Sinking Fund to be determined by the Government. The Government may fix it at 2 *per cent.* or at any other rate, and there will be no statutory check on its discretion. It is clear from the Bill that the Government will ordinarily make a loan run for 30 years—a period which has been taken to coincide with the currency of debentures—and this will necessarily raise the rate of contribution to over 2 *per cent.*

“ Before the year 1881 the Sinking Fund contribution was 2 *per cent.* But after careful consideration and due deliberation the Government of India, on the representation of the Corporation backed by the recommendation of the Local Government, consented to the reduction of 2 *per cent.* to 1 *per cent.* When the amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act came up in 1881, the Hon'ble Member (Kristodas Pal) in introducing the Bill thus observed:—

‘ The next important point was to reduce the contribution to the Sinking Fund from 2 to 1 *per cent.* on loans raised from the public. The principle involved in this contribution was that the present generation was practically made to bear the whole cost of the improvements: it was proposed that the cost of improvements of a permanent character should be equally divided between the present generation and posterity, and with that view it was proposed to reduce the contribution to the Sinking Fund.’ At the first reading of the Bill he dwelt on this subject in the following terms:—‘ Power was given by another section to the Commissioners to set apart annually, in respect of future loans for the drainage and water-supply of the town, 1 *per cent.* on the total amount of the loans as a Sinking Fund for the repayment of the loans. He had explained to the Council that, under the existing law, the Commissioners were required to assign 2 *per cent.* as contribution to the Sinking Fund, but that contribution necessitated increased taxation, and unnecessarily threw a heavy burden on the present generation of rate-payers. The Commissioners therefore represented to the Government that it would be both reasonable and equitable that the liability should be divided between the present generation and posterity, and that the contribution to the Sinking Fund should therefore be reduced from 2 to 1 *per cent.* The Government of Bengal had acceded to that representation of the Municipal Commissioners, and supported it in a letter to the Government of India on the subject.’ I will quote here the letter of the Local Government to the Government of India on the subject:—

‘ The Corporation are now considering a scheme for largely increasing the supply of the water and extending it to the suburbs. The work in contemplation will be of such a nature as to last long beyond the present generation. The drainage works, too, are essentially of a permanent nature, and their benefits will extend to posterity. Municipal taxation in Calcutta is very high, and the Lieutenant-Governor believes that any increase in the rates would seriously interfere with the progress of the town. In the suburbs taxation is also high, and it is represented that, if the rate to be levied is to include provision for a 2 *per cent.* Sinking Fund contribution, the scheme will probably have to be abandoned. Under these circumstances, the Lieutenant-Governor proposes to make provision in the amending Act for a Sinking Fund contribution of 1 *per cent.* only on all public loans raised for water-supply on the understanding that the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta determine to lay a new 62-inch main conduit from Pultah, and he would make a similar provision in regard to loans for drainage works. He trusts the Government of India will signify their approval of this measure.’

‘ The attitude of the Local Government in the past with reference to this Sinking Fund question was one of sympathy with the Corporation, as will appear from the observations of Sir Alexander (then Hon'ble Mr.) Mackenzie's speech in 1881 which I quote:—‘ It would be remembered that the Calcutta Municipality had made repeated efforts to get some reduction of the burden



[*Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.*]

imposed on the present generation of tax-payers on account of the drainage and water-supply of the town, and the Government of Bengal had consistently supported the Municipality in those endeavours.'

"From the extracts I had read, it is clear that the Government was convinced that works executed out of loan funds not only benefited the present generation, but also the future generations of rate-payers, and therefore fixed the Sinking Fund contribution at 1 *per cent.* in order that rate-payers of 47 years shall successively contribute their respective quota to make up the total cost of the works. In 1888, when the Act was further amended, Sir Henry Harrison, the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill, emphasized this principle by giving it a wider application by fixing 1 *per cent.* as contribution to the Sinking Fund for all loans. It is true there was no discussion on this point at the time, but as the proposal emanated from the Government and as everybody agreed there was no discussion.

"My Lord, what has transpired since to necessitate a legislation which is subversive of the principles accepted both by the Government and the representative of the people as sound? I have already shown that only one section requires to be amended to enable the Corporation to make up the deficit in the fund. There is no occasion for a measure to do away with the statutory provision of the contribution of 1 *per cent.* to the Sinking Fund. My Lord, it was the watchful expert financial adviser of the Corporation, its able and experienced Vice-Chairman, Babu Nilambara Mukherjee, C.I.E., who was the first to draw attention to the deficit and to suggest how to make it up. The Corporation is making up the deficit by regular payments. They have acted throughout in this matter honestly and frankly. The Government of Sir Edward Baker recognized this fact. In the letter of the Government of Bengal, dated the 16th August, 1910, over the signature of the Hon'ble Member who is now in charge of the Bill, His Honour clearly stated that 'there are objections to raising the Sinking Fund contribution' and that '*all that is really necessary is to ensure that the payment of the Sinking Fund shall continue whatever the currency of the loan (debentures of loan) may be; until the improved sum in the Sinking Fund is equal to the amount of the loan.*' I fail to understand, My Lord, why, instead of curing a single defect in the chapter on loans of the Municipal Act, the entire chapter which received special consideration at the hands of such eminent financiers as Sir Ashley Eden, Sir Alexander Mackenzie of Bengal and of Sir John Strachey of the Government of India is going to be recast in a way that will reverse the sound constitution of the Sinking Fund as approved by them. As Mr. Payne, the Acting Chairman, observed in his note on this question, 'the present provision of 1 *per cent.* Sinking Fund was decided upon after much argument, and it does not appear to be advisable to go back upon it.' Mr. Gauntlett held similar views. He said that 'the burden of the loan is regulated mainly by the Sinking Fund, and it would be a most serious reversal of the Government policy for the last 30 years if the order were now passed that the payments to the Sinking Fund are to be made at a rate which will extinguish the loan in 30 years.'

"My Lord, I venture to hope my motion will commend itself to your Excellency's Council. I submit, My Lord, that it is reasonable to ask, as prayed by the Corporation, that there should be an inquiry as to the durability or life of various kinds of work of a permanent nature which have been executed from loans funds since 1881, when the 1 *per cent.* contribution was fixed as a guiding principle in cases of contribution to the Sinking Fund. This will also show whether the Government or the Legislature in the past had erred or arrived at a correct basis. This will also satisfy the Corporation and the rate-payers at large, and above all this will proclaim the justice and fair-mindedness of the Government. I am sure that the Government has an open mind in this matter, and it is farthest from its intention to arbitrarily abolish 1 *per cent.* and substitute 2 *per cent.* I am sure if the Government found that rate-payers of 50 years enjoyed benefits accruing from the loan works, they would divide the burden not only among rate-payers of 30 years, but also among rate-payers of the remaining 20 years. It is

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

essentially necessary, therefore, that a thorough inquiry should be made by a Committee as to the life of works executed out of loan funds. Following the reasonable basis adopted by experts in England, the equated life of the works done out of loan funds ought to regulate the period of repayment of loan.

"My Lord, what is a matter of greater surprise is that the Bill not only abolishes 1 *per cent.* Sinking Fund in respect of future loans, but gives it a retrospective effect to the recent loans raised under the present Act. In clause 139 of the Bill it is provided that in respect of every loan taken by the Corporation after 31st March, 1912, and before the commencement of the Calcutta Municipal Loans Act of 1913, the annual contribution to the Sinking Fund shall be a sum which accumulated at compound interest shall be sufficient to pay off the loan in 30 years. My Lord, 34 lakhs have been borrowed under the present Act on a 30 years debenture since March, 1912. The Corporation are paying Rs. 34,000, being 1 *per cent.* contribution to the Sinking Fund, as provided in the present Act. But as soon as the Bill is passed into law a little over 2 *per cent.* amounting to Rs. 71,182, will have to be contributed with retrospective effect annually from the revenues to the Sinking Fund. Thus the difference of Rs. 37,182 is the additional sum required to be paid from the revenues, which, if left free, would admit an additional borrowing of Rs. 7,43,000 for the permanent improvement of the town. If the period of loan, as is contemplated, is reduced from 47 to 30 years for all loans not only, as I have explained, in this case, but also in all other cases, a much larger contribution will have to be made from the revenues and the permanent improvement of the town will be seriously retarded. The items comprised in 34 lakhs loan, to which I have referred, are mostly water-supply, drainage works and acquisition of land. The Government in 1881 considered that as these works would last 'long beyond the present generation,' the contribution in respect of loan for these works should be reduced from 2 to 1 *per cent.* But to-day to our misfortune that wise and far-sighted policy is to be reversed, and the contribution is raised from 1 to over 2 *per cent.* And this happens at a time when 2 *per cent.* of the revenues of the Corporation is annually diverted to the Calcutta Improvement Trust which to-day amounts to nearly 8 lakhs.

"My Lord, unhappily for the rate-payers of Calcutta, there had been a controversy with the Trustees of the Sinking Fund regarding the appropriation of the accumulations of the Sinking Fund for repayment of debentures on due date. I need not dwell on that controversy. Suffice it to say that our hon'ble and learned colleague, Mr. Sinha, advised that the Corporation was entitled to repay the debenture-holders from the accumulations in the Sinking Fund, and that view was upheld by the Hon'ble High Court. An impression may go abroad that this piece of legislation has something to do with that controversy which it is the interest of Government to avoid.

"My Lord, the Bill has not sufficiently been published for criticisms and examination by the public. No public body has been consulted, nor the Corporation had sufficient time to consider it in all its details. The people fervently hope your Lordship will stay the further progress of the Bill, and will direct full and ample publicity be given to it, and invite public opinion on the same.

"My Lord, knowing well the sympathy and love of justice which have already marked the short period of your Lordship's administration in Bengal and which have created a profound faith and confidence in the wisdom and benevolence of Government, I feel emboldened to appeal to Your Excellency to postpone the Bill with a view to making a thorough inquiry into the matter and also to consult public opinion."

The Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson moved that the Bill to amend the provisions of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1899, relating to loans be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Maddox, the Hon'ble Mr. Bompas, the Hon'ble Mr. Donald, the Hon'ble Rai Priya Nath Mukherji Bahadur, the Hon'ble Mr. S. P. Sinha, the Hon'ble Mr. Apar, the Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, the Hon'ble Mr. Shorroek, and the mover, with



[*Mr. Stephenson; Babu Surendra Nath Banerji;  
Mr. Apcar; The President.*]

instructions to complete their report in time for presentation to the Council on the 26th March, 1913.

He said—

"Your Excellency,—I beg to move that the Bill to amend the provisions of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1899, relating to loans, be referred to a Select Committee and, in doing so, I would ask your Excellency's permission to add two names to the printed list of the members of the Select Committee in the List of Business. At the time this was drawn up it was not anticipated that the Hon'ble Mr. Sinha would be able to give us his valuable assistance. He has since consented to do so. The Hon'ble Mr. Donald will, it is anticipated, take my place in a short time. In these circumstances, I desire to add these two names."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said :—

"My Lord,—May I rise to a point of order? Is the hon'ble gentleman in order in moving this motion at this stage?"

The Hon'ble MR. APCAR said :—

"My Lord,—I desire to speak on the motion of my hon'ble and learned friend Mr. Chakravarti. I hope that I shall have an opportunity of doing so."

THE PRESIDENT said :—

"On the point of order, I have a little difficulty in answering, for I do not know what procedure you have been accustomed to follow in the past. I was asked to adopt what seems to me a curious line. I was told that it would be convenient to Hon'ble Members and would lead to a saving of time. I was asked to allow all the three motions to be moved at once and discussed together so that every Member might have an opportunity of speaking on the whole subject from every point of view. I did not know that Hon'ble Mr. Apcar desired to speak on the motions separately. Perhaps it would be convenient that Mr. Stephenson should not move his Resolution until after Mr. Apcar has spoken. Presumably at the end of the discussion Mr. Chakravarti will reply and then Rai Radha Charan Pal and then Mr. Stephenson."

The Hon'ble MR. APCAR said :—

"My Lord,—With all due deference, may I submit that if my learned and hon'ble friend's motion is carried, there will be no necessity in the present day to refer this Bill to a Select Committee, and that is the reason why I desire to speak now. I think it will be an advantage and will lead to a saving of time,—unless the matter is settled and there is no hope of my hon'ble and learned friend's motion being carried—if it be decided as a preliminary question whether the matter should be postponed or whether a reference to the Select Committee should be made."

THE PRESIDENT said :—

"I think I understand the matter now. I was asked to adopt a procedure which was proposed for the convenience of the hon'ble mover of the second resolution. But, in strict order, I consider Mr. Apcar is perfectly right. We shall take the resolution separately."

The Hon'ble MR. APCAR said :—

"May I speak now?"

THE PRESIDENT—

"Yes."

The Hon'ble MR. APCAR said :—

"My Lord,—I welcome my hon'ble and learned friend's resolution, and I congratulate him on his initiative in bringing it forward. It should not be regarded as a dilatory motion. There are the strongest grounds for its acceptance, and I submit that it deserves to succeed on its own merits. The Corporation failed in their application for a postponement: for what good

[*Mr. Apar.*]

reasons I confess I have been unable to appreciate. But now that my hon'ble and learned friend's motion is independently made in open Council, I earnestly appeal to your Lordship to accede to it.

"The Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill has introduced it as a simple and innocent measure, to which there can be no ground for opposition. My Lord, the Bill, it is true, as framed, would appear to be as it has been described—to the uninformed. But I seriously say that it deals with the most complex questions, and it is subversive of the recognized principles of municipal finance. The Corporation moreover are at issue in every particular, except the necessity for making good the shortage for which we cannot be held to blame, and for the slight amendment of the law required to provide against that difficulty in the future. These difficulties can easily be met by a tentative and interlocutory measure passed in the current session of this Council, pending the consideration of the amendments of the Municipal Law as a whole.

"I have just now been asked by hon'ble friends sitting near me whether there is any urgency in this matter. There is absolutely no urgency. The next loan is not payable until 1915. I think I am right in saying, and if I am wrong, the Hon'ble Member in charge, who is one of the Trustees of the Sinking Fund, and the Hon'ble the Chairman of the Corporation, who also is present, will correct me, that there are no less than 40 lakhs in the Sinking Fund. We are now paying 5 lakhs annually to the Sinking Fund, and in addition to the circumstances I have mentioned to the Council we voluntarily and spontaneously are paying so much annually as is required into a special reserve Fund to make good the shortage in the Sinking Fund. The public cannot in any way be endangered; on the contrary, there is ample provision to protect the debenture holders, and the public do not look to the Sinking Fund as their security—the security is the rates and taxes of this city, which surely is large enough to pay for any shortage there is or is likely to occur.

"My Lord, let it be understood that I am actuated by no motive personal to myself. The Bill, if passed, cannot cause me any harm. But I can easily perceive that if it becomes law in its present form, it will touch many very closely, and it certainly will seriously affect the poorer classes of the rate-payers who form a large proportion of the inhabitants of Calcutta. The Corporation, who may be trusted to know their position best, seriously fear that the passing of this Bill must lead to additional taxation. The Indian Members here in Council know very well that an additional annual payment of even Rs. 10 is a hardship to a very large number of rate-payers. This will account, my Lord, for the persistence and earnestness of our opposition.

"I do not know who is responsible for the proposals contained in the Bill. We, however, know that they are not in harmony with the views of the Government of Bengal which were communicated to the Corporation so late as in August, 1910, by the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill, and I cannot believe that the present proposals could have either emanated from, or are being pressed on by, your Lordship's Government. I, of course, do not for a moment suggest that with whomsoever the responsibility, there has been a desire wilfully to disregard public interests. That is unthinkable and impossible. But it does occur to me that the framers of this Bill have been labouring under a misconception. That misapprehension exists as to the effects of the proposals made in the Bill as I could easily show if time be permitted in speaking to the resolution. If a postponement is granted and time is given for a reconsideration of the whole question, I feel that cause for much dissatisfaction will not come into existence.

"If your Lordship will permit me, I will refer to the manner of proceeding in England. I hold in my hand a Parliamentary Blue Book issued in 1909, which may have a familiar appearance in some quarters. It deals with the very questions that are now agitating the Government and the Corporation. These questions were considered in England to be of sufficient difficulty and importance for a reference to a Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1909 to inquire and report on them. The Select Committee proceeded to make a most careful inquiry and investigation and examined and

[Mr. Apcar.]

cross-examined all the most skilled experts in the land, and arrived at a most valuable report which is regarded as the highest authority on the subject for local bodies in England. The Corporation rely in their support on the report and proceedings of this Parliamentary Committee. And yet—it is incredible but it is true—the Government are at issue with us on this question. The Members of the House of Commons have had the advantage of the labour of their Select Committee and of this valuable Parliamentary Book for their information and guidance. And what, in contrast, is the position of the Hon'ble Members of this Council? I feel it to be a difficulty in any discussion on this Bill that Hon'ble Members necessarily are unfamiliar with the subject; and what opportunities have been offered to them to acquire information and knowledge on the most intricate questions that are involved? They have received nothing at the hands of Government but the conclusions of those responsible for the new proposal—conclusions in the form of a Bill already drafted, which was introduced only last week. Now, if your Lordship will not grant a postponement, a reference to the Select Committee of this Council will be made to-day. And that Committee will consider a Bill introduced by Government, clause by clause, under the presidency of the Hon'ble Member in charge who is committed in favour of the measure, although he had intimated very different views to the Corporation on the principal point in this Bill. He will have an official majority to support him, and even the Hon'ble Member, the Chairman of the Corporation, I am sure very regretfully, will vote with the officials. Is it not an anomalous position, my Lord, when he has been the mouthpiece of the Corporation in all their representations, that he, the Head of the Corporation, cannot support to-day even his own views when they are in sympathy with the Corporation? My Lord, I have had experience in the past, I am not speaking without proper knowledge and information. I submit that it is, at all events, a subject deserving of very serious consideration by your Lordship's Government. My Lord, by the terms of the Resolution this report must be completed by the 26th of the current month of March. The interval to the 26th does not really give us even a full time until that date. It is not difficult to see that we shall be occupied in Council for some three days on the Resolutions on the Financial Statement, and there will be the Easter holidays intervening. It will be impossible to do myself or my subject justice. I am not an expert on the question, and the strain on me in endeavouring to understand the intricacies of a most difficult subject is very great, but I do not seek any concession for my personal convenience. I support the resolution for a postponement, and we are entitled, I respectfully say, to obtain it, in the public interest.

"My Lord, in a measure that is of importance to the citizens of Calcutta, the public have not been invited to give their opinions. It is true that the Bill was published in the Calcutta Gazette, but only on the 26th of February last, and who keeps looking into the folds of a Government Gazette searching for possible trouble and least of all from a legislative measure relating to municipal loans? And when seen, since it has been framed and indeed has been introduced as an innocent and simple measure, it would not be properly understood until attention was drawn to the risks underlying it. I venture to say it is not innocent and simple. I seriously say that if my hon'ble and learned friend, Mr. Sinha, with all his legal acumen and natural perspicacity and quickness who was instructed to appear in the High Court on a question arising on this Sinking Fund, I say if he were called upon to speak to-day, I would feel inclined to challenge him to do so without special preparation. I am sorry that he is not present, and I cannot get his testimony on which I believe I could rely in my support.

"The first in point of time to discover the defect in the law and the shortage in the Sinking Fund which has arisen owing to an omission in the Act, was the Vice-Chairman of the Corporation, Babu Nilambara Mukharji, to whose zeal and unremitting toil in their interests the citizens of Calcutta owe so much. This was in the year 1910. The Corporation submitted their views in that year to the Government of Bengal, and the Hon'ble Member

[*Mr. Apar; Mr. Maddox; Babu Surendra Nath Banerji.*]

in charge knows well that Sir Edward Baker's Government communicated to the Corporation that it would be an objectionable measure to meet the difficulty that had arisen by raising the Sinking Fund payments. The Corporation are, and have all along been, strongly of that opinion, and perhaps the most important of their objections is against the raising of the Sinking Fund payments, but it forms the main feature of the new policy of those responsible for this Bill.

"Are we not entitled to know on what grounds objections considered by the Government of Bengal in 1910 to be valid are at the present day ignored? And of the grounds on which the principles accepted in the Parliamentary Report to which I have referred are set aside there is not a trace. If the views of a Ruler of this Province and of a Select Committee of the House of Commons are not regarded, what chance can the Calcutta Corporation have? And yet I submit we may fairly claim serious attention to any representation of that body relating to the affairs of their administration, particularly when they have been invited to communicate them. My Lord, it is not a case in which the sovereignty of the realm depends on the passing of this Bill, and I earnestly hope, after the request has been made face to face with your Lordship's Government, that the postponement will be granted, or at least that the Bill will not be pressed further in the current session.

"And permit me, my Lord, to make this offer: If only the motion is allowed, I undertake, if your Lordship's Government will support me, to introduce and pass it through all its stages in one sitting, a Bill that will provide for all difficulties that exist regarding our loans and the slight defect in the law which really only means to make more clear and more explicit a slight obscurity that exists in the Act.

"My Lord, I wish again to say that there is no question of urgency. It must be thoroughly understood that we do not pay another loan until 1915, and we have a large sum in our Sinking Fund. The Hon'ble the Chairman of the Corporation is present here, and he will contradict me if I am wrong. The Hon'ble Member in charge, who is a Trustee of the Sinking Fund, will also correct me if it is not so, as I am speaking from memory. But I think I am right that there is no less than 40 lakhs in the Sinking Fund, and we certainly are paying now 5 lakhs annually as contribution, and besides we are voluntarily setting apart, earmarked for that purpose, a sufficient sum to make good any shortage. This shows that there is no desire on our part in the least bit to evade responsibility."

The Hon'ble MR. MADDOX said:—

"Yes, that is so."

The Hon'ble MR. APCAR said:—

"I am glad to find that my recollection is correct. There are 40 lakhs in our Sinking Fund. We have no call upon it until 1915. I trust that I may say without offence that I hope your Lordship's Government will not treat the Corporation as a step-child, and the interests they are charged to protect as of no account.

"I feel, my Lord, that it is necessary that a postponement should be given that a proper consideration may be given to the Bill. If it is not properly considered, this Bill will be passed in a form that will prove a serious hardship on the poorer classes of Calcutta."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH BANERJI said:—

"My Lord, I desire to associate myself with the amendments which have been moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Chakravarti and my friend the Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.

"My Lord, in view of the facts which have been elicited in the course of this discussion, a very strong case has been made out for the postponement of this Bill, and, if the Bill is postponed, there is no reason why the points which have been raised by my friend, the Hon'ble Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, should not be taken note of and discussed.

"My Lord, there is absolutely no urgency whatsoever for the passing of the Bill, in view of the fact that you have 40 lakhs of rupees in the Sinking



[*Babu Surendra Nath Banerji; Babu Surendra Nath Ray.*]

Fund, and that the credit of the Corporation is as good as it has ever been. Nor is this the case alone, my Lord. The passing of this Bill will entail a heavy additional burden upon the people. The taxation, as say my friends who are experts, will have to be increased. It is a very serious matter, my Lord, that further taxation should be imposed upon the people. The maximum limit of taxation on the rate-payers has been reached, and any further burden would be the last straw on the camel's back. Therefore, so far from their being any urgency, it seems to me that the facts of the case point to exactly the opposite conclusion. If the Bill be passed, there is a prospect of additional taxation, and certainly, my Lord, the rate-payers of Calcutta ought to be permitted to look about them, and ought to be permitted to consider the matter themselves before this Council passes a Bill of this magnitude. There are the various public bodies, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the National Chamber of Commerce, the Marwari Association and the British Indian Association. All these various bodies represent the tax-payers in one form or other. My Lord, surely their advice is necessary, and, in a matter of this kind involving fresh taxation, it seems to be that it is the imperative duty of your Excellency's Government to take their advice before this Bill is passed into law.

"We have been told, in fact I may say that we have been given the assurance, that the Calcutta Municipal Act is about to be amended. Well, Sir, if this is the case, I think this matter ought to be dropped in view of the proposed amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act. My Lord. I here rely upon precedent.

"In 1897 the Calcutta Corporation approached the Government with a small proposal for the modification of the schedule relating to license fees. The Government took some little time to consider this proposal, and, when the matter was ripe for action, there came the further proposal that the constitution of the Calcutta Corporation should be amended. This little Bill was suspended. It was not persevered with, and it was incorporated in the Calcutta Municipal Act. Therefore, my Lord, here is precedent upon which we can rely, and precedents, I think, which are not only established upon fact.

"My Lord, I do not think there is any valid ground in the suggestion that has been made that the Government of India may object if we press modification to the present Bill. We are here to do our duty, and although the Government of India may object, we have to press our view of the matter upon the Government of India, and I venture to think that if a strong unanimous opinion goes forth from this Council, the Government of India will see its way to a modification of its views. However that may be, my Lord, after the strong expression of opinion that has been elicited from this side of the house at any rate, and which I am sure is shared by the members of this Council, I hope the Bill will not be passed.

"I hope that it will be given to the public to consider a matter of this magnitude which involves the prospect of additional taxation on the overburdened rate-payers of Calcutta, and on their behalf and in their name I most earnestly appeal to your Excellency's Government to consent to a postponement of this Bill for further consideration and for further advice and further consultation with the important public bodies which represent the interests of the rate-payers."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRA NATH RAY said:—

"I rise to support the motion made by my friend, the Hon'ble Mr. Chakravarti, that the consideration of the Calcutta Municipal Loans Bill be postponed and that it be considered when the Calcutta Municipal Act will be recast. My first objection is against piece-meal legislation. Such legislation can never be justified on any sound principle. It would seem that the principles underlying this Bill are subversive not only of sound finance, but that no attempt has been made to deal effectively with the defects of previous Acts. The question of providing for expenditure on account of works of a permanent nature out of loans and the means adopted for repayment have always been difficult problems. The Sinking Fund

[Babu Surendra Nath Ray; Mr. Stephenson.]

charges on account of loans payable by the Corporation was 2 *per cent.* on each loan up to 1881, when the Government of Sir Ashley Eden, agreeing with the Calcutta Corporation, decided that 2 *per cent.* was too high regarding the nature of the permanent works usually undertaken by the Calcutta Corporation, and therefore inequitable so far as the present rate-payers are concerned, the rate-payers of a future period mainly benefiting from the works. The Government, therefore, fixed 1 *per cent.* as the Sinking Fund charges. But the period for which a loan was contracted was not to exceed 30 years, and actually was in many cases less than the statutory fixed period. This limitation of the period of loan to 30 years was fixed, it would seem, quite arbitrarily and with a desire simply to terminate the indebtedness of the Corporation at all costs after 30 years, but the legislators did not try to find out whether 1 *per cent.* Sinking Fund charges would repay the loan after 30 years. In the present Bill also no reason is adduced as to why all loans should be liquidated after 30 years, no matter whether the life of the works for which the loan is contracted may be taken to be say 100 years or 50 years or 10 years only. The question of fixing the term of a loan for the Corporation of Calcutta can only be decided after a thorough inquiry by a Committee which would have to find out not only the average life of the permanent works undertaken by the Corporation, say, after an examination of all the loan works executed by the Corporation within the last 30 years, but also must have a clear idea of the present and of the possible future condition of the money market. Unless you can work out what the term of a loan of the Corporation should be, it is clearly undesirable to legislate on the matter and to fix the Sinking Fund charges. Probably to avoid these difficulties the present Bill leaves much that was previously embodied in the statute to executive order, and the new provision to allow expenditure on works not of a permanent nature out of loan funds seems to have been added in order simply to lessen the average life of works executed from loan works and the terms of the period of loans which should be fixed in the interest both of present and future generations of rate-payers. To provide ordinary expenditure out of loan funds presupposes a state of instability in finance which is to be deprecated in any case, and for which no case has as yet been made out. The Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson, in introducing the Bill to the Council on the 5th instant, said :—

'In 1910 the Vice-Chairman of the Corporation and the Accountant-General separately called the attention of Government to the condition of the Sinking Fund, and it was calculated that, if no steps were taken to place it on a sound basis, the fund would be exhausted by about 1916 and the Corporation would thereafter have to borrow in order to repay each loan as it fell due and thus involve itself in practically perpetual indebtedness.'

"My answer to this would be that in order to meet the deficit the Corporation have of their own initiative (as appears from their Budget of 1912-13) created a reserve calculated at 4 *per cent. per annum* on the amount of all loans repaid as contemplated in section 138, clause (1) (a), and to which Fund they are paying the necessary amount to make up the deficit, and to place the Sinking Fund on a firm basis so that the loans as they fell due may be met from the reserve fund created by the Corporation. What, therefore, is the necessity for hurrying up the present Bill. The Bill can only be considered after examination of all the principles involved by a Committee in which the Corporation ought also to be represented."

The Hon'ble Mr. STEPHENSON said :—

"Your Excellency, speaking now entirely on the motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Chakravarti, it is a little difficult to dissociate that from the general discussion of the principles of the measure I have introduced and also on the advantages of equated loans. I propose to leave the advantages of equated loans entirely to themselves for the present. The motion before the Council is that consideration of this Bill be postponed until the general amendment of the Act is taken up. The Council has already been informed that it will take a very considerable time before that general amendment of the Act is brought into Council. It is not a question merely of postponing a slight



[*Mr. Stephenson.*]

alteration of the law, as in the case of the precedent quoted by the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerji. The Corporation asked for this legislation in 1910. A perusal of the Proceedings of the Corporation will disclose constant complaints, again and again, with regard to the law not being altered to allow them to make these voluntary contributions into the Sinking Fund, so that they have to make voluntary payments into the Bank of Bengal instead. We have been urged to alter the law and make it possible to allow them to make these into the Sinking Fund. It is admitted on all hands that the condition of the Sinking Fund is exceedingly unsatisfactory. No commercial undertaking would allow for a moment its finances to remain in the condition the Sinking Fund of the Corporation is in at present. We are told that there are 40 lakhs in the fund. I speak under correction, but my impression is that there are only 24 lakhs, but I don't press that point at all. Out of the Sinking Fund 48 lakhs have been taken which the Corporation have got to replace. Is it possible for Government to calmly look on, and extend no helping hand to the Corporation to enable them to get their finances straight? It seems to me it is the first duty of Government to assist the Corporation in placing their finances on a sound basis, and the Corporation have admitted again and again that legislation is necessary for the purpose. What, then, is the advantage of postponing the legislation? It is admitted that the legislation must come; why is it to be postponed? The first, and I think, almost the only objection in the Hon'ble Member's speech is a theoretical one, that is, to piecemeal legislation. It, I think, will carry very little weight with the Council in a matter of this kind. The practical objections raised are that the public and the Corporation have not had time to consider the matter. As regards the public, the Bill has not been before the public for very long. As was pointed out, it was published only last week in the Gazette. But the public, in a matter of this kind, must rely upon their representatives in Council. It is not the man in the street who is going to worry out how to put the Corporation finances right; it is the representatives of the man in the street, elected to the Council, who have got to do that. As regards the Corporation, they have had the Bill before them since the beginning of September last—over five months. They have appointed a Select Committee, and the Finance Committee of the Corporation have discussed the matter. I do not think, then, it can be said that the Corporation have not had sufficient time to consider the matter when it is admitted that the Corporation have been pressing for legislation. I will come later to the point that this is not the same legislation. They have been pressing for legislation since 1910. If the Bill is postponed till the general amendment of the Act, there are 652 sections in the Act, and everyone of these will have to be carefully scrutinized. There are most important provisions as to the constitution of the Corporation, the balance of power, the method of executing the Corporation's orders, and so on, which will take an infinity of time to get through the Council, and why should we postpone this Bill in order to further complicate the matter then? The financial provisions of the Corporation would have to take their chance with a variety of other subjects which will appeal infinitely more to the public. They will receive very much less attention than when the Council can give their whole attention to one single chapter of the Act. Then there is an additional argument which I think the Hon'ble Member rather misunderstood. It is the argument quoted from the letter of Government to the Corporation. The argument is this: The year before last the Government of India, after very careful consideration of the finances of the Municipality, did not consider themselves justified in sanctioning any loan at all. Last year, after a very careful consideration of the finances of the Municipality, they sanctioned a loan of 34 lakhs, but they did not consider it safe to allow the Municipality to borrow that 34 lakhs unless it were repaid in 30 years. The Municipality now write to Government and say the Commissioners are anxious to comply with the conditions of the Government of India, but the law, as it at present exists, does not allow them to do so. Surely it is the duty of Government to come to the assistance of the Corporation and alter the law so that they can comply with the conditions they are anxious to comply with. It would surely be wrong for Government to postpone for two years this

[*Mr. Stephenson ; Mr. Apar.*]

alteration of the law, and thus jeopardize the chances of the Corporation obtaining loans and carrying on the ordinary work of the Municipality. If the Government of India consider that certain conditions are necessary before it is possible to allow the Municipality to borrow, and the present state of the law does not permit of those conditions being carried out, it seems to me the obvious duty of Government is to give the Council the opportunity of altering the law. It is admitted by all the speakers that the present condition is not satisfactory. It has been said that there is no urgency, for the Corporation are already paying voluntarily what they would have to pay under the Act amended as proposed in the Bill."

The Hon'ble Mr. APCAR said :—

"There is no loan to be repaid until 1915."

The Hon'ble Mr. STEPHENSON said :—

"But there are already 48 lakhs taken out of the fund which are to be put back. Surely no commercial undertaking would be content to sit still and rely for its Sinking Fund on a voluntary basis. At any budget meeting of the Corporation the Corporation might decide to stop that contribution. The Government have no power to enforce it. I could understand the Corporation reproaching the Government for having been so long in enabling to put their finances in better order, but I cannot understand the attitude which says, 'We admit that the finances are hopelessly wrong, but we are quite ready to go on for another two years without having them put right.' The real reason at the bottom of this motion is not that there is any merit in postponing the discussion of the matter, but the Bill as introduced does not commend itself to the mover of the motion. But surely that is an entirely different question. What do we gain by shirking the discussion? If the Council considers that the remedy proposed is not the right remedy, it is within their power to adopt the right remedy, but why say 'we do not approve of the remedy you have brought before us; therefore we won't have a remedy at all?' It has been said that I, as Secretary to Government, have written a letter which is absolutely inconsistent with the Bill of the Government which I have now brought before the Council. I should like to give a short history of the proposals which are now formed into this Bill. In 1910 Government wrote to the Corporation that it was necessary that the Sinking Fund should accumulate enough to pay off each loan. It was said that that could be done either by increasing the Sinking Fund payments or by lengthening the term of the loan. The letter went on to say that there were objections to both these courses. I think it is a very different thing to saying that either of these courses is objectionable in itself. There are objections, and I think the discussion this morning in Council has justified the expression of the view that there are objections to these courses. As regards future loans, Government said, 'You must arrange to pay into your Sinking Fund enough to repay your loans. If you pay 1 per cent. to your Sinking Fund you will repay your loan in 47 years. If you take a loan for 30 years you must go on paying for 47 years and borrow the balance at the end of 30 years.' The provisions were complicated, and were liable to be misunderstood. In sending the Bill up to the Government of India this Government simplified the provision, and instead of the complication of borrowing from the Sinking Fund, and so forth, for future loans, we have said payments into the Sinking Fund must be such as will provide for the repayment of the loan at the end of the period of the loan. This is what is termed by the hon'ble mover the objectionable feature, because the period of the loan and the period of debenture coincide. But where is the objectionable feature? Every Indian Municipality, every Port Trust in the whole of India, as regards presidency towns, has that provision. Every Municipal Act provides that where there is a Sinking Fund the payments into the Sinking Fund must be such as will repay the loan at the end of the term of the loan, and we have adopted these provisions and put them into our Municipal Bill. The provision in the Bill is absolutely elastic. You can take a loan for 100 years or 20 years; all we say is that, whatever the term of the loan, you must pay into the