

12.—Registration—

HEADS.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.		1903-1904.	REMARKS
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised.	Budget.	
1	2	3	4	5	*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Superintendence	53,354	54,600	53,000	54,000	
District charges—					
Calcutta	20,400	22,600	21,000	22,600	
Special Sub-Registrars	2,17,528	2,18,300	2,12,000	2,22,900	A small increase has been provided for establishment and allowances.
Rural Sub-Registrars	6,48,234	6,58,000	6,53,000	6,50,000	Increased in view of the gradual expansion of the operations of the department.
Ex-officio Sub-Registrars	1,670	1,500	3,000	1,500	
Total	8,87,917	8,95,400	8,88,000	9,06,000	
GRAND TOTAL	9,41,271	9,50,000	9,41,000	9,60,000	Revised based on the actuals of nine months of the year.
Provincial share (one-half)	4,70,635	4,75,000	4,71,000	4,80,000	

13.—Interest on Ordinary Debt—

Interest on Provincial Advance and Loan Account	2,09,602	2,19,000	2,08,000	2,09,000	Based on the estimated mean outstanding balance of loans carrying interest at 3½ per cent. per annum.
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15.—Post Office—

District Post Charges	2,787	6,000	4,000	6,000	
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18.—General Administration—

Salary of Lieutenant-Governor	1,00,467	96,900	1,06,000	96,000	The increase in the revised is nominal and is owing to certain paper adjustments.
Staff and household of Lieutenant-Governor	1,13,633	47,800	4,10,000	43,800	The actuals include charges for new railway saloons. The revised includes the cost of entertaining official and non-official guests at the Delhi Coronation Durbar.
Tour expenses	57,239	62,000	1,35,000	65,000	Revised includes cost of tents, &c. in connection with the Delhi Durbar Camp of the Lieutenant-Governor.
Legislative Council	26,315	66,800	63,000	66,000	
Civil Secretariat—					
Civil Secretariat (proper)	5,61,099	5,14,800	5,40,000	5,14,800	Increase due to larger provision for Officers on special duty.
Marine Department	15,865	14,300	13,000	14,300	
Translator's Department	24,626	23,300	24,000	23,300	
Librarian's Department	4,734	4,600	4,000	4,600	
Board of Revenue	2,52,771	2,34,500	2,30,000	2,36,000	Increase due to provision on account of Tausi Audit.
Commissioners	4,02,616	5,83,800	6,04,000	5,83,000	The increase in the revised is for privilege leave allowances.
Civil Offices of Account and Audit	51,739	47,000	47,000	45,000	Reduction is due to change of officers and reduction of local allowance of Examiner.
Deduct for rounding ... ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	200	
Total	18,82,104	17,57,000	22,46,000	17,56,000	

19A.—Law and Justice—Courts of Law—

HEADS.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.		1903-1904.	REMARKS.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised.	Budget.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
High Court— Judges	Rs. 6,34,411	Rs. 7,10,000	Rs. 6,51,000	Rs. 7,10,000	The decrease in the revised is due to the post of one Pensive Judge having been vacant for three months and the Additional Judge not having been entertained for the entire year.
Original Side	2,07,820	2,54,000	2,07,600	2,57,000	The saving in the revised is due to the posts of the Official Referee, Assistant Official Referee, as well as additional establishment provided for in the estimate not having been entertained for the entire year.
Appellate Side	2,27,394	2,42,000	2,38,000	2,44,000	Additional establishment provided for in the estimates for 1902-1903 was not entertained for the whole year which accounts for the decrease in the revised estimate.
Copyists' Establishment	77,469	70,000	76,000	81,000	
Reporters	22,347	2,400	22,400	22,400	
Total	11,69,343	13,18,000	11,90,000	13,15,000	
Law Officers— English Law Officers	97,284	1,01,443	97,000	1,00,400	The decrease in the revised is chiefly under charges for conducting law suits.
Legal Remembrancer and High Court Pleaders	88,871	87,048	83,000	86,000	
Mufassal Establishment	1,79,022	1,70,530	1,74,000	1,85,600	The increase is for fees to pleaders in Criminal cases and Civil suits.
Deduct—For rounding		41			
Total	3,65,127	3,59,000	3,54,000	3,72,000	
Coroner's Court	7,384	8,000	7,000	8,000	
Presidency Magistrates— Calcutta Police Court	69,773	68,264	70,000	72,600	The increase is under Supplies and Services and Contingencies. The charge is finally adjusted by recoveries from the Calcutta Corporation.
Municipal Magistrate's Court	5,728	5,736	.....	.....
Civil and Sessions Courts— District and Sessions Judges	12,87,400	12,80,080	12,88,000	13,01,000	The increase in the revised is under Salaries. Provision has been made in the budget for additional establishment already sanctioned and for the employment of chankidars for watching the Court buildings at night.
Subordinate Judges	6,51,159	6,54,630	6,46,000	6,66,500	The provision for establishment was not fully utilized in 1902-1903. Provision has been made in the budget for four temporary Judges and their establishments.
Munsifs	16,04,911	16,64,600	16,98,000	16,83,000	Provision has been made for the reorganisation in entry sanctioned and for certain temporary appointments and also for additional establishments.
Allowance	33,782	29,000	35,000	20,000	
Supplies and Services	4,46,279	4,24,000	4,40,000	4,71,220	Increased provision has been made for remuneration to copyists, dicta and travelling allowance of witnesses and process-serving charges.
Contingencies	1,44,646	1,54,154	1,45,000	1,61,386	Increased provision has been made under Rents and Taxes.
Process-serving Establishment	7,94,065	8,21,116	7,66,000	8,00,000	Provision made according to local requirements.
Deduct—For rounding		50,08,180		51,22,106	
Total	49,82,272	50,08,000	50,18,000	51,22,000	
Courts of Small Causes	1,63,680	1,74,000	1,59,000	1,74,400	Saving in the revised is chiefly under Salaries and partly under Contingencies.
Criminal Courts— General Establishment	25,56,369	24,54,000	23,37,000	25,18,520	Provision has been made for the reorganisation of the subordinate Executive Service and for increase in the establishment and allowances.
Subdivisional Establishments	1,18,112	1,20,000	1,27,000	1,23,480	
Process-serving Establishment	82,891	89,000	1,32,000	1,32,000	Two-fifths of the total cost provided under this head and one-fifth under Land Revenue.
Tributary Mahals, Ouzas	1,436	.....	1,000	.....
Total	25,58,777	26,63,000	25,97,000	27,77,000	
Leadership Examination charges	10,535	13,000	11,000	12,000	
Refunds	89,835	72,000	73,000	77,000	Estimate based on the average actuals of last three years.
GRAND TOTAL	84,02,464	86,85,000	84,74,000	89,30,000	

19B.—Jails—

HEADS.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.		1903-1904.	REMARKS
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised.	Budget.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Superintendence	Rs 53,481	Rs. 52,000	Rs. 54,000	Rs. 52,000	
Establishments—					
Superintendents and Jailors ..	2,46,602	2,46,000	2,45,000	2,43,000	
Medical Establishment ..	30,730	40,000	41,000	38,000	
Clerical, Educational and Mechanical Establishments ..	900	240	1,000	240	
Ward Establishment ..	2,70,488	2,15,000	2,10,000	2,17,400	
Mental and other Establishments ..	10,846	13,000	12,000	13,000	
Dietary Charges ..	8,29,450	6,82,760	6,61,000	6,50,000	} Reduced in view of Coronation releases.
Hospital Charges ..	87,387	91,000	90,000	85,000	
Clothing and Bedding of Prisoners ..	1,10,405	1,01,000	1,00,000	1,00,000	
Sanitation Charges ..	36,518	35,000	30,000	37,000	
Charges for moving Prisoners ..	53,751	50,000	54,000	61,000	
Miscellaneous Services and Supplies ..	1,06,704	1,16,000	1,12,000	1,22,846	Estimate based on local requirements.
Allowances ..	10,743	9,000	11,000	9,000	
Contingent Charges ..	37,541	42,000	40,000	43,000	
Extraordinary Charges for Live-stock and Tools and Plant ..	15,301	25,000	22,000	24,281	
Charges for Police Custody ..	12,612	10,000	12,000	12,880	Based on actuals.
Deduct—For rounding ..				240	
Total Jails ..	18,56,571	17,28,000	16,95,000	16,98,000	
Jail Manufactures ..	11,58,944	12,14,000	10,15,000	11,69,000	
Refunds ..	102	1,000		1,000	Provision made for probable refunds.
GRAND TOTAL ..	29,92,319	29,43,000	27,00,000	28,59,000	Revised based on the actuals of first nine months of 1902-1903 and in view of the Coronation releases.

20.—Police—

Presidency Police—					
Police Commissioner (Superintendence) ...	Rs 58,211	Rs. 50,000	Rs. 60,000	Rs. 63,000	Provision has been made for the local allowances of the Deputy Commissioner of Police and for annual increment of the Commissioner of Police.
Calcutta Police ..	7,49,675	7,91,100	7,67,000	8,48,500	The decrease in the revised is due to savings in the pay of the Police force. A provision of Rs 50,000 has been made in the budget for reorganisation of the Calcutta Police.
River Police ..	9,788	9,200	8,000	9,650	
Salt Police ..	3,422	3,900	4,000	3,000	
Police Dead-house ..	1,010	800	1,000	1,000	
Refunds ..		10,000		10,000	
Deduct—For rounding ..				850	
Total ..	8,20,128	8,74,000	8,40,000	8,86,000	
Municipal Police ..	43,007	49,000	36,000	49,000	
Superintendence ..	1,63,435	1,54,500	1,64,000	1,69,000	The increase in the revised is chiefly due to privilege leave allowances and to increase in the pay of Assistant to the Inspector-General. Provision has been made in the budget for reorganisation of establishment under the Deputy Inspector-General.
District Executive Force—					
Salaries ..	4,57,867	5,00,000	4,50,000	4,75,000	Provision for salaries of present incumbents.
Police Force ..	30,98,828	30,12,200	31,05,000	30,28,500	The lump provision for Police reforms was not utilised in 1902-1903. Rs. 4,90,000 has been provided for reforms in the budget.
Training School for Sub-Inspectors ..	13,468	14,000	14,000	16,600	Estimate provides for revision of establishment.
Establishment ..	1,71,501	1,75,000	1,74,000	1,77,300	Provision has been made for increase of establishment charge sanctioned and for establishment for new steam-launch for Pabna.
Hospital charges ..	38,608	37,000	38,000	37,000	
Allowances ..	3,40,212	3,55,000	3,50,000	3,43,100	Pony allowance of head constables provided for in 1902-1903 excluded.
Supplies and Services ..	4,66,886	3,70,800	4,67,000	3,82,000	Increased provision has been made for purchase of boats.
Contingencies ..	1,53,498	1,60,000	1,82,000	2,01,000	
Other Police ..	36,252	31,000	55,000	42,500	Provision made for increase of guards for supply to private individuals.
Total ..	47,75,120	53,85,000	48,55,000	53,93,000	
Village Police ..	53,988	50,000	49,000	53,000	

20.—Police—concluded.

HEADS.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.		1903-1904.	REMARKS.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised.	Budget.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Special Police—					
outh Lushahi Hills Police	4,254	.....	.....	.....
Bengal Military Police	74,098	70,800	73,000	77,800	Increased provision made for ordnance stores.
Frontier Police, Chittagong	41,860	43,000	43,000	42,600	
Frontier Police, Angul	27,522	20,000	30,000	25,800	
Upper Burma Police Depot	5,272	5,800	6,000	5,800	
Total	1,53,015	1,45,600	1,62,000	1,62,000	
Railway Police—					
East Indian Railway Police	55,108	54,000	65,000	60,000	Provision has been made for increase in Police force and increase under Rents and Rates.
East Coast Railway Police	2,625	3,500	3,000	1,400	The decrease is due to 3½th cost being charged to Railway.
Eastern System Railway Police	84,089	73,500	1,16,000	92,300	Provision has been made for revision of the Police force. The increase in the revised is for larger outlay under Allowances and Supplies and Services of the Eastern System of Railway Police.
Assam-Bengal Railway Police	4,637	6,000	5,000	6,000	
Bengal and North-Western and Tihut State Railway Police	10,011	11,000	10,000	12,100	Increased provision has been made for increase in the number of chaukidars.
Bengal-Nagpur Railway Police	7,919	9,500	8,000	10,000	
Bengal Central Railway Police	3,748	4,000	4,000	8,000	
For rounding ... ..	.....	.....	.....	200	Increased provision has been made for additional Police force.
Total	1,68,067	1,61,500	2,12,000	1,80,000	
Cattle-pounds	890	1,400	1,000	1,000	
Refunds	18,334	20,000	12,000	14,000	
GRAND TOTAL	61,94,992	68,41,000	63,00,000	69,50,000	

21.—Marine

Salaries and allowances of officers and men afloat ...	65,813	65,000	65,000	69,000	
Victualling of officers and men afloat	20,945	23,200	22,000	23,100	
Purchase of marine stores and coal for the building, repairs and outfit of ships and vessels	84,134	1,02,000	86,000	1,00,000	Estimate based on local requirements. Provision has been made for the completion of the new launch for the Engineer-Surveyor's Department.
Purchase and hire of ships and vessels	10,000	15,000	20,000	2,15,000	Two lakhs provided for part of the cost of a new pilot-steamers to replace the <i>Sargut</i> .
Pilotage and pilot establishments	6,93,505	6,64,800	6,71,000	7,02,500	The increase is due to larger payment to free list pilots and also to licensed pilots. The same cause explains the increase in the revised.
Marine establishments	79,877	87,000	89,000	85,000	
Subsidies to steam-boat companies	23,900	24,300	18,000	24,500	
Miscellaneous	23,067	40,000	37,000	40,000	
State Yacht establishment	5,372	6,000	5,000	6,000	
Refunds	2,561	4,000	2,000	3,000	
Total	10,11,954	10,15,000	10,15,000	12,72,000	Revised based on actuals.

32.—Education—

HEADS	1901-1902.	1902-1903.		1903-1904.	REMARKS
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate	Revised.	Budget.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Direction " " "	78,847	70,000	69,000	77,300	Provision has been made for an Assistant Director.
Inspection—					
Inspector of European Schools " " "	17,057	18,000	18,000	18,000	
Inspectors of other Schools " " "	3,36,059	3,40,000	3,27,000	3,40,000	The decrease in the revised is for savings under Salaries and Allowances due to the appointment of officers drawing less pay.
Total ..	3,53,116	3,58,000	3,45,000	3,58,000	
Government Colleges, General—					
English Colleges—					
Arts Colleges " " "	3,65,979	3,77,000	3,91,000	3,96,000	The increase both in the revised and in the budget is under Salaries. The increase in the budget is also due to a provision of Rs 11,000 for the purchase of astronomical instruments for the Presidency College.
Eden Hindu Hostel " " "	28,026	29,800	28,000	31,600	The budget includes provision for gas lights.
Bethune College " " "	34,641	36,500	35,000	36,000	
Oriental Colleges—					
Sanskrit College " " "	31,214	36,000	35,000	38,000	Provision has been made for Lecturers on Vedanta Smriti, and Naya
Calcutta Madrassa " " "	48,055	51,800	52,000	49,000	
Elliott Madrassa Hostel " " "	3,028	3,450	3,000	4,500	
Expenditure on petty construction and repairs..	52				
Expenditure on furniture and apparatus	22,688	17,000	22,000	20,000	
Deduct—For rounding		5,81,350		5,75,100	
Total ..	5,34,293	5,51,000	5,64,000	5,75,000	
Government Colleges, Professional—					
Law Colleges " " "	9,056	8,700	9,000	9,400	
Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, Howrah " " "	2,01,228	2,04,700	2,16,000	2,15,000	Increase due to appointment of an additional Professor and a supernumerary teacher, and for increased grant for tools and appliances.
Expenditure on furniture and apparatus ..	1,871	4,500	8,000	4,500	
Apparatus required for Agricultural class		1,500		1,500	
Total ..	2,12,153	2,17,400	2,33,000	2,31,000	
Government Schools, General " " "	6,26,488	6,62,390	6,46,000	7,08,000	The saving in the revised is due to the provision for opening B and C class schools in certain high schools not having been fully utilized. The increase in the budget is chiefly due to provision for a new female school, for a new Muhammedian school in the northern part of Calcutta, for the appointment of a higher paid Head Master for Hare School, for additional masters and servants for District school for additional grant under Boarding charges of the Kurseong Victoria Boarding School (boys), for increased grant for furnishing the new building for girls' school, for the provision for commercial classes, and for additional grant for petty construction and repairs.
Ditto Special " " "	2,59,021	3,42,200	2,53,000	4,48,000	The decrease in the revised is due to smaller expenditure under Salaries and Establishment of Normal Schools as well as the grants for raising the Dacca Survey school to the status of the Bihar School of Engineering and for starting training colleges at Dacca and Hooghly not having been fully utilized. The increase in the budget is due to a provision of Rs 60,000 against Rs. 30,000 for raising the status of the Dacca Survey School to the status of Bihar School of Engineering, and to the provision of Rs 27,888 for opening institutions for primary schools of teachers, and Rs. 15,380 for training institutions for girls.
Grants-in-aid " " "	6,23,533	6,30,000	6,29,000	7,71,000	The estimate includes Rs 10,780 for subsidising model primary schools for girls, Rs. 2,300 for female schools (higher stage); Rs 9,060 for grants to Missionaries for female education, Rs 28,300, for primary education in non-Board districts, and Rs 20,000 for the Dacca boarding hostel.
Scholarships " " "	1,96,466	2,06,000	2,00,000	1,00,000	Includes a special provision of Rs. 4,500 for scholarships to Europe for industrial students, while Rs 13,850 has been transferred to Local for lower primary scholarships.
Miscellaneous " " "	55,472	2,02,000	72,000	2,08,000	The decrease in the revised is due to the non-utilization of the grant of Rs. 1,25,000 for contribution to Provident fund for teachers in primary schools. The estimate includes Rs. 2,000 for training of officers in Europe.
Refunds " " "	2,237	2,100	4,000	2,000	
Lump provision for Educational reforms " " "		10,00,000		2,14,300	
And—For rounding				400	
GRAND TOTAL ..	29,41,016	32,42,000	30,14,000	37,94,000	

24.—Medical—

HEADS.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.		1903-1904.	REMARKS.
	Actuals	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised.	Budget.	
1	2	3	4	5	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Medical Establishment—					
Superintendence	79,049	79,000	78,000	80,000	
District Medical Establishment .. .	5,95,989	5,88,000	5,73,000	5,98,600	The decrease in the revised is due to savings in the salaries and allowances. The increase in the budget is under grants to dispensaries for supply of medicines to Government officers and for a provision of Rs 8,000 for value of medical stores required for preservation and despatch of viscera.
Reserve Medical Officers and Subordinates	16,085	20,000	16,000	20,000	
Total	6,91,073	6,87,000	6,67,000	6,98,600	
Hospitals and Dispensaries—					
Presidency Hospitals and Dispensaries—					
Medical College Hospital	1,35,311	1,44,000	1,46,000	1,59,000	Provision has been made for the purchase of microscopes for the Pathological and Physiological Department for glass jars and for increased grants for beddings and equipments.
General Hospital	2,04,297	1,96,000	2,24,000	2,17,500	Provision has been made for the supply of electric current for fans and lights. The increase in the revised is also due to the same cause.
Campbell Hospital	74,591	92,000	73,000	83,200	The decrease in the revised is for smaller expenditure on supplies and services and contingencies.
Albert Victor Asylum for Lepers	18,938	26,000	20,000	27,500	Ditto ditto.
Mufassal Hospitals and Dispensaries .. .	65,275	54,000	58,000	77,000	Increased provision has been made for allowances for attending Government hostels and boarding schools and for increased grants for the Sumtlu Nath Kundia Hospital in view of the increased number of patients.
Grants to Mufassal Hospitals and Dispensaries	55,233	59,000	57,000	67,000	Provision has been made for larger grants and to the increase in the number of dispensaries.
Total	6,53,645	7,71,000	5,75,000	6,31,000	
Sanitation and Vaccination	1,87,246	1,89,000	1,92,000	1,88,000	The increase in the revised is under travelling allowance.
Grants for Medical purposes—					
Microscopical experiments in jails .. .	..	2,000	..	2,000	
Expenses during the prevalence of plague .. .	1,37,444	4,50,000	56,000	3,20,000	The decrease in the revised is due to smaller outlay in connection with plague.
Expenses during the prevalence of epidemics	3,257	12,000	3,000	..,000	Estimate based on the average actuals of last three years.
Expenses in connection with cholera inoculation	4,004	6,300	5,500	5,000	
Value of medical stores	1,102	1,200	1,000	1,100	Based on actuals.
Deduct—Probable savings .. .. .	..	4,71,500	..	..
Total	1,46,607	4,71,000	79,000	3,33,000	
Medical Schools and Colleges—					
Medical College	1,74,043	1,74,000	1,84,000	1,75,000	The increase in the revised is chiefly under salaries.
Medical Schools	1,34,445	1,43,000	1,29,000	1,49,500	The decrease in the revised is partly under Salaries and partly under Supplies and Services. Provision has been made for the proposed enlargements of the Dacca Medical School.
Total	3,08,488	3,17,000	3,13,000	3,24,500	
Lunatic Asylums	1,26,407	1,47,000	1,25,000	1,43,500	The decrease in the revised is for smaller expenditure under contingencies.
Special Hospital	13,001	15,000	12,000	12,500	
Chemical Examiner	32,717	37,000	35,000	37,500	
Balance	941	1,000	1,000	1,000	
Total	46,665	53,000	53,000	51,000	
Add—For rounding .. .. .	..	..	..	400	
GRAND TOTAL	20,69,825	24,85,000	19,82,000	22,70,000	

25.—Political—

HEADS.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.		1903-1904.	REMARKS.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate	Revised	Budget.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs	Rs.	Rs	Rs	
Entertainment of Envoys and Chiefs	1,806	1,500	2,000	1,500	
Durbai presents and allowances to Vakils, &c. ...	13,998	17,000	17,000	17,000	
Miscellaneous	2,197	1,800	...	3,300	
Public rejoicing in celebration of Coronation .	...	..	47,000	..	Rupees 2,000 provided for Government share of the cost of demarcation of boundary between Tributary States and Government lands in Orissa.
For rounding . . . . .	...	200	...	200	Rupees 25,000 for illumination and Durbai charges in the mufassal, and Rs. 25,000 for fireworks in Calcutta.
Total	17,998	20,000	66,000	22,000	

26.—Scientific and other Minor Departments—

Veterinary and Stallion Charges	50,915	72,700	68,000	1,11,200	The decrease in the revised is due to smaller expenditure under Establishment and Supplies and Services. The increase in the budget is due to provision having been made for increase in the pay of Assistant Superintendent and for provision for a fourth Lecturer to be appointed for giving veterinary training to the sibpur agricultural students. The budget includes the pay and personal allowance of the Veterinary Assistant at Ankul, and for grants to voluntary dispensaries at Dumka and Birbhum. Provision has also been made for larger grant under Purchase and Feed of Cattle.
Provincial Museums	1,707	1,400	1,000	..	The charge for Darjeeling Museum is paid from the Darjeeling Improvement Fund.
Imperial Institute	50	500	...	500	
Donations to Scientific Societies	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	
Experimental Cultivation	48,918	1,21,700	69,000	1,16,600	The decrease in the revised is due to the provision of Rs. 50,000 for cattle-breeding farm at Pusa not having been utilized. The decrease in the budget is for smaller grants for silk experiments and for Indigo Planters' Association.
Cinchona Plantations	1,64,452	1,83,600	1,70,000	2,00,000	The decrease in the revised is due to no expenditure having been incurred for Dumsong Division, while provision has been made in the budget for larger expenditure on extension of cultivation to Dumsong Forest and for larger purchase of cinchona bark.
Public Exhibitions and Fairs	2,210	3,000	3,000	8,000	Provision has been made for a grant of Rs. 5,000 for the Louisiana Exhibition.
Botanical and other Public Gardens	1,46,438	1,41,300	1,41,000	1,28,000	The estimate for 1902-1903 includes a special grant of Rs. 11,000 for the Zoological Garden.
Emigration	27,630	27,000	31,000	28,000	
Inspector of Factories	26,870	25,000	27,000	27,000	Estimate based on actuals.
Census	1,197	1,500	1,600	1,500	
Gazetteer, Statistical Memoirs ... .. .	...	25,018	26,000	40,000	
Registration of Railway Traffic	8,636	8,500	8,000	8,500	
Registration of River-borne Traffic	5,264	5,100	6,000	5,000	
Provincial Statistics	10,253	12,200	16,000	18,700	
Examinations	3,171	6,500	5,000	6,500	
Inspector of Mines	3,378	...	15,000	13,000	
Miscellaneous and Refunds	7,251	10,100	0,000	9,500	
Add—For rounding . . . . .	...	100	..	..
Total	5,22,377	6,68,000	5,08,000	7,28,000	Revised based on nine months' actuals of the year.

29.—*Superannuation—*

HEADS.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.		1903-1904.	REMARKS.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised.	Budget.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Superannuation and retired allowances	23,33,920	24,00,000	24,00,000	25,00,000	Increased provision made to meet the annual growth of expenditure. Based on actuals.
Compassionate allowances	13,589	15,000	15,000	15,000	
Gratuities	8,214	7,000	8,000	8,000	
Marine Department Pensions	31,550	40,000	31,000	38,000	
Refunds	1,413		1,000		
Total	23,88,677	24,02,000	24,55,000	25,60,000	

30.—*Stationery and Printing—*

	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	REMARKS.
	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.	
Stationery Office at the Presidency	1,77,854	1,65,000	1,74,000	1,95,000	Increase is due to the additional provision for the revision of establishment in the office of the Superintendent of Stationery.
Ditto purchased in the country	62,969	65,000	63,000	64,000	
Government Presses	3,78,420	3,93,000	4,05,000	3,91,000	
Printing at Private Presses	2,441	1,000	2,000	2,000	
Stationery supplied from Central Stores	6,70,580	6,00,000	6,00,000	6,00,000	
Refunds	1,689	1,000	1,000	2,000	
Total	12,94,064	12,25,000	12,45,000	12,54,000	Revised based on actuals.

32.—*Miscellaneous—*

	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	REMARKS.
	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.	
Travelling allowances to officers attending examinations	1,558	2,000	3,000	2,000	Provision made for local requirements
Subscription to periodicals	21,501	5,000	5,000	5,000	
Rewards for proficiency in Oriental languages, and allowance to Language Examination Committee	9,076	7,000	9,000	8,000	
Cost of books and publications	688	1,000	1,000	1,000	
Donations for charitable purposes	90,017	1,11,200	1,05,000	1,22,000	
Charges on account of European vagrants	5,377	7,000	6,000	7,000	
Rewards for destruction of wild animals	7,873	10,000	8,000	10,000	Provision has been made for larger grants to the Calcutta Female nurses' Institution.
City establishments	27,896	32,000	31,000	32,700	
Special Commissions of Inquiry	20,117	5,000		5,000	
Irrecoverable temporary loans written off	2,249	5,000	5,000	5,000	
Charges for search of hidden treasure	5	1,000			
Rents, Rates, and Taxes	33,051	34,000	34,000	34,000	
Contributions	2,441	10,300	5,000	4,000	Reduced with reference to actuals
Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges	9,113	10,000	10,000	10,000	Revised based on actuals.
Miscellaneous refunds	11,784	12,000	12,000	12,000	
Total	2,04,868	2,54,000	2,31,000	2,51,000	

42.—*Irrigation—Major Works—(Working Expenses)—*

	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.
Orissa Canals	3,95,100	4,15,000	3,94,500	4,15,000
Midnapore Canal	1,81,668	1,75,000	1,67,500	1,80,000
Hill Tidal Canal	28,658	40,000	43,000	30,000
Sone Canals	5,47,210	5,95,000	5,91,000	6,60,000
Total	11,32,636	12,25,000	11,96,000	12,85,000

42.—*Irrigation—Major Works—(Interest on Debt)—*

	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.
Interest	24,54,024	24,50,000	24,53,000	24,53,000

43.—Minor Works and Navigation—

HEADS.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.		1903-1904.	REMARKS.	
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised.	Budget.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	
IN CHARGE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.						
IRRIGATION AND NAVIGATION WORKS.						
<i>Works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept.</i>						
CAPITAL.						
<i>Works in Progress.</i>						
Midnapore Canal	1,522	...	5,318	...	The expenditure is mostly for the Dudhat Canal.	
Orissa Canals	40,006	82,500	42,500	25,300		
Sone Canals	5,021	12,400	...	...
Damodar Project	-1,200	...	...	...
Saran Canals	-1	...	5,548	...		
Calcutta and Eastern Canals	1,44,766	2,48,800	3,70,854	7,78,000	This is for a preliminary survey in connection with the proposed revival and extension of the canals suggested by the Irrigation Commission. Revised includes an additional grant of one lakh for expenditure on the new canal between Dhappa and Bamunghata and on the Madaripur Bhil route. Rs. 5,00,000 has been provided in the budget for procuring a suction dredger for use on the Circula and Eastern Canals and the Nadia rivers and the balance is for the Kumar and Madhumati rivers.	
Tidal Canal	-28	...	...	...
Total Capital	1,90,026	3,43,700	4,24,200	8,38,500		
REVENUE.						
Orissa Coast Canal	52,905	65,000	49,285	40,000		
Saran Canals	6,746	1,300	2,300	1,800		
Calcutta and Eastern Canals	2,54,051	2,46,000	2,79,388	2,58,000		
Total Revenue	3,13,702	3,12,306	3,30,973	3,08,800		
Total Works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept	3,03,818	6,56,006	7,55,153	11,47,100		
<i>Works for which only Revenue accounts are kept.</i>						
WORKS IN PROGRESS.						
Nadia Rivers	1,04,838	1,07,000	1,16,814	1,42,000		
Gaighatta and Buxi Khais	334	620	600	520		
Total Works for which only Revenue accounts are kept	1,05,172	1,07,620	1,17,414	1,42,520		
<i>Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept.</i>						
WORKS IN PROGRESS.						
Eden Canal	42,381	38,280	48,47	39,380		
Teer Canal	4,587					
Total Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept	46,968	38,280	48,479	39,380		
Total Irrigation and Navigation Works	6,56,958	8,02,000	9,21,146	13,39,000		
AGRICULTURAL AND DRAINAGE WORKS.						
<i>Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept.</i>						
WORKS IN PROGRESS.						
Government embankments and works for the improvement of Government and escheated estates	5,31,413	6,98,000	6,38,854	6,21,000		
Midnapore takavi embankments under contract	41,225					
Gandak takavi embankments under contract	79,183					
Works in charge of Civil Officers	6,605					
Total Agricultural	6,01,426	6,98,000	6,28,854	6,21,000		
Total in charge of the Public Works Department	13,17,386	15,00,000	15,50,000	19,60,000		
IN CHARGE OF CIVIL OFFICERS.						
Embankments under the contract system—						
Establishments	1,453	1,453	...	1,452		
Contingencies	51	48	...	48		
Maintenance charges of the Howrah and Rampur drainages	2,650	2,784	...	2,784		
Allowances	56	...	...	100
Refunds	28	...	...	...
Add—For rounding ... ..	...	4,334	716	4,364	
Total in charge of the Civil Department	4,333	6,000	5,000	6,000		
GRAND TOTAL	18,21,618	17,08,000	15,55,000	19,55,000		

45.—Civil Works—

HEADS.	1901-1902.		1902-1903.		1903-1904.	REMARKS
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised.	Budget		
1	2	3	4	5		
IN CHARGE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.						
<i>Original works.</i>						
Civil Buildings	{ In progress	{ 11,28,000	{ 25,50,000	{ 26,68,000		
	{ Not commenced	{ 13,45,673	{ 13,71,700			
Communications	{ In progress	{ 1,80,751	{ 1,81,000	{ 2,50,000		
	{ Not commenced	{ 1,19,800	{ 96,700			
Miscellaneous Public Improvements.	{ In progress	{ 4,12,571	{ ...	{ 83,000		
	{ Not commenced	{ ...	{ ...	{ 40,000		
Total		19,38,095	28,40,200	28,35,000	29,65,000	The estimate depends on the funds available
<i>Repairs.</i>						
Civil Buildings		5,43,189	5,60,000	5,60,000	5,65,000	
Communications		8,31,415	9,10,000	9,34,000	10,23,000	
Miscellaneous Public Improvements		72,543	68,000	81,000	1,07,000	
Total		14,47,159	15,38,000	15,75,000	16,95,000	
Establishment		8,61,519	8,27,950	9,60,000	8,33,790	
Tools and Plant		33,862	30,841	21,000	33,210	
Stock and Suspense		89,302		-1,00,000		
Total in charge of Public Works Department		48,70,888	52,35,000	53,00,000	55,20,000	
IN CHARGE OF THE CIVIL DEPARTMENT.						
Ferry charges		5,480	9,000	6,000	9,114	Estimate based on local requirements.
Ferry Refunds		42,072	32,000	35,000	35,000	Based on the average actuals of the past 3 years.
Staging bungalows		8,658	10,716	8,500	11,586	
Engamping grounds		602	1,284	500	1,300	
Contributions in aid of Excluded Local Funds and Municipalities		63,825	3,00,000	2,15,000	3,00,000	The decrease in revised is due to the provision for contributions for burial grounds not having been fully utilised.
Total in charge of Civil Department		1,20,643	3,63,000	2,65,000	3,57,000	Revised based on actuals of first nine months of the year.
GRAND TOTAL		44,91,531	55,98,000	55,65,000	58,77,000	

Contributions from Provincial to Local.

[The figures are in thousands.]

1	ACTUALS, 1901-1902.		1902-1903.				BUDGET, 1903-1904.		10	REMARKS.
	Receipts.	Charges.	BUDGET.		REVISED.		Receipts.	Charges.		
			Receipts.	Charges.	Receipts.	Charges.				
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Land Revenue	Rs. ...	Rs. 40	Rs. ...	Rs. 10	Rs. ...	Rs. 6	Rs. ...	Rs. 11		
Provincial Rates ... ..	...	...	...	2	...	6	...	1	
Post Office ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
General Administration ... ..	...	11	...	12	...	13	...	12	
Police	4,43	25	4,29	24	4,33	24	4,33	24		
Education	27	12,10	27	12,08	27	17,70	27	16,61	The increase both in revised and budget is due to the additional grants for improvement of primary education, for the appointment of additional Sub Inspectors, for lower primary scholarships and additional remuneration of teachers in primary schools as explained in the body of the statement.	
Medical ... ..	...	42	...	4	...	5	...	9	
Scientific and other Minor Departments ... ..	...	2	...	31	...	3	...	13	
Stationery and Printing ... ..	...	18	...	18	...	18	...	18	
Civil Works	2,94	5,78	2,94	8,37	2,94	8,77	2,94	9,52	The increase in the budget is for larger grants for feeder roads. The increase in the revised is for a grant of Rs. 12,000 to the Malda District for repairs of roads, to the Muzaffarpur District Board for the construction of Cess office building and other small grants	
Miscellaneous ... ..	...	48	...	4	...	3	...	3	
Total	7,54	19,75	7,50	21,56	7,64	27,27	7,54	27,14		
Net	12,21		14,00		19,73		19,50			

The Council adjourned to Saturday, the 4th April, 1903.

CALCUTTA;

F. G. WIGLEY,

The 20th April, 1903.

Secretary to the Bengal Council and
Assistant Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal,
Legislative Department.

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

The Council met in the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 4th April, 1903.

Present:

The Hon'ble MR. J. A. BOURDILLON, C.S.I., Acting Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding*.

The Hon'ble MR. L. P. PUGH, *Offg.* Advocate-General of Bengal

The Hon'ble MR. C. E. BUCKLAND, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. B. L. GUPTA.

The Hon'ble MR. L. HARE, C.I.E.

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

The Hon'ble MR. A. EARLE.

The Hon'ble MR. R. T. GREER.

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

The Hon'ble MAULVI SYED MAHOMED, KHAN BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble DR. ASUTOSH MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A., D.L., F.R.A.S., F.E.S.E.

The Hon'ble BABU CHATURBHOOJ SAHAY.

The Hon'ble BABU JOY GOBIND LAW, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar.

The Hon'ble MR. H. ELWORTHY.

The Hon'ble MR. A. A. APCAR.

The Hon'ble MAULVI SERAJ-UL-ISLAM, KHAN BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble RAI TARINI PERSHAD, BAHADUR.

NEW MEMBER.

The Hon'ble MR. L. P. PUGH took his seat in Council.

[*Maulvi Seraj-ul-Islam, Khan Bahadur ; Mr. Earle ; Rai Tarini Pershad, Bahadur ; Mr. Inglis.*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

THE PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

The Hon'ble MAULVI SERAJ-UL-ISLAM, KHAN BAHADUR, asked :—

Is the Government aware that in consequence of the present constitution of the Provincial Educational Service, many officers from the Subordinate Educational Service and some outsiders have been directly appointed to the 4th, 6th and 7th Classes of the Provincial Service, in supersession of the claims of officers in lower classes of that service? In view of the unsatisfactory constitution of the Provincial Service and the hardship done to the officers in lower classes in consequence thereof, will the Government be pleased to re-organise the Service in any way that may, in the opinion of the Government, be satisfactory and practicable?

The Hon'ble MR. EARLE replied :—

“Before the Education Department was last re-organized and the present Provincial and Subordinate Educational Services were created, the Officers of the Department, other than those of the Indian Educational Service, belonged to a single Educational Service. The division of officers into the two newly-created Services was made on the basis of the actual posts held by the various officers at the time of the re-organization, and it was never intended that officers, who were placed in the Subordinate Service, should not be eligible for promotion to the Provincial Service.

“The complaint referred to by the Hon'ble Member has arisen owing to the fact that the salaries of the first two classes of the Subordinate Educational Service exceed those attached to the seventh and eighth classes of the Provincial Educational Service. When, therefore, it becomes necessary to give promotion to an officer from the classes of the Subordinate Educational Service referred to, some officers of the Provincial Educational Service are necessarily superseded. This, however, is not a legitimate grievance, because, as explained above, such promotions were always contemplated.

“As regards the second complaint, it is true that several persons, not belonging to the Educational Service, have, within recent years, been appointed to the higher classes of the Provincial Service, and have, to this extent, retarded promotion. These persons were, however, appointed to posts for which no officers in the service of Government were eligible. Appointments of this kind are unavoidable.

“As stated by me at the last meeting of this Council, the question whether it is practicable to improve the prospects of the Provincial and Subordinate Educational Services is now under the consideration of the Lieutenant-Governor.”

RAILWAY OR STEAM TRAMWAY AT BHAGALPUR.

The Hon'ble RAI TARINI PERSHAD, BAHADUR, asked :—

Will the Government be pleased to state whether ~~or not~~ a scheme for the construction of a Railway or Steam Tramway on the roads from Bhagalpur to Deoghur *via* Bounsi and Dumka is still in its contemplation? If not, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons?

The Hon'ble MR. INGLIS replied :—

“No scheme for the construction of a Railway or Steam Tramway on the roads from Bhagalpur to Deogarh *via* Bounsi and Dumka is at present under the consideration of the Government.

“The late Lieutenant-Governor considered that a broad gauge line was not required. No proposals for a light railway have reached the Government.”

[*Rai Tarini Pershad, Bahadur; Mr. Collin; Mr. Earle.*]

INADEQUATE SUPPLY OF WATER AT BHAGALPUR.

The Hon'ble RAI TARINI PERSHAD, BAHADUR, said:—

Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that the rate-payers in the town of Bhagalpur do not get adequate supply of water during a considerable portion of the year owing to the recess of the Ganges? If so, will the Government be pleased to take steps to remove this difficulty?

The Hon'ble MR. COLLIN replied:—

"Government is aware that difficulties have arisen from time to time in connection with the Bhagalpur water-works owing to the recession of the river. It has also been reported that there is considerable waste from the house-connections. The Commissioners of the Bhagalpur Municipality, who are primarily responsible in the matter, have taken the necessary action to maintain an adequate supply of water and to prevent waste. No application has been made to Government for assistance."

THE ZAMINDARI DAK CESS.

The Hon'ble RAI TARINI PERSHAD, BAHADUR, asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How much was realized on account of the Zamindari Dak Cess during each of the last five years.
- (b) How much was spent for the purposes indicated by Bengal Act VIII of 1862 in each of the said years?

The Hon'ble MR. EARLE replied:—

"The receipts and expenditure of the Zamindari Dak Cess during each of the last five years have been as follows:—

		Receipts.	Expenditure
		Rs.	Rs
1897-98	..	3,97,825	4,12,717
1898-99	..	4,02,570	3,69,932
1899-1900	...	3,94,629	3,58,836
1900-1901	...	3,31,876	3,72,853
1901-1902	...	3,03,818	3,56,733."

GRATUITOUS MEDICAL RELIEF BY DISTRICT BOARDS OF BHAGALPUR AND PATNA DIVISIONS.

The Hon'ble RAI TARINI PERSHAD, BAHADUR, asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) What amounts were spent by each District Board in affording gratuitous medical relief to localities affected with cholera and fever in the Divisions of Bhagalpur and Patna during the last three years; and
- (b) What amounts, if any, were received as private contributions for such gratuitous medical relief during the said period?

The Hon'ble MR. COLLIN replied:—

"It has not been possible within the time given to procure full information to answer the questions.

[*Mr. Collin; Rai Tarini Pershad, Bahadur; Mr. Hare; Maharaja of Cossimbazar.*]

“As to the first part of the question, it appears that in the Patna Division the expenditure for gratuitous medical relief to localities afflicted with cholera and fever was as follows :—

			Rs.
1899-1900	...	...	5,157
1900-1901	...	...	17,489
1901-1902	...	...	12,480

“No information is as yet available for the Bhagalpur Division. When obtained, it will be communicated.

“As to the second part of the question, it is reported that no private contributions were received by the District Boards of the Patna Division for medical relief of cholera and fever patients during the period specified.”

SUB-DEPUTY COLLECTORS AND PENSION RULES.

The Hon'ble RAI TARINI PERSHAD, BAHADUR, said :—

Is the Government aware that Sub-Deputy Collectors render 5 or 6 years' service before confirmation? If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether under the existing rules such service is counted for pension? If not, will the Government be pleased to state why Rule 375 of the Civil Service Regulations (4th edition) should not be extended to the Sub-Deputy Collectors also?

The Hon'ble MR. HARE replied :—

“Under the existing rules, service in the grades of Sub-Deputy Collectors before confirmation does not count for pension. The subject has been under the consideration of this Government.”

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCIAL SERVICE TO SECRETARIAT POSTS.

The Hon'ble RAI TARINI PERSHAD, BAHADUR, asked :—

Will the Government be pleased to state whether the appointments of Under-Secretaries to the Government of Bengal and Junior Secretaries to the Board of Revenue, are open to the members of the Provincial Executive Service? If so, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of appointing to such posts such members of that Service, who, after having satisfactorily worked as Personal Assistants to the Divisional Commissioners, have amply qualified themselves for the same?

The Hon'ble MR. HARE replied :—

“There is no bar to the appointment of a member of the Provincial Service of proved merit and ability to the post of Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue or an Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal; but these posts require very special qualifications, and, in the interest of the public service, Government can give no undertaking that will in any way fetter its selection of officers to fill these appointments.”

PLAGUE MORTALITY IN CALCUTTA.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar, said :—

Is the Government aware that the daily bulletins disclosed an abnormal increase of plague mortality in Calcutta during the month of March, the

[*Maharaja of Cossimbazar ; Mr. Collin ; the President ; Mr Earle ; Babu Joy Gobind Law.*]

average being considerably higher than that of any similar month of the past quinquennium ; and will the Government be pleased to state what precautionary, preventive or sanitary measures, other than segregation, which Government has definitely abandoned with the full approval of public opinion, have been adopted to cope with the disease in Calcutta itself and to thwart its spread to other localities, since it was officially declared that this City had been infected with plague ; and further, will the Government be pleased to state the amount of money which has been expended from Provincial and Municipal Funds on plague preventive measures, and the character of the results obtained, judged by the light of statistics ?

The Hon'ble MR. COLLIN replied :—

“The mortality from plague was greater in March last than in the corresponding month of 1902, but was less than in 1901. The figures are—

Deaths from plague in March, 1903	...	...	3,529
Ditto ditto 1902	...	...	2,201
Ditto ditto 1901	...	...	3,810

“Segregation for plague has not been enforced in Calcutta for the last four years. The precautionary measures are disinfection and, when this is not possible owing to the structure of the building, demolition in the case of huts.

“There is no examination of persons leaving Calcutta. It was found possible to enforce this on the railways only, and the results of such partial examination showed that it was not worth the trouble and inconvenience caused by it.

“The total amount of money expended in Calcutta on plague-preventive measures from 1897 to December, 1902, was Rs. 15,23,000. The results must be considered satisfactory, since no serious outbreak of plague has yet occurred in Calcutta as in Bombay and other places.”

CHANGE IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT said :—“With the permission of the Council, I propose to make a slight alteration in the order in which we should take up the items in the list of business to-day. It will, I think, be more convenient if we take up the discussion of the Financial Statement after the Council has dealt with the motion which stands in the Hon'ble Mr. Earle's name. I will therefore call upon the Hon'ble Mr. Earle to make his motion now, instead of at the conclusion of the discussion on the Budget.”

THE CHOTA NAGPUR TENANCY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1903.

The Hon'ble MR. EARLE, moved that the Hon'ble Mr. Pugh, the Hon'ble Mr. Slacke and the Mover be added to the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Chota Nagpur Landlord and Tenant Procedure Act and the Chota Nagpur Commutation Act, 1897.

The Motion was put and agreed to.

THE BENGAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1903-1904.

The Hon'ble MR. COLLIN moved for the discussion of the Bengal Financial Statement for 1903-1904.

The Hon'ble BABU JOY GOBIND LAW said :—“It is satisfactory to note that in the Budget for 1903-1904 provision has been made for grants to the

[*Babu Joy Gobind Law ; Babu Chaturbhooj Sahay.*]

Calcutta Municipality of Rs. 25,000 for re-survey of the added area, Rs. 35,000 as a contribution towards the scheme for the erection of Incinerators, and Rs. 50,000 for land for extension of Christian burial-grounds, and though the grants, the first two especially, do not appear to err on the side of liberality, it should be understood that during the first year the expenses are not likely to be heavy.

"It is also a matter for congratulation that that much-abused body, the District Board, which is expected to do a great deal with slender means is to come in for a share of special grants in the shape of five lakhs, for improving the communications, and two lakhs for the construction of feeder roads, and in the matter of Education Rs. 3,71,000 are provided for expenditure by District Boards on Primary Schools.

"There is a provision of Rs. 6,000 for commercial classes in training colleges and one of Rs. 4,500 for scholarships for industrial students sent to Europe, and it would be of interest to have some further particulars about the grants—in what manner they are to be utilised. In the case of scholarships, it would perhaps be of importance to provide that the education and training of the students should be confined to matters which would be of immediate use to them when they return.

"A sum of Rs. 40,000 was provided last year for Munsifs' Courts and residences, and I am glad to see a further sum of two lakhs has been granted for a similar object this year. It is extremely gratifying to observe that what has been a crying want for, I may say, a quarter of a century is at last in a fair way of being adequately met within a reasonable period of time.

"Included in the Budget is a provision of five lakhs for a dredger for the Circular and Eastern Canals, I understand for clearing the silt in the Biddadhari, near the Dhapa lock, which obstructs the boat traffic into the Calcutta Canals. I am also informed that a new canal is under construction from Bhamunghata to Dhapa for providing facilities for the boat traffic, and it is because the scheme has created a great deal of alarm amongst the neighbouring landholders that I desire to inquire whether the construction of the canal would have the effect of excluding salt water from the lakes, and making the very valuable fishery grounds useless for the purpose. It is apprehended that the destruction of the fishery would have a sensible effect on the fish supply of Calcutta and its Suburbs, and 40,000 persons would, it is said, be thrown out of employment.

"While on the subject of canals, I should mention the condition of Tolly's Nullah, which, in the absence of any measures being taken for its improvement, is gradually silting up, and it is only a question as to how soon it will completely cease to be navigable. A large rice trade is carried on through this canal, and, if the silt is not removed from time to time, it will in time form a complete barrier to the total extinction of the trade. Nor should we lose sight of the fact that a silted up and obstructed channel would be an undoubted source of insanitation, and therefore of grave danger to the health of the town and suburbs."

The Hon'ble BABU CHATURBHOJ SAHAY said:—"Before proceeding to offer remarks and suggestions relating to the Budget presented to the Council, I must first claim the privilege of congratulating the Government upon the financial prosperity of the past year and the forecast for the year before us. The cash balance of nearly 56½ lakhs, with which the year opens, can only be matter for congratulation when associated with the proposals of the Budget laid before us, and with the terse but pregnant sketch of the needs of this Province to which Your Honour gave utterance in the Imperial Council. The programme so earnestly set forth by Your Honour leads us to feel a confidence that the increased resources of the Province will be devoted with sound statesmanship to statesmanlike ends, while the magnificent resources at Your Honour's disposal lead us to hope that solid progress will be achieved during the next twelve months.

"Passing on to specific matters arising out of the Financial Statement, I will offer just a few observations on the question of improving the status of

[*Babu Chaturbhooj Sahay.*]

Sub-Deputy Collectors The allotment made for this purpose in the present Budget would be even more acceptable if the figures were less perplexing. It may be that my lack of professional knowledge in finance is at fault, but I confess to being unable to discover exactly what the allotment is. In a table given at page 3 of the Financial Statement, I find an item which seems to suggest that Rs 1,00,000 is the sum allotted: on page 7, the figures against the item 'Charges of District Administration' suggest that the generosity of Government reaches the sum of Rs. 1,94,000: while a remark on page 19, in Appendix B, under head 'Land Revenue,' and minor head 'Charges of District Administration,' suggests that this generosity has shrunk to a mere Rs. 50,000. I should be glad to be definitely informed on this subject. Whatever be the allotment, it will be well spent if it succeeds in improving the status of a branch of the service whose prospects are sadly depressed. The Sub-Deputy enters the service with the same qualifications as the Deputy Collector. Both classes qualify by passing the same examination, the latter class of officer being recruited from those candidates who obtain higher marks at the examination. The difference may often be infinitesimal at the examination, but becomes enormous when once service is entered. The work done by the two classes is the same, but the Deputy begins on a salary which the Sub-Deputy can only reach after many years of service, if promotions follow a normal course, while he has to be content to commence on exactly half the pay of his more fortunate co-examinee. Promotions, however, and here lies the main grievance, do not follow a normal course.

"What is now called the 'Provincial Subordinate Civil Service' was a creation of Sir George Campbell, who was also the author of the system of taking men into what is now called the Provincial Civil Service by open competitive examinations. It was laid down in a Government Resolution, dated 20th March, 1872, that members of the former service should be regarded in course of time as fit to be appointed to Deputy Magistracies, and as a matter of fact Sub-Deputy Collectors were promoted to the grade of Deputy Collector in Sir George Campbell's time, and sometimes with no little rapidity. I may cite the case of Babu Kumud Nath Mukerji, who was appointed Sub-Deputy Collector in November, 1874, and was promoted to be Deputy Collector in July, 1878.

"The system of recruiting the Subordinate Civil Service and the Provincial Civil Service underwent an important change in Sir Charles Elliott's time. The test for selecting men for Sub Deputy Collectorships was made the same as the test for selecting men for Deputy Collectorships, and for some time, *i.e.*, down to the year 1894, Sub-Deputy Collectors were allowed to attend the examinations for admission into the Provincial Civil Service and to enter the latter service by that door. In that year four Sub-Deputy Collectors, among whom were two Biharis, *viz.*, Babu Rama Ballabh Missir, M.A., and Maulvi Habibur Rahman, B.A., were promoted to Deputy Collectorships on the results of the examination, as stated in a Government Resolution, dated 16th May, 1894, the following extract from which is pertinent:—

'The following Sub-Deputy Collectors who passed 5th, 9th, 10th and 18th, respectively, at the recent examination, will now be promoted to officiate at once as Deputy Collectors.'

"Sub-Deputy Collectors came to be excluded from competitive examinations in 1895, but this caused no practical hardship on the whole down to 1896. A Government Resolution of 20th April, 1896, had the following:—

'The policy of promoting Sub-Deputy Collectors to officiate as Deputy Collectors has been adhered to. During the year 1893-94, 16, during the year 1894-95, 28, and during the past year 1895-96, no less than 32, Sub-Deputy Collectors have received promotion to the grade of Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector.'

"But this happy state of things has not continued. There were only three promotions in 1896-97, only one in 1897-98, none in the two following years, eight in 1900-1901, ten in 1901-1902, and three in 1902-1903.

"The gravamen of the complaint shortly put is this: that the Subordinate Civil Service has virtually ceased to be the chief recruiting ground for the Provincial Service.

"It may not be out of place to suggest that some fixed principle be adopted in promoting a Sub-Deputy to a Deputy Collectorship, and that a certain

[*Babu Chaturbhooj Sahay; the President.*]

proportion of vacancies in the ranks of Deputy Collectors be laid down as reserved for Sub-Deputy Collectors. As regards the promotions of Sub-Deputy Collectors to the Provincial Civil Service, not only should they be definite and regular, but the choice of officers recommending the promotions should be based on considerations of seniority of service, coupled with those of merit and rapidity in passing the departmental examinations."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT said:—"I am sorry to interrupt the Hon'ble Member. I would ask him to consider what immediate connection there is between the governing principle in the promotion of Sub-Deputy Collectors and the grant made in the Budget of 1903-1904 for the improvement of their status."

The Hon'ble BABU CHATURBHOJ SAHAY explained—"I bow to Your Honour's decision. My intention was to show that while the grant in the Budget for Sub-Deputy Collectors is under consideration, the question of promotion which would naturally affect the Budget should be discussed."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT said:—"I think the Hon'ble Member would gain his purpose more effectively if he addressed the Government separately at a more fitting moment. This is hardly the moment to discuss abstruse questions at a time when our attention is directed to the Budget. The Government will be very glad to hear what he has to say in another manner and at another time."

The Hon'ble BABU CHATURBHOJ SAHAY continued:—"I will pass on to another subject with Your Honour's permission, and that is in connection with the question of the re-grading of Munsifs. While desiring to express the deep gratitude of the community for the action taken by Government in the matter of the re-grading of Munsifs, I beg leave to make a suggestion, which, if adopted, will enhance the value of the measure. The work of some Munsifs includes the trial of cases involving sums reaching Rs. 2,000. The Munsif here joins hands with the Sub-Judge, and I would therefore venture to suggest that either an additional grade of Munsifs or an additional grade of Sub-Judges, on a salary of Rs. 500, be created. This would go a great way towards rendering the Sub Judicial Service more attractive.

"But while the Munsif's interests are being considered, I would put in a plea for the humbler but no less necessary Amlah. The ministerial staff of the Munsif's Court consists of officers who are always underpaid and overworked. The matter has frequently been taken into consideration, but so far not much has been done for the Province as a whole. As matters stand, the consequences are of no trifling character. The low pay does not attract efficient men, and the heavy work results in ever accumulating arrears which press heavily upon the interests of suitors. I would beg most earnestly that Your Honour will take into consideration the advisability of strengthening this class of officers and of granting them better pay and prospects.

/" Before leaving the subject of the Judiciary, I am tempted to offer a remark on the Judicial branch of the Indian Civil Service. The needs and exigencies of the country demand that officers of ripe experience, sound judgment and marked ability should be appointed as District Judges. But this branch of the service is not sufficiently attractive to draw to itself men with these high qualifications. I venture, therefore, in the interests of the administration of justice, to urge upon the Government the necessity of rendering this service more attractive.

"I do not intend to occupy the time of the Council by speaking at length on the subject of the Police. Remarks on this point would be either unnecessary or premature, in view of the inquiry at present being conducted by the Police Commission. But I wish to draw Your Honour's attention to a particular statement in the Government Resolution on the Police Administration

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for the year 1901. With reference to bad livelihood cases it is stated in the Resolution that in the Patna Division, which is stigmatised as the worst in this respect (and to which I have the honour to belong), 1,318 cases were instituted, out of which only 585 were tried in the villages of the accused persons, and that out of 1,042 persons, from whom security was demanded, only 44, or 4 per cent., were so fortunate as to produce security which was accepted. Both statements furnish food for reflection, and the second seems to me particularly suggestive. Why should the required security not have been furnished in so vast a proportion of cases? The public will be driven to conclude either that the sum required was prohibitive in amount, or—and this seems to be more likely—that a power was operative behind the scenes to prevent the furnishing of security, a power whose length of arm and strength of muscle effectively terrorise those who might otherwise be willing to render assistance to men who stand in need of it. I trust that Your Honour will take steps which may effectively put a stop to this deplorable state of things.

“The revenue under Stamps is expected to show an increase of 3 lakhs over the Budget Estimate for the last year, and an increase of three quarters of a lakh over the Revised Estimate. The steady rise in the revenue under this head from year to year is, in the absence of definite information as to its cause, not altogether encouraging. Among other things it may point to increasing litigation, and it may also point to a growing indebtedness of a certain section or sections of the community, if the increase is partly due to the sale of stamp-papers required for the transactions of borrowing and lending. I beg leave, therefore, to suggest that inquiry be made into this matter with a view to ascertaining—

- (a) the extent of the sale of stamp-papers for the purpose of securing loans;
- (b) the class of people who buy them;
- (c) the class of people from whom the money is borrowed.

“An inquiry of this kind may possibly throw a valuable sidelight upon the economic condition of our agricultural population.

“Turning now to the question of Excise, I notice that the net increase of revenue under this head for 1901-1902 over the figures for the previous year was 3½ lakhs, the largest increase on record till then. That record has since been surpassed, and the results of settlements for 1902-1903 show an increase of income, amounting to no less than 4½ lakhs, over the income of the preceding year. These figures are simply phenomenal, and call for notice. The increase is explained in various places of the Government Report for 1901-1902, as due to better settlements and increased consumption of liquor. The following extract from page 10 of the Report bears out my statement:—

‘The increase was largest in Patna (Rs. 14,542), due to better settlements and increased consumption of distillery liquor on account of competition among the vendors. Hazaribagh comes next with an increase of Rs. 6,452, due to the settlement of distillery shops at enhanced fees and to increased consumption on account of good crops. The increase of Rs. 5,018 in Saran was due to increased consumption, owing to the reduction in the retail price of *khasta*, or weak liquor. In Darbhanga the consumption shows a further rise of 865 gallons L. P., due to competition among the vendors and the manufacture of weak liquor at 86 U. P. to meet the local demand.’

“This extract shows clearly enough that the principle declared to lie at the base of the Excise policy of Government has not been followed in Bihar, whatever may have been its fate elsewhere. That principle has always been understood to mean that a maximum income should be raised out of a minimum consumption, and that while aiming at a lucrative revenue out of Excise duties, Government would take pains to see that increased consumption of liquor did not result from its policy. An unpleasant feeling will be engendered in the mind of the public, that increased consumption of liquor is the real benefactor to Government revenues under this head. I venture, therefore, to draw Your Honour’s attention to what must be regarded as a serious matter, and trust that Government will do what it can to check the evil of drunkenness which, to judge from the Government Excise Report, seems to be on the increase among the lower orders in this Province.

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“At the risk of seeming somewhat quixotic, I would place before Your Honour a proposition relating to Jail Administration, which I believe to be of importance. I venture to think that the inmates of prisons should be regarded as not only entitled to healthy conditions of physical life, but also as calling for some effort to improve their moral and spiritual condition. This principle is recognised in England, and to some extent in India also, so far as relates to European prisoners. I would suggest its extension to prisoners of all classes. Persons especially chosen for the work might be engaged to instruct the prisoners by means of sermons and homilies, and places and times might be set apart where and when those prisoners who wish to do so might have the opportunity of saying their prayers each in the way of his inherited creed. I would respectfully urge that incarceration should be not merely retributive, but corrective; that the solitude and the discipline of prison life not infrequently induce a state of mind which a slight impulse may turn into genuine repentance; and that advantage should be taken of every possible opening for the reclamation of evil-doers. I am confident that Your Honour will treat my suggestion with sympathetic consideration.

“The matter on which I have just spoken naturally brings before the mind the thought of bodily health and the affording of relief to bodily disease. In this connection, I venture to say that the paucity of dispensaries in the rural districts of Bengal is a matter that calls loudly for the attention of the Government. In the interior of the districts no medical relief can, under existing conditions, reach the people in times of suffering. Surely it is not too much to say that public money could not be better spent than in devising means whereby medical relief may be brought within the reach of the suffering poor throughout the Province. I would suggest that a dispensary be established at or near every thana in the rural districts, and I am entitled to regard my suggestion as distinctly modest in view of the fact that the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals is in favour of a wider multiplication of dispensaries than I am praying for.

“The question of Dispensaries leads me to the question of Plague expenditure in Bihar. As the Government is well aware, plague is working frightful havoc in the Bihar districts, and the efforts and resources of local officers who are doing their best to combat this formidable foe stand in urgent need of assistance from Government. I would respectfully urge that this is not the time for Government to wait till formal applications are sent in by District Boards and Municipalities. Government should take the initiative, and, after ascertaining the requirements of the infected areas, should extend a helping hand to the same. The appeal for funds by Mr. Cumming, the District Magistrate of Patna, shows to what straits he is put in his efforts to cope with the ravages of plague in Bankipur. Your Honour's note to Mr. Growse, the District Magistrate of Saran, while evincing an anxious solicitude for the afflicted people of that district, leads us to feel a hope that under Your Honour's Government the hands of District Boards and Municipalities and officials will be strengthened by Provincial contributions from public funds. I make my appeal with the greater confidence in view of the fact that there has been a considerable reduction in Plague charges due to the abolition of Plague Camps.

“There are certain matters connected especially with Bihar to which I would respectfully invite Your Honour's attention:—

“(a) There is not a single Bihari, Hindu or Muhammadan in the higher ranks of the Opium Service. This is a Service, as Your Honour knows, is especially connected with Bihar, and the whole of the Opium Revenue in Bengal is derived from that part of the Province. It is not unnatural, therefore, that the Bihari should indulge the aspiration of serving in the graded branch of the Opium Service, and I would ask Your Honour to consider our request that when next this Government nominates an Indian candidate to a vacancy in the higher ranks of the department, it will be graciously pleased to bestow its nomination upon a Bihari, be he Hindu or Muhammadan, who may reasonably be considered fit for this appointment. I trust that Your Honour will not consider this request unreasonable or unworthy of consideration.

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“(b) The second matter I wish to place before Your Honour also takes the form of a request. The establishment of a Medical College in the centre of Bihar is a great desideratum, and that principally for two reasons,—first, that a supply of first rate medical assistance for the growing wants of the people of Bihar may be accelerated; and, secondly, that a new and desirable outlet may be provided for the better intellect of the community. As matters stand, the educated Bihari has to choose between Government service and the legal profession. The medical profession is practically out of the question, for the distance of Calcutta from Bihar districts, the lack of a proper system of hostels for Bihari students in Calcutta, the greater expense of living in the metropolis, and other considerations of a like nature, practically prevent Bihari students from joining the Calcutta Medical College. But the province is growing in culture and importance, and with this growth there naturally comes an increasing desire to find fresh outlets for legitimate ambitions. Bihar certainly deserves the fostering care of the Government; its historical and political character, its geographical facilities, its commercial and fiscal importance, claim for it no small consideration from its Rulers. I would urge upon Your Honour the advisability of providing for the people of Bihar opportunities of entering every department of professional life. We have a first-grade Arts College and Law classes; we have an Engineering School which may soon be a College; we are likely to have an Agricultural College at Poosa, and if Your Honour will complete the work of your predecessors, Sir George Campbell and Sir Richard Temple, and give us a Medical College or the beginnings of one, we shall be well equipped for the battle of life. I am hopeful enough to believe that a new era is dawning upon my province, and I trust that Your Honour will hasten its dawn, and enable us to be in no way behind other provinces in the requisites for a vigorous and independent life.

“(c) I alluded a moment ago to the Bihar School of Engineering, for the establishment of which the people of my province are sincerely grateful to Government. I would now beg leave to urge that the School be raised to the status of a College. Proposals for so raising it have been made, and I trust that they will be carried through. In answer to a question put by me at a Council meeting the other day, I was given to understand that a grant has been made by Government for the equipment of the School with the necessary requisites for an efficient laboratory and plant, and if this has been done, there seems to be no reason why the development of the School into a College should be any longer delayed. It is most desirable that in the matter of professional education Bihar should be self-contained.

“In concluding my remarks on the Financial Statement, I wish to turn for a moment to the question of Agriculture and Irrigation. The Agricultural prospects of the country depend at present entirely upon seasonable and well-distributed rainfall. The uncertainty of the rainfall has, under the benign rule of the distinguished Statesman who presides over the destinies of the Indian Empire, brought into existence the Irrigation Commission which is inquiring into the wants and requirements of the whole country, and whose labours will soon be brought to a close. The Commission has visited Bihar, and I had the honour of giving evidence before it. It has inquired into the necessity of having Irrigation works for the Bhabua Sub-division, which is the most exposed to drought, as I had the honour to point out to the Council last year. The inquiries of the Commission have been followed by an inquiry on the part of local experts into the particular nature and feasibility of the Irrigation works that can be provided for that sub-division. I may be allowed to renew my appeal and repeat my request that the present Government, which has as its head an Administrator possessing a full knowledge of the locality and of the especial need for artificial Irrigation works, will take up the matter with the earnestness that the importance of the subject demands, and will work out the salvation of the people of that sub-division.

“As regards Agricultural Reform in its various branches, the subject is receiving the best attention both of the Government of India and of the Government of Bengal, as the proceedings of the Supreme Council at its last meeting clearly shew. We may hope, therefore, that better days are in store for the people of this country.

[*Babu Chaturbhooj Sahay ; Maharaja of Cossimbazar.*]

“Before taking my seat, I beg leave to offer a suggestion to Your Honour regarding the procedure of this Council on the Financial Statement. My suggestion is that a day should be fixed before the presentation of the Budget, on which proposals relating to proper subjects and methods of expenditure might be invited. Such proposals might, if approved of, find a place in the Budget. Under the existing system we do not make the acquaintance of the Budget until it has attained finality, and any remarks or suggestions which may be submitted for consideration in connection with it, lose what force they may have by the mere fact that in most cases they cannot, from the nature of the case, produce any immediate result. The possibility of a remote result being achieved is further diluted by the lapse of time, and it may often happen that criticisms and suggestions, which under other circumstances might be useful and productive, are rendered barren and inoperative. I humbly commend the matter to Your Honour's attention.” ✓

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar, said :—“It is impossible for a non-official Member to look over the figures in the Budget and the policy which they embody without offering to the Government his congratulations. We may not be able to felicitate the Government on the happy settlement of large and difficult financial considerations with which the Imperial Council deals, but we have before us important issues which affect the good government of the Province and the happiness of its teeming millions, and, Sir, I am bound to say they have been dealt with in this Budget in the spirit of fairness and with an earnest desire to do justice to all interests which challenge our unhesitating approval.

“The Budget which we are now considering will be the last under the Provincial Contract made in 1897 and which has been extended for special reasons for two years. The settlement of the Provincial Contract has been always a source of fruitful controversy between the Provincial and Imperial Governments. Sir, you rightly interpreted the popular sentiment on the subject when you said from your place in the Imperial Council the other day that the Province looked forward with the greatest interest to the settlement of the coming Provincial Contract. This Council endorses the hope, which you so eloquently expressed, that when the final decision of this important matter has been arrived at by the Government of India, it will be found that ‘Bengal has obtained a larger share of the revenue under the divided heads and above all things a greater permanency of allotment.’ Sir, ours is a progressive Province, the centre of all those forces which contribute to the culture and enlightenment of not only this Province but of vast areas lying outside it, and the resources available to the Government ought to be in keeping with our growing wants. We thankfully note that the Government of India have in their generosity from time to time aided the Provincial Government and have placed funds at its disposal for various useful and important purposes. That the Government of India should have done so is, I venture to submit, proof positive that the allotments made under the Provincial Contract were not adequate to meet the growing wants of our progressive Province, and in this connection I feel that I must express the gratitude of my countrymen to Your Honour for your noble appeal from your place in the Imperial Council for a just and adequate recognition of the financial claims of this Province when the Contract is made next year.

“Your Honour set forth in review the various needs of the Province and how it is impossible to do justice to them with the funds at our disposal. Among these matters there was one in which I may be said to feel a personal interest and to which Your Honour referred in the course of your speech, viz., the clearance and the dredging of the Bhagirathi. I thankfully admit that a sum of five lakhs of rupees has been provided under this head in the Budget Estimate of 1903-1904. I am no expert and cannot undertake to say whether the amount provided will be sufficient for the completion of the work. But I am sure that the Government having taken the work in hand will see it through and effectively provide for the clearance of a stream which is the high road for trade and commerce to several districts of Bengal. The decline of the trade of the important district of Murshidabad, which was once the seat of the capital of the province and might be regarded as the cradle of British power in India,

[Maharaja of Cossimbazar.]

was largely due to the silting up of the Bhagirathi and the postponement of those operations, the need of which has now been happily recognised by the Government.

"The silting up of the Bhagirathi must also be considered from another point of view. The sanitation of the place has greatly suffered; and though the introduction of a supply of pure water has done something towards the improvement of the sanitary condition of the town of Berhampur, the district unhappily continues to be a prey to the occurrence of malarious fever which counts its victims by thousands and inflicts nameless sufferings upon many more thousands. If the preservation of the health of the people is the supreme concern of Government, as I venture to think it is, the prosecution of the dredging operations which Your Honour's Government has undertaken becomes a matter, I might almost say, of paramount importance.

"One of the happy features of the Budget is the continuity of Policy which it displays. Lieutenant-Governors come and go; Secretaries of Government are translated to higher spheres; but the beneficent policy which marks the measures of Government continues its even course. For the last few years the attention of Government has been drawn to the urgent necessity of improving the status of the Provincial Service in both its branches. Something has been done in this direction and the country gratefully acknowledges it. But much more yet remains to be done both as regards the Provincial Service and other cognate services, the status of which remains unchanged and unimproved. The Government is sensible of its obligations in this respect. You, Sir, were pleased to observe that the prospects of the Subordinate Judicial Service and of the Educational Service in Bengal, both Provincial and Subordinate, are far from good, and it is admitted that both require reform which only awaits the allotment of funds. It is evident from the above that you are prepared to improve the status and position of these Services, if only the necessary funds were forthcoming. I can only express the hope that funds will be forthcoming and that the much-needed reforms in regard to both these Services will be brought within the range of practical politics by the allotment of larger funds under the approaching Provincial Contract.

"I rejoice to learn that before long an improvement may be announced in the prospects of the Subordinate Executive Service. I find that a sum of Rs. 70,000 has been allotted in the Budget Estimate for the improvement of the status of Sub-Deputy Collectors. This follows as a necessary corollary to the improvement of the status of the Provincial Service. The scheme I understand, now awaits the consideration of the Government of India. I trust the necessary sanction will soon be forthcoming and the grievance of this deserving class of public servants will have become a thing of the past.

"A sum of two lakhs of rupees has been provided for Munsifs' Courts and residences. I should like to know how much of this amount is to be devoted to the construction of Munsifs' quarters. Will the Financial Secretary be good enough to let me know how many Munsifs' residences have been erected up till now and their total cost?

"I find that a sum of two lakhs of rupees has been provided for the residences of Government officials. I should like to have some details about the class of officials who are thus to be provided for. We have heard a great deal about the laws' delays, specially in reference to the High Court; and last year provision was made for the appointment of a Puisne Judge. But the Judge was not appointed. The public would like to have some explanation of the fact fuller than what has been given in the note. No less an authority than one of His Majesty's Judges, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rampini, speaking from his place in the Imperial Council, observed that the number of our Subordinate Judges is not equal to meet the requirements of litigation, and that unless a further temporary increase in the number of Subordinate Judges is promptly granted as need arises, arrears will increase so rapidly as to exceed the powers of the Courts to deal with them. The situation thus described by a high and competent authority is grave and should be remedied, specially regard being had to the fact that the administration of justice in these Provinces leaves a handsome balance which, I venture to submit, should in the first instance be devoted to the improvements of the efficiency of our system of justice

[Maharaja of Cossimbazar; Dr. Asutosh Mukhopadhyaya.]

“Under Education the Financial Secretary remarks: ‘There has been an apparent failure to expend Rs. 12,28,000.’ Will the Hon’ble Member be so good as to explain the cause of this failure? For, if there is one subject more than another in regard to which the public are anxious that the whole of the grant should be spent, it is the grant in connection with Education; for the fact remains that, having regard to the needs of so vast a population as that of Bengal, the Educational grant is deemed inadequate, and the Government felt itself under the need of devoting a good portion of the grant which it received from the Government of India to the promotion of Education. For various reasons public attention has been largely drawn to the Educational problem. It is one of those questions to which His Excellency the Viceroy pays special attention, and the public demand is for more money being spent upon Educational purposes. At such a time it must be a matter of regret that the whole of the grant under Education could not be spent in 1902-1903.

“I am glad to note that the grant to the District Boards has been renewed this year, and that the sum of Rs. 50,000 has been provided under this head in the Budget Estimates. Though this is much less than what was granted last year, viz., Rs. 1,50,000, still it indicates the acceptance of the principle that these grants will form a permanent recurring charge in the Provincial Budget. I trust that the Provincial Contract which is to be made next year will enable the Local Government to render substantial help to the District Boards from year to year.

“Once again I desire to offer my congratulations to the Government on the Budget which has been laid before us.”

The Hon’ble DR. ASUTOSH MUKHOPADHYAYA said:—“It is customary on the occasion of the annual discussion of the Financial Statement in this Council to offer our congratulations to the Hon’ble Member in charge of the Financial Department, and I have no desire on the present occasion to depart from that practice. It would be idle to affirm that the allotments which have been made under the various heads will give satisfaction to everybody, but it must be admitted by the most unfriendly critic that the statement bears unmistakable evidence on the face of it of a desire on the part of Government to recognise the existence of pressing needs in various directions and to make provision for their removal as far as practicable.

“I rejoice to find that the substantial sum of two lakhs has been set apart for the accommodation of Munsifs and their Courts, and I trust that at the end of the next financial year, Government will not only tell us that the whole of this amount has been actually expended, but also make further provision in the same direction.

“I further rejoice to find that it is proposed to spend over three lakhs of rupees for the construction of a Surgical ward and of a Pathological block in the Calcutta Medical College Hospital, and I trust that this sum also will be actually spent during the year.

“These are all grants which will enable Government to carry out reforms which are urgently needed and which will be thankfully welcomed; but I must not omit to invite attention to a smaller grant of a very different character, namely, the grant of Rs. 60,000 for the preservation of the *Kanarak* temple and of the *Rhotas* fort and palace. This desire on the part of Government to preserve our ancient monuments is highly appreciated by every truly cultured man, and I trust that the policy which has been recently inaugurated will be persistently followed.

“With your permission, Sir, I shall now pass on from these general observations to the detailed examination of the subject in which I am specially interested, namely, the subject of Education. I regret to say that in this matter there is substantial ground for complaint. I say so with great deliberation, and I shall endeavour to prove my statement to the fullest extent. It will be in the recollection of Hon’ble Members that last year the Government of India found it possible to place at the disposal of the Government of Bengal a sum of ten lakhs of rupees to be spent for Educational purposes. I took the liberty of referring to considerations which, in my judgment, ought not to have been overlooked when the details of the distribution of this sum

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case to be finally determined. I pressed upon the notice of Government the necessity of improving the status of Educational officers, but I was assured that the claims of Primary Education were paramount, and that the Imperial grant must be utilised in the first instance for the strengthening and promotion of Primary Education. I would have loyally accepted this decision of Government if it had been carried into effect, but let us examine for a moment the actual facts.

"I find it stated in paragraph 5 of the Explanatory Notes on the present Financial Statement that a sum of over five lakhs of rupees have been actually saved out of this Imperial grant of ten lakhs. But this is not all. Part at least of this Imperial grant of ten lakhs has been unquestionably spent for ordinary purposes which ought to have been met out of the ordinary Provincial grant for Education. I base these observations upon the facts contained in Statements A and B laid on the table in answer to the question put by my hon'ble friend Babu Chaturbhooj Sahay. It seems to me inconceivable how there can be any justification for utilising this special Imperial grant of ten lakhs for purchase of rice for the boys of the Alipore Reformatory School, or for gas lights in the Eden Hindu Hostel, or for the construction of book-shelves in the Library of the Patna College.

"In order to enable the Hon'ble Member in charge of Education to meet my arguments, I will formulate the principles which, I maintain, ought to be followed with reference to the special Imperial grant of ten lakhs. In the first place, I maintain that this grant of ten lakhs ought not to induce the Government of Bengal to reduce, what I may call, the normal Provincial grant for Education. In the second place, I maintain that an effort ought to be made to spend the whole of these ten lakhs for Educational purposes during the year. In the third place, I maintain that if the whole of it is not spent during the year and is allowed to lapse, in the following year the Provincial grant ought to show a corresponding increase. I will illustrate briefly the principles I have enunciated.

"Assume that the annual Provincial grant for Education is thirty-two lakhs, and that the Government of India in a particular year makes an Imperial grant of ten lakhs for the promotion of Education. Is there any justification on the part of the Local Government to spend less than forty-two lakhs? I submit there can be no justification whatsoever. Nobody has suggested that the Provincial finances are unable to bear the burden of thirty-two lakhs a year for Education. Why should then Government, as soon as it receives the Imperial grant, proceed to effect a saving out of the Provincial grant and spend the amount so saved for purposes other than Educational?

"Then, again, I submit that it is equally incontestable that the whole of the Imperial grant ought to be spent for the purpose for which it was made. If, by reason of any unforeseen circumstances, it cannot be spent during the year, and consequently lapses, the Provincial grant for the following year should in all fairness be correspondingly increased. Look at the matter from what point of view you will, the substance of the transaction is that fully five lakhs out of the ten lakhs which was placed at the disposal of the Government of Bengal by the munificence of the Government of India has not been spent for Educational purposes, and has been allowed to lapse, with the inevitable consequence that it will be improperly appropriated for purposes other than Educational. I desire, Sir, to enter my most emphatic and unqualified protest against this action of the Government of Bengal.

"I find, Sir, that the Government of India has this year again made another grant of ten lakhs of rupees for Education, and I find from the Budget that it is proposed to spend the whole of this sum along with the normal Provincial grant of thirty-two lakhs. I trust, Sir, we shall not be told at the end of the year that Government has found it impossible to spend the whole of the forty-two lakhs for Educational purposes, and that it has effected a saving of five lakhs. For whether we say that the whole of the Provincial grant has been spent and a saving of five lakhs has been effected out of the Imperial grant, or whether we say that the whole of the Imperial grant has been spent and a saving of five lakhs has been effected out of the Provincial grant, either position seems to me to be indefensible, if the so-called saving is

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applied for purposes other than Educational; if such a contingency repeats itself, the Government of India will be perfectly justified in saying "we never intended that you should reduce your normal grant by reason of our Imperial grant, and if you do not know how to spend the Imperial grant, it must be reduced."

"This brings me, Sir, to the consideration of the question which I pressed upon the notice of Government last year, namely, the improvement of the status of Educational officers. I venture to think, Sir, that when it was found that the paramount claims of Primary Education would not absorb the whole of ten lakhs, a portion, at any rate of the surplus, might have been applied for the improvement of the status of the Educational Service. I pointed out, Sir, that the claims of the Education Department have been systematically ignored, and that its interests have been subordinated to those of the other departments of the public service. I pointed out further that the Government holds out better prospects to our young men in the Judicial and Executive Services than it does in the Educational Service, and that the inevitable consequence has been that our most distinguished graduates prefer the Judicial and the Executive Branches of the Service.

"The Hon'ble Member who was in charge of Education last year did not and could not controvert these statements, but he maintained that the work of a member of the Educational Service cannot be compared, as regards difficulty, anxiety and responsibility, with that of an officer of the Judicial or Magisterial Service. I confess, Sir, I was surprised to hear this view maintained by an officer of marked ability and conscientiousness like the Hon'ble Mr. Macpherson. I entirely dissent from this view, and I have no hesitation in submitting that the status of the members of the Provincial Educational Service ought not to be lower than the status of the members of the Provincial Judicial and Executive Services.

"My own opinion upon this matter may be worth nothing, but I am fortified in my views by the opinions of men whose authority cannot be questioned. So far back as 1854, Sir Charles Wood, in the great Education Despatch of 1854, said: 'Our wish is that the profession of school masters may for the future afford inducement to the natives of India, such as are held out in other branches of the public service.' The policy so clearly enunciated was affirmed in the Education Despatch of 1859 from Lord Derby, in the Education Despatch of 1870 from the Duke of Argyll, and in the letter of the Government of India upon the Report of the Education Commission of 1882. I do not propose to trouble you with extracts from these despatches, as they have no longer to be sought out in musty Blue-books, but may be found in the valuable History of Bengal under the Lieutenant-Governors by the Hon'ble Mr. Buckland. I would only take the liberty to read to you the eloquent words of His Excellency the Viceroy in one of his Convocation addresses: 'I turn to these young men who are going to be teachers of others. I pray them to recognise the gravity and responsibility of their choice. Rightly viewed, theirs is the foremost of sciences, the noblest of professions, the most intellectual of arts. The first thing I would have you remember is, that you are not entering upon an easy or an idle profession. It is *the most* responsible of all.'

"I fervently hope, Sir, we shall hear no longer, not at any rate in this Council, that the work of a member of the Educational Service is less responsible than the work of a member of the Provincial Judicial or Executive Service, and that consequently his remuneration ought to be less.

"I earnestly invite the attention of the Government to the question of the status of the members of the Educational Service; the initial pay is much lower, the prospects of promotion more remote, and the maximum salary also is smaller than in the Executive and Judicial Services. The remedy which I would suggest would be first to raise the pay of the lowest grade to the same scale as in the Provincial Executive and Judicial Services, and, secondly, to increase the number of appointments in the higher grades.

"There are two minor points in connection with Education to which I desire to make a brief reference. On turning to heading 22, I find that the

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Government spends annually Rs. 9,000 for the maintenance of Law Colleges. It has been pointed out by the Universities Commission that the provision which is made for law teaching in the Government Colleges in the mufassal is extremely inadequate, and I would suggest, for the consideration of the Government, either that the provision should be made adequate, or that these nominal classes should be abolished.

“The other matter to which I wish to draw your attention is the provision made for an Assistant Director of Public Instruction. I have not been able to find any indication as to the precise duties and functions of this new officer. But I would venture to hope that it will now be found possible to carry out more satisfactorily the scheme which the Government has undertaken for prescribing text-books for our schools. The manner in which that scheme has been worked recently, has caused a great deal of complaint and dissatisfaction which, I regret to say, is unfortunately well founded. The manner in which these books have been approved has been extremely unsatisfactory, and the result has been so deplorable that I decline to believe that the Director of Public Instruction could have exercised any real personal supervision over this matter. The books which have been approved are many of them of such a character that they would not be tolerated for a moment if they were not positively forced upon the authorities of schools. They are originally submitted in English and subsequently translated into vernacular, the result being that the vernacular which is placed in the hands of students is half Anglised, half Sanskritised. The consequence is that the genuine vernacular text-book has been swept out of existence and has been replaced by manuals which may benefit a particular firm of publishers, but certainly do not benefit the students. I am further surprised to find that these precious manuals are to be forced upon all schools, and I have in my hands a Circular marked *Confidential* for the attainment of this laudable object. Why anything in matters Educational should be labelled *Confidential* I cannot conceive, except it be this: that it is obviously unreasonable and will not stand the test of criticism. I hope, Sir, that the new Assistant Director of Public Instruction will either look into the matter himself, or render it possible for the Director to scrutinise the matter with the care and caution it deserves.”

✓ The Hon'ble RAI TARINI PERSHAD, BAHADUR, said:—“I feel no hesitation in calling it a Prosperity Budget in the true sense of the term, and I must congratulate the Government and the Hon'ble the Financial Secretary on placing such a Budget before us. It not only shows a good administration in the past, but also promises such in future. It is sometimes said that it is idle to make any suggestion in Council about the Budget, which is a cut and dried thing carefully framed by the Hon'ble the Financial Secretary, who is thoroughly alive to his responsibility in the matter, and considered by the Local Government and passed by the Government of India. But I do not share in such feeling, as I have very often found Government giving effect to the suggestions made on such occasions by the non-official Members of the Council, and I sincerely believe that if we can convince the Government that our grievances are just and reasonable and within its power to remedy them, it will do so. I therefore venture to notice some of the salient items of the Budget now placed before us.

“Perhaps I would be charged for partiality to Bhagalpur in making my appeal on behalf of the Bhagalpur Division for several remedies, but since 1892 Bhagalpur has had no opportunity of sending its representative to this Council till September last, when I had the honour of being returned by the Bhagalpur public as their representative to represent its grievances to the Council. This, I trust, will be deemed a justification of my action in this connection.

“Looking at page 19 of the Budget, I find that under the head ‘Land Records and Agriculture,’ the cost of superintendence has been estimated at Rs. 55,000 as against Rs. 44,000 in the Budget for 1902-1903. There was a sub-head in that Budget ‘Establishment of Agricultural Banks,’ for which a sum of Rs. 15,000 was allotted; but the Budget under discussion shows that the sub-head ‘Superintendence’ included that sum of Rs. 15,000. In the present Budget there has been no specific allotment for Agricultural Banks, but the

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amount under the sub-head of 'Superintendence' is higher than the actual or 1900-1901, and the estimates of 1901-1902 and 1902-1903. I shall be glad to know if this sum of Rs. 55,000 includes any provision for establishing any Agricultural Banks over and above the 48 Agricultural Banks already started. I am glad to notice that the Government of India has recently made some arrangements for the better supervision of the Agricultural Department, but I am afraid no amount of supervision by the heads of the Department can lead to any very practical good, unless the lessons of Agriculture be practically brought home to the minds of the cultivators. To further this object, I would recommend formation of Agricultural Committees in each district of the Province and establishment of more experimental farms like those which have already been started at Burdwan, Dumraon, &c. Agricultural exhibitions in different parts of the Province held under the patronage and encouragement of the Government will greatly add to the usefulness of such institutions.

"I next come to the head of 'Police Reforms.' Much has been said of late both by officials and the general public, including my humble self as a witness before the Police Commission about the inefficiency of the present Police. I convey my sincere thanks to Government for the provision of four lakhs in the Budget for general reforms in that Department. I see a provision has also been made for the revision of the establishment at the training school for Sub-Inspectors. But it does not appear what amount has been set apart for it, or how it will be spent. The Police Training School, as at present constituted, does not efficiently teach the cadets the art of investigation of cases. Formerly the period of training was three months, which has now been raised to six months, but I think this is not sufficient, and it should be raised to one year.

"Further, the mock investigations held in the premises of the school for giving a practical training to the cadets are worthless. In fact, the cadets after leaving the school are placed entirely in the hands of the old class of head-constables in the matter of learning the investigation work and are soon corrupted by them. Now that a grant has been made for revision of the establishment, I humbly request Your Honour, if that grant be sufficient, to consider the desirability of placing the town of Bhagalpur under the charge of the Police Training School. Already there are one Assistant Superintendent and three Inspectors of approved service in that Institution, but they are overworked. With an addition of a few more Inspectors as instructors and with certain other changes, I think the scheme will meet with success. It will give the cadets an excellent opportunity of learning the investigation work *practically*.

"If this scheme do not find favour with the Government, I beg to suggest that the town Police station may be made a model station to which the cadets may be taken for the purposes of training in the investigation work."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT said — "May I ask the Hon'ble Member as I did the Hon'ble Babu Chaturbhooj Sahay to confine his remarks to the Budget on this occasion. I would ask him to consider whether he does wisely in taking up the time of the Council in dealing with these matters with regard to Police establishment when we are here to consider the Financial Statement. I think if he would devote his attention to larger matters, it might be more conducive to business."

The Hon'ble RAI TARINI PERSHAD, BAHADUR, continued:—"I beg Your Honour's pardon. I will leave this subject and proceed to deal with other matters.

"I next turn to the subject of Education. To begin with, I, on behalf of the Division I represent, must thank the Government of India for the very handsome grant of ten lakhs of rupees for the cause of Education. I do not like to detain the Council by an elaborate discussion of the subject, as the whole system of Education in all its branches will be remodelled after the Government of India have passed its final resolutions on the report of the University Commission. On this occasion I shall chiefly deal with the subject of Primary Education. Primary Education is imparted in the lower classes of secondary schools as well as the primary schools. It is a matter of great satisfaction to find that in the present Budget fair sums have been set

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apart for the improvement of primary education, for training institutions, for primary school teachers, for lower primary scholarships, and for contribution to Provident Fund for teachers in primary schools. Both expansion and consolidation of Primary Education should be always kept in view. It is a matter of great regret that since 1896-97 the number of primary schools as also the number of primary scholars have steadily decreased. But I hope fresh impetus will be given to the cause of Primary Education by the grants made in the present Budget. It is very desirable that teachers, who would mould and train the minds of the young generations, should themselves be trained men, and this purpose will be well served by the training institutions. The course of study need be carefully revised, and it should be such that it may teach the boys by object-lessons and make them practically familiar, as far as possible, with their ancestral crafts.

“Now I beg to draw Your Honour's attention to the backward condition of the division I represent, and to the necessity of giving it its fair share of the grant allotted for Primary Education. The situation of this division in comparison with the other divisions of the Province will at once appear from the table I hold in my hand:—

Name of Division.	Male population of school-going age according to the Census of 1901.	Percentage of pupils to population of school-going age.
1. Patna ..	1,120,246	14·4
2. Dacca ...	820,993	24·2
3. Rajshahi ...	659,007	18·5
4. Bhagalpur ..	649,737	13·8
5. 24 Parganas ...	621,213	28 0
Calcutta ...	83,804	19·5
6. Burdwan ...	617,539	43·1
7. Chota Nagpur ...	361,386	18·3
8. Chittagong ...	354,659	34·3
9. Orissa ...	317,359	30·7
Orissa Tributary Mahals ...	145,496	11·2

“The figures tell their own tales. I need only say that in point of Education the Bhagalpur Division is the most backward in the whole Presidency, and it therefore deserves the best encouragement at the hands of Your Honour's Government.

“I have to lay before Your Honour another grievance of the Bhagalpur Division, and that is in respect of Technical Education. In these days of hard competition, when both service and profession are overcrowded, when even many of our graduates are at their wits' ends to find a mere subsistence, the value of Technical Education cannot be over-estimated. Government is fully alive to it, and has been trying its best to expand this system of education. Technical schools have been established in different parts of the Province. Technical sides have been added to certain zilla and high schools in pursuance of the scheme of bifurcation of studies introduced in the year 1900-1901 for training students in manufacturing industries as well as in commerce and trade. At present there is in every Division of the Province, except one, either a technical school or a technical side to the zilla school, and in some Divisions there are both. The unenviable exception is the Bhagalpur Division, which has not within its whole range either a technical school or any technical side to any zilla or high school. I deem it my duty to bring this to the notice of Your Honour's Government, so that it may be pleased to do what it may think proper in this connection.

“I next come to the subject of Water-Supply. The Council is aware that Government attaches great importance to the supply of pure water for drinking purposes. This emboldens me to approach Your Honour with this humble request that Government may be pleased to see to the extension of water-supply, not only along the District Board roads, but also in the interior, by issuing instructions to the District Officers to point out while out on tour the importance of such supply to the rich and well-to-do people of their districts.

“Now I proceed to take up the question of the Water-Works in the town of Bhagalpur. The water-works of Bhagalpur were started in the year 1888 at a cost of about Rs. 3,12,000 raised mostly by public subscriptions,

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and also partly by debenture loans, which were Rs. 50,000 at an interest of Rs. 6 *per centum per annum*. In the year 1895-1896 an extension was made of the works when a loan of three lakhs was obtained from Government at an interest of four *per centum per annum* on condition of repayment within 30 years by half-yearly instalments of Rs. 8,630-5-5, including interest. The amount outstanding on that account was Rs. 2,67,992-2-9 at the end of March, 1902. Out of the amount so lent by Government, such of the debenture-holders as agreed to be repaid were paid off. There remained only one debenture-holder who did not accept repayment. The bond of this gentleman is for Rs. 22,000 at an interest of six *per centum per annum*, and on this account Rs. 2,000 is paid annually to the Sinking Fund, and Rs. 1,320 is paid annually for interest. Thus, on this account, a sum of Rs. 10,241-12-11 has accumulated in the Sinking Fund. The following table will give an idea as to the capability of the Municipality to maintain the Water-Works in an efficient condition:—

“Income under the head of Water-Works for the year 1901-1902:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Water-rates	22,291	1	10
Proportionate share of fines and penalties ...	130	9	1
Other sources	3,269	4	0
Total ...	25,690	14	11

“Expenditure under the same head and for the same period:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Direct charges	24,682	3	11
Proportionate charges for collection ...	1,106	4	7
Payment of Government loan ...	6,349	13	11
“ of interest on Government loan ...	10,910	12	11
Deposited in the Sinking Fund for the debenture loan	2,000	0	0
Payment of interest on the debenture loan ...	1,320	0	0
Total ...	46,369	3	4

“It will thus appear that in the year 1901-1902 the total charge under the head of ‘Water-Works’ was Rs. 46,369-3-4, and the total income was Rs. 25,690-14-11, leaving a deficit of Rs. 20,678-4-5 which was met from the General Fund. If only the direct charges and the proportionate charges for collection, which amounted to Rs. 25,788-8-6, be taken into consideration as against the total income, even then it will be found that there was a deficit of Rs. 97-9-7. The total income of the Municipality from all sources during the year 1901-1902 was Rs. 1,32,789-3-5, while the total expenditure was Rs. 1,33,235-10-2.

“Having thus placed before Your Honour the financial position of the Municipality, I desire to say a few words about the supply of water by the Water-Works. Since the year 1899, when the river receded from the pumping station, the supply of water has been not only insufficient but irregular. For some time water was brought to the pumping station from stagnant pools in the bed of a streamlet called Jamunia through channels cut for the purpose. The water supplied was of a very inferior quality, but even this supply was sometimes altogether stopped for want of supply through the channels. An experiment was made with a percolation well, but to no purpose; the well silting up during the rains. Borings were also being made in the sand, but the water-bearing strata could not be found even at a depth of fifty feet. There is a great scarcity of water all over the town during a greater portion of the year, and the sufferings of the rate-payers are intense. The rate-payers who have house-connection pay a water rate of 7½ *per centum*, and in return get this intermittent supply of water, and even that is not of good quality. There is a strain on the resources of the Municipality and the purses of the rate-payers. Having regard to these circumstances and depending much upon what the Council knows so well that Your Honour rightly attaches great importance to water-supply for drink, I beg to approach Your Honour to devise any ways and means to remove this keenly-felt grievance of the rate-payers of the

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Bhagalpur town, which has an area of about 9 square miles, and give them a supply of good filtered water.

“According to the rules and regulations in force in the Sonthal Parganas, suits valued at Rs. 1,000 and upwards are triable according to the law and procedure in force in the Regulation districts. Appeals from original decrees in suits valued between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 5,000 lie to the Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Parganas and second appeals to the High Court of Calcutta, and appeals from original decrees in suits valued over Rs. 5,000 lie direct to the High Court, and in suits valued at Rs. 10,000 or upwards appeals from the decrees of the High Court lie to the Privy Council. In very many cases such suits, to my personal knowledge, involve many difficult and complicated questions of law and fact which require to be dealt with by such Judicial officers as handle such cases in the Regulation districts where such officers, having served in the several grades of Munsifs and Subordinate Judges, are well grounded in the Civil Law. But in the Sonthal Parganas such important suits are placed in the hands of officers who cannot be expected, from the very nature of the stages of the service they have to go and have gone through, to be sufficiently able to handle such suits as the Subordinate Judges and the first grade Munsifs are able to do in the Regulation districts. The people of the Sonthal Parganas are no longer in the same backward state in which they had originally been. Facilities of communication with the Regulation districts and people thereof and various other considerations have contributed greatly to the advancement of the people of the Sonthal Parganas, and the civil cases in which they are now involved are no longer of the same simple nature as they were before. In the Chota Nagpur Division there is a Subordinate Judge located at Ranchi, whose duty it is to try all Subordinate Judge cases of the several districts of the Division. Following the lines of the Chota Nagpur civil administration, I take the liberty of making a suggestion that the Government may be pleased to consider the advisability of providing a Subordinate Judge for the six sub-divisions of the Sonthal Parganas.

“While I make this suggestion, I do not lose sight of the financial position of the Government. In my humble opinion the additional expenditure to be incurred in giving effect to my humble request, may not be considerable: for, if the Government be pleased to provide a permanent Subordinate Judge for the Sonthal Parganas, the Sub-divisional Officers will be relieved of their duties as Subordinate Judges, and will be able to devote their time to the trial of more criminal cases and civil cases below Rs. 1,000 than they can at present do, and the services of the second officer or the third officer in some of the sub-divisions may be dispensed with from those places and made available elsewhere in the Regulation districts.

“At page 28 of the Budget, I find that a grant has been allowed to the Veterinary Dispensary at Dumka, for which I heartily thank the Government. Cattle diseases are very common in the Sonthal Parganas, South Bhagalpur and South Monghyr, and make terrible havoc from time to time. The increased grant under the head of ‘Veterinary Charges’ commends itself to me, and I hope that, as funds permit, Government will be pleased to establish in the Province more veterinary dispensaries and employ more stationary and itinerant assistants.

“Looking at page 23 of the Budget, I find that provision has been made for additional establishments in the Munsifs’ Courts and also for increase in the establishment of Criminal Courts. I do not know what sums have been set apart for these reforms and how the same are to be utilized.

“The grievances of the ministerial servants of Government have been the subject of frequent discussion both in Press and in this Chamber, and they evoked expressions of sympathy both from this Government and the Government of India.

“It is a stern fact that the Munsif Court Amlas are overworked and underpaid, and the sanctioned establishments are largely assisted by an unpaid and even unauthorized agency. It is, therefore, a satisfaction to find that after all some relief has been provided for them.”

The Hon'ble MR. APCAR said:—“I am glad to be able to again congratulate Your Honour's Government on the financial results of the year.

[*Mr. Apcar; Mr. Elworthy.*]

"I will refer briefly to a few points which I venture to think are worth the consideration of the Government.

"First with reference to the High Court. On the last occasion, while appreciating the proposal for the appointment of an Additional Judge and increase of establishment, I ventured to suggest to the late Sir John Woodburn for his consideration the necessity of appointing a Second Additional Judge with the necessary extra establishment when the present Budget Statement was being prepared. Your Honour was present at the Budget Debate in the Council of His Excellency the Viceroy, and I have no doubt gave your careful attention to the remarks made by Mr. Justice Rampini suggesting that a small part of the surplus of receipts over expenditure might be devoted with the view of improving the administration of justice in the Empire, more especially in the province of Bengal, where the net profits under the head of 'Courts of Law' amounted to Rs. 50,70,480.

"I will not take up the time of the Council by repeating the details of the arrears which were brought to the notice of His Excellency the Viceroy. Your Honour has, no doubt, given them your attention, and I would again ask your most careful consideration of the matter.

"With reference to the heading of 'Marine.' I note there has been a falling off in pilotage receipts in the Port of Calcutta of Rs. 1,33,000. As a Commission has been appointed to report on Pilots and Pilotage, I think it advisable to defer reference to this subject pending issue of the report.

"With reference to the Boiler Fund accumulation of Rs. 65,000. The Government was urged to make a reduction of the fees, but it was represented that as certain increase of establishment was contemplated, it was not opportune to entertain the application. Now that a year has transpired, I trust the Government will again communicate with the Chamber of Commerce.

"A subject of some discussion and correspondence with the Government during the past year has been the conduct of proceedings in the Police Courts. I understand the matter was referred to the High Court some months back, but so far we have heard nothing of what is proposed to be done to remedy the causes for complaint which have been so universal; and beyond a paragraph in the paper of yesterday that Mr. Justice Brett had been deputed to visit the Police Court, I believe nothing has been done.

"There is only one other matter to which I will refer briefly. A very able and carefully considered Note has been submitted to the Government by Mr. O. C. Lees upon the projected improvements of Waterways in Bengal. This Note deals at considerable length with the measures which in Mr. Lees' opinion are necessary and advisable. The Government submitted this Note to the Chamber of Commerce, and after careful consideration of the subject by a special Sub-Committee the Committee of the Chamber have expressed their opinion in favour of the proposals.

"To quote Mr. Lees:

'The enormous sums of money which have recently been laid out in Germany, Russia, France and America on the construction of Canals and the improvement of Waterways afford convincing evidence of the great value attached by the Governments of those countries to the possession of good water communication between important trade centres. They have recognised the fact that the resources of a country are largely developed by facilitating the transport of raw material and the heavier kinds of cheap merchandise, and that good waterways offer special facilities for such traffic, and are in fact as essential for the economical development of trade as railways.'

"These remarks I think apply specially to Bengal which possesses so many fine navigable rivers. I have no doubt Your Honour has given the matter careful consideration, and when a reference is necessary to the Government of India, that such reference will be made. The scheme is a big one, involving considerable expenditure, but the interests of the Province in my opinion justify it."

The Hon'ble Mr. ELWORTHY said:—"We have again an opportunity of offering you our congratulations on the financial prosperity of Bengal. There is money in abundance, increased revenue, and money which has passed down from the previous year unspent. I believe that there is unqualified approval of the manner in which it is intended now to spend it.

[Mr. Elworthy.]

"I see, Sir, that there are large grants for Education and for the Subordinate Services. During my time as a Member of this Council, I have frequently heard, in this Chamber, appeals in the cause of Education and the improvement in the Subordinate Services: my hon'ble friend Dr. Asutosh Mukhopadhyaya and my colleagues on the non-official side will be pleased with the grants that have been and are being made in response to their appeals.

"I am not qualified to traverse the Budget now before us, and the various heads of its revenue and expenditure; there are experts in this Council who have adequately dealt with them. There are, Sir, two or three subjects on which I will make a few remarks with regard to the City of Calcutta.

"Much satisfaction will be felt with regard to the grants that have been made in aid of the Medical College. I find that five lakhs have been given to the Surgical Ward, Pathological Block, and for the accommodation for the Nurses. These are generous grants for the benefit of a Medical College, which does the two-fold duty of treating the sick and teaching Medical and Surgical science. I see, Sir, further grants for the Presidency General Hospital. It is for this Hospital I make my appeal to-day, for the new paying Ward which has so long been under discussion. It will be remembered that at the opening of this Hospital, the late Lieutenant-Governor stated his case to the public, and gave us to understand that it was solely from want of funds that this much desired addition could not be made. It was then that Sir Montague Turner expressed his belief that if Government would grant money, the public of Calcutta would respond with a generous donation. I am sorry, Sir, that no further progress has been made, either with a Government grant or a public subscription. The necessity for such a Ward has been so often expounded that I need not say anything to-day except to remind you, Sir, that it is not only for the City that the need is felt, but for all Europeans in the Province of Bengal. It is needed for all those who are engaged in the commerce, the trade, and in the industries of the country, in Bengal and in Assam, for officials and non-officials alike, to whom treatment and proper nursing are difficult to obtain, except at great expense in their own quarters and in outlying districts. That such a Ward would repay its expenditure to some extent, is possible, for in the Budget itself, in paragraph 23, it is stated the estimate under the head of 'Medical' mentions an improvement due to anticipated increase in the receipts from paying patients in hospitals.

"Now, as to subscriptions from the Calcutta public in aid of this Ward, we have been taught by past events that we must not be too hopeful. Calcutta has for some years been remarkable for its generosity; the calls have been numerous, calls that are still fresh in our memory. We need a little rest, the time has not come when we can again tax the generosity of this City. Further, there is a deeply-rooted antipathy to a subscription in aid of bricks and mortar that become the property of Government. I believe, Sir, that after a little rest Calcutta will respond to a call for funds, but rather for equipment than for building. There are certain funds from which assistance may be obtained, and there are promised donations from certain quarters regarding which the Hon'ble the Financial Secretary may perhaps be able to speak with authority; we shall be glad if this may be a convenient moment when we may be taken into his confidence.

"I now venture to ask if the Ward may be built without further delay, and that you, Sir, will not wait for help from the public, of which no immediate assurance is available. I trust that Government may forget its desire for public assistance, and on its own initiative take in hand and complete the Ward for which Calcutta and Bengal will be deeply grateful.

"I note with satisfaction the grant under the head of 'Law and Justice'; the further expenditure on the High Court. Public attention has lately been directed to the Law's delays in another tribunal, the Police Court. This matter is, I understand, under consideration, and it is not my wish to speak at any length. The complaints arise mainly from postponements by the Honorary Bench. Such postponements are often unavoidable. The Honorary Bench does very good work and there are many Magistrates who sit singly and get through a large number of cases. But the Bench of two or three Magistrates cannot, by reason of its constitution, work with such celerity. Honorary

[Mr. Eiworthy.]

Magistrates are not all men of leisure; many of them are leading business men and cannot afford to devote more than a certain portion of their time to the Police Court. Continued adjournment of cases are as much a source of annoyance and inconvenience to them as they are to the suitors and the public generally. But the fault does not lie entirely with them that cases are allowed to drag themselves along to such unreasonable length, as it is complained that they do.

"In many instances when a Magistrate has expressed his desire to take up a case *de die in diem*, until it is finished, he is met with the insuperable objection that no Court and no staff are available, and hence a case, which might be finished in two or three days, takes from three to six weeks to finish. Another source of delay is the mutual convenience of Members of a Bench. It often happens that a day which will suit one of the two or three Magistrates will not suit the other. A day mutually convenient has to be arranged, and that day must also fit in with the arrangements of the Court. I am of opinion that the staff of the Magistrate's Court should be increased and provision made for hearing cases from day to day when occasion arises. Another Stipendiary Magistrate would help materially to keep cases up to date, and it is for a third Stipendiary that we now ask.

"Under the head of 'Marine' we are told of the falling off of the Pilotage receipts. This, I fear, Sir, we have to accept as to some extent permanent, because changes have taken place in the nature of Calcutta trade. Regular Liners from England now take in as places of call some of the Coast ports; Rangoon, Vizagapatam and Chittagong have their lines of steamers running direct to Europe. The East Coast Railway naturally alters the course of traffic and tends to lessen the trade that formerly came and went through Calcutta. Shipping firms have had to consider the means of working profitably, and there seems to be no doubt that vessels with larger carrying capacity work with better profit than smaller ones. Vessels are fewer in number, but they carry larger cargoes. The remedy appears to me to lie in re-classing pilotage rates, if any change be really necessary or desirable.

"The scheme for the improvement of the City of Calcutta has, during the last three years, been a subject of discussion in this Council Chamber. It is a scheme in which the late Lieutenant Governor took great interest; Sir John Woodburn would have been pleased, had he been alive, to find that it is now before the public. We have not yet received more than a summary of that which is proposed, but it is sufficient to show us its possibilities. The Government of India gives 50 lakhs. We do not see any contribution from Bengal. I ask, Sir, to-day whether Bengal will not also contribute.

"In reviewing the note from the Bengal Government to the Chairman of the Corporation, we conclude that the scheme will put Calcutta in a tight corner for 20 years, and that the City will be seriously crippled to find means to carry on its current work under conditions of expansion, for expansion seems certain where prosperity and congestion exist. The surplus income will be hypothecated to the new scheme, and there will be no margin for meeting the demands of an evergrowing City. Where is the money to be found? The note from Government states, in paragraph 3, that in case there is any default made in any payment of interest due on the loans, the amount should at once be paid from the Municipal Funds, and the Corporation should then have the power to levy any special tax, to be approved by Government, to make up the deficit. That there will be a deficit and that funds will be necessary seems certain. The means for meeting it must come up for discussion sooner or later.

"It may seem somewhat premature to discuss the question at this stage, but, Sir, I do not think I am premature in asking now whether the Government of Bengal will, like the Government of India, contribute a considerable sum. If not, may we look further afield for taxation, on such commodities as jute and coal? A tax on jute has frequently been suggested as a means of raising funds for various purposes. It is a tax that may give a very large sum which would help the Municipality in this scheme, and I venture to suggest, Sir, that this tax, which appears to me to be only a matter of time, may be ear-marked for the benefit of the improvement of the City of Calcutta. I do not think I am wrong in stating that a very modest sum per bale would bring in a revenue of

[Mr. Elworthy ; Mr. Greer.]

15 lakhs a year. Then, Sir, there is a tax on coal. This, if only at the rate of two annas per ton, should bring in a revenue of two lakhs a year. These two imposts would pay the interest and sinking fund on the money required to be raised without burdening the Municipal finances. These imposts would help to bring Calcutta up to date as a City, and they could be properly employed hereafter in keeping the city up to date. These taxes on jute and coal would make the improvement scheme a matter of small anxiety to the Corporation.

"I again, Sir, congratulate you on the Budget which has been placed before us, and on the continued prosperity of the Province under your rule."

The Hon'ble MR. GREER said:— "I desire to endorse all that has been said by the Hon'ble Mr. Elworthy as regards the need for the re-organisation of the subordinate Criminal Courts in this City. The subject must have a special interest to all who are engaged in administrative work in Calcutta

"I observe with satisfaction a provision in the Budget for increasing the strength and efficiency of the City Police, and presume that, as a result of the labours of the Police Commission, an improvement will take place in the Provincial Police in the suburbs of Calcutta. It seems to me, however, that no change in the Police can be effective to check the growth of crime so long as the law-abiding public and the Police find their energies frustrated by incompetency and delay in the disposal of criminal cases.

"The Bench of Stipendiary Magistrates in this City is lamentably deficient in strength; it obtains no adequate assistance from Honorary Magistrates, and it compares most unfavourably with similar institutions in any city approaching it in size or importance in any civilised country. It seems to me that four Stipendiary Magistrates are necessary for the proper disposal of work, corresponding more or less to the four divisions of the town under Municipal Government. The subject, I know, is under the consideration of Government, and the result may, I feel sure, be awaited with confidence by this Council.

"As regards the so-called improvement scheme of Calcutta, personally I am unable to view it with the approval which it has received in various quarters. The scheme contemplates an increase of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to the rates and taxes, thereby raising the Consolidated Rate to 21 per centum. The Corporation are now committed to the completion of the Suburban Main Drainage Scheme and the extension of the continuous water-supply system to the City, and it may be argued that a margin of at least 2 per centum should be reserved for the completion of these measures. Accordingly there would remain no balance from rates and taxes to meet unforeseen demands. At present the Corporation receives on an average over Rs. 80,000 a year as a yearly increment from the growth of the City. To meet the needs of this growth, the Corporation are obliged to provide additional roads, drainage, conservancy, lighting and other municipal conveniences. The scheme contemplates the entire withdrawal of this increment of Rs. 80,000 a year and practically closes the door against further improvements from this source or the proper discharge by the Corporation of their duties to the rate-payers who provide the increased income from rates. In my opinion the case of the growing suburbs is at least equal in importance to the treatment of the existing city, and the work of the Corporation will be condemned, and deservedly so, by future generations if they neglect this duty.

"The imposition of an additional $1\frac{1}{2}$ per centum on the rate-payers will form the subject for future discussion; personally I am in favour of finding other ways and means, and trust that the interests of the landowners and occupiers in Calcutta will receive more consideration in the finally-adopted scheme. The withdrawal of the annual increment from the funds of the Corporation, however, will, I fear, prove injurious to Municipal Administration, unless there be an increase to the rates and taxes, which the inhabitants cannot easily bear. A cardinal point in the scheme is the sale of surplus land at a high price, based on the experience of similar operations on Harrison Road. I fear

[Mr. Greer ; Mr. Inglis.]

the anticipations will not be realized, that men and capital do not exist for operations on the scale contemplated over 15 miles, and that recoveries from sales will prove less satisfactory.

“According to the views of many the improvement of Calcutta on the scale proposed is an Imperial rather than a Provincial question, and though a Provincial grant would be gratefully accepted, there is a general opinion that the Budget of the Imperial Government in future years might fairly show a substantial allotment for the purpose, exceeding the amount which the present scheme sets forth as the gift of Government.

“The interests of the trade of Calcutta have been referred to as one of the main causes for the movement for the general improvement of the thoroughfares of the town. It appears to be reasonable to look beyond the means of the rate-payers for the necessary funds, especially as they are not solely responsible for the present state of affairs, and are now required to meet rapidly-increasing demands on account of the city as it stands and its growing suburbs.

“I join with the Hon'ble Mr. Elworthy in the hope that the imposition of a tax on jute may be carried out. For some years to come there is little danger of a cessation of the monopoly in jute which Bengal now enjoys: the tax would fall on the consumers of jute and produce little or no effect on the people of this country. I shall not refer to the proposed taxes on petroleum and coal. The various suggestions on the subject, no doubt, will receive careful consideration. I am only anxious that the interests of the Corporation and of the rate-payers should be kept in view whenever the scheme comes under the notice of those responsible for the government of the country, and that is my excuse for occupying the time of the Council to-day.”

The Hon'ble Mr. INGLIS said:—“With your permission, Sir, I will offer brief explanations on some points which have been noticed by Hon'ble Members with respect to Departments, with the control of which I am associated.

“The Hon'ble Mr. Elworthy has drawn attention to the lessened receipts from Pilotage and has suggested a re-classification of the rates of the charge. I may say that, as observed by the Hon'ble Mr. Apcar, the whole question of the pilotage rates in the Calcutta Port, of the share of these rates which the Pilots draw as their earnings, as also the Act and Rules under which the discipline of the Pilot Service is maintained, has, at the request of the Government of India, been referred to a Committee on which the Chamber of Commerce and the Port Commissioners are represented.

“The Hon'ble Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandy has expressed his pleasure at the prospect of the clearance of the channel of the Bhagirathi by means of dredging. I should perhaps explain that the sum of Rs. 5,00,000 which has been provided in the Budget, is to be expended not directly in such dredging, but as a part payment for a large dredger of the most recent design, for the construction of which we are in correspondence with the India Office. The total cost of the dredger by the time it is erected and ready for use is not likely to be less than nine lakhs, and it will necessarily take some time to build. When we have got this dredger we hope to be able to improve the channel of the Bhagirathi as a means of communication with the upper Ganges, while it is also much wanted for various schemes of improvement of the channels which connect Calcutta with Eastern Bengal and Assam.

“The Hon'ble Babu Joy Gobind Law has mentioned the proposed Canal from Dhapa to Bamunghatta, and has asked whether the effect of this will be to exclude salt water from the lakes. I may reply that such was the intention as it was hoped that the exclusion of the salt-water would have allowed of the low land being cultivated with rice, while the drainage of the country near Dum-Dum would have been facilitated. It appears, however, that the interests of the fisheries in the Salt Lakes which would be affected, are so valuable that it is necessary to reconsider the position, and it is not now probable that there will be any interference with the flow of the tides.

“The Hon'ble Member has also alluded to the silted state of Tolly's Nullah. In connection with this and with the remarks made by the Hon'ble Mr. Apcar, I should like to mention that we have under consideration a project for a large

[Mr. Inglis; Mr. Earle.]

Canal to connect the Hooghly with the Mutla, utilising as far as possible Tolly's Nullah, and thence by channels partly natural and partly artificial *vid* Khulna, and across the Madariporo Bhil to the Pudda, and so to give a shorter and safer route for the large trade which now comes and goes by means of the channels in the Sunderbans. If this scheme should be carried out, locks would be built and the silting of Tolly's Nullah which is caused by the meeting of the tides, would cease. The project is one which will involve a large expenditure much beyond the resources of this Government, and it is too early yet to say if it is likely to receive the approval of the Government of India. I wish, however, to say that the importance of developing the navigable channels of Bengal is fully recognised."

The Hon'ble MR. EARLE said:—"I rise to reply to certain observations which have been made in regard to the working of Departments under my control. The first is with reference to the remarks of the Hon'ble Babu Joy Gobind Law. The Hon'ble Member has noticed that there is a provision of Rs. 6,000 for commercial classes in training colleges, and one of Rs. 4,500 for scholarships for Industrial students sent to Europe, and he says that it would be of interest to learn some further particulars about the grants and in what manner they are to be utilised. In the case of the scholarships, he says that it would perhaps be of importance to provide that the education and training of the students should be confined to matters which would be of immediate use to them when they return.

"Regarding the first point, I may say that the sum of Rs. 6,000 has been set apart for providing extra staff, etc., at the Victoria Training College, Kurseong, for the purpose of teaching commercial subjects; the training occupying two years after the passing of the Middle School examination. Before, however, the scheme is further considered, Government has deemed it desirable to inquire what demand there will be among parents for this class of instruction. This inquiry is now being made by the Principal of the Victoria Training College.

"As to the second point, Rs. 4,500 have been provided for scholarships for students who will be sent to Europe with the object of studying industrial subjects, and a scheme has been prepared for the purpose. Pending, however, the publication of the report of the Committee on Industrial Education and the orders of the Government of India on it, the scheme has been kept in abeyance. The question will be further considered when the views of the Government of India are received.

"The Hon'ble Babu Chaturbhooj Sahay has asked for an explanation of the estimated decrease in Land Revenue for the years 1903-1904, as shown in the Budget, page 13, Appendix A, under head 'Land Revenue.' The estimated decrease under this head for 1903-1904 is explained by the figures shown in Appendix A, page 13, of the Financial Statement referred to by the Hon'ble Member, and in paragraph 7, pages 3 and 4, of the same Statement. It will be seen that during the current year Rs. 1,80,000 only will, it is intended, be recovered on account of Survey and Settlement charges in Bihar, against Rs. 3,30,000 provided for in the revised estimate for 1902-1903 and Rs. 4,24,000, the actuals of 1901-02.

"The Hon'ble Babu Chaturbhooj Sahay also asked for an explanation of an item of Rs. 1,50,000 for recoveries on account of the Bihar survey and settlement charges, and he wishes to know if the arrears are recoverable from the proprietors or raiyats, or from both, and if from both, in what proportion from each. My answer to that is that, under the orders of the Secretary of State, one-fourth of the total cost of the survey and record-of-rights in North Bihar is borne by Government. The remaining three-fourths are recovered from landlords and occupiers in the proportions of seven-sixteenths and five-sixteenths, respectively. The sum of Rs. 1,80,000 is the Settlement Officer's estimate of the recoveries to be made from landlords and occupiers taken together during the current year in the districts of Darbhanga and North Monghyr. Of this sum, Rs. 20,000 will be recovered in the district of Darbhanga, and Rs. 1,60,000 in North Monghyr. The recoveries will be in the proportions referred to.

[*Mr. Earle.*]

“The Hon’ble Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar, has noticed that under ‘Education’ the Financial Secretary has estimated for an apparent failure to expend Rs. 12,28,000. If the Hon’ble Member had read a little further, he would have noticed that under ‘Education’ the anticipated savings were only Rs. 5,20,000.

“The Hon’ble Dr. Asutosh Mukhopadhyaya also referred to the same subject, and I very much regret that he was not able to send me notice of the various points which he has raised in his speech. The chief one will be covered by the explanation I am about to give in regard to the Hon’ble Babu Joy Gobind Law’s remarks, while the other matters the Government will take into consideration later on.

“In regard to this sum of Rs. 5,20,000, which is supposed to have lapsed, it will be observed that the Financial Secretary says that the total actual savings will amount to Rs. 5,20,000. This means that, according to the revised estimates, such savings may be expected. In fact, however, we do not expect a saving of more than Rs. 96,000. That saving is inevitable owing to various administrative reasons.

“The remaining questions were raised by the Hon’ble Rai Tarini Perhad, Bahadur. His first question was concerning ‘Agricultural Banks.’ He says that in the Budget for 1902-1903 under the head ‘Land Records and Agriculture,’ there was an allotment of Rs. 15,000 for the establishment of Agricultural Banks, and that in the present Budget there is no specific allotment for this purpose. He inquires whether any Agricultural Banks were established, as provided in the Budget for 1902-1903, and whether the estimate under the head of ‘Land Records and Agriculture’ in the present Budget includes any provision for Agricultural Banks. He also suggests the desirability of establishing more experimental farms and also of holding Agricultural Exhibitions. In answer to a question put by the Hon’ble Babu Chaturbhooj Sahay, the Council were informed, on the 21st March last, that the provision of Rs. 15,000 in the Budget for 1902-1903 was intended to meet the pay and allowances, and costs of establishment, of an officer, whom it was thought that it might be desirable to depute during the year for the purpose of inspecting and reporting on Agricultural Banks, and that it had no reference to the cost of establishing such Banks. The grant for the management and improvement of Government Estates in the Land Revenue Budget for 1903-1904 includes Rs. 15,000 for expenditure in connection with the opening of Agricultural Banks and grain golas in Government Estates.

“In answer to the question referred to above, it was stated that 48 Agricultural Banks had been opened up to date, of which 20 are in Government Estates, 16 in Wards’ Estates and 12 in private Estates.

“As regards the establishment of Experimental Farms, there are at present two research farms, viz., those at Burdwan and Dumraon, and one demonstration farm, viz., that at Chittagong. It is not at present proposed to add to the number of the former because the work done on them requires expert supervision, which it is difficult to obtain, and the question of providing more demonstration farms is one of more immediate consequence. That question is now under the consideration of the Government.

“With regard to Agricultural Exhibitions and Fairs, the annual grant has been raised from Rs. 2,000 in 1901-1902 to Rs. 3,000 in 1902-1903; while a provision of Rs. 8,000 has been made under this head in the current year’s Budget. In addition to this the Government of India has sanctioned an annual grant for three years, from 1st October, 1901, of Rs. 2,600 for the award of prizes, with a view to the improvement of cattle-breeding. This subject is, therefore, it will be seen, receiving attention.

“The second point upon which the Hon’ble Member required information was in connection with Education in Bhagalpur. He said that the Bhagalpur Division should get its fair share of the grant allotted for Primary Education. He also furnished a statement showing the percentage of pupils to population of school-going age in the different divisions, and added that there is no technical schools, or any technical side of the zilla school in the Bhagalpur Division.

[*Mr. Earle; Mr. Hare; Mr Collin.*]

“My answer to his remarks is, that when the distribution of the sum of four lakhs set aside for the improvement of Primary Education in Bengal in 1902-1903 was made, the principle adopted was to give grants to the various districts in proportion to the population of the district, and not to the number of pupils attending schools. In accordance with this principle, the Bhagalpur Division with 643,737 males of school-going age and 90,197 pupils received Rs. 48,000, while the Burdwan Division with 617,539 males of school-going age and 243,601 boys attending schools received Rs. 40,000 only. In the circumstances the Bhagalpur Division would appear to have received its fair share of the extra grant allotted for Primary Education.

“As regards Technical Schools or Technical Education in the Bhagalpur Division, the statistics available do not show that there is much demand for Technical Education in that division. In 1891-1892 there were five industrial schools in it, attended by 168 pupils; while in 1901-1902 only one school was in existence, attended by six pupils. In 1900 there was some correspondence with a view to establishing a technical school in Bhagalpur to work in connection with the Government zilla school. The Education Department gave every assistance in the way of advice, the framing of estimates, etc., which was asked for by the Board. The scheme, however, was abandoned owing to the paucity of subscribers and to the fact that people appeared to take no interest in the matter. There is nothing to prevent a fresh application being made at any time; if made, it will receive the careful attention of Government.”

* The Hon'ble MR HARE said:—“There are only one or two points upon which there is any necessity for me to make any remarks. I will first of all deal with the Hon'ble Rai Tarini Pershad, Bahadur's suggestion that a Subordinate Judge should be appointed to the Sonthal Parganas. No case has been made out, and it is not shown that any relief is necessary to the staff of that district. The Government are not satisfied that a Subordinate Judge is at all required in the Sonthal Parganas. The appointment of a Subordinate Judge to that district would open out the very large question of the system of administration of the Sonthal Parganas, which is at present, as you are aware, carried out by a number of men who possess a considerable amount of local experience and with a very simplified procedure. The present system has worked very well, and the Government sees no immediate necessity for re-considering it.

“The Hon'ble Mr. Apcar and the Hon'ble Mr. Elworthy have both noticed the necessity for reforms of the High Court. It is enough for me to say that this Government is doing what it can in the matter. A grant of Rs. 2,50,000 has been made for the extension of the building, which is found inadequate for its present requirements, and this want of a Court stands on the way of the appointment of an Additional Judge. I may also mention that correspondence is going on between the High Court, the Government of India, and the Secretary of State in regard to the subject of appointing an Additional Judge and carrying out several other alterations and reforms which, it is hoped, will remove the present accumulation of arrears.

“Then, in the matter of improving the working of the Presidency Magistrate's Court, the Government fully recognises that the present condition of things is unsatisfactory. The immediate control of the Presidency Magistrates' Courts is under the High Court, whom we have consulted as to the best means of improving the present condition of affairs. We have not yet received the report of the inquiry which is being made by the High Court. As at present advised, the Government is inclined to think it may be possible to remove the present defects by administrative improvements without burdening the Province with increased establishments. This declaration, however, in no way binds the Government. This is how the matter stands at present, but we hope very soon to introduce improvements which will remove the defects complained of.”

The Hon'ble MR. COLLIN said:—“I must first thank the Hon'ble Members who have been so kind as to send us copies of their speeches or notice of the points which they wished to bring forward. I will next acknowledge gratefully the tone in which this Budget has been discussed and the general congratula-

[Mr. Collin.]

tions which have fallen upon Government for the prosperous condition of the Province. The Hon'ble Babu Chaturbhooj Sahay gave a warning that we should not congratulate ourselves too much upon the increase of revenue from Excise and Stamps, as the increase from Stamps pointed to an increase of litigation, and the increase from Excise possibly to an increased consumption of liquor. With regard to the revenue derived from stamps, I would point out that the larger portion of the increase is from general and not from judicial stamps. The proportion of increase in the Court-fee stamps, though large in itself, is only 1 per cent. of the total amount. The proportion of the increase in general stamps is 3 per cent., and it is generally looked upon as a source of satisfaction that the revenue from non-judicial stamps is going up. Such an increase shows that the country is carrying on its business vigorously and satisfactorily. It is not, therefore, the case that the chief increase of Stamp revenue is derived from an increase of litigation.

"With regard to the increase in Excise, it is true that a certain amount of it is due to the general prosperity of the country and to the consumption of more liquor, but a very large portion is due to better Excise administration. The largest share of the increase comes from Calcutta itself, amounting to over two lakhs, and this is due, not so far as we know to any general increase of consumption, but to the better settlements which the Collector of Calcutta, Rai Chunder Narain Singh, Bahadur, was able to effect last year, by which he broke up the ring of licensees and was able to settle the shops at an increase of two lakhs. In addition to that Government has increased the duty on *ganja*, and better arrangements are being made to prevent smuggling in opium. Thus it will be seen that to a large extent the increase in the Excise duty last year is due to better arrangements, and is, therefore, a source of congratulation.

"Though there was such a large balance at the end of the year, and the finances of the Province appear to be in such a prosperous condition, it is perhaps as well to speak a word of caution. This large cash balance is due partly to the inclusion in it of grants given by the Government of India. They gave six lakhs last year, of which we have nearly a lakh left, and they have also given us a further sum of two lakhs for the Medical College Hospital. Both these amounts are included in the cash balance.

"Then there has been an increase of revenue from the Sone Canals, which is not expected to recur, and may be looked upon as partly accidental and due to the chances of the season. A large part of the cash balance is, of course, due to the reduction of expenditure which is explained in the Financial Statement.

"With regard to the expenditure under the head of 'Education,' I would explain, in answer to the criticisms of the Hon'ble Dr. Asutosh Mukhopadhyaya, that the grant of ten lakhs was given at the beginning of the year, and it was not possible to make arrangements for its immediate expenditure. As an instance, I would mention that there is a grant of Rs. 6,000 for the Assistant Director of Education. This appointment could not be made at once, but the charge is entered in the accounts as Rs. 6,000 for the whole year. I believe, as the Hon'ble Mr. Earle has stated, that there has been during the past two or three months considerable expenditure under the head of 'Education,' which was not taken into account when the Budget was framed. The Budget was framed on the actual expenditure of ten months. If, when the actual figures of expenditure for the whole year are known, it is found that a considerably larger amount has been spent on Education than is now estimated, the cash balance will be proportionately reduced.

"It may be said that we should have anticipated our savings under 'Police Reforms' and other subjects and have provided for the expenditure during the current year, but there is in Bengal a special difficulty, namely, the existence of the Contract. Our Contract was made for five years in 1897. It was renewed in 1901 for one year, and then renewed for another year, which would expire at the end of this year. The uncertainty as to the terms on which the Contract will be renewed renders it very difficult to undertake any large schemes, the expenditure on which will extend over a series of years. We have no reason to anticipate that the Government of India will

[*Mr. Collin.*]

behave otherwise than liberally when they renew the Contract: they have already given evidence of this by the large grants given to Bengal; but it is hoped that it will be made more permanent and cover a longer period than five years, which is a very short time in the life of a Province.

"There is another reason for not embarking on large schemes, which will involve an expenditure extending over a long period. There are two special subjects—Police and Education—which are likely to swallow up a very large amount. The estimate for Police reforms is 20 lakhs; but whether recommendations on these lines are accepted by the Commission now sitting or not, it is certain that Government will have to incur a large increase of expenditure under the head of 'Police.' With regard to Education, it is anticipated that if full effect is given to the proposals of the recent Commission, our expenditure in twenty years will increase by more than half a crore of rupees, a great portion of which will have to be provided out of our own resources. With these two large schemes hanging over us, we must proceed very carefully.

"At the same time it cannot be said that Government has been hoarding its money, and not using its resources satisfactorily. Sir John Woodburn, the late Lieutenant-Governor, always carefully considered the interests of the Province and was anxious to spend its revenue usefully. He was at first hampered by plague and famine, and when these difficulties were overcome, he set to work to devise schemes to provide for the growing necessities of Bengal. A scheme for Police and Education was worked out. The Subordinate Judicial Service was improved, and a scheme matured for improving the Subordinate Executive Service. The improvements of Government offices were also taken in hand. There is now a provision of ten lakhs of rupees, which is being spent on such works, and the greater part of them are in actual progress. Then a scheme was undertaken for providing Munsifs with better courts and residences. I have been asked how far that scheme has progressed. Last year it was shown that eight such residences had been provided. It appears that since the beginning of the year 1901-1902, eighteen Munsifs' residences have been completed and twelve more are under construction, and will be completed in the current year. It will be seen that the scheme is well in hand.

"You have heard what is being done for the improvement of waterways, which the Hon'ble Mr. Apcar has pointed out are so necessary for the development of the trade of the country.

"With regard to District Boards, Sir John Woodburn gave them in the two preceding years a grant of 5 lakhs to be spent on communications, and this we have been able to repeat this year. A considerable amount was given for feeder roads to railways last year, and we have increased the grant this year.

"Special care has been taken with the Medical Department, and the Hon'ble Babu Chaturbhooj Sahay drew prominent attention to the department by saying that there should be a dispensary in every sub-division or, I think, he said in every thana. Government has considered this proposal, but is not convinced of its necessity. I find that during the last six years the number of dispensaries in Bengal has increased by 128; that in itself is a very fair increase. An unsatisfactory feature is that they do not serve such a large number of persons, or at any rate a large number of people do not go to them as in other provinces. This is attributed to the number of private practitioners who are to be found scattered all over the country. In any case the increase of medical help throughout the districts is going on, and is a constant subject of interest to the Government.

"The Hon'ble Babu Chaturbhooj Sahay also pleaded for the establishment of a Medical College in Bihar, as I understood him. In regard to that, I may say that Government assistance has been given for improving the Bankipore Hospital. This hospital is in connection with the Medical School at Patna, and no doubt in time, with an improved hospital, there will be an improved college, and more will be done to meet the wants of that part of the Province, if it is found necessary.

[Mr. Colvin.]

"In regard to the Medical Department, the position of Civil Hospital Assistants has been improved by raising the salary of the maximum grade from Rs. 50 to Rs. 70 and the lowest grade from Rs. 20 to Rs. 25, and certain further appointments at district head-quarters have been reserved for Assistant Surgeons. But as regards medical relief in the interior, Government is somewhat hampered by the large amount of money it has to spend in Calcutta. The amount spent by Government in the districts is something like Rs. 1,30,000 out of the nine lakhs which are spent, whereas in Calcutta the Government expenditure is 76 per cent. of the whole amount. That of course is necessary in the existing condition of Calcutta, but it has often been pointed out that the amount of subscriptions and other help that these institutions receive is not altogether adequate. It is true that very often handsome donations are given for special purposes, as, for instance, Rs. 20,000 was given the other day by Rai Amritanath Mitter Bahadur for a hospital for Incurables. But there is no system under which subscriptions may be regularly supplied. The total amount of subscriptions to the Calcutta institutions is Rs. 15,000, and the subscription from Indian sources is only Rs. 1,500. If Government could get further assistance from private subscriptions it could spend more money in the districts outside Calcutta.

"You will notice that a provision is made in the Budget for two lakhs of rupees for building Nurses' quarters in connection with the Medical College and Eden Hospitals. I have noticed a criticism that this is an unjustifiable expenditure. It appears to have been thought that these Nurses were only to be employed in nursing European patients, but I would point out that in the Medical College Hospital the number of Indian patients is over 80 per cent. of the whole number, and the Nurses are employed upon all classes of patients indiscriminately. It was Sir John Woodburn's special wish to place the nursing of the patients in Calcutta hospitals on a broader basis, and for this purpose last year he appointed a Committee, which has worked very well under the able presidency of Sir Montagu Turner. It is composed of all classes of society, both European and Indian, and it was hoped that, with the addition of Indian members, we should be able to tap further sources of subscription for the Nurses, but so far we have not been successful. This is probably due to ignorance of the objects of the nursing institution. I feel sure that if it is known that the Nurses are to be employed for all classes, subscriptions will be received from the Indian as well as from the European community. As an instance of the interest which the Government takes on the question of nursing, I may mention that we have recently provided for an increase in the number of Nurses employed in the Campbell Hospital, where only the poorest native patients are taken in.

"The Hon'ble Babu Chaturbhooj Sahay asked a question regarding certain figures in the Budget which appeared to be doubtful. In the first place he noticed that though it is said that an increased grant is provided for the Subordinate Judicial Service, yet the total grant was not so much as the revised estimate of last year, and the explanation in the tabular statements showed that there was a small decrease of expenditure. I would explain that at the beginning of the year 1902-1903, Rs. 62,600 was provided for the re-organisation of Munsifs, but the total actual expenditure was Rs. 98,000. We have provided practically the same amount this year, Rs. 94,000. The small decrease is due to the fact that in that department there are certain graded appointments held by sharistadars who are on a progressive pay. Some of the elder members who were on a high pay have retired, and their places are taken up by others on the lowest pay. That accounts for the decrease.

"As regards the question of Sub-Deputy Collectors, it was asked how it is that in one place we showed an increase of Rs. 70,000 and in another place of Rs. 30,000 on the same account. The answer is that we have shown an increase of Rs. 70,000 in respect of this year and in addition to the Rs. 30,000 of last year, so that the increase is altogether Rs. 1,00,000. The half of this is paid under the head of 'Law and Justice,' and the other half under the head of 'Land Revenue.'

"The Hon'ble Rai Tarini Pershad, Bahadur, asked a question as to the desirability of an increase of muharrirs in Munsifs' establishments, as

[*Mr. Collin.*]

I understood him. I may say that we provide for an increase in certain places not a general increase. There is also included a lump sum of Rs. 10,000 for temporary establishments in cases where they are required. If conditions exist such as the Hon'ble Member has referred to, and there are places where muharrirs are working till late at night and are taking assistance from the outside public, it will be the duty of the Munsif in such a case to ask for assistance, and the Government will always be willing to give it if a case is made out.

“The Hon'ble Rai Tarini Pershad, Bahadur, also referred to the question of the Bhagalpur Water-Works, but I am inclined to think that what he has told us, although it was very interesting, would perhaps have been more properly uttered in the Council Chamber of the Bhagalpur Municipality. The position of District Boards and Municipalities is of course well known: they are independent institutions: they have definite functions and a definite law. It is the object of the Government to interfere as little as possible with the management of their affairs, and the Hon'ble Member would possibly be one of the first to resent such interference. In regard to the Bhagalpur Water-Works, at present we have had no notice from the constituted authorities of the Bhagalpur Municipality that they are in need of any assistance from Government. The Hon'ble Member described how these Water-Works were constructed, but I think he omitted to state that a sum of Rs. 80,000 was contributed by the Government as a part of the expenses. It is true that the scheme, so far as I can gather from the papers that I have read, was not a very good one. There were defects, and since the scheme was completed, the river has receded, and there has been still further trouble. The Government was always willing to assist the Municipality, and a few years ago they gave a sum of Rs. 10,000 to improve the intake of the waters. This Rs. 10,000 was not required, and was eventually refunded. I can only repeat that if there is any necessity for assistance from the Government, Government will be ready to consider the matter. I may mention in connection with this that we have recently had an application of a somewhat similar nature from Berhampore. In that case it appeared that the Water-Works had got out of order from causes that were accidental, and in order to help the people, Government gave a grant of Rs. 5,000.

“The Hon'ble Mr. Elworthy has raised the question of the Paying Patients' Block in the Presidency General Hospital. The Government can only join with him in regretting that the subject has so far made little progress. Government recognises that the present building is not suitable; the rooms are dark and badly ventilated, and not well arranged, and there is no doubt that if a better block were provided, it would be a great benefit. But it has always been held by this Government that the provision of this block should not be made solely from Government funds. The question was raised at the time of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, and it is not necessary for me to repeat all that he said on the subject; but he concluded by saying that unless the European community were prepared to accept a scale of charges bearing a reasonable relation to the working expenses, and also to raise by subscription a substantial proportion of the cost of providing the separate block which is proposed, it would not be possible for the Government to assign Provincial funds for this work. The question was again considered in Sir John Woodburn's time, and the same opinion was again expressed, so that it is difficult for the present Government to recede from the position hitherto taken up and to adopt the Hon'ble Mr. Elworthy's proposals. But I can assure him that we are in full sympathy with the wish that has been expressed that there should be a better Paying Patients' Block provided. We are prepared to provide at least two-thirds of the cost from the balance of the Hospital Port Dues Fund, which may be credited to the Provincial Revenues. It only remains for the European community to raise or give a promise of the balance which will be about Rs. 1,00,000. We have already received a promise of Rs. 27,000, but for the rest we hope that the Hon'ble Mr. Elworthy and his friends will be able to

[*Mr. Collin; the President.*]

give some definite assurance so that the work may be put in hand as soon as possible.

“The Hon’ble Mr. Elworthy has also referred to the question of the Calcutta Improvement Scheme, and the Hon’ble Mr. Greer has given us his views on this subject. I cannot, unfortunately, follow the Hon’ble Mr. Greer in his criticism of the scheme, because the question has now been put in a form in which it will issue to the Corporation, the Chamber of Commerce and the Trades’ Association, who are to be consulted on the subject, and it is not possible for Government to give any opinion on the scheme until these bodies have given their views. The Hon’ble Mr. Elworthy has asked whether it is intended that there should be any contribution from the Local Government. I would say that this appears to show a wrong impression of the functions of Government. The Rs. 50,00,000 which is to be given by the Imperial Government is not given by the Government, but by the tax-payers; but if there is a sum to be given by the tax-payers, it matters little whether it is given by the Imperial or Provincial Government. The Provincial Government, moreover, is bound by its contract. It has a certain amount assigned to it at the commencement of the contract to provide for its estimated expenditure: it cannot undertake the responsibility of any fixed or definite charges above that. If it occasionally gets surplus balances it may be in a position to assist local bodies, but no definite undertaking can be given to do so. I would mention that the Calcutta Corporation has been very fortunate in the matter of the contributions it has received. It has received four and a half lakhs to help in the Plague expenditure, and other sums in recent years amounting to a lakh of rupees. Government has also supplied practically all the Hospital expenditure. It is not, however, possible under the present system of Provincial Finances, that in regard to such a large scheme as the Calcutta Improvement Scheme, projected over a number of years, the Provincial Government, as apart from the Imperial Government, could accept any definite responsibility. With regard to the proposal to impose a tax on jute and coal, I have no doubt that the Hon’ble Mr. Elworthy will have a proper opportunity of representing his views in proper quarters. If they are favourably considered, due consideration will be given to the suggestion by Government.

“With regard to what the Hon’ble Mr. Greer said, it is hoped that this scheme will not put an end to, or restrict the expenditure on, the improvement of the Suburbs and the works which are to be carried out there. The amount to be contributed by the Corporation ought not, if their funds go on increasing, as they are increasing, place such a burden upon the Corporation that it will be unable to go on with its ordinary expenditure.

“I think I have answered all the points which have been referred to in the course of the debate, and I will conclude by congratulating Your Honour upon the favourable state of the Finances of the Province and upon the reception which this Budget has received.”

The Hon’ble the PRESIDENT said:—“The debate which we have heard to-day, and which it is now my duty to close, will not, I think, yield in interest or importance to any of the ten which have preceded it since this Council first undertook the discussion of the Provincial Budget. It has been marked by two distinct features. The first is the universal spirit of good-will which has pervaded the criticisms which have been levelled at the Budget itself. There was a time when this was not so, when the proposals of Government and their intentions were fiercely attacked, and when motives, not always the best, were ascribed to the Government and its officers. It may be that the reason for the change is that in those days we were hard-pressed for money, and when we were not able to carry out all that we wished to do, many hungry suitors were turned away disappointed. Now this is all changed, and during the last three years we have had Prosperity Budgets, and we have been able to do a great deal for the Province. When a ship is sailing over summer-seas, with a favourable breeze and flowing

[*The President.*]

sails, the crew are comfortable, and are not disposed to doubt the capacity or question the intentions of the captain and officers. Another reason, I think, is that owing largely to the consistent policy of the late Lieutenant-Governor to take the public into his confidence and to let them see the single-eyed desire of the Government to do all that was best for the Province, a good deal of doubt and suspicion have passed away, and the public and the Members of this Council are more ready to receive our measures and proposals with a larger share or sympathy and attention than they did before. Another matter which has distinguished this debate is the extreme importance of many of the questions brought before us. Not only have we discussed three matters of great moment to Calcutta, which have arisen not exactly as matters of finance, but there have been such large questions as reform of the Police, reform of the Educational Department, development of Agriculture, development of the great waterways of the Province, and improvement of the status of various departments of the State. All these have been dealt with by the Hon'ble Members in charge of the several departments concerned, and very little remains to be said by me in regard to them. They have also dealt with the three important matters which chiefly concern Calcutta, but upon those I should like to say a few words myself in addition to what has already been said.

“As regards the Presidency Magistrates, this matter is one that has had my personal attention for some time. But it is far easier to point out the disease than to devise a remedy, and in a matter of this sort the first thing to be done is to get at the real facts. The Government has for some time been collecting facts, and it is hoped that before long the information before us will be complete. As soon as that is done, I can assure the Council the alterations and reforms which seem to be urgently needed will be taken up and carried through, I hope, to a successful termination.

“As to the Improvement Scheme which has occupied the attention of the public during the last five years, it is impossible for me to make any pronouncement at the present moment: as you have been told, a letter is now under issue addressed to the Corporation of Calcutta, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Trades' Association, and some other public bodies, in which the past history and present state of the question are fully set forth. Their opinion is being asked on the whole scheme as it now stands, and when that information is received, the Government of Bengal will forward it, with their own remarks and suggestions, to the Government of India. Till that has been done and till our views have been forwarded, I am not able to make any announcement as to what will be the policy of Government in this matter.

“Lastly, there is the question of the block for paying patients at the General Hospital which the Hon'ble Mr. Elworthy and other Members have referred to. With the Financial Secretary, I regret that I cannot accept the recommendation to let bygones be bygones and go back on the policy of my predecessors. It has long ago been held that the provision of a block for paying patients seems rather a matter for the contributions of the public than for a grant from Government, and that Government should not be called upon to provide all the funds for that purpose. At the same time it has always been admitted that the Government is always ready to come forward and supplement the subscriptions which may be made by the public. I hope that even if funds are not available now they will be available towards the end of the year, when Calcutta and the public will find that Government will gladly come forward and subscribe their quota to this much-needed reform.

“The Financial Secretary has given us a short sketch of the many schemes for the improvement of the Province that were inaugurated during the Government of Sir John Woodburn, and which were made possible by the growth of prosperity during the last three years. Some of these have already been carried out, others still remain; but the Council may rest assured that the Government is keenly alive to the wants of this great Province, and that it will do its best to

[*The President.*]

expend to the best advantage the funds which will be at its disposal during the year we have just entered upon.

"I have now only to declare the business of this assembly closed for this session, and to adjourn the Council *sine die*."

The Council was adjourned *sine die*.

CALCUTTA;
The 4th June, 1903.

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F. G. WIGLEY,
*Secretary to the Bengal Council and
Assistant Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal,
Legislative Department.*

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

The Council met in the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 18th July, 1903.

Present:

The Hon'ble MR. J. A. BOURDILLON, C.S.I., Acting Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding*.

The Hon'ble MR. L. P. PUGH, *Offg. Advocate-General* of Bengal.

The Hon'ble MR. C. E. BUCKLAND, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. B. L. GUPTA.

The Hon'ble MR. L. HARE, C.I.E.

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

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

The Hon'ble MR. L. P. SHIRRES.

The Hon'ble MR. A. EARLE.

The Hon'ble MR. R. T. GREER.

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

The Hon'ble DR. ASUTOSH MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A., D.L., F.R.A.S., F.R.S.E.

The Hon'ble BABU CHATURBHOJ SAHAY.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar.

The Hon'ble MR. H. ELWORTHY.

The Hon'ble MR. A. A. APCAR.

The Hon'ble MAULVI SERAJ-UL-ISLAM, KHAN BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble RAI TARINI PERSHAD, BAHADUR.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA SIB RAVANESHWAR PRASHAD SINGH BAHADUR,
K.C.I.E., of Gidhour.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Hon'ble MR. SLACKE, the Hon'ble MR. MACPHERSON and the Hon'ble MR. SHIRRES took their seats in Council.

[*Maulvi Seraj-ul-Islam, Khan Bahadur; Mr. Macpherson; Rai Tarini Pershad, Bahadur.*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SUBORDINATE JUDGE FOR NOAKHALI.

The Hon'ble MAULVI SERAJ-UL-ISLAM, KHAN BAHADUR, asked—

Has the attention of the Government been called to a letter of the Noakhali correspondent, published in the *Bengalee* of the 28th June, 1903, regarding the inconvenience and harassment caused to litigants, owing to the delay in the disposal of Civil Suits by the District Judge of Noakhali, in consequence of the greater portion of his time being taken up by Sessions Cases and Criminal Appeals?

In view of the above, will the Government be pleased to post a Subordinate Judge at Noakhali; or make some other arrangement to redress the grievances of the people?

The Hon'ble MR. MACPHERSON replied:—

"The Lieutenant-Governor has read the letter in the *Bengalee* newspaper to which the Hon'ble Member refers.

"The question of appointing a Subordinate Judge in Noakhali has been for some time under the consideration of the Hon'ble High Court and the Bengal Government, and the matter is now before the Government of India."

CIRCULAR ISSUED BY THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE OF MYMENSINGH.

The Hon'ble MAULVI SERAJ-UL-ISLAM, KHAN BAHADUR, asked—

Has the attention of the Government been called to an article in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of 6th June, 1903, headed "A most dangerous Circular"? Is it a fact that such a Circular has really been issued by the District Magistrate of Mymensingh to the Subordinate Magistrates of the district? If so, does not the Government think that it is calculated to interfere with the judicial independence and discretion of the Subordinate Magistrates?

The Hon'ble MR. MACPHERSON replied:—

"The article to which the question refers was brought to the notice of the Lieutenant-Governor. The District Magistrate's attention has been drawn to the High Court's Circular Order of the 16th June, 1900, and he was requested to withdraw any circular which he may have issued in transgression of that order."

RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE SUBORDINATE EXECUTIVE SERVICE.

The Hon'ble RAI TARINI PERSHAD, BAHADUR, said—

The Hon'ble the Financial Secretary, in laying on the table the Bengal Budget Estimate for 1903-1904, observed: "The re-organization of Sub-Deputy Collectors has not yet been finally sanctioned"; and in that estimate Rs. 1,00,000 was allotted for the improvement of the status of the Sub-Deputy Collectors, one-half of which was shewn under the head of "Land Revenue" and the other half under the head of "Law and Justice"; and further in paragraph 30 of the explanatory notes on that estimate it was stated that "the increase under (1) is due to larger provision made under salaries for the proposed re-organization of the Subordinate Executive Service, which is awaiting the sanction of the Government of India." Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the scheme for such re-organization, shewing how it has proposed to spend the said sum of Rs. 1,00,000, and to state whether such scheme has since received the sanction of the Government of India?

The Hon'ble MR. MACPHERSON replied:—

"The scheme has not yet received the sanction of the Government of India, and it is not at present possible to publish the details of it, which are still under careful consideration."

[*Rai Tarini Pershad, Bahadur; Mr. Inglis; Mr. Shirres; Mr. Slacke.*]

MISCONDUCT OF RAILWAY EMPLOYÉS AT ASANSOL STATION.

The Hon'ble RAI TARINI PERSHAD, BAHADUR, asked—

Has the attention of Government been drawn to a scrap appearing in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of 13th June, 1903, complaining of the oppressive and impertinent conduct of Railway employés towards respectable passengers, and, amongst them, a Sub-Deputy Magistrate at the Asansol station, travelling with his family?

The Hon'ble MR. INGLIS replied:—

“The East Indian Railway authorities have instituted inquiries into this matter, and will no doubt deal with it effectively.”

WAITING-ROOM FOR NATIVE LADIES AT ASANSOL STATION.

The Hon'ble RAI TARINI PERSHAD, BAHADUR, asked —

Is the Government aware that there is no suitable waiting-room for native ladies at the Asansol Railway station, and that a memorial has been presented to the East Indian Railway Authorities with a view to remove this want?

Will the Government be pleased to direct the Railway Authorities to arrange for some sort of *purda* accommodation on the down platform of the Asansol Railway station for native ladies, who are put to very great inconvenience on this account?

The Hon'ble MR. INGLIS replied:—

“The Lieutenant-Governor is informed that there is already a room set apart for native ladies on the up platform, and one on the down platform is being provided.”

SUPERINTENDENT OF STAMPS AND STATIONERY.

The Hon'ble RAI TARINI PERSHAD, BAHADUR, asked—

Will the Government be pleased to state whether, in disposing of the cost of Superintendent of Stamps and Stationery on retirement of Mr. Manson, it is not intended to give preference to the claims of such members of the Executive Branch of the Provincial Service as have, by their ability, experience and meritorious work, fitted themselves for that post?

The Hon'ble MR. SHIRRES replied:—

“The whole question of the organization of the Stamps and Stationery Department, and of the status of the officer who may, in future, be appointed to hold charge of it, is now under consideration. Until the question is decided, Government is not in a position to say how future incumbents of the post of Superintendent will be recruited.”

THE CHOTA NAGPUR TENANCY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1903.

The Hon'ble MR. SLACKE in presenting the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Chota Nagpur Landlord and Tenant Procedure Act and the Chota Nagpur Commutation Act, 1897, said:—

“I have now, Sir, the honour to present to this Council the Report of the Select Committee on the Chota Nagpur Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1903, and in so doing would, with your permission, make some remarks with regard to certain of the matters referred to in the revised Bill. Copies of the Bill, as originally introduced, were sent to all those most interested in the districts

[Mr. Slacke.]

to which it applies. The Bill itself was considered at a very representative meeting held at Ranchi in April last. The views then expressed have been duly considered, and the Hon'ble Members of the Select Committee have been most materially assisted by the gentleman who will shortly take his seat in this Council as the Member for Chota Nagpur.

"In the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill, as introduced into this Council, it was stated that the proposed amendments were designed to meet certain objects, eleven in number. Of these, one has been abandoned by the Select Committee, *viz.*, that to prevent the exacting of more than customary rates of rent from non occupancy raiyats. The reasons for this have been stated in the Report. Five additional objects have been provided for in the clauses of the revised Bill. They are the following: (1) to make certain changes in procedure; (2) to provide for an appeal against orders passed in execution of decrees; (3) to grant the right of a second appeal to the High Court; (4) to remove, as far as possible, the causes which have tended to foster the agitation that has been disturbing the *Mundaris* for so long a time; and lastly (5) to bring the procedure of the Commutation Act of 1897 into line with that followed by the Settlement Officer, with regard to the record-of-rights when a survey and record-of-rights is being prepared; and predial services, etc., have to be compulsorily commuted.

"The first essential with regard to the admissibility of a proposed change was whether urgency could be pleaded in its favour. Unless this could be satisfactorily demonstrated, the adoption of a suggested amendment has not been recommended to this Council. Failing the necessary data which cannot as yet be furnished by the Settlement Officer, and which will not probably be fully available for a few years, it is impossible now to say to what extent the principle contained in the term 'settled raiyat' should be applied to Chota Nagpur. This affects the provision in the original Bill for facilitating the acquisition of occupancy rights. Although imperfect, it has been retained because it met some cases. Any attempt to improve it further would have led to the adoption, in some shape or other, of the principle of the 'settled raiyat,' a subject which, as I have just said, cannot be yet discussed.

"But advantage has been taken of the present opportunity to embody in the Bill a custom which is generally followed by all good landlords, *viz.*, to declare that the holder of lands known as *Korkor* or some other synonymous term has a right of occupancy in them. I would explain that *Korkor* is the term used to designate a field which a raiyat, by his own efforts, has converted from upland into riceland by terracing, and it presupposes the existence of a village which the term *khunt katti* does not. Clause 4 of the Bill restricts the sale or transfer of a raiyat's holding. The necessity for these restrictions must be explained. The right of a raiyat to sell his holding is not recognized in the Division, save in pargana Dhalbhum, in the district of Singhbhum. But though not recognized, raiyats are gradually more and more, though slowly, beginning to sell their holdings, and in course of time a custom will be established, unless measures are now taken to check it. Not to check the growth of any such custom would most probably result in the reduction of a vast number of the raiyats to the condition of serfs. There are already signs that this may happen, for in Dhalbhum the purchases by *mahajans* of raiyati holdings for the purpose of subletting them again at heavy rentals are increasing rapidly. To prohibit sale merely would not suffice.

"There are two recognised systems of usufructuary mortgage, *viz.*, the *sarpeshgi* and the *bhooghut bundha*. Under the former of these the profits arising from the land go merely to repay the interest due. Under the latter such profits extinguish both principal and interest. The former system is a most dangerous one among an aboriginal people, for though the debtor—a man who never thinks of the morrow and is always carried away by impulse—does not part with his land out and out and knows that he can get it back again on payment of the principal, yet in many cases such repayment is quite outside the man's means. Thus the *sarpeshgi* system tends to create a landless race, and the provisions in the Bill will, if accepted, do away with it.