

**SELECT SPEECHES**  
**OF**  
**Babu Amulyadhona Addy B.A., M. L. C.**  
**IN**  
**THE**  
**BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**1921—23.**

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Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY  
with his youngest son  
Sriman JITENDRA NATH ADDY  
*Member, Calcutta Corporation since 1895.*  
*Member, Bengal Legislative Council since 1920.*

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## INTRODUCTION.

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The life of the present Legislative Bodies is rapidly drawing to a close. Already numerous candidates from different constituencies for election to the Provincial Councils and the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State are in the field.

This is a hopeful sign but the success of democratic or popular government depends much on the people themselves.

The declared policy of Parliament as embodied in the Preamble to the Government of India Act of 1919 is to provide the increasing association of Indians in every branch of Indian Administration and for the gradual development of self-governing institutions with a view to the progressive realisation of responsible government in British India as an integral part of the empire. Though it has also been declared that "progress in giving effect to this policy can only be achieved by successive stages," there is no doubt that substantial steps have been taken by the introduction of reforms.

It is not our purpose to enumerate the changes introduced. This is also not needed. It suffices to say that the Provincial Councils have been given substantial measure of responsible government.

These changes in the Provincial government may be summarised on the following heads:—

(1) Division of functions between the Central and Provincial Government.

(2) Constitution of a new form of Executive Government in the Provinces and division of functions between the two parts of the new Provincial Government.

(3) Constitution and powers of provincial Legislature, that is to say the Provincial Councils have a majority of elected or non-official members and that they possess very much larger powers of control over the Budget than they had before.

The defect is that these reforms do not go far enough and that the progressive realization of responsible government and the time and manner of each advance thereof is made dependent on the will of Parliament which is of course very indefinite. It would have been better if there had been a time-limit given in the Government of India Act itself. But this defect can not be, we think, removed by wrecking the Reforms either from without or from within, but on the successful working of the Reform itself.

That depends not only upon the capacity of the members of the Council but more largely on the intelligence and vigilance of the electors themselves.

It has been well-said by the Marquis of Crewe in the debate on the Government of India Bill, that "It is to be borne in mind that the possibility of responsible government in any country hinges not on the existence of a limited number of competent and elequent statesmen or politicians, but upon the existence of a solid and reasonably well-informed electorate."

It is also stated by a high authority on Constitutional Law that "amongst the great dangers of popular Government, the most serious, next to ignorance, is the indifference and apathy of the voters. If popular Government is to be a permanent success, there must not only be an intelligent but an alert, wide-awake electorate." Every voter should

endeavour to inform himself as fully as possible regarding the issues in the election of good men and the adoption of wise measures. Only in this way can democracy be made a success and its permanence assured. This state of high efficiency we can not expect from the general body of electors of the rural areas at the first stage, but it is not too much to expect of the urban and the special constituencies of our country. The citizen who fails to discharge this high duty conscientiously and with an eye shut to the public welfare is not worthy of the great privileges which the state has bestowed upon him.

At the last election, out of total number of electors for the Bengal Council 10,19,906, only 292,828 votes were polled in the contested elections that is a little over 28 per cent. The All-India proportions of voting for the Provincial Councils ranged from 20 to 30 per cent, for the Legislative Assembly the proportions were roughly 20 per cent, and for the Council of State 40 per cent. These figures are not encouraging. But we should, at the same time, remember that various causes contributed to the general apathy towards reformed Legislatures. There was of course not much enthusiasm amongst the more educated people for the Reforms thus inaugurated. The illiterate mass suddenly enfranchised, can not be expected, all at once, to be up to the mark. The wide franchise that has been given, has an educative value of its own, and it is expected in fulness of time and by the introduction of compulsory elementary education amongst this class, that this vast mass of rural voters, intelligent undoubtedly as they are, will appreciate the value of the great privileges granted to them and they will also be alive to their responsibilities in the matter of elections.

Now circumstances have greatly changed and in this changed atmosphere, better result is expected.

Now is the time to take stock of the achievements of the present Legislative bodies on the eve of a fresh general election.

There is no doubt that the present Legislative bodies have generally acquitted themselves creditably and that has been borne testimony by the Responsible heads of the Government. We as members of the special constituency of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, are specially interested in what has been done by the members returned by ourselves in the Bengal Council as well as in the Legislative Assembly. Election has been made a fine art in Great Britain and in other advanced countries where democratic form of Government exists. In our country we are only making a beginning. In those progressive countries, the sitting members now and then address their constituencies and give account of their individual or party achievements. Before the general election, the candidates scour the country and address the constituencies for which they intend to stand and expound to them their views and principles. Great leaders of each party also address numerous constituencies in support of the particular candidate of their respective parties.

There are the Election-Agents distributing, amongst other things, broad-cast, the electioneering Pamphlets and the posters and the like. There is also a vigorous Press, the organs of each party. In short, the whole country is in a feverish state of excitement. Such kind of enthusiasm is wanted in our country. This will have to be created. Now-a-days we have seen the spectacle of a first class foot-ball match evoking greater excitement and enthusiasm than a keenly-contested Council election. This state of things should not be allowed to continue. With a view to enlighten the constituency and create a little more enthusiasm, it is our endeavour to discuss what our representatives have done in the Council.

In this Brochure, I will take the case of Babu Amulya Dhone Addy who was returned by us in the Bengal Council at the last election. I publish the speeches of Babu Amulya Dhone Addy in the Council.

The outstanding principle underlying in the resolution brought forward by him, is Retrenchment and economy in the administration and for the amelioration of the condition of the country in general. That our administration is top-heavy and that the reforms have increased the ordinary cost of administration needs no demonstration. There is the report of the Retrenchment Committee. The high pay of the Imperial Services lately has been much increased without any justification and this has necessitated the increase in the salary of the Provincial and Subordinate Services. In their frantic efforts to meet part of their heavy deficit, the Government have resorted to fresh taxation and this is not to find money for the improvement of sanitation, education and industry of the Country but to meet the growing cost of ordinary administration. Then there is the Meston-Award under which we are called upon to contribute a large sum of money to the Imperial Exchequer. This contribution has been of course suspended for the time-being but can not be long delayed. In this connection, we publish here in the appendix the well-reasoned note which Mr. Addy sent to the Finance Member at the time, when a Bengal deputation waited upon the government of India on this subject.

In the Select Committee on the Calcutta Municipal Bill and in the discussions in the Council on the provisions of that Bill. his experience in the Calcutta Corporation for more than a quarter of a century was brought to requisition and he did much to remedy its defects.

His note of dissent as a member of the Select Committee is a valuable piece of document.

His spirited appeal for receiving a representation for the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce in the Calcutta Corporation requires highest commendations from that body. That his endeavour met with a defeat, was no fault of his own.

He has been a member of three Standing Committees of the Corporation of Calcutta.

Babu Amulya Dhone Addy is a man of business and always takes the practical view of things.

The bread problem has become the most pressing question in our economic life. We have been given hitherto purely literary education to the neglect of those of a more practical character. "In the result" in the words of the Industrial Commission "it created a disproportionate number of persons possessing a purely literary education. Naturally the market value of the services of persons so educated has diminished." The report further remarks very pertinently. "The nonexistence of a suitable education to qualify Indians for posts requiring industrial or technical education was met by the importation of men from Europe who supervised and trained illiterate labour in the mills and factories that were started."

This remark applies to us Bengalees with greater force ; we have lost our old position in mercantile enterprises. The export trade is in the hands of the Europeans and the internal trade has been usurped by the Marwaris and the Banias of Guzrat. We should therefore direct our best energies for the development of commerce and industry. For this, special training is necessary. Not only this, the highest intellect of the nation should be educated for the industries. For we must remember that the highest intellects are serving the industries in Europe, and capital

and business experience are there closely associated with brain-power.

The need of industrial or technical education was persistently pressed by our older politicians and the Indian National Congress a few years ago. But a change has come in the general outlook amongst some sections of our community. These politicians leave all other considerations severely alone and only wrangle for Swaraj believing that economic problems will be solved by political means and the acquisition of political power. This view we must confess, is erroneous and opposed to historical precedents.

This is the view of Babu Amulya Dhone Addy and he laid more stress upon this side of education in our country. His resolutions on Industrial, Technical and Agricultural education are the outcome of this policy. To this policy his efforts for removal of the restriction on export of rice are to be attributed. It is the accepted view of the economists that by export, a country gets a favourable exchange and the stabilization of the Rupee is also inseparably connected with this question. Now-a-days no country can remain insular and can never be self-dependent in every thing a country requires. It is therefore necessary that we must export articles which we have in excess of our own requirements. There is a misconception amongst us on this point. The popular belief that the high prices of food-stuffs are the results of export to foreign countries of the said articles of consumption including rice. This view is not borne out by facts. In ordinary and normal times, in the pre-war days, when there was no restriction on the export, the average quantity of rice that was annually exported to foreign countries never exceeded 2 per cent as was proved by the Government Resolution on the Report of Prices of Food-stuffs Committee. During the great war and after the war, there were high prices of rice and other food stuffs inspite of the



**total prohibition of the export of the aforesaid articles. This satisfactorily demonstrates that the export of food-stuffs to foreign countries in no way raises the price. Interprovincial exportation in India tends to the raising of prices. But for the evolution of our national unity, we must look India as a whole. The parochial feeling hampers the growth of true nationality. Besides, the interprovincial dependence on articles of our requirements has also an economic value and so far as Bengal is concerned, we are not on the whole losers thereby. The high price that is at present prevailing is not due to export but due to world-wide-causes.**

**In this connection, it should be of course borne in mind that in regard to food stuffs, we should only export what is beyond our own requirements. That is to say, we should part with only surplus quantity. This rule holds good both with regard to individual as well as national life.**

**According to this view control is necessary when there is a decided shortage in the supply of food grains. In this matter it is pleasant to recall that owing mainly to the efforts of Babu Amulya Dhone Addy that the Corporation of Calcutta adopted restrictive measures in 1919 when there was an abnormal rise in the price of rice and other necessities of life. We reprint in the appendix the proceedings of the Corporation on this matter. That will form an interesting reading and will no doubt remove the popular prejudice on the point.**

**Resolution on the export of rice brought on by Babu Amulya Dhone Addy in the Council is also in accordance with the canons and principles of political economy. The fact that the said resolution was defeated only by the casting vote of the President, is an eloquent proof of the soundness of this principle. Now there is no restriction to export.**

Yet there is practically no export of the old hard table rice and only limited export of the other varieties of rice. This clearly demonstrates that the artificial control only accentuates the evil and fails in its objects.

Babu Amulya Dhone Addy is a practical man and acts up to his convictions and always speaks on a subject that leads to any practical result. He never intends to create stage effect in the Council.

Violent denunciations and declamations no doubt are pleasing to some sections of the public but that does not lead to any practical results. What is needed in the Council is sober reasoning based on facts and figures. In this view Babu Amulya Dhone Addy did exceedingly well. In all the subjects in which he took part, he based his arguments on stern facts and not on mere sentimentality. The cow question is an example of this kind—for, the question of the supply of pure milk is inseparably connected with the question of the preservation of the cow.

In other matters specially relating to Calcutta he speaks with the authority of a specialist.

In the matter of Calcutta Rent Act, cost of Calcutta Police, and the amendment of the Improvement Trust Act and above all the Calcutta Municipal Act, his knowledge and experience both as a member of the Calcutta Corporation ( of which he has been a member for more than a quarter of a century ) and of the Improvement Trust were brought to bear upon the Bills on the said subjects. He is alive to the poverty of our country and always opposed to new taxation. Then he is always for economy, the extravagant pay given by Government to its servants both Imperial and Provincial has become a scandal. Over and above the new Council Members want more expenditure on their own account. Extravagant scale of travelling and halting allowances and payment of fees of members are such

matters. Babu Amulya Dhone Addy is opposed to this needless expenditure and it is worthy of note that he did not charge a single pice for his travelling and other expenses in connection with the Select Committee meetings at Darjeeling on the Calcutta municipal Bill.

In short he did useful work and always acted according to the mandate of his constituency—the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce. He began well and did useful work there. In the next term of the Legislative Council, the questions relating to our Civic life of this great city are surely to be on the Legislative Anvil. The new project of Howrah Bridge and the grand Trunk Canal and above all the thorough remodelling of the Calcutta Improvement Acts, Bengal Municipal Act and Port Act will engage the attention of the authorities. It is therefore in fitness of things that Babu Amulya Dhone Addy should represent the interest of the Bengal National Chamber of commerce once again in the Council, specially in this critical time.

This publication chiefly meant as an account of what he did in the Council, is placed before the members of his constituency to judge for themselves how their chosen representative acquitted himself in the Council and whether he deserves further confidence of them in the matter of the coming election.

The right of representation to the Council given to the Chamber involves responsibility also. We therefore think for the next term which will be a stormy one, as we already find indications around us, let us return one who is not a dark horse but one whose views we know well and has faithfully served us in the Council.

5 SWALLOW LANE,  
CALCUTTA  
11th August 1923. }

SARAT CHANDRA BOSE.

## **Discussion of the Budget, 1921-22.**

**BABU AMULYA DHONE ADDY :—**It appears that the Government of Bengal has already laid down a principle that primary education in Bengal should not only be compulsory but also free, and I had expected that the Government would be pleased to provide substantial grants for primary education in Bengal. I am really astonished to find that a very small grant has been provided for that purpose. Sir, in order to improve the material condition of the people of Bengal it is absolutely necessary that we should develop our industries. We should encourage agriculture, commerce and industry in Bengal and that is the reason why I had expected that with the co-operation of the ministers, or in accordance with the advice of the ministers, Government would be pleased to provide a substantial grant for the establishment of agricultural schools, commercial schools and industrial schools in Bengal. I am strongly of opinion that there should be at least one agricultural school with a farm attached to it in every district of Bengal, one commercial school with a museum attached to it in every division of Bengal, and one industrial school with a workshop attached to it in every division of Bengal, and I had therefore expected that a substantial grant would be provided in the budget. But I find that a very small grant has been provided for the establishment and maintenance of agricultural schools in Bengal. So far as industrial schools are concerned, I find on page 96 of the Budget that Rs. 7, 36, 000 were provided in the Budget estimate for 1920 and 1921 for technical and industrial schools. I am extremely sorry to find, as appears from the revised estimate for that year, that the amount has been reduced to Rs. 1, 33, 000. I am really sorry to find in the Budget estimate for the

ensuing year under the heading of Technical and industrial schools that no provision has been made for them. Is that the way, Sir, to encourage industrial education in Bengal? I am sure that in this way we can not expect the development of industries in Bengal. It may be said that we have got a deficit Budget. It may be said that, though the closing balance is Rs. 52, 00, 000, we have got a deficit Budget. The expenditure is more than the revenue by Rs. 2,09,00,000 and therefore it may be said that Government is not now in a position to provide sufficient funds, though they are highly necessary, for the encouragement of primary education and technical education. That is the reason why I beg to suggest that we should try our best to curtail other expenditure, so far as would be practicable.

It appears from page 35 of the report that Rs. 65, 000 have been provided for the design for the widening of the Howrah Bridge. So far as I remember, while I was a member of the Calcutta Port Trust some years ago the Port Commissioners spent Rs. 35, 000 for a design for the widening of the Howrah bridge and they have already got a design and estimate for it. I do not know what the revised estimate for the widening of the Howrah Bridge is. I presume it is three crores of rupees. I beg to submit, Sir, that it is not necessary to incur any expenditure at all for the Howrah bridge not to speak of a design, because we are not in a position to commit ourselves to a scheme which will cost us three crores of rupees. I admit that the Howrah bridge should be widened but I do not think that the matter is so urgent as to commit ourselves to this expenditure at present.

It appears from the Budget, and it has been observed by the other members of the Council, that Rs. 2,85,000 have been provided for the acquisition of land for married sergeants' quarters, Rs. 20,000 for their allowance and Rs. 1,25,000 for

the town police of the 24 Parganas and Hooghly. I beg to submit, Sir, that this expenditure does not appear to me to be very urgent, and it can be postponed for the time being.

It further appears that Rs. 75,000 have been provided for a grant to the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institute, and Rs. 10,000 for the purchase of their furniture. I do not think that it is very urgent, if at all necessary. Sir, it also appears from page 45 of the Budget that Rs. 90,000 have been provided for the band establishment. It appears that in the year 1920-21, Rs. 41,750 were provided for that establishment and now it has been increased to Rs. 80,000. What is the reason? It appears that the price of the necessities of life has gone up. I submit, Sir, that it is just the contrary. It has gone down and is expected to go down still further. But, notwithstanding that fact, the Government has provided an increment of about Rs. 40,000 on that ground. I do not think it is necessary. I also find that Rs. 4,25,000 have been provided for a lunatic asylum in Ranchi and Rs. 1,75,000 for the European Asylum. It also appears that Rs. 20,000 have been provided for the Victoria School at Kurseong, and another Rs. 20,000 for the Dow Hill School at Kurseong and Rs. 80,000 for the St. Andrew's Colonial Homes at Kalimpong, and Rs. 70,000 for the building of a European school. I submit that these works should be postponed till the financial condition improves. Sir, we are afraid that within a year or two the Government will feel the necessity for levying further taxation, and therefore, I think, Government would not be justified in sanctioning these grants at present.

I come to another item. It appears from page 56 that Rs. 70,00,000 have been provided for the Grand Trunk Canal. So far as I remember, when the original

scheme was placed before the public for opinion, the total estimate was a crore of rupees. The alignment has since been changed. It has been shifted from the southern to the northern suburbs of Calcutta. I admit that this is a very important measure, I admit that it would improve the trade of Calcutta with the Eastern districts of Bengal, but I am afraid that the revised estimate would be prohibitive. We are not in a position to spend three crores of rupees for the execution of this work, and so long as our financial condition does not improve, we would not be justified in committing ourselves to this scheme and in incurring expenditure of 70 lakhs this year for that project.

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## VOTING OF GRANTS.

THE HON'BLE THE MAHARAJADHIRAJA. BAHADUR OF BURDWAN moved "that a demand of Rs. 69, 02, 000 be voted by this Council as a grant under the head 57-outlay on Waterways ( in charge of Public Works Officers not charged to revenue ) for the year 1921-22. "

BABU ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA MOVED " that the demand for Rs. 69,02,000 for expenditure on the grand Trunk Canal Scheme be refused. "

BABU AMULYA DHONE ADDY :—Before I support or rather express my opinion on this subject, may I ask whether there is any likelihood of postponing the consideration of this item till the next session ? If it is not to be postponed, then I would support the amendment moved by Babu Annada Charan Dutta. When the original scheme was placed before the Corporation of Calcutta as well as the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, so far as I remember, all these public bodies opposed it. They expressed their opinion—if I am not mistaken—that this scheme would not be a productive one. At that time, the estimated cost was about one crore of rupees. We now find that the estimated cost is Rs. 3, 09, 00, 000 ; and I am of opinion that the actual cost would be more than that. It has already been admitted by the Hon'ble Member in charge that the market-value of lands has materially gone up and the market-value of dredgers as well as other articles has also gone up, especially because of the unusual fall of the rate of exchange.

As regards the income, it is stated that the income would be more than Rs. 22, 00, 000. I beg to submit that having



regard to the fact of the competition with country boats and specially with the railways connecting Calcutta with Eastern Bengal, the actual income will be materially less than the estimated income. Assuming that the estimate of the scheme be a correct one, and that the estimate of the income be a correct one, I beg to submit that even if the work be financed by a loan it will not be a productive one. When this scheme was recommended by the Government of Bengal, it was not approved by the Government of India, though the rate of interest on Government Promissory Notes was then only 4 per cent. Now it has gone up to 6 per cent. exclusive of income tax or practically  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Some consideration should be made for the contribution towards the sinking fund, which may be taken at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The total income, after meeting the interest charges as well as the contribution to the sinking fund, would be 8 per cent. per annum. But assuming that the estimated cost is correct we have been told that the income-tax would be 7.4 per cent. even on this assumption Government will have to suffer a loss.

As regards the estimate of cost, as an old member of the Calcutta Corporation, I may say that we have had a sad experience in the case of the Talla Reservoir if I may be allowed to mention it ; when the original scheme was placed before the Corporation, the original estimate was 70 lakhs of rupees, and we were assured that the pressure of filtered water in every part of Calcutta would be 40 feet. Now, we find that there are some parts of Calcutta where the pressure of filtered water is only 8 feet ; and that we have committed ourselves to a scheme which will cost about 3 crores of rupees.

We have had also a sad experience in the case of the construction of the public buildings at Delhi. At first we were told the capital expenditure would amount to 6 crores of rupees. Now we all know that the actual expenditure

would be about double that amount. The amendment is that the demand for expenditure on the Grand Trunk Canal Scheme be refused. Sir, if we are to commit ourselves to this scheme at this stage, certainly we should support the amendment. But if we are called upon to sanction the amount for the purchase of dredgers or for the acquisition of land which has already been acquired, then, Sir, I have no objection.

THE HON'BLE THE MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR OF BURDWAN : May I explain one thing? I think I said that, even if the Government did desire to go on with the Grand Trunk Canal project, the amount which we were asking the Council to vote could not be devoted to the Grand Trunk Canal project this year, but would only go towards payment for the dredgers and for the land already acquired.

BABU AMULYA DHONE ADDY—We have been informed that this scheme would be placed before a committee, but the Committee on Waterways is nothing but an Advisory Board and the Government is not bound to accept its recommendations. If I am assured that the recommendations of this Committee would be placed before this Council and that the decision of the Council would be final, in that case I shall be glad to support the grant; otherwise I shall be under the painful necessity of supporting the amendment of Babu Annada Charan Dutta.

THE HON'BLE THE MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR OF BURDWAN in course of his reply in the debate said;—Now as regards the misconception which seems to have cropped up over my statements that we are going to put this scheme before a Committee, my object was this, if there are four members of this Council on a particular Committee, and, if the Government consider that the project

can be proceeded with, if the Government can convince the four members, the Government, when they come up perhaps next year for a grant, will be armed with the opinions of these four members. If, on the other hand, Government find that they cannot make it a productive scheme, which they originally thought would be the case, then the Government can come before the public through a communique or in some other way perhaps in the form of a resolution and say what they think about it. But until the Government have revised the scheme, I think it would be futile to have any discussion in this Council. Then of course it would be open to any member of this Council to bring forward a resolution and there may be members of the public too who would like to have a general discussion on the whole scheme. What I say now is this, let the general discussion be postponed until Government themselves are in a position to say, after revising the estimate and after examining the scheme, what the scheme is likely to cost and, in view of the interest that is to be paid on the loan, what the rate of production would be, if we are to make it a productive work.

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## **INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS IN BENGAL.**

**BABU AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** "This Commission recommends to the Government that at least one industrial school with a workshop attached to it, be established in every division of Bengal."

I would draw special attention to the report of the Indian Industrial Commission on this question. It would appear, from page 311 of this report, that the extent to which India has come to be dependent upon other countries for her manufactured articles necessary in the daily life of a modern civilised community is deplorable. We supply various countries with raw materials and we are dependent on them for the supply of manufactured goods. We export a heavy quantity of cotton and we are dependent on Manchester for the supply of our cloths. Similarly, we export a heavy quantity of hides and depend on the United States of America for the supply of shoes and boots. So it will appear that notwithstanding the fact that we have at our command a heavy quantity of raw produce we can not manufacture our goods, and even for the necessities of life we are dependent on foreign countries for the supply of these goods. What is the reason? I think we have not developed our industries. Unless and until we develop our industries in India, we shall have to continue to be dependent on others, and unless and until industrial education is granted to us, we shall have to continue to do so. This is one of the reasons why there is complaint of high prices of the necessities of life, and you will find that as soon as industrial education is granted to us, as soon as we develop our industries, the prices of these goods will very materially come down, and there will be no discontent as at present

Capital in India has become very shy owing to the absence of this industrial education. Therefore, I suggest for the favourable consideration of House and of Government, that necessary steps may be taken for the establishment of industrial schools in all parts of Bengal. We find that even in Germany, there is not a single town which is not provided with an industrial school. We find that in the United States of America all the towns are provided with such schools. As regards Japan, I would draw your special attention to the improvement that has been effected during the last few years. It will appear from the report of the Industrial Commission that 40 or 50 years ago Japan was far behind India both in agriculture and industries, but her Government and the people working in conjunction have brought about a wonderful development of her industries built upon a system of technical education which included everything required to enable her to occupy her proper place among the manufacturing nations of the world. Japan takes a large proportion of the exports of our cotton, and she sends us an increasing quantity of her cotton goods and other manufactures. Even in the case of Japan, the Government in co-operation with the people have established a number of industrial schools, and have developed her industries in such a way that Japan is now in a position to supply India with the cloths manufactured by her. I will draw attention to the fact that this has been recommended by the Indian National Congress from year to year, and in 1887 the congress came to this resolution that "having regard to the poverty of the people it is desirable that the Government should be moved to elaborate a system of technical education." In 1894, it affirmed in the most emphatic manner the importance of increasing public expenditure on all branches of education, and the expediency of establishing technical schools and colleges. In 1898, it again prayed, "that having regard to the poverty of the people, and the decline of indigenous

industries, the Government will introduce a more elaborate and efficient scheme of technical instruction, and set apart more funds for a better and more successful working of the same." It appears that since 1905, the Indian Industrial Conference has met year after year and repeatedly pressed upon the Government the need for proper technical, especially industrial, education throughout the country. Then speaking at the Industrial Conference convened by Government in 1907 Sir John Hewett, the then Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces, said—"The question of technical and industrial education has been before the Government and the public for over twenty years. There is probably no subject on which more has been written or said, while less has been accomplished."

So it appears that for a number of years this question has been pending, the people have been pressing on the Government to grant us technical education. Several committees were appointed by the Government. They submitted reports to Government but, to speak the truth, nothing has been done yet. I admit that we have a Technical Department in the Engineering College at Sibpur. I also admit that there is a Weaving institute at Serampore and a Technical Department at Dacca. A Technical school also is going to be established in Calcutta. But, is it enough, Sir, I ask? I am thankful to the Government for the steps they have already taken in the matter, but I submit that it is not enough. We must have a technical school in every town and in every district of Bengal; and unless we have it, I think this discontentment will continue.

One technical school has been established in Calcutta by the people at large with a munificent donation of the late Sir Rash Behari Ghose. But this year there were 3,000 candidates for admission and I am really sorry to say that the Board cannot provide for more than 600 students. It

thus appears that the time has come when we should establish such institutions as early as possible. I beg to submit that at these schools there should be workshops attached, just as in the case of the Medical college, we have hospitals attached to them, just as in the case of agricultural schools we have farms attached to them, just as we have Museums attached to Commercial Schools, so we must have workshops attached to these industrial schools everywhere, otherwise it would be a play of Hamlet without Hamlet himself. It would appear that the Industrial Commission recommended a capital expenditure of Rs. 55 lakhs for the establishment of technical schools for the whole of Bengal and a yearly expenditure of Rs. 4 lakhs. My prayer is a very limited and moderate one for the present having regard to the fact that the financial state of our Government is limited. Therefore, I suggest that the Government may be pleased to establish at least one industrial school with a workshop attached to it in every division of Bengal. Then, if it turns out to be a success and when the condition of the finances improves, I hope and trust that Government will be pleased to establish them in every district in Bengal.

The Hon'ble The Nawab SAIYID NAWABALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur —I accept this resolution. But while I fully recognise the importance of increasing the number of industrial schools so as to have one in each division, I should point out that the progress in establishing such schools must be very slow owing to the financial condition of the province. It is, therefore, essential for the success of any scheme for expansion that the local bodies should co-operate with Government and contribute to the capital and recurring expenditure of these schools.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY in reply said :—I thank the Hon'ble Member in charge for having kindly accepted my resolution, but as regards the point that it

would be very slow, I beg to submit that my suggestion is as moderate as ever. What I have suggested is the establishment of at least one school in every division and not in every district and, therefore, whatever the state of the finances of the Bengal Government might be, I do not think that there would be any difficulty whatever in establishing such a good school in every division. I beg to submit that we shall be very glad to co-operate with the Government in the encouragement of this sort of education, and, if I may be permitted to say so, it is one of the primary duties of the Government to grant this kind of education to the people which is urgently needed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

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## On Agricultural Schools.

**BABU AMULYA DHONE ADDY :—**" This Council recommends to the Government that an agricultural school, with an experimental farm attached to it, be established and maintained in every district of Bengal ".

I thank you for your kind permission to move this resolution. We all complain of the high price of food-grains in Bengal, and we are all under the impression, and I must say under a false impression, that heavy quantities of these food-grains are allowed to be exported, and that is the reason for the high price. I beg to submit that this is not a fact, as we have found that the total quantity of food-grains exported from India to foreign countries is not more than 5 per cent. and, even in the case of wheat, it is not more than 20 per cent. of the outturn ; but if we exclude Burma in the case of rice, it is not more than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. and, if we exclude the Punjab in the case of wheat, it is not more than 3 per cent. What is then the reason for the high price of food-grains ? I find, however, that the outturn of food-grains in Bengal is much lower than that in the other provinces of India and much lower than Japan and other civilised countries of the world. What is the reason ? Is it due to the fact, as alleged, that the soil of Bengal is not so fertile as that of the other countries. I beg to submit, it is not a fact. On the contrary, I would say that the soil of Bengal is more fertile than that of any other country in the world, especially Japan and the United States of America.

As regards outturn, I may state that the average yield per acre of wheat in the Bombay Presidency and the United Provinces, as will appear from the report of the Indian

Industrial Commission, was 1,250 lbs. in a certain year, but in the United Kingdom in the same year, it was 1,973 lbs. per acre; in Belgium 2,174 lbs. and in Denmark it was 2,526 lbs. per acre. Similarly in the same year in the case of barley, the average yield per acre in the United Provinces was 1,300 lbs. in the United Kingdom 2,105 lbs and in Belgium it was 2,953 lbs.

Then in the case of rice, the average yield of rice per acre is only one-half of what it is in Japan. What is the reason, though the soil of Bengal is more fertile than that of other countries and though the export of food-grains is not even more than 5 per cent? What is the reason for this nominal outturn of food-grains in Bengal? I beg to submit that it is due to want of agricultural education in Bengal. We find in the administration reports of Japan that there are agricultural schools in every village, or group of villages in Japan. We also find that in every village or group of villages in the United States of America, there is an agricultural school with an experimental farm attached to it. We find this even in Germany and Austria.

But what do we find in Bengal? Practically nothing of the kind. It appears from the official reply which has been given to the question which I asked in this House on the 17th February last, that only in Dacca, in the month of January 1920, an agricultural school had been established and it was proposed to establish one in Chinsura at an early date. So that, in the course of a few months, we shall have only two agricultural schools in the whole of Bengal. Is that enough? It may be said that there are numbers of experimental farms established in Bengal. I admit that, and I thank the Government for them very much, but that is nothing; It is like the play of Hamlet without Hamlet. It is something like the battle of Kurukshetra without Sri Krishna.

Unless an agricultural school be established along with an experimental farm, we cannot fully utilise these experimental farms. I beg to submit that an agricultural school should not only be established in every division, but in every district of Bengal, and in the course of time in every group of villages there should be an agricultural school with an experimental farm. With these remarks I beg to submit my resolution before the Council. I do not mean that these schools should be established in the current year, but that they should be started as early as possible.

THE HON'BLE THE NAWAB SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR :—I am fully alive to the importance of agricultural education in this province. Government have already announced that it is their policy to aim at gradually establishing an agricultural farm in every district. They have opened an agricultural Vernacular School at Dacca and a similar school has just been opened at Chinsura. We have agricultural farms in six districts and two others are being constructed. I am therefore prepared to accept the resolution moved by Babu Amulya Dhone Addy as expressing the policy which Government will follow, but I would suggest to him that he should bring it within the range of practical politics by recommending that Government should establish an agricultural farm in every district of Bengal and an agricultural school in every division.

Babu Amulya Dhone Addy :—I accept the amendment suggested by the Hon'ble the Minister.

The Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur :—Progress must necessarily be slow. In the first place, a suitable type of schools has still to be evolved. The schools at Dacca and Chinsura are in the nature of an experiment, and modifications in their working may be shown by experience to be necessary. Secondly, the rate of progress must depend on the financial condition of the province.

**BABU AMULYA DHONE ADDY :—**I accept the amendment suggested by the Hon'ble the Minister and I am thankful to him for his kind consideration.

The resolution was then put in the following modified form and agreed to :—"This Council recommends to the Government that an agricultural school be opened at a suitable centre in each division and that experimental farms be established and maintained in every district."

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### **COMMERCIAL SCHOOLS.**

**BABU AMULYA DHONE ADDY :—**"This Council recommends to the Government that at least one commercial school, with a museum attached to it, be established and maintained in every division of Bengal."

I will first of all explain to you the importance of a commercial school ; secondly, as to whether this institution should be established in the mufassal or not ; and, thirdly, whether a commercial museum should be attached to this school.

With regard to the first point, I beg to draw attention to the fact that there is a great discontent amongst the youths of Bengal ; what is the reason ? I think that they are sick of the present system of education. They want national education and having consulted some of them I find that they really want technical education. It is well-known that the Bar is overcrowded : they want such education by which they can earn their livelihood. We find that the commerce of Bengal, or rather of India, is now in the hands of the Europeans. We also find that the inland trade of India is now in the hands of the Marwaris ; and what is

the condition of the people of Bengal ? Properly speaking, they consist mostly of lawyers and clerks. I know of several capitalists who do not venture to invest their money in business, and what is the reason ? Nothing but want of commercial education. That is the reason why I suggest that commercial schools and colleges should be established in every part of India. We find that in the United States of America there is not a single town which is not provided with a commercial school. We also find that in Japan every town is provided with a commercial school, and in Tokio, the capital of Japan, there is a commercial University and there is a college in which no less than 2,000 students study commerce. We find in England there is a number of commercial universities, a number of colleges of commerce and schools of commerce. We find that even in Germany there is a number of day schools and a number of evening schools of commerce. We find from the statistics that there are no less than 100 day schools of commerce and no less than 250 evening schools of commerce. We find that in Berlin, there is a commercial college in which there are no less than 3,000 students who study that subject. It is a subject which has been strongly recommended by several public bodies. It appears from the proceedings of the meetings of the Indian National Congress from year to year that they have repeatedly suggested to the Government to establish commercial colleges and schools. We find also from the proceedings of the Indian Industrial Conference that a similar suggestion has been made. It appears also from the report of the Indian Industrial commission that they have strongly recommended the establishment of commercial colleges as well as schools in every part of India. I draw your special attention to the very learned note of the Hon'ble Pandit Madan Mohon Malavya, a member of the Commission. It appears from that report itself that those nations of the West who are foremost in the commerce of the world, have devoted the

greatest attention to commercial education. Germany was the first to recognise the necessity and usefulness of such kind of education. America followed suit and so did Japan. During the last twenty years England has fully made up its deficiency in the institutions for commercial education. So it appears that all public bodies, the Indian National Congress, the Indian Industrial Commission and Conference have unanimously and repeatedly suggested to the Government to establish Commercial Colleges and Commercial Schools in every part of India. But what do we find so far as India is concerned ? Properly speaking nothing of the kind. There is only one college of commerce worth the name, I mean the Sydenham College of Commerce in Bombay. I do not know whether it is maintained by Government. I am informed that it is maintained by some of the leading merchants of Bombay. So far as Calcutta is concerned, I find there is only one Government Commercial Institute, an institute established by the Government of India, but that is the only institute worth the name in Bengal, and only 108 students are allowed to be admitted into that institute every year, quite inadequate for the purpose for which it has been established. In the mufassal I find there is only one such institute. That is the college of commerce in Berhampore which has been established and maintained by the Hon'ble Maharaja of Cossimbazar to whom we are grateful. I admit that there is a number of commercial schools in Calcutta and two or three in the mufassal, one in Dacca and one or two in the other towns of Bengal, but they teach type-writing, shorthand and book-keeping. What is their object ? Not to impart commercial education or scientific education in commerce in the literal sense of the word. They are nothing but machines for the manufacture of clerks. What I want is to have such institutions so that we may create a number of traders and merchants if possible. It will appear from the report of the Calcutta University Commission that the

export and import trade of India totals more than Rs. 3,00,000,000 every year. You can therefore imagine what an amount of employment can be found for our young men in the various branches of commerce, if satisfactory arrangements can be made for their business education and training so that, as I have already said, as our Bar is overcrowded there is no fair field for our young men of Bengal and commercial education is the only course left to them.

I have suggested that at least one commercial school may be established in every division of Bengal. I know the state of the finance of the Government of Bengal; that is the reason why I am so moderate. I could have asked you to establish a commercial school in every town or every centre of trade of Bengal, but as I am a Moderate I am also moderate in my demand. I suggest that we should make a beginning. We should start with at least one commercial school in every principal centre of trade of every division of Bengal. We can start them at once. We can meet the expenditure from the closing balance of the Revenue Fund, of this year and next year, we can increase the number of such institutions. I have suggested that every commercial school should be provided with a museum. Otherwise it will be a play of Hamlet without Hamlet. In order to provide practical commercial education, we must have a commercial museum attached to the school. As the Medical College or school is provided with a hospital so a commercial school shall be provided with a commercial museum.

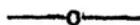
With these remarks, I beg to move the resolution that stands in my name.

**MINISTER IN CHARGE OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES** (The Hon'ble the Nawab Saïyid Ali Chaudhuri Khan Bahadur): I shall not take up much of the Council's time in dealing with this resolution, but I wish to make it clear that I am fully alive to

the present demand for vocational education. I recognize the reasonableness of the demand and I am doing all that lies in my power to meet it. A scheme for the extension of elementary and secondary agricultural education has been prepared and is now under my consideration. The Director of Industries is drawing up a scheme for the extension of technical and industrial education. As regards commercial schools, I agree with the Indian Industrial Commission in the view that the practice of up-to-date methods of business and account-keeping is certain to spread in the mufassil and that the demand for men with a training such as commercial schools will afford is bound to increase. I am therefore prepared to accept this resolution and to instruct the Director of Industries to prepare a scheme for the establishment in every Division of a commercial school with a commercial museum attached. I must however remind the Council that the rate of progress in establishing these schools must depend on the financial position and on the amount of assistance which local bodies are ready to afford.

**BABU AMULYA DHONE ADDY :** I have heard the Hon'ble Minister in charge and I am grateful to him for accepting my resolution.

The resolution was then put to the vote and carried.



### Nautical Institute.

**BABU ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA** moved: " This Council recommends to the Government that early steps be taken by Government to start a nautical institution for Bengal at Chittagong or some other suitable place in Bengal for the training of seamen and officers."



**BABU AMULYA DHONE ADDY :** I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution which has been moved by Babu Annada Charan Dutta. It is my personal opinion that the proposed nautical school should be located in Calcutta, because Calcutta is not only the centre of trade in Bengal but, if I may be allowed to say so, the centre of trade in India. Whatever my personal opinion might be, there is not the slightest doubt that there should be a nautical school in Bengal, be it located in Calcutta or in Chittagong. In connection with the question as to whether there should be a nautical school or not, I beg to draw the special attention to the note of Pandit Madan Mohan Malavya in the report of the Indian Industrial Commission. The following appears in his note—

“ Shipbuilding is an ancient industry in India and Indians carried on navigation in far distant lands, east and west ; this has been fully established by Professor Radha Kumud Mukherji in his valuable history of Indian Shipping. Both Darius and Alexander had hundreds of vessels constructed in India. Indian river-craft went so far as Mexico.

Then it appears further from that note that the Governor-General, Lord Wellesley reporting in 1800 to his masters in Leadenhall Street, London, said—

“The port of Calcutta contains about 10,000 tons of shipping built in India of a description calculated for the conveyance of cargoes to England. It further appears from that report that—

\* \* \* there is no reason why India should not be allowed to man her own ships, when they are built. She has already for many years past provided excellent crews for the ships of other nations and given facilities for education in nautical subjects and marine engineering. She should in course of time be able to supplement these crews, at any rate in the coasting trade, with capable of officers and

engineers, The supply of such men from Britain must be very short for many years to come, and facilities for recruitment in India would do much to render her self-supporting in case of another great war."

It is clear that there was a time when ships used to be provided with Indian officers. But times have altered. We are now dependent on foreigners for the construction of ships and steamers. We are now dependent on foreigners for the supply of officers thereof. It is most regrettable that only the menials on steamers are Indians. It is therefore, desirable that there should be at least one nautical school in Bengal. We find one in England and we find a number of them in all the civilised countries of the world. It is most regrettable that we have not even one in Bengal. This is one of the reasons for discontent in Bengal. The people are anxious for technical education ; they are anxious to enter nautical service but no facilities have as yet been given them by Government.

The resolution was carried ;—The Ayes being 42 and the Noes 29.

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### **Technological and Agricultural College.**

RAI JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE BAHADUR :—  
 " This Council recommends to the Government that a technological and agricultural college on the standard of the great technological colleges affiliated to the Universities of Great Britain and America granting B. Sc., M. Sc., and D. Sc. degrees affiliated to the Calcutta University and closely related to the University as in other countries, should be established at Calcutta without delay."

**BABU AMULYA DHONE ADDY :—**We always complain of the high prices of the necessities of life, and what is the reason for this? It is nothing but the undevelopment of the industries of India. I beg to submit that unless and until we give industrial education we shall not be able to develop the Indian industries. I strongly object to the amendment of our esteemed friend, Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy. He has suggested to us that the matter of the establishment of a technological institute in Calcutta should be referred back to a committee. To speak the truth, we are sick of committees and commissions. This question has been pending for a long time, not less than 20 years. I see that the Government has already submitted a report on the subject and I may be allowed to say that the report may be regarded as the final one. I draw the attention of the Council to the report on the technological institute for Calcutta. From that report it appears that the committee has carefully gone through the previous reports and they have submitted this opinion.

They say that "the result of the detailed enquiries which we have made fully bears out the opinion of the Calcutta Committee that there is a great need for a well-equipped and up-to-date technological institute in Calcutta. Such an institute on the one hand will render important service to the numerous industries which centre in Calcutta and its neighbourhood, and on the other hand, will fit young men of Bengal to take a larger share in the conduct of those industries than has hitherto fallen to their lot. So it appears that this Committee, the Committee which has been appointed by the Government of Bengal, stated that no time should be lost in the establishment of a polytechnic institute in Calcutta. This is the recommendation which had been submitted to the Government by the Indian National Congress from time to time. This is the recommendation which had been submitted by the Calcutta University

Commission as well as by the Indian Industrial Commission. We find that the cost of such a scheme is not a prohibitive one because it appears from page 60 of their report that the capital expenditure, exclusive of the cost of building, is Rs. 10,20,000 only and the recurring cost—the gross cost is only Rs. 5,46,000; or rather the net cost after amalgamation of the Civil Engineering College will be Rs. 2,93,000. So, it will appear that the capital expenditure is Rs. 10,00,000 and the annual recurring expenditure is Rs. 3,00,00. Assuming for argument's sake that the capital expenditure is Rs. 15,00,000 or Rs. 20,00,000 or that the annual expenditure is Rs. 5,00,000 I think the Government is quite justified in taking up this institute as early as possible. It further appears from the proceedings of a conference which was held at Belvedere a few months ago that the Government is going to abandon this scheme altogether. It proposes to establish a technical school in Calcutta instead of a technical college as suggested before. The Government, or rather the Conference, is of opinion that this is rather an ambitious scheme. However, we must thank the Government for having taken the initiative at least to start a technical school in Calcutta. We find that the Government has already acquired a big plot of land in the centre of Calcutta and is going to construct a building, but I am sorry that no provision appears in the Budget for the construction of that building and therefore no time should be lost in the construction of that building, not for the establishment of the proposed technical school, but for the establishment of a technical college as recommended by the previous Committees and Commissions.

It has been stated that an agricultural college should be established in Calcutta. I am sorry I do not agree on that subject. There is not the slightest doubt that an agricultural college should be established in Bengal, but not in Calcutta or Dacca. It is most regrettable that though there is an agricultural college in Bihar, there is not a single one

in Bengal. Therefore, there is not the slightest doubt that an agricultural college should be established in Bengal as early as possible, especially for the reason that 90 percent of the population of Bengal depend on agriculture; and to that college should be attached a big farm. Therefore, no time should be lost in establishing such a college in Bengal.

As regards expenditure, I may be allowed to say that if a technological institute is established in Calcutta, and as it is one of the duties of the Calcutta Corporation to provide for technical education, the Calcutta Corporation would be very glad to make a substantial contribution towards the maintenance of such an institute.

Therefore, I strongly support the resolution which has been moved for the establishment of a technological institute in Calcutta and I strongly oppose the amendment to refer the matter again to a Committee.

The original resolution was put to vote and carried.

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### **BENGAL CHILDREN BILL.**

BABU AMULYA DHONE ADDY :—I move “that at the end of clause 30, the following be added, namely :—

(5) The income accruing from the work of any youthful offender or child in a reformatory or industrial school shall be kept in deposit in the name of such person and the whole sum thus credited or a portion thereof shall be made over to him at the time of his release’.”

It appears that the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce made this suggestion for the consideration of the Select Committee, but, unfortunately they have not accepted it.

The Bengal National Chamber of Commerce said that it was found in the Jail Report of 1920, that the income per head of juvenile offender was Rs. 900, and the expenditure, Rs. 200 annually. They are of opinion that this profit of Rs. 700 should not be appropriated by Government but should be made over to the offender to enable him to make a start in life and prove a useful and honest member of society. They also suggested the whole of this income should be made over to the juvenile offender at the time of his release, but what I suggest is very moderate. I suggest that if not the whole, a certain portion of this income should be made over to him at the time of his release. The object is only to encourage industrial education. If this income is made over to the juvenile offender, it will create an interest in his work, and I fail to understand why a certain portion of this income should not be made over to him at the time of his release.

With these remarks, I commend my amendment to the acceptance of the Council.

THE HON'BLE SIR ABDUR RAHIM:—We consider the suggestion to be a sound one and I think that it would be carried out if we embodied it in the rules. I therefore suggest that to section 42 (2) (j), we add a proviso. It will then run thus; "for the education and industrial training of the inmates of reformatory and industrial Schools provided that the income accruing from the work of any youthful offender or child in a reformatory or industrial school shall be kept in the name of such person and portion of the proceeds of that works shall be made over to him at the time of his release." I think that will satisfy the object which Babu Amulya Dhone Addy has in view.

BABU AMULYA DHONE ADDY:—I am glad that my suggestion has been accepted.

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## **BENGAL COURT-FEES BILL**

**BABU AMULYA DHONE ADDY :-** Yesterday I supported the resolution to refer the Amusements Bill to a Select Committee. I did so on the ground that it would be taxation on betting and thus discourage it. But I am sorry to say that I am strongly opposed to the adoption of the principle of the Bengal Court-fees Bill. I admit that there is a deficit of Rs. 90 lakha and we must try our best to meet it, especially when we want money for technical education, encouragement of local industries, improvement of sanitation, and also for the improvement of primary education I fail to understand the necessity for having a surplus of Rs. 60 lakhs. In order to meet this deficit of Rs. 90 lakhs, yesterday we accepted a proposal for taxation under which we hope to get a revenue of Rs. 30 lakhs. Now we should try our best to meet the deficit to the extent of Rs 60 lakhs, and I think the best course will be, under the circumstances, to reduce our expenditure. The cost of police has been increasing by leaps and bounds. We have also increased the pay of ministerial officers, members of the provincial Service, both executive and judicial. I admit that when the increments were sanctioned, there was a great famine in India, and the Government were quite justified in granting these increments, but now circumstances have materially altered. The war is over, famine is also over, the price of food-grains and other necessities of life has already gone down and is expected further to go down. Therefore I think we should be justified in reducing the increment of pay and allowances to these officers, and I also beg to submit that the pay of the Heads of Departments and especialy of the Hon'ble members of the Executive Council and the Ministers should be reduced.

I hope and trust that the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, who is really the father of agitation for Home Rule,

would reduce his own salary and thus set an example to his subordinate officers. Now I make another suggestion by which we may reduce expenditure. As regards the execution from revenue, I think it would be better to raise a loan and meet the expenditure as is done under the Calcutta Municipal Act, because by the execution of these important works, not only the present people of Bengal but also their children and grandchildren would be benefited. I do not think we should be justified in meeting this expenditure from current revenues.

As regards the question whether the court-fees should be increased or not, I beg to submit that it will be a source of great hardship to the raiyats who are anxious to pay up their arrears of rent, but from force of circumstances they are not able to do so sometimes, and the landlords are under the painful necessity of instituting cases for realisation of the arrears of rent, because unless the suits are instituted in the fourth year, they become barred under the Limitation Act. Tenants and landlords are equally quite helpless, therefore it is the tenants who will have to pay this increased court-fee. As regards Calcutta litigants, I beg to submit that under the Presidency Small Causes Court Act the rate of 2 annas is not very exorbitant, but it is much higher than the cost of suits in the mufassal, and it is proposed to increase it by another 50 percent; viz, to 3 annas. I beg to submit that, for this reason, justice would be denied if we pass this Court-fees Bill.

It is said we made an appeal to the Government of India for exemption from the payment of the contribution of Rs 63 lakhs per annum, and it is also said that the Government of India, having a greater deficit, cannot be expected to exempt us from this contribution continuously. The Government are responsible for that : Government could have levied a tax on the export of food-grains, which would have been a source of revenue for the Government of India, and would have



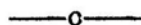
lowered the price of food-grains in India. I am sorry that public opinion has not been invited in this case; some public bodies have not been favoured with their opinion as yet. I have consulted some of the leading members of the Alipore Bar Association, and I find that they are unanimously against this proposal. It may be that it is to the interests of the members of the Bar themselves that they desire that the rate of court-fee should not be increased. However, I beg to draw attention to the opinion submitted by the Bengal Mahajan Sabha, which consists of important traders of Calcutta.

They said :—

“We are opposed to the principle of imposing further tax upon justice. One of the attributes of good government, at any rate according to oriental idea, is that justice should be administered as cheaply as possible. It is indeed a violation of that rule when court-fees are realised to meet the costs of the administration of justice. But it becomes almost indefensible when the Government want to make a profit from the administration of justice with a view to defray the cost of other branches of administration. My Committee, therefore, do not think that there can be any justification for increase in court-fees in connection with suits or applications which would impose burdens upon poor litigants, mostly agriculturalists, who should on no account be fleeced in order to meet the cost of maintaining highly-paid officials for carrying on other branches of Government.”

As regards landlords, I may draw attention to the opinion which is expressed by the East Bengal Landholders' Association. They strongly disapprove of the idea of additional taxation in any shape or form in view of the economic distress prevailing in the country. They are of opinion that the time is too inopportune to justify the imposition of any fresh burden upon the people. The committee therefore suggest that the Bill should be dropped.

Then I beg to draw attention to the Administration Report of the Government of Bengal for the year 1918-19. It appears that the total number of suits for money and moveables was 274,609, of suits under the rent law 374,000 of title and other suits 61,147. In suits for money or moveables 47.5 per cent. and in rent suits 75.4 per cent. were for sums of less than Rs. 50. I would draw special attention to this: in suits under the rent law 98.1 per cent. were for realisation of arrears of rent. It thus appears that this will be a source of great hardship on the cultivators and that is the greater reason why I am under the painful necessity of opposing the motion.



### **BENGAL STAMP BILL.**

BABU AMULYA DHONE ADDY :—I beg to support the amendment that this Bill be in force for two years only. I will be very short especially as we have discussed the question for so long a period. I will simply draw your attention to the fact that we should not be charmed by the oratory of the greatest orator of Bengal, rather of India, I mean the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea. He wants us to raise a loan of 11 millions sterling for the eradication of malaria from Bengal. Is this the time to raise such a loan? Is it not a fact that the money market is now too tight? Can you get a loan on interest at less than 7 per cent per annum? Now for argument's sake, if you raise a loan at such a heavy rate of interest, then the period of loan ought to be as short as possible. And in that case the rate of contribution to sinking fund must be heavy; it should be at least 2 per cent. Then, Sir, for a loan of a crore of rupees we shall have to pay every year at least 9 lakhs per annum towards the interest and sinking fund. What is this loan for? Is it for financing the

construction of the new Hooghly Bridge which will cost at least 3 crores of rupees ? We are informed that we shall have a balance if these taxation Bills are passed without any modification at all. We are assured that we shall have a surplus of 20 lakhs of rupees. In that case, the maximum amount of loan that can be raised will be about 2 crores and 20 lakhs of rupees. It is quite insufficient for the purpose stated by the Hon'ble Minister in charge.

The next point I want to draw your attention to is the object of the Bill. It appears from the statement of objects and reason that the object of this Bill is to provide additional revenue for this province in order to meet a part of the existing deficit. It does not speak of any surplus. Neither does it speak of any loan. The object is simply to meet the deficit, and that is the reason why the British Indian Association said that they had no objection to the passing of the Bill.

I would draw your attention to the note of dissent of five members of the Select Committee including my humble self. They have suggested that the Bill should be in force for two years only. My object in making this suggestion is to see whether we can curtail the expenditure on Police, and whether we can curtail the expenditure on the civil services Provincial, executives and judicial. We have now received several opinions from various public bodies. It appears that the Bengal Mahajan Sabha, which consists of some of the leading traders of Bengal, has stated that its Committee adhere to the view that the imposition of a burden on Bengal of a more or less permanent character is undesirable from economic as well as political points of view. They fully realise the present financial position of Bengal, and, as such, they are prepared to lend their support to this scheme of taxation as a temporary measure.

There is also the opinion of the East Bengal Landholders' Association. They say that any attempt to impose fresh

taxation in the present economic conditions of the country would be unwise and is undesirable for various reasons. They say that the times are changed, all projects which have as their object the imposition of additional burden on the people, at the present moment should be abandoned both from economical as well as political points of view. At the same time, they stated that if it was a temporary measure they had no objection. So it appears that the Indian traders of Bengal and the landholders of Eastern Bengal have strongly opposed this Bill, but at the same time they have approved of it as a temporary measure in order to meet the deficit.

I beg to draw your attention to the memorable speech of the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India delivered in the House of Commons the other day. He stated that "India is highly taxed. Prices are very heavy, and the people thereof are very poor" and he has also stated that the present unrest in India is due to the economic situation of the world. Now, Sir, he himself has stated that the people of Bengal are very poor and they are heavily taxed, and that is the reason of the present unrest. I beg to suggest that this Bill should be for two years only because if the people come to know that we are going to make the taxes permanent, there will be greater discontent and greater unrest which is not desirable under the present circumstances. I want to see whether the proceeds of the revenue from these taxes will be utilised for the encouragement of technical education, or improvement of sanitation. But if after two years we find that a substantial portion of this revenue is being utilised for the encouragement of technical education and the improvement of sanitation, then we will be quite justified in moving again that this law be made a permanent one.

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## **Bengal Stamp Bill.**

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY :—I move that in clause (a) (vi) (i) in the first column for the words 'thirty years' the words 'ten years' be substituted ; and (ii) in the second column for the words 'four times' in line 3 the word 'twice' be substituted.

(e) In clause (a) (vii) in the second column the words 'three times' be omitted.

(f) In the second column, after first proviso, the following be added namely :—

'Provided also that in the case of an agricultural lease in perpetuity the duty payable shall be as a conveyance for a consideration of one-tenth of the rents which would be paid or delivered in respect of the first fifty years of the lease.'

With reference to this point, I would draw attention to the provisions of the present Act, viz, "Where the lease purports to be for a term in excess of three years, the same duty as a conveyance for a consideration equal to the amount of value of the average annual rent reserved." So it appears that under the present Act, the stamp duty has been fixed equal to the amount of annual rent paid. If there be a lease for 10 years or more, or even if there be a lease for 999 years, the duty has been fixed for a consideration equal to one year's rent. In the Bill there is a gradation of the stamp duty. Where the lease purports to be for a term exceeding 10 years, but not exceeding twenty years, the same duty as a conveyance for a consideration equal to twice the amount or value of the average annual rent reserved. And for a lease for a term exceeding 20 years, but not exceeding 30 years, the same duty as a conveyance for a consideration equal to three times the amount or value of

the average annual rent reserved. For a lease for a term of 30 years, but not exceeding 100 years, the same duty as a conveyance for a consideration equal to four times the amount or value of the average annual rent reserved.

Now let us see what the increment is. In the case of a lease for 10 to 20 years, it is twice the annual amount, practically it is 300 per cent of the duty on the conveyance at the existing rate. Similarly, for a lease of 20 or 30 years, it is 450 per cent of the duty on the conveyance under the existing Act, and for a lease of 30 to 130 years, it is 600 per cent of the duty on the conveyance under the present Act. We were under the impression that the rates of duty have been increased generally by 50 per cent, in certain cases by 100 per cent, and in others by 25 per cent ; but it appears that in this particular case it has been increased by 50 to 500 per cent. Then we find that even in the report of the Expert Committee, in paragraph 5, it is stated that the only article from which an appreciable increase of revenue may be expected is article 35. Here the committee have followed the English law which provides a graduated scale of duty with regard to a term of years. So it appears that on the recommendation of the Expert Committee, the Government has fixed a graduated scale in accordance with the English law. I do not know the English law, but I may be allowed to say that the people of England chiefly depend on trade, commerce and manufacture, whilst the people of Bengal chiefly depend on agriculture. The people of England can afford to pay these heavy taxes, but the people of Bengal are generally poor and cannot afford to pay such heavy taxes with an increase of 50 to 500 per cent. Further, it appears from the report of the Expert Committee that that they estimate to realise over a lakh and a half from this in addition to 50 per cent. increase. I admit that the revenue should be increased, and that is why I have made the suggestion, which will appear to be a very modest one. I have suggested that

instead of increasing 3, 4, 5. or 6 times, in the case of a lease for a term exceeding 10 years but not more than 100 years it may be twice the average rent instead of 4 times as suggested in the Bill, so it will give Sir, at least one lakh of rupees or even Rs. 50,000 in addition to the revenue by raising the rate of duty by 50 per cent.

It may also be said that if we reduce the revenue by Rs. 50,000, our surplus will be reduced accordingly. But for the sake of Rs. 50,000 or a lakh of rupees, is it advisable to raise the duty on leases for long periods, by such high rates? If that be the case, I would suggest further retrenchment. Is it not a fact that the charge for the maintenance of the police in Bengal in 1918-19 was Rs. 1,32 lakhs and it has been proposed in the Budget to increase it to Rs. 189 lakhs? The total expenditure in the year 1918-19 was Rs. 744 lakhs and it has been proposed to increase it to Rs. 1,004 lakhs now, so it appears that under the Budget we are going to increase the expenditure by about Rs. 2½ crores. Cannot we make a further retrenchment of Rs. 50,000 or Rs. 1,00,000? Government is responsible for this heavy expenditure and for this deficit. Had it not been for the fact that the increased cost of the pay and allowances of the members of the executive and judicial services has accounted for many lakhs of rupees, the case would have been different. I draw attention to the old history of the rate of duty on leases.

It appears that under Regulation XVI of 1864, annas eight was the only rate of duty for a lease, not only for a short lease, but also for a lease for a long period. Under Act I of 1879, it was increased by 100 per cent; and it was equal to one year's rent even for a permanent lease. There is another point which would appear to be a source of the greatest hardship on the people at large especially to the poor people of Bengal.

Now, I beg to move that in clause (a) (viii) in the second

column the words 'three times' be omitted. This has reference to a lease for a definite period. Under the law in force where the lease does not purport to be for any definite period it is the same duty as a conveyance for a consideration equal to the amount or value of the average annual rent, but under the Bill, it is proposed that it should be the same duty as a conveyance for a consideration equal to three times the annual rent. Prima facie it is going to be increased 300 per cent but the rate of duty on lease for a definite period is going to be increased to 450 per cent. What is the lease for an indefinite period ? It is the lease of a house or agricultural land from year to year, and in the case of shops in a municipality, generally, it is from month to month. This is not a definite period ; it may be 5 months, or 5 years and in the case of a tenancy from month to month the landlord has the right to eject a tenant after fifteen days' notice, and therefore, this tenancy is generally for a short period. Would we be justified in increasing the rate of duty on such leases to 450 per cent ? Then it may be said that as regards the poor agriculturists there is an exception. I admit that there is an exemption, but there are so many restrictions embodied in that exemption that this exemption can not really be applied. It runs as follows :—

"Lease, executed in the case of a cultivator and for the purposes of cultivating ( including a lease of trees for the production of food or drink ) without the payment or delivery of any fine or premium, when a definite term is expressed and such term does not exceed one hundred rupees."

Let us see what these restrictions are. First of all, it should be in the case of a cultivator. It should be for the purpose of cultivation and not for any other purpose. Then, there should be no premium. If one rupee is paid as salami to the landlord, then it does not come under this exemption, and shall be liable to pay the 'proper stamp duty. Then, it



should be for a definite period, and, therefore, it cannot apply in cases of lease for an indefinite period and even for a definite period it can not be more than a year ; and if you take into consideration the fact that the amount of annual rent must not exceed Rs. 100 then it appears that though Government has been pleased to make an exception to this rule, there are so many restrictions that it is difficult for a cultivator to take advantage of this exemption.

I do therefore move the last sub-item (f)—

(f) In the second column after the first proviso, the following be added, namely,—

‘Provided also that in the case of an agricultural lease in perpetuity the duty payable shall be as a conveyance for a consideration of one-tenth of the rents which would be paid or delivered in respect of the first fifty years of the lease.’

My object, Sir, is to develop agriculture, and unless and until we develop agriculture in Bengal, we cannot expect to have the prices of food-grains reduced. We have the Sunderbans in the districts of 24-Parganas, Bakarganj and Khulna, which the Government have been pleased to let out. The landlords have reclaimed these lands and they have raised embankments and cut off the jungle, but the tenants do not like to take leases of these lands unless the leases are permanent. It is generally the practice that in the case of lands in the Sunderbans permanent leases are granted, that is the reason why I have suggested that the duty on such conveyances should be for a consideration of one-tenth of the rents which may be paid or delivered in respect of the first 50 years of the lease, instead of one-sixth as suggested in the Bill. So I suggest it should be less than that in the case of ordinary leases in perpetuity ; but, Sir, it will not be an exception but a proviso to the proposed rule.

With these remarks, I beg to submit my amendment for the consideration of the Council and I hope and trust that

you will allow the clauses to be separately put because I understand that some of the members of the council are agreeable to accept some of these items although they do not approve of all of them.

The Hon'ble Mr. KEER in course of his reply in the debate said.—we are, however, prepared to accept Mr. Addy's proposal (f) about the proviso in the case of agricultural leases. We are prepared to concede that the consideration in the case of leases for a term exceeding one hundred years or in perpetuity should be one-tenth of the rent which will be paid or delivered in respect of the first 50 years of the lease. But we propose to word it rather differently.

It will read as follows :—

"The same duty as a conveyance (No. 23) for a consideration equal in the case of a lease granted solely for agricultural purposes to one-tenth and in any other case to one-sixth of the whole amount of rents which would be paid or delivered in respect of the first fifty years of the lease."

The following amended motion was then put and agreed to :—

"That in article 35 after the words "consideration equal" in the item in the second column opposite item (a) (vii) the following be inserted, namely,—

"In the case of a lease granted solely for agricultural purposes to one-tenth and in any other case."

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### **The Calcutta Rent (Amendment) Bill, 1923.**

**Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER :—**I have the honour to-day to move that the Calcutta Rent (Amendment) Bill, 1923, be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, Mr. G. N. Roy, Mr. S. W. Goode, Mr. T. Emerson, Babu Surendra Nath Ray, Mr. Krishna Chandra Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Jatindra Nath Basu, Mr. D. J. Cohen, Babu Surendra Nath Mallik, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, Mr. H. A. Stark, Mr. R. H. L. Langford James, Raja Reshee Case law, and the mover, with instructions to submit their reports in time for its consideration at the present session of the Council.

**BABU AMULYA DHONE ADDY :—**I am opposed to the motion which has been moved by our esteemed friend, Mr. Campbell Forrester, to refer the Calcutta (Amendment) Bill to a Select Committee. It has been stated in the Bill that there is a widespread desire to extend the Calcutta Rent Act, but I find from the statement of opinions that the contrary is the case. The House owners' Association is strongly opposed to it. It may be said that this is an Association of persons interested, but there are other public bodies who are opposed to it. The Bengal National Chamber of Commerce is opposed to it. It is a Chamber consisting of members interested in trade, commerce, and industry. The Marwari Association is also opposed to it. The Calcutta Corporation, which consists of representatives not only of the landlords of Calcutta but also of the tenants thereof, and which consists of the leading members of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce as well as the Calcutta Trades Association, is strongly opposed to it. Then the British Indian Association, I find, is also opposed to it, as also the Marwari chamber of Commerce.

Then I find Dr. S. C. Banerji the President of the Tribunal, who has no landed interest in Calcutta, is also opposed to it. I also find Mr. Shroobree, who has no landed interest in Calcutta, who is an expert, and who was the Chief Valuer of the Calcutta Improvement Trust, is strongly opposed to it. Thus, it appears that most of the leading men of Calcutta and most of the leading public bodies of Calcutta are strongly opposed to the extension of the Act. I find that the European Association supports it, but it consists of those gentlemen who generally form the tenants and who are vitally interested. But that Association has expressed its opinion to the effect that the removal of this Act would be an incentive to the construction of new buildings in Calcutta. Then the National Liberal League is opposed to it. But I find that Bengal Chamber of Commerce, which consists of practical men of business and which consists of the leading inhabitants of Calcutta, has expressed itself to the effect that an inquiry should be made into the present circumstances, and unless and until an inquiry is made that chamber cannot be expected to submit its opinion. This suggestion is a reasonable one. I think if it is desirable to pass this Bill, before that is done, a committee should be appointed by Government representing the views of all sects and communities of Calcutta. The Marwari Trades Association is in favour of the Bill, but it has admitted that circumstances have materially altered since the year 1920.

It has been stated by Mr. Forrester that a landlord may be regarded as a public utility company? If that be the case, what about the Calcutta Tramways Company? Is it not a fact that that company has increased its fares and that its rates are much higher than those in Bombay and Madras? Then take the case of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation. Has it not increased its rates by 30 per cent? Has not the Bengal Telephone Company increased its rates by 75 per cent? What has my

esteemed friend, Mr. Campbell Forrester, done to reduce these rates ? It may be said that electricity is a luxury, but it has become a necessity of life : and in a commercial town, which Calcutta undoubtedly is, telephone is also a necessity. It has been said that this Act will give relief to the poor. I beg to associate myself with this consideration for the poor, but I may be allowed to say that the English Act applies to holdings the rental of which is only £ 70 per annum which corresponds to about Rs. 80 per month. As a matter of fact I find that in 90 per cent, of the cases, applications are made for relief by persons, the rent of whose holdings is more than Rs. 50 per mensem. So, it appears that only the rich are being benefited thereby and not the poor as alleged.

My friend wants to give a lesson to the landlords of Calcutta. I think that he means the dishonest landlords and I am in full sympathy with him. There are dishonest landlords and there is not the slightest doubt about it, but is that the reason why honest landlords should be punished ? There may be black sheep and there are black sheep in every herd but what about the dishonest tenants of Calcutta ? May I ask what steps are going to be taken to give a lesson to the dishonest tenants of Calcutta ? Is it not a fact that some of the tenants, after taking a lease under written contracts with their landlords, sublet the rooms to others, realise the rent in full from them and when asked to pay the rent agreed upon, apply to the Rent Controller to fix the standard rent and reduce the rate of rent, and after, say five or six months when the Rent Controller calls upon them to pay the rent, they go away. When the landlord after instituting a suit, gets a decree passed in his favour and goes to execute it, he finds only furniture which does not belong to the tenants but are hired. So I suggest that if any steps are taken to give a lesson to the dishonest landlords, some steps should also be taken to teach a lesson to the dishonest tenants of Calcutta.

What I object to is artificial control, whatever the object might be. I am strongly in favour of natural control because I am sure that artificial control has led and will lead to corruption. I have some experience of rice business. I find that when restrictions were imposed on the export of rice, the price was very high, but when the export was allowed the price came down. What is the reason? Because the area under cultivation has increased. Take the case of coal. There were restrictions on the supply of wagons for the transport of coal from the collieries to Calcutta and also on the export of coal; the price of coal was high but as soon as these restrictions were removed by Government the price came down at once. What is the reason? The proprietors of collieries were afraid of these restrictions and increased the raisings as soon as these restrictions were withdrawn. Now the supply is more than the demand with the natural result that price has gone down.

It will appear from Government reports that the rent of houses went up only 9 per cent. during the years 1913-17, whereas the price of coal during the same period went up by 163 per cent., kerosene oil 53 per cent. Sugar may be a luxury but kerosene oil a necessity. May I ask what steps were taken by Government to reduce the price of kerosene oil? Absolutely none. Then as regards cloth, when the price went up materially although representation after representation were made to Government, no steps were taken. I am really sorry to say that Government were afraid of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

I admit that there is an apprehension that as soon as the control is taken away, the rent will go up. I admit that it would go up, but it would last only for a few months, because as soon as this control is taken away, the landholders of Calcutta will erect additional buildings. The supply of buildings will be more and the rent will come down. That was

the case in the matter of godowns. Godowns have been exempted from the operations of the Calcutta Rent Act and when there was great congestion of goods in Calcutta, the rent of godowns was very high or rather prohibitive, but because there are no restrictions on the rent of godowns, the landlords of Calcutta erected a very large number of godowns in Calcutta. The result is that the supply is more than the demand and the rent of godowns has come down. I have some sad experience in the case of godowns in Chetla. Notwithstanding the fact that the export of rice has been resumed and notwithstanding the fact that the rice business has materially improved, most of the godowns at Chetla are vacant and they cannot be let out even after a reduction of 50 per cent. rent.

Godowns are now excluded from the operations of the Calcutta Rent Act. It has been suggested in the Bill under discussion that even godowns should be included. I submit that the remedy will be worse than the disease. This question was gone into by a Committee in the year 1920 before the enactment of this law, a Committee which was appointed by Government, a Committee which consisted of 14 members, 9 of whom were Europeans, a Committee which consisted of only three landlords. Now let us see what is the opinion that has been expressed by this Committee. This Committee expressed the opinion to the effect that there was no necessity for the Rent Act and stated if it was enacted into law the result would be disastrous, and that it would interfere with the erection of buildings. I admit that a number of new buildings have since been erected but had there been no Rent Act, the number of such buildings would have materially gone up. The remedies suggested are as follows:—

As regards the notice of quit, it is to be increased from 15 days to three months.

Then they suggest that the the suburban areas should be

developed. That is being done by the Calcutta Improvement Trust, of which I have the honour to be a member. They have developed Bhowanipore and Beltollah and opened out a number of roads, and a large number of buildings have been erected. Some of them are still vacant.

As to the accommodation of the poor, I am very glad to inform you that the Calcutta Corporation has already taken the initiative in this matter.

MR. PRESIDENT :—You have reached your time-limit.

BABU AMULYA DHONE ADDY :—What I beg to submit is that it would be a cruelty and an injustice to the landlords if this Act were extended, and that the remedy suggested by my friend would be worse than the disease.

Mr. Campbell Forrester then withdrew his motion.

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### **The Calcutta Improvement (Amendment) Bill.**

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT ( the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea ) :—I have the honour to move that the Calcutta Improvement (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration.

I asked the permission of the house to introduce this Bill last week, and that permission was given, and the Bill was introduced. It has been circulated and published. I explained the object of the Bill in the speech which I made on that occasion. I desire once again to repeat that what is proposed is to grant the solatium of 15 per cent. which was withheld under the provisions of the present Improvement Trust Act.



from owners upon the compulsory acquisition of their land. A great deal of complaint was made with regard to this particular provision, and it is now proposed to remove it.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY :—I thank the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government for moving this resolution.

To be a landholder in Calcutta is a curse. We have sad experience of this when the Calcutta Rent Bill was sanctioned into law. The Calcutta Rent Act may be regarded as the Calcutta Tenants Act.

I am grateful to Government for having come to the conclusion that the statutory allowance should be allowed in the case of forcible acquisition of land under the Calcutta Improvement Act. The law is a most inequitable one and I think they are now going to do justice to the landlords of Calcutta. When a plot of land is required under the Land Acquisition Act for the work of Government, we shall have to pay statutory allowance at the rate of 15 per cent. When any plot is required for the Port Commissioners, that statutory allowance is allowed ; if any land is acquired under the Calcutta Municipal Act that allowance is allowed, but I fail to understand why no such allowance is given under the Calcutta Improvement Act.

We all know that in Calcutta lands are acquired not only for the opening of roads but also for recouping the cost of the construction of roads. Even ancestral dwelling-houses which are regarded as sacred are acquired—and forcibly acquired—simply to recoup the cost of the constructions of roads. There is no reason as to why no allowance should be given for the forcible acquisition of lands. This statutory allowance of 15 per cent has long been recommended by the Calcutta Corporation. It has also been recommended even by the Calcutta Improvement Trust—a board consisting mostly of re-

representatives of trade and commerce of Calcutta and which is vitally interested in this question. I would draw the attention of this House to the Report of the Commission—I mean the Calcutta Building Commission—that was appointed in 1898 by the Government of Bengal presided over by Justice Trevelyn. From the report it appears that there seems no sound reason as to why owners of land which is forcibly acquired should not receive allowance, and they submit that such allowance should both be claimed and insisted on. They further submit that they have given careful consideration to the question of statutory allowance and are not inclined to recommend any alteration in the present law—I mean the statutory law of 15 per cent. They have further said that in England the allowance for compulsory acquisition in the case of house and building sites is invariably 12 per cent ; in the case of agricultural lands it is usually 25 per cent. and in some of the northern countries it rises even to 50 per cent. But 15 percent is fixed by law in the country. That is hardly fair. So it appears that notwithstanding the strong unanimous opinion of the Calcutta Building Commission, Government do not think it fit to grant the statutory allowance of 15 per cent. We are grateful to Government for having recognised the grievances of the landlords and the injustice that was done under the Calcutta Improvement Act,

I strongly support this motion and hope that the statutory allowance of 15 per cent should be allowed in the case of forcible acquisition of land under the Calcutta Improvement Act.

The Motion was put and agreed to.

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## EXPORT OF RICE.

**BABU AMULYA DHONE ADDY :—**I move that " this Council recommends to the Government that a representation be made to the Government of India for the resumption of the export of rice from Bengal to foreign countries."

In support of my resolution, I beg to state that there is a good rice crop this year in Bengal. Bihar and Orissa, the United Provinces and the Madras Presidency ; there is also a bumper rice crop in Burma. With reference to this point, beg to draw attention to the second rice-forecast for the current official year. It appears from that fore-cast dated 21st December, 1921, that in Bengal, the yield is estimated at 7 per cent. above the estimate for this time last year, and that the average outturn for the province, of Bengal as a whole, is estimated at 95 per cent. of the normal. In ~~the~~ United Provinces the average outturn is estimated at 80 per cent. of the normal. In Bihar and Orissa, as will appear from the first fore-cast, the crop is 110 per cent. and as appears from the second forecast, the yield is estimated at 4, 982,000 tons as against 3, 585,000 tons which was the outturn for last year, or an increase of 41 per cent. Then, in Lower Burma especially, the crop is reported to be extremely good, and the outturn is much in excess of the normal.

**Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY :—**I rise to a point of order. Does my friend's resolution relate to export from Burma ?

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—**He is quite in order in letting the Council know about the export of rice from Burma and other places.

**Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY :—**My contenttion is that had there been a shortage of outturn in Burma, even if we had a bumper crop in Bengal, I would not have recommended

the export of rice from Bengal to foreign countries ; but as we find that there is a good crop in this province, and a good crop in the adjoining provinces, and also a bumper crop in Burma, which is the granary not only of India but also of foreign countries all over the world, I recommend that rice should be allowed to be exported from Bengal to foreign countries.

As regards the price of rice, I beg to submit that it has been coming down year by year. As will appear from Capital, which is a commercial guide, that in February, 1920, the price of Kajla rice, which is the cheapest and coarsest rice, was Rs. 6-6-0 rising to Rs 7 per maund. In January, 1921, it ranged from Rs 5-4-0 to Rs 5-12-0 per maund, in January 1922, it came down to Rs 5-4-0 per maund. It thus appears that coarse rice, which is the rice consumed by the poorest people, has come down from Rs 7 to Rs 4-12-0 per maund. Then as regards balam rice, which is generally consumed by the middle class bhadrols, as will appear from the proceedings of the meeting of this Council held on 10th February, 1921, the price in 1919, was Rs. 10 per maund ; it came down to Rs. 9 in 1920, in 1921 to Rs 7 this year it is Rs 6. As a matter of fact I know that it ranges from Rs. 3-12-0 to Rs. 6-4-0 per maund, and in the interior of the Bakarganj district, it has come down as low as Rs 5-4-0; in the famine year it was Rs. 10 per maund. The Rangoon rice, which is also consumed in all parts of India, went up to Rs 7 in 1920 ; in 1921, it was Rs 5 per maund, and in the present year it has come down to Rs. 5, and the price is stationary.

It appears from the report of Messrs. Morrison & Co. of Rangoon that in Rangoon it has come down to Rs 4-10-0 per maund. It thus appears that notwithstanding the fact that the Government of India have allowed the export of rice from Burma to foreign countries the price of rice there has comedown to Rs 4-10-0 per maund.

It appears from the Calcutta Gazette that in 15 out of 29 districts of Bengal the price of coarse rice is 8 seers per rupee. In 1921, in 5 districts the price was 7 seers per rupee, but this year in 15 districts it has come down to 8 seers per rupee, I find, in 4 districts of Bengal it has come down so low as 9 seers per rupee. Thus it appears that the price of rice in all parts of Bengal has materially come down. It may be said that the price of rice is still higher than that before the outbreak of the war ; I admit that. But I cannot expect to have the price of rice so low as before the war, as things have altered, for instance, the wages of labourers have gone up, prices of clothes and other necessities of life have also gone up. Unless and until you reduce the price of other necessities of life as well as the wages of labourers, you cannot expect the cultivators to reduce the price of rice, and whenever they will find that they are suffering a loss and the market is lower than the cost price what will be the result ? They will reduce the area of cultivation with disastrous effect. ~~The Government~~ were quite justified in prohibiting the export of rice during the great war ; it was also justified in prohibiting the export of rice and other food-grains during the great famine. Now the war is over ; the famine is also over ; so what justification is there for Government to prohibit the export of rice from Bengal to foreign countries ? Last year, the Government of India were pleased to allow the export of rice from Burma. It also appears that in the course of six months - January to June 1921-18,000 tons of rice were allowed to be exported from the Madras Presidency ; and 50,000 tons from Karachi were exported to foreign ports, but not a single grain of rice was allowed to be exported from Bengal ; it is sheer injustice to the cultivators of Bengal that while export of rice was allowed from Madras, Burma and Karachi, they were not allowed to do so.

There is a variety of rice which is grown chiefly for export—I mean the table rice ; it is not generally consumed in