

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE MONTHLY CONFERENCES OF
SUB-DIVISIONAL AND CIRCLE OFFICERS,
DACCA DISTRICT.

*Discussions chiefly relative to Union Boards,
Boaches and Courts*

WITH A FOREWORD BY

J. G. Drummond Esq. M. A., I. C. S.

District Magistrate, Dacca.

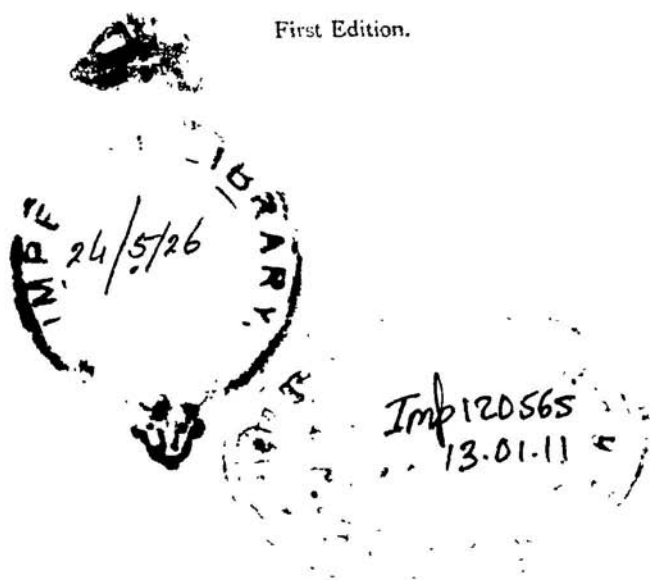


1924

SUSHIL CHANDRA DATTA, B. A.
Circle Officer, Dacca.

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Foreword.

I have been requested by Babu Sushil Chandra Datta, Circle Officer, South Circle, Sadar Subdivision, Dacca District to write a preface to the printed proceedings of the monthly conferences of Sub-divisional Officers and Circle Officers of this district, which he wishes to publish. These conferences were started by Mr. J. H. Lindsay as Additional Magistrate in February, 1920, and they continued while he was District Magistrate and after his departure till February, 1923. The reason for discontinuance was that Government deprecated the holding of such conferences and that when all possible economies were being carried out a certain saving in travelling allowance was to be effected by giving them up.

Sushil Babu acted as Secretary to the conferences almost throughout; the avoidance of overlapping and the concise wording of the various resolutions are evidence of the methodical way in which he carried out his task.

There is much that is of purely local and ephemeral interest in the proceedings as they stood. Nevertheless, they form an interesting record of the difficulties encountered and the manner in which they were surmounted when the Village Self-Government Act was first introduced in a Bengal district. From the beginning of 1921 onwards the agenda increasingly take the shape of question and answer. The answers form a commentary on the Village Self-Government Act and the rules framed thereunder. Though of course not authoritative they constitute a kind of local supplement to the Act and Rules. With the aid of the index the agenda may profitably be studied by those who seek for instruction in the working of the Act and who may find themselves faced with problems similar to those met with in Dacca district during the three-year period covered by this publication.

J. G. Drummond

District Magistrate, Dacca.

Compiler's Note.

Dacca is believed to be the happy nursery of Union Boards, brought into existence by the operation of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919. I have had the privilege of being associated with them for some years past and the present compilation is intended to be of some use and help to those who have interested themselves in the expansion of the rural institutions. My effort will be amply recompensed if it performs its function in its humble way.

My warmest acknowledgements are due to Mr. J. H. Lindsay, M. A., I. C. S., late District Magistrate, Dacca, for his unstinted sympathy and good will and to Mr. J. G. Drummond, M. A., I.C.S., District Magistrate, Dacca, for his remarkable kindness in writing the "foreword" and for the uniform encouragement which I always received at his hands.

DACCA
The 18th February, }
1924.

SUSHIL CHANDRA DATTA
Circle Officer.

Proceedings dated 20th February, 1920.

Place : MAGISTRATE'S BUNGLOW.

Time : 8 A. M.

Present :—

- Mr. J. H. Lindsay, I.C.S., Addl. Dt. Magistrate.
- „ S. N. Mudak, I.C.S., S.D.O., Munshiganj.
- „ B. M. Staig, I.C.S., S. O., Narainganj.
- Babu Suresh Chandra Bose, S.D.O., Sadar (N).
- „ Dwijendra Mohan Sen, S.D.O., Manikganj.
- „ Jogesh Chandra Sen, Circle Officer, Munshiganj.
- „ Hem Chandra Sen, Circle Officer, Munshiganj.
- „ Sachi Kanta Ghosh, Circle Officer, Sadar (N)
- „ Sushil Chandra Datta, Circle Officer, Sadar (S).
- „ Ajit Kumar Bose, Circle Officer, Manikganj.
- Maulvi Md. Abdul Khalique, Circle Officer, Narainganj.

(The Additional District Magistrate presided.) -

1. It was agreed by all that the monthly meeting inaugurated to-day may be continued every month to be held on the District Board meeting day of the month and at the District Board Office one hour before the District Board meeting. This is to start from April, 1920.

2. Notes were taken as to the progress made in the preparation of the voters' list for the election of members to Union Boards and it was found to have been completely done in Manikganj while in other sub-divisions it has reached that stage that publication of voters' list may take place from the 1st week of March and the elections to begin from 1st May. The division of unions into wards and the selection of places for election has also been done.

3. It was agreed that in all unions an additional name for the presiding officer should be approved so that in case any presiding officer fails to take up his duties, the additional person may preside in that union, failing which the Circle Officer shall preside.

4. The hour of the election which was fixed originally from 2 to 5 P. M. was agreed to be changed from 12 noon to 3 P. M., so that sufficient time may be allowed to record the votes of any large number of voters that may assemble at 3 P. M. and also to give sufficient time to the Circle Officer to gather the papers of the different wards.

5. The idea of residence implies that of eating and sleeping and as such a place of residence within the meaning of section 7 excludes all places of business, which are used for the purposes of business only.

6. A company or a firm is a person within the meaning of General Clauses Act and as such is liable to pay a rate under Sec. 37 of the Village Self-Government Act, but as a company cannot be said

to have any place of residence it has no vote and should not be shown in the voters' list. The manager or the agent of a company or a firm shall have no vote as the manager or agent of the firm, unless he is himself qualified to vote. This shall apply to all companies including a steamer company or a railway company or any other business carried on by two or more persons.

7. A landlord's kutchery is not generally a place of residence and the landlord will not be entitled to vote from that union simply because he has a kutchery and his name should not be entered in the voters' list, unless he uses the kutchery for the purpose of residence.

8. The lands for which one rupee cess has been paid may be situated wholly or partly in the union. It is immaterial what amount of cess is paid for lands in the particular union in which he has a place of residence.

9. The payment of cess must be a separate payment by an individual person and any joint payment with another person will not entitle one to a vote under Sec. 7 (1) (i)

10. The question of vote shall be decided by residence and the name of a person may therefore be included in the voters' list in the different wards in the same union if he has several places of residence in the different wards.

11. In case of a joint undivided family of which the owner or occupier is a female the joint family

shall still retain the right of nomination but the nomination must be made by the qualified voters only. In case where there is only one qualified voter no nomination will be required.

12. If during the period of hearing of objections to the voters' list by Circle Officer under rule 6, any person shown in the voters' list dies, any other member of the family shall not be entitled to vote.

13. The voters' list may be prepared by including all names of single families which have been assessed at Re 1/- or more with a notice stating that any one who would not have paid Re. 1/- by the 31st March shall be excluded from the list. The list shall be verified on the 31st March by the Tehsil Panchayat's collection books. In case of joint families if no nomination has been received 3 months before the date of election no payment of Re. 1/- tax before 31st March will entitle the other members to nominate. It is to be noted that even a part payment of the annual tax if it be Re. 1/- will entitle one to be a voter.

Note—As the Government of Bengal have been pleased to fix the Bengali year beginning on the 1st of Baisak to be the year for Union Boards in Bengal, the date 31st March should be reckoned as the last day of Chaitra.

14. The voters' list should be published preferably at the kutchery of the ward or in the school, hāt, mosque of the wards. The list should be published after keeping a duplicate office copy. The

list sent by President Panchayats may also be published after correction and initials in each case.

15. The residential qualifications are separate for a voter and a member. While simply the existence of a house which is used for the purpose of eating and sleeping may entitle one to be a member if he does not for the most part of the year reside in that place of residence.

16. With reference to the preparation of voters' list for the election of members to Legislative Councils, it is agreed by all that some of the informations required in the preparation of these electoral rolls may be gathered beforehand in connection with the publication of assessment list by adding the word "name of his father" in column 2 and "age" and "cess paid" in column 5 of the assessment list form under rule 6.

17. Hurricane lanterns were due to be given to dafadars by the beginning of next year, but as prices of uniforms are being paid at a rate higher than that at which it was realised during the last two years it is apprehended that there will be a deficit of fund for the supply of hurricane lanterns. It was agreed by all that as hurricane lanterns remain in good conditions till even after 4 years, the dafadars may be supplied the lanterns after another year. Of course, when the lanterns have been lost or rendered useless, new ones must be provided.

Sd/- J. H. Lindsay
Addl. Dt. Magistrate, Dacca.
29-2-26

19th April, 1920.

Place : DISTRICT BOARD OFFICE.

Time : 1-30 P. M.

Present :—

Mr. J. H. Lindsay, I. C. S., Dt. Magistrate, Presiding.
 Mr. S. N. Modak, I. C. S., S. D. O., Munshiganj.
 Mr. B. M. Staig, I. C. S., S. D. O., Narainganj.
 Babu Jyotish Chandra Sen, S. D. O. Sadar (S).
 Rai Ramesh Chandra Datta Bahadur, S. D. O. Sadar (N).
 Babu Dwijendra Mohan Sen S. D. O. Manikganj.
 „ Jogesh Chandra Sen, Circle officer, Munshiganj (S).
 „ Sachi Kanta Ghose, „ Sadar (N).
 „ Sushil Chandra Datta, „ „ (S).
 „ Ajit Kumar Bose, „ Manikganj.
 „ Ananta Kumar Malakar, Asst. „ „
 „ Hem Chandra Sen, „ Munshiganj (N).
 Maulvi Md. Abdul Khaleque „ Narainganj

At the invitation of the District Magistrate
 Mr. P. S. Quarry, Superintendent of Police also kindly
 attended the meeting.

1. Electoral Rolls of Provincial Councils.

1. Notes were taken as to the progress made in the preparation of the electoral rolls and it was ascertained to have been completed in Sadar Sub-Division (N&S) and a few that remained to be finished in each of the other sub-divisions were estimated to be ready within a short time and by the 20th instant all electoral rolls of the district will be ready.

2. *Influenza.*

2. Although the disease is not so widespread throughout the district it has already appeared in an epidemic form in Singair P. S. of the Manikganj Sub-Division where 159 deaths took place in one week and many deaths occurring in Sealo P.S. The same was the case in Pubail and Jaidebpur unions of the Jaidebpur P.S. In Narainganj and Munshiganj Sub-Divisions it has not yet claimed many victims but the Sub-Divisional Officers apprehended that it may turn into an epidemic form sooner and it was agreed by all that certain precautionary measures should be taken beforehand. A Sub-Assistant Surgeon has already been sent to Pubail by the District Board and as influenza pills were found to be of great efficacy last year it was agreed that 1000 pills for every affected area may be indented through District Board this year. The following were the requirements of the District :—

Manikganj Sub-Dn. ...	25 Unions ...	25,000 pills
Sadar (N) „ ...	10 „ ...	10,000 „
Sadar (S) „ ...	10 „ ...	10,000 „
Narayanganj „ ...	8 „ ...	8,000 „
Munshiganj „ ...	7 „ ...	7,000 „
		<hr/>
		TOTAL 60,000 Pills.

N. B.—The matter was considered later at the District Board meeting and it was resolved that the Sub-Divisional Officers should report their requirements and in the meantime order was sent for 32,000 pills.

3. *Chaukidari Matters.*

3. The question of having a suitable scale of punishment and rewards of different good acts by chaukidars was considered and it was agreed upon by all that it was not feasible to have a fixed scale as everything depended upon the circumstances of each case and the punishing and rewarding authorities should not be fettered by any rigid rules and scales.

4. The next question considered was about the fining and rewarding chaukidars by Sub-Divisional Officers and Superintendent of Police. It was brought to light that on account of both Sub-Divisional Officers and Superintendent of Police having concurrent jurisdiction of fining and rewarding of chaukidars some cases had occurred in which recommendations for rewarding a chaukidar's same good conduct were made twice over once by the Sub-Divisional Officer and again by the Superintendent of Police. This was due to Superintendent of Police not having all the reward statements sent to him. In order to avoid duplication of rewards the Sub-Divisional Officers in making rewards shall keep in mind the balance in hand of the Chaukidari Reward Fund but shall not be limited by any scale. The Superintendent of Police shall send his recommendations for reward to the District Magistrate who will forward them to the Sub-Divisional Officers concerned. The latter will arrange to pay out these rewards in full unless there is good reason to the contrary either through the exhaustion of the fund or owing to the fact

that the man has already been rewarded. In such cases he will return the Superintendent of Police's recommendations to the District Magistrate with a statement for the reasons for non-payment and shall await further orders.

5. Copies of the balance sheet of the Chaukidari Fund (Form J) should be prepared sub-division by sub-division and must be circulated to all Sub-Divisional Officers and Superintendent of Police once a quarter.

6 Much difficulty having been felt through the Sub-Divisional Officers having no power to fine the dafadars in connection with that portion of his duties regarding service of processes, it was agreed that the Sub-Divisional Officers should have concurrent jurisdiction over dafadars as regards punishment and rewards relating to service of processes and to purely pa nchayati matters. It was also agreed that the fines realised from such sources should be given as rewards to dafadars for good work in connection with processes.

7. On account of shortness of time several other matters in the list of subjects for discussion had to be adjourned till the next monthly meeting. The meeting adjourned at 3 P. M.

Sd/- J. H. Lindsay
District Magistrate.

21-4-20.

(19)

17th May, 1920.

Place : DISTRICT BOARD OFFICE.

Time : 1-30 P. M.

Present :—

Mr. J. H. Lindsay, I. C. S.; District Magistrate.

Mr. S. N. Modak, I. C. S., S. D. O., Munshiganj.

Babu Joytish Chandra Sen, S. D. O., Sadar (South).

Rai Ramesh Chandra Datta Bahadur, S.D.O., Sadar (North).

Babu Dwijendra Mohan Sen, S. D. O., Manikganj.

None of the Circle Officers could remain present as they were all busy with election of Union Boards.

Preparation of electoral rolls of Legislative Assembly.

In order to facilitate the work of the preparation of the electoral rolls of the Legislative Assembly it was decided that the Government instructions in English to Panchayats should be translated into Bengali and printed at once in the light of the present instructions and sent to all Sub-Divisional Officers—one for each union with extra copies.

Revision of objections of voters' lists for the Legislative Council.

2. The number of objections that are expected to be made were estimated to be as follows :—

(a) In rural area—20 % of the total no. of voters.

(b) In Dacca town—35% „ „ „

Revising Areas.

3. The number of objections which can be disposed of by a revising officer in one month was estimated at 600 and considering the total number of voters in the district, it was decided to divide the district into the following revising areas :--

Laoca Town	5 circles.
Sadar	Sub Dn.	...	3 "
Munsliganj	"	...	3 "
Narainganj	"	...	4 "
Manikganj	"	...	2 "
			<hr/> 17 circles

Staff.

4. The staff should be Circle Officers in the circles with extra Sub-Deputy Collectors working under the Sub-Divisional Officers. If Munsifs are employed they should dispose of cases at the head quarters of sub-divisions.

Burden of proving objection.

5. It was decided that the revising officer should not make enquiries on the face of any objection but the burden of proof should lie on the person objecting. It was also settled that the entries of payments in Panchayats' registers should have the presumption of correctness.

Additional Circle Officers.

6. The services of 3 additional Circle Officers having been placed by Government for the district it was decided to divide the district into 9 circles as proposed by Mr. Hart in his letter to Government in August 1919. It was decided to allot the Circle Officers to the circles as per statement annexed. *

7. It was also decided that the Circle Officers should live in their respective circles and that they should get quarters built by Government.

8. It was also decided that each Circle Officer should have a clerk for their office. It was further resolved that Government be moved to give effect to these proposals at once.

Panchayati Conference.

9. The date of the annual conference was fixed for the 19th July, 1920, and it was decided to invite only the Presidents and Chairmen of Union Committees.

Sd/- J. H. Lindsay
District Magistrate.

7-6-20

21st June, 1920.

Place : COLLECTOR'S CHAMBER.

Time : 11 A. M.

Present :—

1. Mr. J. H. Lindsay, I. C. S., District Magistrate.
2. Mr. T. J. Y. Roxburgh, I. C. S., Addl. Dist. Magistrate.
3. Mr. S. N. Mudak, I. C. S., S. D. O., Munshiganj.
4. Mr. B. M. Staig, I. C. S., S. D. O., Narainganj.
5. Babu Jyotish Chandra Sen, S. D. O., Sadar (S)
6. Rai Ramesh Chandra Datta Bahadur, S.D.O.,Sadar(N)
7. Babu Dwijendra Mohon Sen, S. D. O., Manikganj.
8. Babu Jogesh Chandra Sen, Circle Officer, Munshiganj.
9. Moulvi Md. Abdul Khaleque, Do Narainganj.
10. Babu Sachi Kanta Ghose, Do Sadar (North
11. „ Sushil Chandra Datta, Do Sadar (South)
12. „ Hem Chandra Sen, Do Munshiganj.
13. „ Ajit Kumar Bose, Do Narainganj.
14. „ Ananta Kumar Malakar, Do Manikganj.

1. The number of voters of the Assembly is to be sent to the District Magistrate immediately.

2. The checking of the voters' list of the Council to be done in all the unions.

3. The case diaries in each case to be sent up with the accused to the Court Officer who must produce them with the accused when he is sent up to the Magistrate for detention in custody. These diaries must include the first information.

Panchayati Conference, 1920.

4. The agenda of the Panchayati Conference of 1920 were then discussed and finally settled.

*Delegation of powers under the
V. S. G. Act.*

5. It was decided that the powers of appointing and dismissing chaukidars should be delegated to the Sub-Divisional Officers and that of fining should be delegated to the Sub-Divisional Officers and Circle Officers.

6. The powers of fining dafadars regarding work of the Union Board and that of process service should be delegated to the Sub-Divisional Officers and the powers of appointment, fining and dismissal of the dafadars should be delegated to the Superintendent of Police.

Sd/- J. H. Lindsay
District Magistrate.
9-8-20.

16th August, 1920.

Place : DISTRICT BOARD OFFICE.

Time : 1 P. M.

All Sub-Divisional Officers and Circle Officers of the District were present.

Judicial powers of Union Boards.

It was decided that a beginning should be made to appoint any two or more of the members of Union Boards to be a Union Bench under Sec. 65 of the V. S. G. Act and as an experimental measure two of the best Union Boards in each of the nine circles of the district may be selected by the Sub-Divisional Officers and reported to the District Magistrate at an early date.

Further establishment of Union Boards in all Sub-Divisions.

2. It was agreed upon that attempts should be made to establish as many Union Boards in each sub-division as the people may desire and pray for and as it was desirable to have all the Boards started by the end of the Bengali year reports for further introduction of the V. S. G. Act should be sent in immediately.

Registers and Forms of Union Boards.

3. As the District Board do not propose to supply the Union Boards with any registers and forms prescribed in the Government rules, it was decided to have

these forms printed at the cost of the Union Boards. As regards the other registers kept by the Presidents and Panchayats, such as the chaukidari attendance registers, receipt books, issue books etc., it was agreed upon that they should be continued and also printed at the same time.

4. For the economy of cost it was agreed upon to have all the registers and forms printed at Sadar and Sub-Divisional Officers' should send in their indents at once.

Appointment of Headmen.

5. The headmen who were appointed before under Sec. 45 of the Criminal Procedure Code should continue to act till the members of the Union Boards who have been elected and nominated are appointed headmen. For this purpose Sub-Divisional Officers should divide the union into 8 parts and allot to each of the elected and nominated members one of such parts and for which he shall be headman under Sec. 45. The President shall be appointed headman for all the mauzas in the union. Headmen's sanads should be issued by the District Magistrate after the printed sanads have been filled up in the sub-divisional office.

Constitution of Union Boards.

6 It was decided that as required under Sec. 11 of the V. S. G. Act the Union Boards in the district will be deemed to have been duly constituted from the date of election of the President of the Board.

Supervision of Union Boards.

7. The V. S. G. Act vests all powers of supervision of Union Boards to the Local Boards and it was decided to draw attention of the Local Boards to Sec. 50 of the Act and that in future all Union Boards should work under and correspond with the Local Boards direct and shall send in all budget estimates direct to the Local Boards.

8. The following notes regarding the start to be given to the Union Boards is appended for the information of Sub-Divisional Officers and Circle Officers.

START OF UNION BOARDS.

Collection of Taxes.

(a) The President is responsible for the collection of union taxes whether for chaukidars or otherwise.

(b) The President's house will ordinarily be used as the union office.

(c) To help the President in his work the Board will ordinarily employ a clerk at Rs 15/- (more or less) who will work under the direct supervision of the President.

(d) The collection of taxes will be made by the tax-payers bringing the money to the union office where they will be given receipts. The chaukidars must continually urge all people who have not paid their taxes to take the money to the union

office. This is in accordance with the customary collection of rent by a zemindar and should be acceptable to the people. If necessary, this mode of collection should be enforced by the powers of distraint given to the Board.

(e) The money when collected should be lodged in the nearest Post Office Savings Bank not less often than once a week in the name of the President of the Union Board.

Powers and duties of Presidents.

(a) He will be invested by the District Magistrate with powers under Secs. 45, 64, 127 & 128 of the Criminal Procedure Code and Sec. 31 of the Cattle Trespass Act at the time of formally notifying to him his election as President.

(b) He has been given power to order the distraint of property in default of payment of taxes after publication of the necessary notice.

(c) He should see that there is always money in hand to make essential payments, e.g. wages of chaukidars, wages of Union Board employees and payment of existing debts.

(d) The President should preside at the chaukidari parades to be held not more frequently than once a fortnight.

Sd/- J. H. Lindsay

District Magistrate.

21-8-20

20th September, 1920.

The conference was held at the District Board Office at 1 P. M. on the 20th September, 1920, in which all the Sub-Divisional Officers and Circle Officers of the district were present. Mr. E. Brown, Deputy Superintendent of Police, was present during the part of the conference when chaukidari matters were discussed. The Hon'ble Babu Sarat Chandra Chakravorty, Chairman of the District Board, also attended the conference and joined in the discussions relating to matters concerning District Board and Union Boards.

1. Punishment of Chaukidars.

The District Magistrate drew the attention of the conference to the letter of the Government of 11.9.16 which restored to the Superintendent of Police the concurrent powers of punishment of chaukidars and dafadars of the district and as that letter has not been withdrawn by Government in the district, the necessity for taking action under Sec. 47 of the Village Self-Government Act, 1919, regarding punishment and reward of dafadars and chaukidars does not arise and the District Order No. 20 dated 21.8.20. should be cancelled. As the Sub-Divisional Officers have got concurrent powers they shall exercise the power of punishment and reward over that portion of their work which related to the panchayats and Union Board and the service of processes, the Superintendent

of Police as usual retaining his power of appointment of dafadars and Sub-Divisional Officers of chaukidars,

It was agreed that the District Order No. 26 of 21.8.20 should be cancelled and in the District Order No. 11 of 5.5.20. the word "chaukidars" should be added after the word "dafadars" in the first para of that letter.

It was also agreed to draw the attention of the Superintendent of Police that in dismissing chatkidars he should not be unusually hard on them specially in the days of high prices. The question of so many authorities who have powers over the dafadars and chaukidars was considered very undesirable and it was agreed that the matter should be brought to the notice of Government.

2. Co-operation of Circle Officers with District Board.

The letter of the Chairman of the District Board regarding the co-operation of the Circle Officers with the District Board in the work of the Union Boards was discussed and the District Magistrate pointed out that under the present Local Self-Government Act the proposed committee with the District Board members and Circle Officers cannot be formed, but there can be no objection to have an informal committee of the nature suggested. The Chairman of the District Board agreed to the proposal and welcomed such a committee which will lead to the

efficiency of the working of the Union Boards. It was therefore agreed that the informal committee consisting of the members of the Finance Committee of the District Board and the Circle Officers of the district with one member of Union Board from each sub-division, be formed, with the Chairman of the District Board as President and the Sadar Circle Officer as the secretary of the committee. The informal committee should sit with the Finance Committee at 2-30 P.M. on the day of the District Board meeting so that the Circle Officers may not have to attend twice in the month of the conference of the Sub-Divisional Officers and Circle Officers. In the meantime it was thought desirable to refer the matter to Government to so ammend the Local Self-Government Act as to make the formation of such committees possible in future.

3. Pounds.

The notification regarding the functions under the Cattle Trespass Act, 1871, to be transferred to the Union Boards was agreed upon to be made at once.

It was argued in the conference that the pound receipts should be made over to the Union Boards concerned, otherwise the Boards should not be interested in augmenting the income of the pounds and in establishing new pounds. Some discussions took place and the sense of the meeting was that the District Board should make some definite grants to the Union Boards with the pound receipts transferred separately.

It was also agreed that the District Board should be approached to reconsider the question of grants—ordinary and special—to be made to the Union Boards of the district, and the District Board may be requested to make an ordinary grant to each Union Board proportional to the taxation under Sec. 37 (b) and a special grant after considering the needs of each union with special reference to the proviso of Sec. 33 of the Act.

4. Local Board Roads and Work.

The question of the roads and work that are to be maintained by the Union Boards was then discussed and it was pointed out that Sec. 31 of the Village Self-Government Act vests the Union Board with the control of all those roads, bridges and waterways which are not under the control of District Board or Local Board. The proviso to Sec. 33 also distinctly lays down that District Board or Local Board should place necessary funds at the disposal of Union Boards for the management of any institution and the execution of any work or duty which they take over from the District Board or Local Board to the old Union Committees of the district were also delegated, the maintenance of Local Board roads and wells with their consent on necessary funds having been placed at their disposal.

It was, therefore, agreed that now that the Union Boards have been duly constituted the District Board and Local Board should again formally make over

such work to the Union Boards, as they agree to undertake to maintain and necessary funds should be allotted to them for such work.

5. *Establishment of additional Union Boards.*

The question of the establishment of additional Union Boards in the district was then considered and it was decided to have a forward policy in the matter and any union which wants the establishment of Union Board should be recommended. The question of taking up compact blocks should also be kept in mind in forming Union Boards. The matter was then discussed with the Sub-Divisional Officers and Circle Officers and the annexed statement* shows the numbers of unions recommended for Union Boards. The Sub-Divisional Officers were requested to reconsider the statement and submit proposals to the District Magistrate by the 30th instant with option to revise the statement, if found necessary.

The Sub-Divisional Officers were requested to submit their proposals after consulting the Local Board and their proposals must reach the District Magistrate before 6th October, so that they may be sent to the District Board, before the next monthly meeting.

Payment to Chaukidars.

The Union Boards of the district were directed to inform the District Magistrate as to the dates when

* The statement is not supplied.

they are willing to pay the chaukidars. The replies received showed that majority were in favour of quarterly payments and in order to keep an uniformity it was agreed that quarterly payments should be made to chaukidars both in Union Board and Non-Union Board areas, and that for the second quarter of 1327 B. S. all payments should be made at the thana as usual and the Union Boards should be informed that from the third quarter of 1327 B.S. such quarterly payments should be made by the Union Boards concerned at the Union Board office, the chaukidars of the Non-Union Board area being paid as usual at the thana. The dates of pay-parades for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters should be fixed up at once and communicated to the District Magistrate by 6. 10. 20 positively.

Distribution of Circle Officers.

The 9 Sub-Dy. Collectors who have been appointed Circle Officers under the Village Self-Government Act, 1919, and posted to Dacca district, were allotted their circles in each sub-division as per annexed statement.*

Sd/- J. H. Lindsay
District Magistrate.

24-9-20

* The statement is not supplied.

29th November, 1920.

The conference was held at the District Board Office at 12 noon on the 29th November, 1920, in which all the Sub-Divisional Officers with the exception of the Sub-Divisional Officer of Manikganj and all the Circle Officers of the district were present. The Chairman of the Dacca Municipality also attended the conference when census subjects were discussed.

The proceedings opened with a long discussion with the District Magistrate about the duties of the Presiding Officers for the election of members of the Provincial Legislative Council and Indian Legislative Assembly and the procedure to be followed at the time of election.

1. *Local enquiries by Vice-Presidents.*

It was decided that in areas where Union Boards have been established, local enquiries which are usually sent to Presidents, may be made by Vice-Presidents during their absence.

2. *The desirability of the presence of headman during enquiry.*

As Sec. 202 of the Criminal Procedure Code lays down that investigation is to be made by the

person to whom a case is sent by the Magistrate receiving the complaint for the purpose of ascertaining its truth or falsehood, so the investigation should be made independently by him without any extraneous assistance from the headman of the elaka.

3. *Increment of Pay of Chaukidars and Dafadars.*

The subject will be dealt with hereafter.

Note—This question was discussed in the conference held on 23th April, 1921—Vide resolution 3 (page 30).

4. *Census.*

The District Census Officer will separately deal with the question.

5. *Next Panchayati Conference.*

The District Magistrate suggested the next panchayati conference will be held towards the end of February next.

Sd/- J. H. Lindsay.
District Magistrate.

11-12-20

24th January, 1921.

The conference was held at the District Board Office at 12 noon on the 24th January, 1921, in which all the Sub-Divisional Officers and Circle Officers were present.

The proceedings opened with the discussions inaugurated by the District Magistrate about the ensuing conference of Presidents of Panchayats, Union Boards and Chairmen of Union Committees, and subjects for the said conference were then finally settled. Then the following points were discussed in the meeting :—

1. *Boat-hire in connection with the service of processes.*

It was resolved that henceforth boat-hire realised from parties should be paid to Union Boards which again will determine how to distribute the sum.

2. *Power of Union Board over Chaukidars.*

It was settled that the Presidents of Union Boards should consult the local Sub-Inspectors as they have had much experience in the matter with regard to patrol work etc. by chaukidars. Sub-Inspectors must remember that under section 23 (1) (ix) of the Village Self-Government Act, the chaukidars are primarily under the orders of the Union Boards and that they

cannot order patrol of other work without getting the consent of Union Boards.

Note—The Superintendent of Police issued orders on his subordinates informing them that under Sec. 25 (1) (ix) of the Act, the chaukidars and dafadars should obey orders of Union Board with regard to keeping watch within the union and Sub-Inspectors were asked to consult Presidents in organising patrol duty.

3. *Register II A.*

The members of the Union Boards should be entered in Register II A kept in Chaukidari Offices.

4. *Remuneration to Dafadars for process-serving in Union Board areas.*

Resolved that remunerations should be sent to the respective Union Boards after deducting the money order commission.

5. *Power of inquests.*

Resolved that the inquest powers of Presidents will not include inquest on cases of suicide.

ISd/- J. H. Lindsay

District Magistrate.

11-2-21

25th April, 1921.

The conference was held at the District Board Office at 12 noon on the 25th April, 1921, in which all the Sub-Divisional Officers with the exception of Babu Jyotish Chandra Sen, S. D. O. Sadar (s) and all the Circle Officers with the exception of Babu Ramini Ranjan Datta and Maulvi Ashanulla, were present. The following points were discussed in the meeting :—

1. *Formation of new Union Boards.*

It was resolved that formation of new Union Boards in areas where strong feeling exists against the introduction of new taxation in the shape of union rate on account of the present non-co-operation movement should be kept in abeyance till the feeling changes.

2. *Execution of distress warrants against rate-payers whose moveables are under lock and key.*

The District Magistrate pointed out that if the Union Board is unable to recover the arrear rate and the penalty under Sec. 42 of the Village Self-Government Act then on the application of the Union Board, the District Magistrate may issue warrant for the distress and sale of any moveable property or effects belonging to the defaulter within Bengal, as is laid down in Sec. 43 of the Act.

3. *Increasement of pay of Chaukidars and Dafadars in Union Board areas by reducing existing number.*

The District Magistrate observed that this question was dealt in the Panchayati Conference of 1920, and said that under Sec. 21 (i) of the Village Self-Government Act, he shall determine the numbers and salaries of dafadars and chaukidars after consideration of the views of the Union Boards. It was then agreed upon that the Union Boards should however draw up, if they so desire, scheme of reduction of the number of chaukidars and for increasing the pay of the remainder and send it to the District Magistrate, so that if it be thought proper he may consult the local police.

In Non-Union Board areas, chaukidars may be paid at the rate of Rs. 6/- which is the maximum under the present Chaukidary Act. To further increase the pay of chaukidars and dafadars, sanction of Government is necessary and before the Chaukidari Manual is amended an allowance of Rs. 2/- per mensem may be given to them by the District Magistrate.

4. *How fines imposed or rewards given to dafadars for process service are to be credited or withdrawn.*

Rule 29 of Notification No. 2197 P. J., dated the 21st May, 1920, says that the amount realised as fine should be credited to the Chaukidari Reward

Fund, but neither the Act nor the rules framed thereunder contemplate how the rewards are to be withdrawn. From the wording of Sec. 25 of the Village Self-Government Act, it seems clear that rewards will be given from the Reward Fund at the discretion of the District Magistrate.

5. *Introduction of executive form 359, new, 352 old Govt. of Bengal in place of form B (Sanad form)*

It was settled that in Union Board areas, from B as given in notification No. 2197 P. J., dated 21st May 1920, should be used.

6. *How to fight non-co-operation.*

In order to fight non-co-operation, every Sub-Divisional Officer and Circle Officer should call meeting of the Presidents, Police Station by Police Station, and devise means to check the movement.

* * * *

7. *Agricultural development of Khas Mahals.*

It was settled that every Sub-Divisional Officer will manage to keep some plots as khas and should let out the same to bargadars so that half the crop may be utilised in obtaining pure seed for the neighbourhood.

Sd/- J. H. Lindsay
District Magistrate.

11-5-21.

23rd May, 1921.

The conference was held at the District Board Office at 12 noon on the 23rd May, 1921, in which the District Magistrate, Additional District Magistrate and all the Sub-Divisional Officers and Circle Officers of the District were present.

The following subjects were discussed in the meeting :—

*1. The smallness of District Board grant
to Union Boards.*

As the number of Union Boards is going to be increased it is evident that the District Board grant will decrease in proportion but if the income from ferries be added, as notified under Government Notification No. 2141 L. S. G., dated the 20th July, 1920, the income will not fall as anticipated.

*2. Transferring to Union Boards functions
under Sec. 31 of the Cattle
Trespass Act.*

Sec. 26 (2) of the Village Self-Government Act provides that every Union Board shall perform such functions as may be transferred to it by notification under Sec. 31 of the Cattle Trespass Act, 1871. For this, the Government shall have to be moved.

3. *Providing for the registration of births and deaths in Union Board areas.*

Under Sec. 26 (3) of the Village Self-Government Act, the District Magistrate is authorised to transfer the registration of births and deaths to Union Boards under the provisions of the Bengal Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1873, but if he orders, figures will have to be collected from 2 agencies. At the same time he observed that in the case where a Police Station is covered by Union Boards, this system might be given a trial, but he wanted to postpone it for the present.

4. *Delegation of powers under Secs. 40 & 43 of the Village Self-Government Act to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate.*

The District Magistrate has no objection to this.

5. *Supplying to Union Benches, Bengali translation of sections of Acts as set forth in Schedule IV of the Village Self-Government Act.*

It was agreed upon that as in Union Benches at least one member is english-knowing, there is no necessity for supplying the Bengali translations as mentioned above.

6. *Effect of Notification No 2222 M, L.S.G. Department, dated the 22nd April, 1921.*

The District Magistrate pointed out that Sec.1(3) of the Village Self-Government Act should be distin-

guished from Sec. 5 of that Act, as it is quite clear that by notification under the former section, the Act is extended to a district or part of a district, while by notification under the latter a local area is declared to be a union for the purposes of the Act and notification under Sec. 5 cannot take place unless the notification under Sec. 1 (3) has been made. So, the notification in question makes no difference.

*7. Process-fees for Dafadars for originals
as well as for duplicates to be served
in different villages.*

The District Magistrate observed that dafadars get -/2/- for service of every original process with duplicates to be served in the same village, and referred High Court Circular page 230, correction slip No. 11 and also the definition of "original process".

*8. Transfer of Fine and Reward Registers of
Chaukidars and Dafadars to Union Boards.*

It was agreed upon that there was no necessity of maintaining these registers in sub-divisional office, so far as Union Boards are concerned, and henceforth they should be transferred to the Union Boards concerned. The District Magistrate said that the reward orders are to be forwarded to respective Union Boards.

Note—This is cancelled by resolution 6 of July, 1921.

9. *Punctual supply of chaukidari equipments.*

The District Magistrate observed that the best way to get the punctual supply of equipment is to send in indents at once.

10. *How the Union Board shall deal with process-fees for Dafadars.*

Rule 44 of Notification No. 2197 P. J., dated the 21st May, 1921, lays down that process-fees shall be paid to the union fund. From the wording of the aforesaid rule, it is clear that Union Boards are at liberty to grant or withhold process-fees to dafadars or chaukidars. An average of process-fees for 2 or 3 years should be shown in the budget prepared by Union Boards.

Note—The following has been added to first para of rule 44 by Government Notification No. 3121 Pl dated 24-11-23, :— “Of the fee at least 6 pice shall be paid to the person who actually serves the process. The remaining 2 pice may, with the consent of the District Magistrate go towards the remuneration of the agency employed for keeping the process-register—otherwise to the server”. So, the fee cannot be kept in the union fund

11. *Printing of vernacular instructions for process-service for the use of dafadars and chaukidars at Sadar.*

The Government must be moved for this.

Sd/- J. H. Lindsay
District Magistrate
13-6-21.

20th June, 1921.

The conference was held at the District Board Office at 12 noon on the 20th June, 1921, in which the District Magistrate, Additional District Magistrate, all the Sub-Divisional Officers with the exception of the S. D. O. Sadar (N) and the Circle Officers of the district were present.

Before the commencement of the proceedings, the District Magistrate enquired about the progress of non-co-operation movement in every sub-division whereupon followed a discussion and the District Magistrate observed that like Munshiganj instances will not be wanting in a near future when complainants will come forward to institute cases for illegal harassment.

It was brought to the notice of the District Magistrate that chaukidari assessment lists had not been prepared yet in many unions. To this, the District Magistrate replied that the Circle Officers should go out and do the work themselves on the basis of original assessment.

It was also decided in the conference that Collecting Panchayats should not be allowed to resign till they have paid salaries of chaukidars and dafadars for the first quarter.

The following subjects of which notice had already been given were then taken up and discussed in the meeting :—

1. *Adding columns for noting collections and balance in Form F in Notification No 2197 P. F., dated the 20th May, 1920.*

It was decided that the prescribed form should not be altered, but if it is thought necessary the entries may be made lower down in the form

2. *Supply of dates of forecasts of crops and Agricultural Return by the Agricultural Department for reference of Circle Officers.*

It was decided that the Agricultural Department should not be asked to supply the dates in view of the fact that the Circle Officers are cognisant of these dates from their previous returns and as such they would be able to prepare the list of dates themselves.

3. *Keeping Register No. 43 by Unions :—*

As regards this point, it was decided that the Sub-Divisional Officers should give their opinion when Mr. Roxburgh's inspection notes reach them, and then the District Magistrate would pass final orders.

4. *Making provision for the cost of remittance to the Treasury for credit to District Chaukidari Reward Fund, in the case of Union Boards.*

It was decided that the cost should be deducted from the remittance in the case of fines realised.

It was further decided that the same procedure should be adopted in the case of equipment money.

Sd/- J. H. Lindsay
District Magistrate.

4-7-21.

25th July, 1921.

The conference was held at the District Board Office at 1-30 P. M. on the 25th July, 1921, in which the District Magistrate, the Assistant Magistrate, all the Sub-Divisional Officers and the Circle Officers of the district excepting Babus Tamasha Ranjan Datta and Ananta Kumar Malakar were present. The Addl. District Magistrate also attended in the later part of the conference.

Before the subjects were taken up, the District Magistrate enquired about the progress of non-co-operation movement in every sub-division and took down notes on the same. It was then agreed upon that 10,000 leaflets like those of Madaripur containing questions to non-co-operators should be printed and distributed among sub-divisions according to their requirement for wide circulation.

The following subjects of which notice had already been given were then taken up and discussed in the meeting :—

1. *Issue of special sanads to Presidents and members of Union Boards as prescribed in Notification No. 470 P. L. dated the 22nd Feby, 1921.*

It was decided that there is no necessity of issuing special sanads at present to Presidents and members of Union Boards who have already been appointed headmen and sanads have been issued in their names, but if there is a real feeling about it, this might be done.

2. *Realisation of fees by Union Courts
at the time of institution of suits.*

It was pointed out that as Sec. 90 of the Village Self-Government Act is very clear, all fees should be realised after the decision of suits by Union Courts.

3. *Provision for supplying Panchayati Registers.*

It was decided that all Sub-Divisional Officers should inform the District Magistrate the number of Registers required of each kind and on receipt of their requisitions they will be printed at sadar, and then distributed.

4. *Steps to be taken, if any, against members of
Panchayats and of Union Boards who take
active part in the non-co-operation
movement.*

It was agreed upon that in panchayati unions a member taking part in the movement, may be reported against to the District Magistrate who may remove him from office. In Union Board areas, however, nothing need be done but, if necessary and possible, legal steps might be taken.

5. *The question of maintaining challan
registers in Union Board Office.*

It was agreed upon that there is no necessity of maintaining this register in Union Board Office. The number and date of challan may, however, be entered in the remarks column in from C of Notification No. 2197 P. J. dated the 21st May, 1920.

6. *The question of supplying forms and Registers VIII, IX & X of Wheeler's Manual in Union Boards by Magistrate's Office.*

As the Chaukidari Act, 1870, does not apply to Union Boards there is no need of keeping this registers in Union Board Office.

N.B.—This cancels resolution 8 of May, 1921.

7. *Action to be taken against Presidents of Union Boards if they fail to pay Chaukidars at the next pay parde, on account of non-co-operation movement.*

No action can be taken except as is provided by Sec. 54 of the Village Self-Government Act by which the District Magistrate may appoint person or persons to realise any sum due together with the incidental cost, if any, of collecting it.

8. *The correction of heading of col. IV, Vernacular Cash Book for পূর্ব বৎসরের তহবিল to সাবেক বা পূর্ব তহবিল*

It was agreed upon that there was no objection to change the heading.

9. *Can penalty as well as cost or part of cost of work done by U. B. under sec. 27 (2) of the V. S. G. Act be realised.*

No such penalty is provided by the Act.

10. *What steps should be taken if the rate-payers apply to abolish Union Board.*

There is no provision in the Act by which an Union Board can be abolished.

Sd/- J. H. Lindsay,
District Magistrate.
6-8-21.

22nd August, 1921.

The conference was held at the District Board Office at 12 noon on the 22nd August, 1921, in which the Sub-Divisional Officers of Sadar (South), Munshiganj and Manikganj and all the Circle Officers excepting Moulvi Abul Bashar were present. The Additional District Magistrate presided in the absence of the District Magistrate.

The points discussed and the decisions thereon were as follows :—

1. *In the event of the death or removal of a President where he was a nominated member, should the election of the new President take place within 3 weeks of nomination by the Magistrate or 2 weeks after receipt of the news of the nomination by the Union Board.*

There is no provision in the rules for the matter. It is conceivable that the Union Board might not receive news of the nomination within 15 days of the District Magistrate having made it, so that it was decided advisable to take the 2 weeks from the date of the receipt of the information by the Board.

2. *Can a member of a Union Board who migrates and settles elsewhere remain a member of that Union Board ?*

He is not entitled to be a member within the

provisions of Sec. 7 (2), but the section providing for the removal of a member does not contain any provision for removing such a member. The point might be considered at the next amendment of the Act. In practice if the member cuts off his connection with the union, he should be asked to resign, and in almost every case would certainly do so.

3. *What does ইউনিয়নের মধ্যে আশুমানিক বাৎসরিক আয় mean ?*

As regards persons residing outside the union the point is quite clear. Rule 5 shows that he can only be assessed on income accruing to him from property or business within the union. As regards persons residing in the union, they are to be assessed according to their "circumstances and property within the union". The matter is not clear. A Government Official, for instance, may have no property in the union, and no "circumstances" in the union, i. e., his pay all comes from outside the union. On the other hand a person who has property within the union and without the union is apparently to be assessed on his property within the union plus his "circumstances", which would seem to be wide enough to include income derived from property outside the union.

4 & 12. *What law books should Union Benches buy ? And whether a Manual in Bengali containing*

Cattle Trespass Act, Bengal Ferries Act, etc, should be published for the use of Union Benches and Courts.

The manual of Babu S. K. Ghose meets all the requirements of Union Boards and they should buy this.

5. *Whether weekly parades of Chaukidars at the thana should be restricted to two per month, and whether the Chaukidars should appear in a body for parade before the President twice a month on alternate dates.*

It appeared that there was divergence of practice. Some sub-divisions already having the above arrangement and some not. The District Magistrate has been consulted, and agrees that there should be uniformity. Orders will be issued that in all Union Boards chaukidars will parade alternately at thanas, and Board offices, twice at each per month.

Note :—This may be read with District Order No. 19 dated 21. 11. 21 which runs as follows :—

In future each Union Board should send half of its chaukidars to attend Thana on the 1st week, and the 2nd half on the 2nd week, and again the 1st half on the 3rd week, and 2nd half on the 4th week of every month : and on each of these weeks the half or the batch that does not attend at the Thana should attend the parade at the Board's Office before the Presidents. This arrangement has the advantage of keeping both the Board and the Thana informed of what has been happening in the unions.

6. Submission of result of pay-parades to District Magistrate in the case of Union Boards.

The submission of the form E, to Circle Officers is sufficient. The intention of the Act appears to put the chaukidars direct under the Boards, and remove them from the direct control of the Magistrate.

7. Increased rate of commission to Collecting Panchayats.

This would require an amendment of the Chaukidari Act, and is not within the sphere of practical politics.

8. Whether Circle Officers should be given power to appoint and dismiss chaukidars with appeal lying to the Sub-Divisional Officers.

This could only be done in Union Board areas. It would not therefore tend to simplicity but rather to confusion to grant this power at present.

9. Whether more pamphlets where congress committees recommend the constitution of Union Boards should be circulated.

It was stated that the effect of the circulation of these pamphlets had been good. It was decided that it would be a good thing to circulate more at 4 per union and that 1500 pamphlets should be printed for this purpose.

10 *Whether Circle Officers are empowered to inspect L. P. and M. E. Schools.*

It was decided that it was advisable in case any possible friction might arise, that the Inspector of Schools be written to and asked to state if he had any objection to such inspection.

11. *Whether miscellaneous enquiries, e. g.—probates, pauper suits, etc. should be given to Circle Officers.*

It was decided that this should be avoided as far as possible, as it interferes with the legitimate duties of the Circle Officers.

Sd/- T. J. Y. Roxburgh
Addl. District Magistrate.
23-8-21.

22nd September, 1921.

The conference was held at the District Board Office at 1-30 P. M. on the 22nd September, 1921, in which all the Sub-Divisional Officers excepting the Sub-Divisional Officer of Manikganj and all the Circle Officers excepting Moulvi Ashanulla and Babu Ramani Ranjan Datta were present. The Additional District Magistrate presided in the absence of the District Magistrate.

The points discussed and the decisions thereon were as follows :—

1. *Whether more Union Benches and Courts should be introduced.*

It was decided that recommendations for 2 more Union Benches and Courts for each circle should be sent up. But if the Sub-Divisional Officers consider that the number should be more than two, then they may send up more names.

2. *Is Sec. 54 of the V. S. G. Act sufficient to enforce payment of chaukidars at every pay-parade day.*

It was decided that the section is not sufficient to enforce payment of chaukidars.

3. *To consider the means by which chaukidars can be compelled to do their rounds at night.*

It was expected that the Superintendent of Police

would be present in the meeting and as he was absent, this point was postponed.

4. Whether Union Benches or Courts can draw up proceedings for contempt of court.

Sec. 96 (4) of the Village Self-Government Act provides for the cases under sections 174 & 175 I. P. C. and under these sections, the Bench may take cognizance but Union Courts should send the cases under these sections to Benches for taking cognizance. For proceedings under other sections, Union Benches must come to the Sub-Divisional Officers for taking cognizance.

5. Whether anna one or three annas to be entered in col. 7 in Union Bench Register No. V.

It was decided that three annas or multiple thereof should be entered in col. 7.

6. What means may be adopted to obtain speedy replies to audit objections from Presidents of Union Boards to avoid unnecessary correspondence and delay? Are the Presidents bound to give replies to such objections to Circle Officers.

The members of Union Boards should be persuaded to do this.

7. *Whether it is not desirable to appoint one of the members of each Union Board as an auditor to audit the accounts of each month and put them up for the next monthly meeting of the Board for formal approval.*

It was decided that this should be done in all the Union Boards.

8. *Can Union Boards take advances to make payments of Chaukidars' salaries? If so, how is the amount to be entered in the cash book?*

The Union Boards can take advances for chaukidars' salaries. The amount will be shown in cols. 12 & 26 in Account From No. 2.

Sd/- J. H. Lindsay
District Magistrate.
5-10-21.

19th December, 1921.

The conference was held at the District Board Office at 12 noon on the 19th December, 1921, in which all the Sub-Divisional Officers excepting the Sub-Divisional Officers of Sadar Sub-Divisions and all the Circle Officers excepting Babus Tamasha Ranjan Datta and Ajit Kumar Bose were present. Mr. J. N. Banerjee, one of the secretaries of the Panchayati conference was also present when the subjects for the next conference were taken up. The District Magistrate presided.

The proceedings opened with the discussion inaugurated by the District Magistrate about the ensuing conference of Presidents of Panchayats, Union Boards and Chairmen of Union Committees, and subjects for the said conference were finally settled. The following points were then discussed in the meeting :—

1. *To consider whether Circle Officers should send a copy of Form E of Notification No. 2197 P. J. dated the 21st May 1920 to the Superintendent of Police showing rewards given to Dafadars and Chaukidars.*

It was decided that this should be done.

2. *Whether a member of a joint undivided family paying Re. 1/- as chaukidari tax or cess be entitled to vote at an election if other qualified members of the family fail to nominate him.*

It appears that neither Sec. 7 (iii) of the Village Self-Government Act nor the rules framed thereunder are clear about this point. It would be better that the Government should be moved for interpretation of the section, and till the reply is received from Government the rule hitherto followed shall continue.

3. *Whether Union Boards can devote a part of the money budgetted for roads to clear up kachuri from public waterways and khals.*

For this the previous sanction of the District Board is necessary.

4. *The desirability of retaining Register II B and II C of Dasadars and Chukildars in the office of the President of Union Board.*

It was agreed upon that those registers should be kept in President's office.

5. *The recent circular of the Chairman, District Board, ordering the Presidents of Union Boards to submit budgets so early as January each year.*

Rule 1 of Notification No. 1998 L. S. G. dated the 3rd July 1920 (Assessment Rule) lays down that the budget shall be prepared at least two months and a half before the first day of the year to which

the budget relates, so the Chairman's order is not contrary to rules.

6. What legal steps can Union Boards take to realise arrear dues from the pound-keepers of the pounds situated within their respective areas.

There is no provision in the rules for the matter. The arrear may, however, be realised by certificate if the provision of clause 9 of schedule I of the Public Demands Recovery Act (Bengal Act III of 1913) are complied with, viz., by inserting a clause in the written instrument (kabulyat) duly registered, that it shall be recoverable as a public demand.

7. Whether a portion of the fine of Chaukidars and Dafadars should be made over to Union Boards at their disposal to be distributed as rewards to them.

It was decided that no money shall be given by the District Magistrate to Union Boards for giving rewards as it is contemplated in rule 14 of Notification No. 2197 P. J dated the 21st May, 1920 that the latter may recommend for such rewards as is mentioned in rule 13 of the aforesaid notification, the District Magistrate being the sanctioning authority.

8. To consider the desirability of noting the assessment number of each rate-payer in col. 3 of the Daily Collection Book together with the number of receipt, and also whether arrear collec-

tion of a rate-payer should be shown separately in the same book and a monthly total given of such collections.

It was agreed upon that they should be done.

9. *Whether a member of Union Bench and Court should be allowed travelling allowance from union fund if he holds local enquiry which is at a considerable distance from the office.*

In this matter Local Self-Government circular No. 40-44 T dated the 25th June, 1920, should be referred to.

Note :—The orders of Government on the subject of the grant of travelling allowance out of union funds to the Presidents of Union Boards are as follows :—

(1) No travelling allowance shall be allowed for journeys performed by them within the union.

(2) Travelling allowance may, however, be allowed for journeys performed by them outside the union at the same rate as is admissible under the Civil Service Regulations to 2nd. class officers, provided that its payment is sanctioned in each case by the Divisional Commissioner.

Sd/- J. H. Lindsay
District Magistrate.

5-1-22.

23rd January, 1922.

The conference was held at the District Board Office at 12 noon on the 23rd January, 1922, in which all the Sub-Divisional Officers excepting the S. D. O. of Sadar (North) and all the Circle Officers excepting the Circle Officers of 'Sadar' (North) and Munshiganj sub-division were present. The Superintendent of Police was also present when subject No. 1 was discussed. The Additional District Magistrate presided in the absence of the District Magistrate.

The points discussed and the decisions thereon were as follows :—

1. *To consider the means by which Chaukidars can be compelled to do their rounds at night.*

It was suggested that some adaptation of the Lane Ticket system prescribed in the Police Manual might prove practicable for improving the night work of chaukidars. The responsibility for preventive work in Union Board areas lies, however, it was pointed out, with the Union Board under the Act, and Presidents should be impressed with their duties in this respect.

2. *As regards the ensuing Union Board elections how should the Circle Officers proceed where there is no candidate for election as a member for any ward ?*

The Sub-Divisional Officer, Manikganj anticipated that there would be no candidates for election in twelve Union Board areas, and one or two similar cases were expected in Narainganj and Munshiganj subdivisions. It was not considered likely on the whole that any improvement would result from postponing the elections, and the only course open appears to be the appointment of members of the Board in default if men can be found willing to serve.

3. *To consider whether Fine and Challan Registers (Registers VIII & IX) should be transferred to Presidents of Union Boards.*

It was pointed out that Registers VIII & IX can not be transferred to Union Boards, as they are Chaukidari Registers. It was stated that details of chaukidari fines in Union Board areas were still being entered in these registers at headquarters, and it was not considered necessary that Union Boards should keep another similar register.

4. *While auditing the accounts of a Union Board, how the Circle Officer should proceed if the President does not show the details of expenditure in the vouchers ?*

In the absence of any penalty under the Act for a President of a Union Board failing to submit accounts the following alternatives were suggested :

(1) That the District Board should consider the suspension of grants until proper accounts are submitted for audit.

(2) That in the event of suspicions of dishonesty arising the President should be warned of his liability to prosecution under the Penal Code.

(3) That the District Board should be moved to order his removal under section 16 of the Act, or the matter be referred to the Magistrate for action under section 56 of the Act.

It was pointed out that no action had been taken by the District Board or Local Board in regard to reports of non-submission of vouchers for audit in the Manikganj Sub-Division and resolved that the District Board should be requested to take prompt action on unsatisfactory audit reports.

5. *What should be done with the excess amount credit of uniform fund through the return of excess uniforms to the District Jail.*

Resolved that the amounts to the credit of the Chaukidari Uniform Fund through the return of excess uniforms to the District Jail or the retention in stock locally of excess uniforms, should be carried forward to the credit of the Union Board concerned in each case. It was stated that the Manikganj Boards are retaining excess uniforms for issue later on, while in

other sub-divisions^c such uniforms are being sent to the District Jail.

6. *Whether it is advisable to have a uniform scale for salaries of Dafadars and Chaukidars in Union Board areas.*

Resolved that the question of a uniform rate of pay for dafadars and chaukidars be deferred until the question of reducing their numbers is settled. There was however a certain amount of opinion in favour of some kind of minimum scale.

Sd/- C. W. Gurner
Addl. District Magistrate.

25-1-22.
