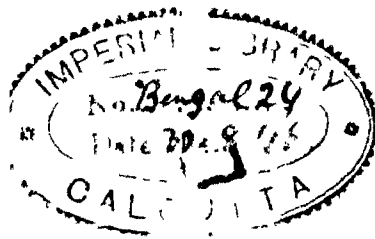


# Proceedings of the Council

OF THE

## LIEUT.-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.



Index to Vol. XLI.

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 1909.

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INDEX TO THE PROCEEDINGS.  
OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL  
FOR THE YEAR 1909.

A

	PAGE
ACT XXXVI OF 1858. AMENDMENT OF. <i>See</i> Indian Lunatic Asylums (Amendment) Bill, 1908.	
ADJOURNMENTS OF COUNCIL. <i>See</i> Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal	
ALLEN, HON'BLE SIR CHARLES—	
Bengal Excise Bill, 1909 . . . . .	176, 199
Calcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Bill, 1909 . . . . .	154
Replied to questions regarding Dacoity . . . . .	222
Ditto ditto pilgrims to Puri . . . . .	156
ALLEN, HON'BLE SIR CHARLES, appointment to Select Committee on—	
Bengal Excise Bill, 1909 . . . . .	18
ASSASSINATION OF SIR WILLIAM CURZON WYLLIE . . . . .	150

B

BENGAL ACT IX OF 1879 AMENDMENT OF. <i>See</i> Bengal Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill, 1908.	
BENGAL COURT OF WARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908—	
Bill considered . . . . .	5
Bill passed . . . . .	
BENGAL EXCISE BILL, 1909—	
Leave to introduce . . . . .	6
Introduced and read in Council . . . . .	7, 12
Referred to a Select Committee . . . . .	18
Addition to Select Committee . . . . .	147
Report of Select Committee presented . . . . .	151
Ditto ditto considered . . . . .	158
Clauses of Bill considered . . . . .	160
Amendments proposed and adopted 166, 171, 173, 181, 189, 192-194, 206, 208, 213-216, 219	
Ditto and negatived 164-171, 173, 174, 178-180, 182, 189, 192, 195, 205, 208, 210, 211, 216, 219	
Amendments withdrawn . . . . . 168, 169, 178, 186, 189, 215-217	
Re-numbering of clauses, sub-clauses and Chapters of Bill . . . . .	219
Bill passed . . . . .	
BENGAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1909-10—	
Laid before Council . . . . .	26
Discussed in Council . . . . .	98-114
BUDGET. <i>See</i> BENGAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1908-10.	
BURDWAN, HON'BLE SIR BIJAY MAHTAB, MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR OF—	
Asked questions regarding the Midnapore conspiracy case . . . . .	148
Bengal Excise Bill, 1909 . . . . .	209
Bengal Financial Statement for 1909-10 . . . . .	122
Introductory speech by . . . . .	2
BURDWAN, HON'BLE SIR BIJAY MAHTAB, MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR OF, appointed to Select Committee on—	
Calcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Bill 1909 . . . . .	154

## C

## CALCUTTA AND SUBURBAN POLICE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1909—

Leave to introduce, . . . . .	153
Introduced and read in Council . . . . .	154
Referred to a Select Committee . . . . .	"
Report of Select Committee presented . . . . .	228
Recommitted to Select Committee . . . . .	226

## CHAPMAN, HON'BLE MR. E. P., appointed to Select Committee on—

Bengal Excise Bill, 1909 . . . . .	18
Calcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Bill, 1909 . . . . .	154

## CHOTA NAGPUR ENCUMBERED ESTATES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908—

Report of Select Committee presented . . . . .	15
Clauses of Bill considered . . . . .	"
Amendments proposed and adopted . . . . .	15, 16
Bill passed . . . . .	18

## COUNCIL OF THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL—

Adjournments of, . . . . .	22, 95, 147, 154, 182, 224
Ditto to a date to be notified hereafter . . . . .	12, 220
Ditto <i>sine die</i> . . . . .	144, 227
Meetings of, . . . . .	1, 13, 23, 97, 145, 149, 155, 183, 221, 225
See Debates.	

## COURT OF WARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908. See Bengal Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill, 1908.

## CUMMING, HON'BLE MR. J. G.—

Bengal Financial Statement for 1903-10 . . . . .	127
Replied to questions regarding the Disaffiliation of the Patna College in History . . . . .	24
Ditto ditto Mining Engineers . . . . .	25
Ditto ditto Patna Teachers' Training School . . . . .	4
Ditto ditto Savings effected in the salary of the post of Principal of the Calcutta Madrassa . . . . .	14
Ditto ditto Stipends and accommodation for students of the Patna Normal Training School . . . . .	4

## D

## DAGOITY. See Questions.

## DAS, MR. M. S.—

Asked questions regarding the Deputy Port Officer, Calcutta . . . . .	25
Ditto ditto Pilgrims, to Puri . . . . .	156
Bengal Excise Bill, 1909 . . . . .	18, 162, 177, 184-186, 200, 204, 211, 216
Bengal Financial Statement for 1909-10 . . . . .	100
Introductory speech by . . . . .	
Speech by, regarding the Assassination of Sir William Curzon Wyllie . . . . .	150

## DAS, HON'BLE MR. M. S., appointed to Select Committee on—

Bengal Excise Bill, 1909 . . . . .	18
------------------------------------	----

## DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI. See Sarbadhikari.

## DEBATES IN COUNCIL ON—

Bengal Excise Bill, 1909 . . . . .	9-12, 18-22, 158-182, 184-220
Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates (Amendment) Bill, 1908 . . . . .	15, 18

# INDEX.

iii

**DEPUTY CHIEF OFFICER, CALCUTTA.** \* See Questions.

PAGE

**DISAFFILIATION OF THE PATNA COLLEGE IN HISTORY.** See Questions.

**DUKE, HON'BLE MR. F. W.—**

Bengal Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill, 1908 . . . . .	5
Bengal Financial Statement for 1909-10. . . . .	130
Calcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Bill, 1909 . . . . .	153, 154, 223, 228
Replied to questions regarding the Entertainment of an additional police force on the Eastern Bengal State Railway between Dum-Dum Junction and Barrackpore Station . . . . .	15
Ditto ditto Midnapore conspiracy case . . . . .	146
Ditto ditto Murder of Inspector Nundo Lal Banerjee . . . . .	14
Ditto ditto Rates of rent in Government khas mahals and in private estates . . . . .	25
Ditto ditto Separation of Judicial and Executive functions . . . . .	16

**DUKE, HON'BLE MR. F. W., appointed to Select Committee on—**

Calcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Bill, 1909 . . . . .	154
---	-----

## E

**ENTERTAINMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL POLICE FORCE ON THE EASTERN BENGAL STATE RAILWAY BETWEEN DUM-DUM JUNCTION AND BARRACKPORE STATION.** See Questions.

**EXCISE BILL.** See Bengal Excise Bill, 1909.

## F

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT.** See Bengal Financial Statement for 1909-10.

## G

**GAJADHAR PRASAD** See Prasad

**GHAKR, HON'BLE MR. E., appointed to Select Committee on—**

Bengal Excise Bill, 1909 . . . . .	147
------------------------------------	-----

**GHOSH, HON'BLE BABU KALI PADA—**

Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates (Amendment) Bill, 1903 . . . . .	16
--	----

**GOSWAMI, HON'BLE RAI KISHORI LAL, BAHADUR—**

Asked questions regarding Mining Engineers . . . . .	24
Ditto ditto Rates of rent in Government khas mahals and in private estates . . . . .	25
Bengal Excise Bill, 1909 . . . . .	163, 172, 175, 176, 178, 189, 190, 208, 211, 212, 215, 217
Bengal Financial Statement for 1909-10 . . . . .	122
Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates (Amendment) Bill, 1903 . . . . .	16

**GOSWAMI, HON'BLE RAI KISHORI LAL, BAHADUR, appointed to Select Committee on—**

Bengal Excise Bill, 1909 . . . . .	18
------------------------------------	----

**GRAHAM, HON'BLE MR. C. W. N.—**

Bengal Financial Statement for 1909-10 . . . . .	98
--	----

## H

**HALLIDAY, HON'BLE MR. F. L., appointed to Select Committee on—**

Calcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Bill, 1909 . . . . .	154
---	-----

## I.

## INDIAN LUNATIC ASYLUMS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908

Bill considered . . . . .	5
Bill passed . . . . .	"

INTRODUCTORY SPEECHES . . . . .	2
---------------------------------	---

## K

KALI PADA GHOSH. *See* Ghosh.

## L

LAEMOUR, HON'BLE MR. F. A.—

Bengal Financial Statement for 1909-10 . . . . .	111
Introductory speech by, . . . . .	2

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL (HON'BLE SIR EDWARD BAKER, K.C.S.I.)—*President.*

Bengal Excise Bill, 1909 . . . . .	161, 162, 164, 166, 167, 171, 173, 174, 178, 179, 181, 186-189, 192, 193, 195, 201, 204, 216, 220
Bengal Financial Statement for 1909-10 . . . . .	98, 140
Reply by the, to introductory speeches . . . . .	3
Speech by, regarding the assassination of Sir William Curzon Wyllie . . . . .	160
Speech by, when Financial Statement was laid before the Council . . . . .	95

## M

MACPHERSON, HON'BLE W. C.—

Bengal Excise Bill, 1909 . . . . .	6, 18, 147, 151, 158, 160, 192, 163, 165, 167-174, 177, 179-182, 186-189, 191-195, 198, 205-208, 210, 211, 213-216, 219
Bengal Financial Statement for 1909-10 . . . . .	133

MACPHERSON, HON'BLE MR. W. C., appointed to Select Committee on—

Bengal Excise Bill, 1909 . . . . .	8
------------------------------------	---

MEMBERS. *See* New Members.

MIDNAPORE CONSPIRACY CASE. *See* Questions.

MINING ENGINEERS. *See* Questions.

MURDER OF INSPECTOR NUNDO LAL BANERJEE. *See* Questions

MURSHIDABAD, THE HON'BLE IHTISHAM-UL-MULK RAHSUDDOWLA AMIR-UL-OMRA NAWAB ABEF KADR SYUD WASIF ALI MEERZA KHAN BAHADUR MAHABAT JANG, NAWAB BAHADUR OF—

Asked questions regarding the Dacoity . . . . .	222
Ditto ditto Reduction in the vaccination fee . . . . .	"
Ditto ditto Savings effected in the salary of the post of Principal of the Calcutta Madrassa . . . . .	14
Ditto ditto want of Ambulances in Calcutta . . . . .	222
Bengal Financial Statement for 1909-10 . . . . .	99
Questions by, postponed . . . . .	157

## N

NAWAB BAHADUR OF MURSHIDABAD, AMIR-UL-OMRA *See* Murshidabad.

NEW MEMBERS—

Hon'ble Sir Edward Baker, K.C.S.I. (took his seat in Council on the 30th January, 1909) . . . . .	1
Hon'ble, Mr. J. G. Cumming (took his seat in Council on the 30th January, 1909) . . . . .	1
Hon'ble Mr. A. S. Thomson (took his seat in Council on the 30th January, 1909) . . . . .	1
Hon'ble Mr. C. W. N. Graham (took his seat in Council on the 3rd March, 1909) . . . . .	13
Hon'ble Mr. H. Wheeler (took his seat in Council on the 16th June, 1909) . . . . .	145
Hon'ble Mr. E. Geake (took his seat in Council on the 16th June, 1909) . . . . .	"

# INDEX

**New Members—concluded.**

v  
PAGE

Hon'ble Mr. F. L. Halliday (took his seat in Council on the 18th July, 1909)	149
Hon'ble Rai Nalinaksha Baru, Bahadur (took his seat in Council on the 18th July, 1909)	11
Hon'ble Babu Krishna Sahay (took his seat in Council on the 26th August, 1909)	225
Hon'ble Mr. J. O. Shorrook (took his seat in Council on the 26th August, 1909)	11

0

**OLDHAM, HON'BLE MR. O. E. A. W —**

Bengal Financial Statement for 1909-10	26, 135
Indian Lunatic Asylums (Amendment) Bill, 1908	5
Replied to questions regarding the scarcity of water in the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum and Murshidabad	24

**OLDHAM, HON'BLE MR. O. E. A. W., appointed to Select Committee on—**

Bengal Excise Bill, 1909	18
--------------------------	----

P

**PAL, HON'BLE BABU RADHA CHARAN—**

Asked questions regarding the	Entertainment of an additional police force on the Eastern Bengal State Railway between Dum-Dum Junction and Barrackpore Station	14
Ditto ditto	Murder of Inspector Nando Lal Banerjee	"
Ditto ditto	Scarcity of water in the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum and Murshidabad	24
Ditto ditto	Separation of Judicial and Executive functions	15
Bengal Excise Bill, 1909	9, 161, 164, 168, 170, 173-175, 179-182, 186-192, 195, 197, 203, 215, 216	
Bengal Financial Statement for 1909-10		106

**PAL, HON'BLE BABU RADHA CHARAN, appointed to Select Committee on—**

Bengal Excise Bill, 1909	18
Calcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Bill, 1909	164

**PATNA TEACHERS' TRAINING SCHOOL. See Questions** . . . . . 26

**PILGRIMS TO PURI. See Questions.** . . . . . "

**PRASAD, HON'BLE BABU GAJADHAR—**

Asked questions regarding the	Disaffiliation of the Patna College in History	24
Ditto ditto	Patna Teachers' Training School	4
Ditto ditto	Stipends and accommodation for students of the Patna Normal Training School	"
Bengal Financial Statement for 1909-10		119
Introductory speech by		2

**PRASAD, HON'BLE BABU GAJADHAR, appointed to Select Committee on—**

Bengal Excise Bill, 1909	18
--------------------------	----

**PRESIDENT See Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal**

Q

**QUESTIONS ASKED IN COUNCIL—**

Dacoity	223
Deputy Port Officer, Calcutta	25
Disaffiliation of the Patna College in History	24
Entertainment of an additional police force on the Eastern Bengal State Railway between Dum-Dum Junction and Barrackpore Station	14
Midnapore conspiracy case	145
Mining Engineers	24
Murder of Inspector Nundo Lal Banerjee	14
Patna Teachers' Training School	4
Pilgrims to Puri	153

**INDEX**

	PAGE
<b>QUESTIONS ASKED IN COUNCIL—concluded.</b>	
Rates of rent in Government khas mahals and in private estates . . . . .	25
Reduction in the vaccination fee . . . . .	222
Savings effected in the salary of the post of Principal of the Calcutta Madrasa .	14
Scarcity of water in the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum and Murshidabad .	24
Separation of Judicial and Executive functions . . . . .	15
Stipends and accommodation for students of the Patna Normal Training School	4
Want of ambulances in Calcutta . . . . .	222

**QUESTIONS POSTPONED.** See Murshidabad.

**B.**

**RADHA CHAMAN PAL.** See PAL.

**RATES OF RENT IN GOVERNMENT KHAS MAHALS AND IN PRIVATE ESTATES.** See Questions.

**REDUCTION IN THE VACCINATION FEE.** See Questions.

**S**

**SAHAY, HON'BLE BABU KRISHNA.** See New Members.

**SAMBALPUR (DELEGATION) BILL, 1909—**

Leave to introduce . . . . .	154
Introduced and read in Council . . . . .	"
Bill passed . . . . .	158

**SARBADHIKARI, HON'BLE BABU DEBA PRASAD—**

Bengal Excise Bill, 1909 . . . . .	10, 18, 158, 161, 162, 165-170, 172, 173, 175, 178, 180, 181, 191, 193-196, 201, 202, 206, 208-210, 212, 215, 217-	219
Bengal Financial Statement for 1909-10 . . . . .		113

**SARBADHIKARI, HON'BLE BABU DEBA PRASAD, appointed to Select Committee on—**

Calcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Bill, 1909 . . . . .	154
---	-----

**SAVINGS EFFECTED IN THE SALARY OF THE POST OF PRINCIPAL OF THE CALCUTTA MADRASSA.**  
See Questions.

**SCARCITY OF WATER IN THE DISTRICTS OF BURDWAN, BIRBHUM AND MURSHIDABAD.** See Questions.

**SELECT COMMITTEES.**

Title of Bill.	Appointed and supplemented.	Report presented.	Report considered.
Bengal Excise Bill, 1909 . . . . .	18,147	151	158
Calcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Bill, 1909 . . . . .	154	2:3	

**SEPARATION OF JUDICIAL AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS.** See Questions.

**SLACKE, HON'BLE F. A., C.S.I.—**

Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates (Amendment) Bill, 1908 . . . . .	15-17
Bengal Financial Statement for 1909-10 . . . . .	134
Sambalpur (Delegation) Bill, 1909 . . . . .	154, 158

**STIPENDS AND ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS OF THE PATNA NORMAL TRAINING SCHOOL.**  
See Questions.

# INDEX.

vii

Pages

## T

THOMSON, HON'BLE MR. A. S.—

Bengal Financial Statement for 1909-10 . . . . .	127
Replied to questions regarding the Deputy Port Officer, Calcutta . . . . .	26

WANT OF AMBULANCES IN CALCUTTA *See Questions.*

WHEELER, HON'BLE MR. H.—Replied to questions regarding the Reduction in the vaccination fee	223
" " Ditto ditto want of ambulances in Calcutta	223

WHEELER, HON'BLE MR. H., appointed to Select Committee on—

Bengal Excise Bill, 1909 . . . . .	147
------------------------------------	-----



*Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,  
assembled under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1851 and 1892.*

THE Council met in the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 30th January, 1909, at 11 A.M.

**Present:**

The Hon'ble SIR EDWARD BAKER, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding.*

The Hon'ble MR. F. A. SLACKE, C.S.I.

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

The Hon'ble MR. S. P. SINHA, Advocate-General of Bengal.

The Hon'ble MR. F. W. DUKE.

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

The Hon'ble MR. C. E. A. W. OLDHAM.

The Hon'ble MR. A. S. THOMSON.

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES ALLEN, K.T.

The Hon'ble MR. E. P. CHAPMAN.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJADHIRAJA SIR BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB BAHADUR, K.C.I.E., OF BURDWAN.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, M.A., B.L.

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

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL.

The Hon'ble MR. M. S. DAS, C.I.E.

**NEW MEMBERS.**

The Hon'ble SIR EDWARD BAKER, the Hon'ble MR. J. G. CUMMING and the Hon'ble MR. A. S. THOMSON took their seats in Council.

[Maharajadhiraja Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab Bahadur of Burdwan ;  
Mr. Das ; Mr. Larmour ; Babu Gajadhar Prasad.]

• INTRODUCTORY SPEECHES.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA SIR BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB BAHADUR OF BURDWAN said :—“Your Honour, to-day you have formally taken your seat in this Council as our Ruler and President, and on behalf of my Indian colleagues and myself, I beg to accord you a very hearty welcome to this Chamber, so very familiar to you. Your appointment as our Lieutenant-Governor has given universal satisfaction in this Province, and to-day, in Council, we, your Indian colleagues, wish to express to you our gratification, at having you to preside over us here, and sincerely hope that your *regimé* will be one full of vigour and important reforms as well as one of peace and prosperity to Bengal to which you belong, which you love, and which, I venture to say, loves you and has welcomed you very cordially.”

✓ The Hon'ble MR. DAS said :—“Your Honour, you have received greetings of welcome from one Indian nobleman—one who is perhaps the oldest among the Non-official Members of this Council, oldest in the ordinary sense, and oldest perhaps in my association with the proceedings of this Council. I consider it my duty to offer Your Honour our sincerest felicitations and respectful greetings of welcome as President of this Council and as Ruler of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. For some time past we have hoped to welcome you as the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and we are thankful that God, in His infinite wisdom, has entrusted the reins of Government to your hands, which I consider to be a most important event in the history of the country. When a vessel, Sir, is overtaken by a storm, the man at the helm steers it with a firm and steady hand; and while he steers the vessel steadily along the route, leading her to her port of destination, he is not unmindful of the lives entrusted to his care. Sir, I believe that personality is an important factor in any scheme of administration, and it is especially so in India. Laws are necessary, Legislative Councils are necessary, and laws are sometimes necessary even as surgical instruments. Sir, inventors and manufacturers of surgical instruments readily deserve the gratitude of the world, but the value of a surgical instrument to a particular patient depends on the skill of the surgeon.

“Sir, we are thankful to you for Your Honour's intention to visit Orissa three weeks hence. Orissa has no attractions of pleasant memories associated with Your Honour's past official career; and yet, notwithstanding that, that Your Honour should have decided to visit that part of the country under Your Honour's rule, within so short a time of having taken over the reins of Government, and amidst numerous engagements at this time, makes us hope that Your Honour's rule will be characterised by reformation, direct touch with the people, and entire sympathy for India.

“May God grant you health and strength, so that Your Honour may rejoice in extending to the people under Your Honour's rule the full benefits of the coming reform, and when, in the fullness of time, Your Honour lays down the reins of this Government, may history look upon you, Sir, as the illustrious vision who worked out in Bengal the glorious mission of England, the extension of the blessings of civilised life.” ✓

The Hon'ble MR. LARMOUR said :—“Your Honour, on behalf of the community that I represent in this Council, I desire to endorse the words of welcome offered you by the Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan on your appointment as Lieutenant-Governor of this province.”

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD said :—“I, on behalf of the people of Bihar, accord Your Honour a hearty welcome. They are thankful to Your Honour for the recent tour you made in Bihar, so soon after the assumption of office and the opportunity you thereby afforded them of welcoming you in their midst. Sir Andrew Fraser paid special attention to Bihar because of its backwardness, and your recent tour has filled the Biharis with the hope that Your Honour will continue the same policy.”

[The President.]

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said:—"Maharajadhiraja, Mr. Larmour and Gentlemen of the Council—.

"I thank you for the welcome you have accorded to me as your incoming President and for the kind expressions which the Maharaja of Burdwan has been good enough to use regarding me.

"I am not a stranger to this Council, for I enjoyed the honour of a seat upon it, as Secretary to the Bengal Government, for nearly three years, from 1898 to 1901; and though that is now a long time ago, I am glad that there are at least two gentlemen present to-day, who were colleagues of mine, during a portion of that time—I mean the Hon'ble Mr. Slacke and the Hon'ble Mr. M. S. Das.

"During the time when I was a member of the Council, and indeed at all times that are within my knowledge, the relations between the non-official members and the Government have been uniformly excellent, and I am confident that my Government will receive from you the same assistance and co-operation as in the past.

"Gentlemen, I do not propose to trouble you with any remarks on the business that is on the agenda paper to-day. But I desire to take this opportunity of making some observations on another matter, which in my judgment is of very real importance.

"On two recent occasions, when speaking about the great constitutional reforms which are shortly to be introduced, His Excellency the Viceroy declared emphatically that it will now rest with the people of India and their leaders to make the reforms a success. That pronouncement has been cordially accepted by the organs of public opinion that I have seen; and I myself will venture to express hearty agreement with it.

"But there is also another aspect of the matter, and it is to this that I desire now to invite attention. I hold that a solemn duty rests upon the officers of Government in all branches, and more particularly upon the officers of the Civil Service, so to comport themselves in the inception and working of the new measures as to make the task of the people and their leaders easy. It is incumbent upon them loyally to accept the principle that these measures involve the surrender of some portion of the authority and control which they now exercise, and some modification of the methods of administration. If that task is approached in a grudging or reluctant spirit, we shall be sowing the seeds of failure, and shall forfeit our claim to receive the friendly co-operation of the representatives of the people. What precise changes will be made in the form of district or municipal administration are not likely to be determined until the Royal Commission on Decentralization shall have presented its report. But as regards the Provincial Council itself, we know from the published papers the general outlines of what is in contemplation. These include a majority of non-officials, who, whether elected or nominated, are at liberty to speak and vote as they please; a large measure of control over the Provincial budget; the power of raising debates and moving resolutions on matters of public interest; and the right of putting supplementary questions.

"It is manifest that the free exercise of these powers, in the spirit in which they have been devised, will impose a greatly increased burden of work and responsibility on the officers who will represent the Government in the Council. They must be prepared to support, defend and carry through the administrative policy, and in a certain degree even the executive acts of the Government in the Council, in much the same way as is now prescribed in regard to measures of legislation; and they must further be prepared to discharge this task without the aid of a standing majority behind them. They will have to resort to the more difficult arts of persuasion and conciliation, in place of the easier methods of autocracy. This is no small demand to make on the resources of a service whose training and traditions have hitherto led its members rather to work for the people than through the people or their representatives. But I am nevertheless confident that the demand will not be made in vain. For more than a hundred years, in the time of the Company and under the rule of the Crown, the Indian Civil Service has never failed to respond to whatever

[*The President ; Babu Gajadhar Prasad ; Mr. Cumming.*]

call has been made upon it, or to adapt itself to the changing environment of the time. I feel no doubt that officers will be found who possess the natural gifts, the loyalty, the imagination and the force of character which will be requisite for the conduct of the administration under the more advanced form of government to which we are about to succeed."

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### STIPENDS AND ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS OF THE PATNA NORMAL TRAINING SCHOOL.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD said :—

The students who pass the Lower Primary, the Upper Primary and the Middle Vernacular examinations, and then, with the object of qualifying themselves for a teachership in the Middle Vernacular schools, join the Patna Normal Training School, get only Rs. 4 a month as stipend. On account of the insufficiency of this stipend and the bad accommodation with which they are provided in the boarding-house they cannot live well and in good health. Two of them died of plague in 1907-08 and two of them died of cholera in 1908-09. The students who join the Guru-training School without passing any examination get Rs. 5 to Rs. 9 a month as stipend. In view of these facts will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of raising the stipend to Rs. 7 or Rs. 8 a month and of providing good accommodation as soon as practicable ?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

"The sufficiency of the stipends allotted to students who attend the vernacular training schools is one of the subjects which is being dealt with by a Committee recently appointed by Government to consider the whole question of vernacular training schools. The Committee has not yet completed its inquiries.

"As regards the accommodation of the hostel at Patna, the Government have no reason to believe that its condition is responsible for the cases of illness referred to by the Hon'ble Member; but the matter will receive attention."

### THE PATNA TEACHERS' TRAINING SCHOOL.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD asked :—

In view of the interests of the public generally and of the students of the Patna Teachers' Training College particularly, will it please the Government to consider the desirability of defining the prospects of the students that pass from the College and of guaranteeing a certain number of appointments to them ?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

"The present training class for teachers at Patna was opened on the 12th October, 1908. It is as yet only in an experimental stage. Neither in the case of this training class nor in that of the David Hare Training College, at Calcutta, has it so far been definitely laid down what specific advantage will be given to those who pass through the training course. The question of the terms on which intending teachers, who have taken the training course at Patna, will be appointed to Government service is at present under consideration, but its final determination depends on the settlement of the general scheme for the improvement of the position of teachers in secondary schools, which is now before the Government of India."

[*Mr. Duke; Mr. Oldham.*]

### THE BENGAL COURT OF WARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble MR. DUKE moved that the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Court of Wards Act, 1879, be taken into consideration.

He said:—“SIR,—I am glad to say that the very short Bill of which I am in charge has been unanimously approved by the Select Committee exactly as it was presented to them. There is in fact hardly anything to be added to the remarks which were made by the Hon'ble Mr. Greer in introducing the Bill.

“It gives to the Court of Wards a facility which has hitherto been wanting to obtain loans for the consolidation or liquidation of the debts of a Ward's estate.

“For the smaller estates particularly, however excellent the security might be, the class of capitalists who are willing to lend on reasonable terms to large estates refused to come forward. The necessary inquiries were too troublesome and the legal business too expensive to make a small investment at low interest worth their while. But under this Bill the Court of Wards, which is in possession of all the facts, will have no difficulty in arranging loans from estates which have a surplus seeking investment.

“The arrangement will be equally a boon to those estates which at present can find no remunerative employment for their surplus funds.

“All the authorities consulted have approved of the Bill except the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce. This body objected to the narrowing of the money-lenders' opportunities, a view which is certainly not much in sympathy with the interests of land-owners.

“A further suggestion made by them was that estates between which such transactions had taken place might be involved in litigation after their release from the Court of Wards. As observed by the Select Committee, however, section 13A of the Court of Wards Act, 1879, expressly provides against such a contingency by enabling the Court of Wards to retain charge until the liabilities have been discharged. When there is such general approval and when the only objections advanced have so little basis, I trust that this Council will have no difficulty in passing the Bill.”

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. DUKE also moved that the Bill be passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

### THE INDIAN LUNATIC ASYLUMS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM moved that the Bill to amend the Indian Lunatic Asylums Act, 1858, be taken into consideration.

He said:—“I move, Sir, that the Bill to amend the Indian Lunatic Asylums Act, 1858, be taken into consideration by the Council. When moving for leave to introduce the Bill at the last meeting of Council on the 28th of November, I explained to the Hon'ble Members the nature of this short formal measure, which involves the amendment only of one section of the Act, and the object of which is to enable the simple procedure of section 7 to be made available for dealing with Calcutta lunatics whom it may be necessary to send to an asylum situated elsewhere in the Province.”

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also moved that the Bill be passed.

He said:—“I now move, Sir, that the Bill to amend the Indian Lunatic Asylums Act, 1858, be passed.”

The motion was put and agreed to.

[Mr. Macpherson.]

## THE BENGAL EXCISE BILL, 1909.

The Hon'ble Mr. MACPHERSON moved for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the Excise Law in Bengal.

He said:—"I ask for leave of the Council to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law with regard to intoxicating liquors and intoxicating drugs.

"This Bill which I ask permission to introduce takes the place of the Bill originally introduced in this Council at the end of the year 1903 by the Hon'ble Mr. Buckland, my predecessor on the Board of Revenue. That Bill was referred to a Select Committee, who reported upon it in March, 1904. On the presentation of the Report an important debate took place in the Council. I think that the Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh and I are the only present members of Council who were on the Council at that time. The Hon'ble Mr. Woodroffe, who was at the time Advocate-General, moved that the Bill should be re-committed to the Select Committee with instructions that it should be amended so as to secure express and direct legislative enactment, or procedure, for ascertaining the existence of local opinion in the matter of licensing liquor-shops and for ensuring that a reasonable amount of deference should be paid to such local opinion, when ascertained, both as to the number and location of shops. Mr. Woodroffe further moved that the Bill should be amended so as to provide in the actual text of the law that intoxicating liquors and drugs shall not be sold to children under 14 years of age, or to women. He also moved that reasonably adequate provision should be made in the Bill so as to prevent, as far as possible, the spread of drunkenness. This motion for re-commitment was accepted by your predecessor, Sir, and the Bill was sent back to the Select Committee for further consideration.

"The Select Committee further reported on the Bill in April, 1904; and the Hon'ble Sir Andrew Fraser accepted their recommendations that a prohibition of the sale of intoxicants to children should be inserted in the Bill, and that the matter of the sale of intoxicants to women should be left to be dealt with, if necessary, by rules to be made under the Act. Sir Andrew Fraser also agreed with the Committee that provisions for ascertaining public opinion in regard to licensing shops for the sale of intoxicants, which previously had been made by rules, should be specifically included in the Bill. Clauses were inserted in accordance with these recommendations.

"Sir Andrew Fraser then asked for the permission of the Government of India to proceed with the amended Bill. In reply the Government of India accepted the principles recommended, but pointed out certain defects in the clauses which had been inserted to give effect to the recommendations, and they desired that the Bill might be revised in consultation with local officers. The Bengal Government accordingly, after consulting the Board of Revenue and local authorities, including the Corporation of Calcutta, submitted a revised Bill in May, 1905. Opportunity was taken to amend the provisions of the Bill so as to provide a legal basis for the Contract Distillery System which was introduced at that time into certain Bengal districts.

"Meanwhile the Government of India had appointed the Indian Excise Committee to inquire and report with regard to various matters in connection with Excise, and they wrote in March, 1906, that it was undesirable that the Bengal Excise Bill should be proceeded with until the Report of the Committee should be received and considered.

"The Indian Excise Committee's Report was submitted to the Government of India in July, 1906; and during the next 12 months the Government of India dealt with their recommendations in a series of Resolutions. In a Resolution of July, 1907, they accepted the opinion of the Indian Excise Committee that the Bengal Bill should not be passed into law as it stood; and they requested the Bengal Government to prepare a revised draft on the general lines of the Bill prepared by the Indian Excise Committee, with certain modifications. The Bengal Bill was criticised as being verbose and containing a number of repetitions which could be avoided and provisions which were unnecessary in the substantive law. It was pointed out that the rule-making provisions were scattered over a great many clauses and sub-clauses; and special defects were pointed out in retention of obsolete

[Mr. Macpherson.]

provisions, in multiplication of Excise offences and in other omissions. A revised Bill was accordingly prepared and submitted to the Government of India in January of last year; and after discussion of points of detail between the Government of India and the Government of Bengal, the revised Bill was submitted to the Secretary of State in December last. This month the sanction of the Secretary of State to the introduction of the Bill was received.

"Under Your Honour's order the Bill revised by the Select Committee of 1904 has been removed from the list of business, under the rule which permits such action to be taken when no motion has been made with regard to a Bill for two years. I now ask the Council to accept the Bill which has been circulated to Members in substitution for the former Bill, and to permit it to be formally introduced in Council.

"I shall reserve further remarks, Sir, until permission to introduce the Bill has been accorded."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. MACPHERSON introduced the Bill and moved that it be read in Council.

He said:—"I now move, Sir, that the Bill to consolidate and amend the Excise Law in Bengal be read in Council.

"In my preceding remarks I have given to Hon'ble Members the history of the Bill which I have been permitted to introduce. I have now to call attention to the more important changes which it is proposed to make in the law. These are to be gathered from the Statement of Objects and Reasons which is attached to the Bill. But I think that Hon'ble Members would wish that I should briefly indicate them.

"In the first place, the Bill is a consolidating measure which will take the place of the principal Act, passed thirty-one years ago, and of the amending Acts. The labours both of the Select Committee of 1904 and of the Indian Excise Committee of 1905-06 have been utilised; and I hope it will be found that the Bill now before the Council is more complete than the existing Acts and that its arrangement is more logical. The Bill is not very much longer, however, than the existing law. It contains 88 clauses as against 85 sections of the Act of 1878.

"The amendments of the law which are of the most general interest are, in order of clauses,—

the provisions for facilitating interprovincial import and export (clauses 10 to 13);

the provisions for introduction of the Contract Distillery System for supply of country spirit (clause 21);

the provisions for permitting imposition of a tree-tax on *tari* or toddy (clauses 29 to 33);

the provisions for consulting local opinion as regards numbers and sites of liquor-shops and other excise-shops (clauses 34 to 40);

the provisions for giving better control over the flavouring, blending or colouring of liquor [clauses 2 (19), 2 (20), 14 (c) and 51 (c)];

the provisions prohibiting sale of intoxicants to drunken persons or to children under 14 years of age, and which make licensees responsible for preventing drunkenness in shops (clause 54);

the provisions for penalties and for compounding of offences (Chapter IX and clause 68), and

the provisions with regard to chemists and druggists who sell medicated spirits (clause 84).

"I shall not take up the time of the Council by referring to all these matters, but I shall notice some of them.

"First, with regard to the introduction of the Contract Distillery System. It is the policy of Government to abolish the outstills in all areas where this may be found to be practicable; and it has been laid down that in existing circumstances the Contract Distillery System is the most suitable system.

[Mr. Macpherson.]

"I may explain that the main features of this system are the separation of the rights of manufacture and retail vend, the fixation of a wholesale rate and of maximum retail prices and the retail of liquor at fixed strengths only. None of these conditions were existent in Bengal or could be obtained under the outstill system and the central distillery system. The introduction of the contract system into 18 districts and parts of districts in Bengal has given to Government a more definite control upon the consumption of liquor, and while it has cheapened the cost of liquor for retail vendors, it has enabled Government to enhance the rates of duty. In future the effects of taxation upon the consumption of liquor will be judged with greater precision. It is proposed to extend this system further from next year.

"Next may be noticed the provisions for imposition of a tree-tax on *tari*, that is, the juice of palmyras, the date-palm and other palms. It will be seen that these provisions are permissive; that is, they do not come into operation until they are specially extended. It was considered by the Indian Excise Committee that the consumption of *tari* requires more adequate check by improved Excise methods and enhanced taxation than it has hitherto received in Bengal, especially in areas where it is proposed to adopt measures for restricting the consumption of country spirit by enhancing taxation. The Government of India have forwarded to the Local Government draft clauses for insertion in the Bill permitting imposition of a tree-tax, but have left it to the discretion of the Local Government to introduce this system. The system belongs to the Bombay and Madras Provinces. Attempts were made some years ago in certain districts of the Province to introduce the tree-tax system into certain districts of Bengal; but they were not successful, and without an amended law and without better establishments no one, I think, wishes to repeat the experiment. I think that any action taken under these clauses should be cautious and tentative.

"I may next notice the provisions which have been inserted in the Bill requiring the Collector to consult local opinion as regards the number and the location of the liquor-shops and other excise-shops which he proposes to license.

'The Council will observe that this Bill does not reproduce section 84 of the existing Act, which empowers the Local Government with the approval of the Government of India to assign to the Corporation of Calcutta or to any other Municipal body powers as to granting excise licenses. The power given by that section has never been exercised, and it is thought to be sufficient to provide, as in clauses 34 to 41 of the Bill, for ascertaining public opinion and for hearing objections to the issue of licenses.

"It has been repeatedly laid down by the highest authority that local option, in the sense in which that term is generally understood in other countries, is impracticable in India. The Government of India wrote in 1890 that such a system would throw the administration into confusion, and would in some places create an intolerable class tyranny which might have very serious political effects. It is considered that the position is not materially altered since these words were written, and that it is impossible for the Government to lay aside its responsibilities for fixing whether by itself, or through its officers, the numbers and sites of liquor-shops.

"Government has been unable to accept the recommendation that licensing functions should be assigned to Municipal bodies or other elected local bodies. Under existing circumstances the District Officer is the officer most likely to possess the local knowledge required for the satisfactory discharge of the licensing functions, and Government does not accept the view that these officers have any such interest in the growth of the Excise revenue as to disqualify them from performing that duty impartially.

"Government agrees, however, with the Indian Excise Committee, that Municipal Committees should be consulted as valuable exponents of an important section of public opinion to which proper attention must be paid; and it has been directed that steps shall be taken to ensure that local opinion, both in towns and in rural areas, shall be more systematically consulted and the result more formally recorded than has hitherto been the case.



[*Mr. Macpherson; Babu Radha Charan Pal.*]

"The Council are aware that a Committee sat in Calcutta last year, on which the Corporation was represented, for the purpose of advising Government with regard to licensing of liquor-shops in Calcutta; and the Commissioners of Divisions assembled in conference have advised that local Committees should consider proposals for the licensing of liquor-shops in all important towns. Our existing rules require the Collector to notify beforehand to Municipal Commissioners the sites selected for liquor-shops, and to consider carefully their objections and to consult local opinion as far as possible. But clauses 34 to 40 of the Bill have been inserted by the Bengal Government in the view that the attention of the public and of Government officers is more forcibly attracted by provisions of an Act than by rules and executive orders.

"Before leaving this subject I would add as a personal opinion that it seems to me that it may be expedient to provide in clause 39 of the Bill that should any difference of opinion arise between the Excise Commissioner and the District authorities with regard to licensing, the matter should be referred to the Commissioner of the Division. The Council will remember that Commissioners of Divisions in Bengal were relieved of their functions in connection with Excise when a Commissioner of Excise was appointed about 20 years ago. Though, however, the Commissioners of Divisions no longer exercise any statutory power under the Bengal Excise Act, they are still associated with the Board and Government in the Excise Administration. They are consulted in all important matters connected with Excise and on proposals involving any change of principle or policy. The annual reports and other periodical reports are submitted to the Divisional Commissioner for transmission to the Commissioner of Excise, and the Divisional Commissioners have full power to inspect all Excise-shops and offices, and to notice any defects and to intervene in any matter where intervention appears to be desirable. I should like, therefore, to have the position of the Commissioner of the Division formally recognized in this clause of the Bill, and I think that such a provision would be satisfactory to the public and that it might often save references to the Board and to Government.

"I have only a very few more remarks to make.

"In clause 54 Members will notice provisions taken from recent English statutes which prohibit sales of intoxicants to drunken persons or to children under 14 years of age, and which impose a burden of responsibility on licensees to show that they have taken all reasonable steps to prevent drunkenness in shops or premises. We have such prohibitory clauses in some of our retail licenses. But it has been accepted as desirable that the prohibitions should be contained in the law itself.

"I invite attention to the clauses of the Bill which prohibit bottling of liquor for sale without a license and which are intended to control blending and colouring liquor and to prevent the sale of cheap spirit, sophisticated so as to resemble whisky and brandy, as if it were the genuine article. These provisions have been inserted in order to deal with the excessive manipulation of white spirit which goes on in Calcutta.

"The subject of penalties has been carefully dealt with in Chapter IX of the Bill, and in some cases, more severe punishment has been proposed than the present law provides.

"With regard to other changes proposed in the law, I think that it is sufficient for me to refer Members to the Notes on Clauses.

"If the motion which I shall now make be accepted by the Council, I shall move on a future date that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, and Hon'ble Members will then have an opportunity to discuss the principles and the general provisions of the Bill.

"I now move, Sir, that the Bill be read in Council."

'The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL said:—"Sir, I crave Your Honour's permission to make a few suggestions on one or two important points in connection with this Bill. It was stated by the Hon'ble Member that section 84 of the Act, which empowers the Local Government, with the sanction of the

[*Babu Radha Charan Pal ; Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

Governor General in Council, to assign to the Corporation of Calcutta or any other Municipality powers as to granting Excise licenses, has never been acted upon. Sir, I do not know why this power has not been exercised. So far as the Corporation of Calcutta is concerned, this matter was never placed before it, and I believe the power can only be exercised with the sanction of the Governor General in Council on the recommendation of the Local Government. I believe, Sir, if Government had given authority, the Corporation would have exercised it with the utmost care and with due regard not only to the interests of Government so far as the revenue is concerned, but also to the interests of the people at large. The Corporation of Calcutta is the most advanced Municipal body under Your Honour's sway, and I am sure if this power is retained, and if the Corporation of Calcutta and other Municipalities are permitted to exercise this function, they will exercise it to the best advantage of the people in their respective jurisdictions. Sir, under the new sections 38 and 39 I find the opinion of the Chairmen of the Municipalities would be considered by the Excise Commissioner. No doubt, the Ward Commissioners would be consulted, but the Excise Commissioner and the Collector will decide on the opinion of the Chairmen of the Municipalities. I believe the Members of this Council are well aware that the Chairmen are members of the respective Municipalities over which they preside, and it is they who guide the deliberations of the Municipalities. I think the collective opinion of the Municipality as given in a Resolution passed in a meeting of the Commissioners should be considered by the Collector and the Excise Commissioner. The opinion which will be submitted by the Chairman of the Municipality and Chairman of the Corporation should not be his own individual opinion, but the opinion of the Commissioners of the Municipality.

"Then, Sir, I find that it has been stated that the Collector, having local knowledge, is in a very good position to decide whether licenses should or should not be granted. I am well aware, Sir, of the intimate acquaintance of the Collector with the requirements of his own district, but, at the same time, I think that if the Government could rely only on the Collector's local knowledge, they would not have inserted these provisions with a view to ascertaining local opinion. Local opinion in these local matters play a very important part, and I therefore submit that if, in any matter local opinion ought to be a guide in granting licenses, it is eminently in the matter of excise licenses. I would therefore venture to make this suggestion at this stage of the Bill that the power which has already been granted under the present Act should not be taken away, and that the local option should be largely used, so as to give the people an effective voice in controlling licenses to liquor-shops."

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI said:—"In welcoming Your Honour to the first meeting of the Council since assumption of the high office to which Your Honour has been called, it gives me great pleasure to be able to congratulate Your Honour most sincerely that it is also the occasion for the inauguration of a beneficent legislation that has been long and eagerly looked for. It is a measure expected to mark the close of long-drawn struggles between the public and the publican, in which the former should come out triumphant. To put down or at all events to minimise the drink and drug habits and withal to get out of the inevitable evil the maximum of public good in the shape of revenue is in all civilised countries the anxious care of true statesmanship, and if righteous resolves have to give way before the combined influence and affluence of Beer potentates even in premier countries, we congratulate ourselves that such powerful vested interests are utterly unknown in this country. Here, therefore, the long-rooted temperance cause which is so warmly and whole heartedly championed by lofty missionary zeal, ought to triumph signally as I have little doubt it will, specially in a Province in which its University is able publicly to claim that no organised temperance work is needed among its *alumni*.

"On the first reading of the Excise Bill, I shall not be pessimistic enough to apprehend that that triumph will not be complete because the wording of this measure of progression is cautious. In the good intentions of the Government there has never been any lack of confidence, but distrust has mainly been

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

in the subordinate machinery which in the draft Bill maintains more than its usual preponderance. In reminding this Council on the occasion of the last budget debate of the avowed policy of the Supreme Government to 'minimise temptation to those who do not drink and to discourage excess among those who do,' I ventured to urge that the public would be disappointed if in the result of the investigations of the Excise Commission\* the following reforms were not achieved :—

- (1) An immediate and considerable reduction in the drinking facilities of the city.
- (2) An administrative reform under which the Revenue Executive shall share with some other authority the power of deciding the number and location of all future licenses.
- (3) Local option receiving much more consideration so that to some extent the people chiefly concerned may have an opportunity of saying how many grog-shops they require and where they may be located.
- (4) An insistence that the standard quality of all liquors sold, whether country or foreign, shall be subject to periodical and rigid examination.
- (5) A definite legislative measure, that shall not be a skeleton, allowing rules to be framed thereafter in accord with the personal idiosyncrasies of the Revenue authority for the time being, but that shall incorporate as part of the Act all those reforms the need for which has long been admitted, viz., no sales to children or drunken persons, the limit and hours of retail sales, the structural fitness and sanitary character of all shops, the minimum distance of one shop from another, and so on.

"In outlining these reforms I felt obliged to complain that the wait for reforms was too long that intemperance and revenue that prospers by intemperance had been steadily increasing, and that the agonised cry of a long-suffering public was 'how much longer.' The answer has now come in the shape of the 'definite legislative measure' that was then asked for and which has taken the shape of the Bill now before us. It is impossible, however, not to have to say that it is the skeleton that I somewhat apprehended at the time, though I do not start at it as a dreaded Frankenstein, but cordially welcome it even as a skeleton that will yet gather flesh and blood. Legislation by rules and notification, which has recently been the marked trend, may have the advantages of elasticity. But it has its disadvantages which are also the disadvantages of elasticity, and which in a case like this are bound markedly to preponderate. Clearly defined and well understood lines of policy, as well as working details in the main, have long been the objective of earnest temperance workers, which we miss in this Bill to a certain degree, and I venture to think that much in the long roll of delegation to the Government and the Board of Revenue in sections 79 and 80 of the Bill should find place in the Bill itself. We welcome the semblance of local option provided in the Bill, but its scope has to be considerably enlarged for it to be even partially effective. The existing powers of some authority other than the Revenue authorities, such as the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, has been taken away on the ground of their being obsolete. Instead of this being done I venture to think that care should be taken to see that such powers of the Chairman of the Corporation or of such other civic or educational authorities as may be agreed upon in the matter of licensing, ought not to be allowed to become obsolete, but ought to be strengthened, enlarged and exercised for public good. We also welcome the expansion of the principles of protection to children and women both as regards being served and employed in drink shops; but I should like to bring to Your Honour's notice the claim of children of bigger growth, drunken incapables utterly unable to look after themselves. With regard to the age limit in the Bill, I may be permitted to observe that while we do not allow minors under 18 and in some cases below 21, to deal with their property or incur contractual obligations, minors of much lesser age (fourteen) are by this Bill to be allowed facilities for bargaining away their bodies and souls through drugs and drink, as if cigarette habit, rampant, is not bad enough. And.

[Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari; Mr. Macpherson.]

If the employment of women is objectionable at the Bar where foreign liquor is sold, how is it any less objectionable in regard to country liquors sporting under the names of Swadeshi Brandy and Swadeshi Whisky—a degradation in nomenclature fit to make all true Swadeshis blush? And under no circumstances, Sir, should an Indian woman be served on the premises, however much she may choose to degrade herself elsewhere.

“While these are some of the observations that strike the casual first reader of the Bill from the point of view of the general public, the publican also may be allowed to enter his protest against evidentiary onus being unduly thrown upon him in semi-criminal cases against accepted principles of equity and good conscience. So far as juridical matters are concerned, the balance must be held evenly, however hard one may be inclined to be against the publican regarding economic and administrative details. And even the Secretary of State and his officers should not be allowed immunity where clear lack of *bona fides* is established; nor can lack of personal bravery on the part of Excise officers be made up for by Statute. Many of the provisions of the Bill are new. Some are decidedly an improvement. Some of those that cannot claim admission under that category have been borrowed from Madras, no longer benighted. Accustomed as Madras may have been to give us points in the matter of drink, Madras Excise rigor cannot in all cases be either necessary or desirable in Bengal, and the poor man's *gur* should be carefully safeguarded at any cost. I shall not now seek to anticipate the Select Committee about the details which it is unusual to discuss or even fully to indicate at the first reading of a Bill. I shall content myself with expressing the almost redundant hope that the Select Committee that will sit on this Bill will do its duty in a thorough-going spirit. I desire to give the Bill my cordial support even in its present form, and congratulate the Council and Your Honour's Government that we are after all about to embark on a measure fraught with the possibility of so much good worked in the true spirit of the noble sentiments voiced by Your Honour to-day.”

The Hon'ble MR. MACPHERSON said:—“The Hon'ble Babu Radha Charan Pal called attention to the provisions of clause 39 of the Bill, and he suggested, as I understood, that the opinion of the Corporation in regard to licensing should be considered as well as the opinion of the Chairman. Clause 39 provides that in cases of differences of opinion between the Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta or the Commissioner of Police and the Excise Commissioner, the matter should be referred to higher authority. I understood the Hon'ble gentleman to say that the collective opinion of the Corporation at least should be entitled to weight. It will be observed, Sir, that clause 35 provides that extracts from the list of proposed shops shall be sent to each member of the Ward Committee, but it may be desirable to provide for weight being given to the collective opinion of the Municipal Commissioners in addition to the individual opinion of the Chairman; and I think that I may say that this suggestion will be considered in the Select Committee stage.

“The same speaker referred to my remarks with regard to the local knowledge possessed by the District Officer. I did not at all mean to say that the local knowledge of the District Officer was the only important matter. I hope myself that we shall find that in the future, a local Committee will be constituted in all large towns in which non-officials will be fully represented, who will advise the District Officer in the matter of licensing, and bring all their local knowledge to help him.

“These are the only matters on which I think it necessary to remark at this stage.”

The motion was then put and agreed to, and the Secretary accordingly read the title of the Bill.

The Council was then adjourned to a date to be fixed hereafter.

CALCUTTA,  
The 17th February, 1909.

E. G. WIGLEY,  
Secretary to the Bengal Council.

*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 Wednesday, the 3rd March, 1909, at 11 A.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble SIR EDWARD BAKER, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding*

The Hon'ble MR. F. A. SLACKE, C.S.I.

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

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

The Hon'ble MR. F. W. DUKE.

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

The Hon'ble MR. C. E. A. W. OLDHAM.

The Hon'ble MR. A. S. THOMSON.

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES ALLEN, KT.

The Hon'ble MR. E. P. CHAPMAN.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJADHIRAJA SIR BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB BAHADUR,  
K.C.I.E., OF BURDWAN.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, M.A., B.L.

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

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL.

The Hon'ble MR. M. S. DAS, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble IHTISHAM-UL-MULK RAESUDDOWLA AMIR-UL-OMEA NAWAB  
ASEF KADE SYUD WASIF ALI MEERZA KHAN BAHADUR  
MAHABAT JANG, NAWAB BAHADUR of Murshidabad.

The Hon'ble MR. C. W. N. GRAHAM.

NEW MEMBER.

The Hon'ble MR. C. W. N. GRAHAM took his seat in Council.

[*Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad, Amir-ul-omra; Mr. Cumming; Babu Radha Charan Pal; Mr. Duke.*]

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

#### SAVINGS EFFECTED IN THE SALARY OF THE POST OF PRINCIPAL OF THE CALCUTTA MADRASSA.

The Hon'ble the NAWAB BAHADUR OF MURSHIDABAD, AMIR-UL-OMRA, asked :—

Will the Government be pleased to state what, if any, is the amount of savings effected in the salary of the post of Principal of the Calcutta Madrassa since the appointment of the present incumbent ?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

“When an officer goes on leave, it is ordinarily the case that his leave allowances, plus the officiating allowances of the officers who are promoted in the chain of vacancies caused thereby, equal or exceed the saving caused by his absence. The Local Government has made no special calculations in the case of Dr. Ross, but it has no reason to believe that the result will be different.”

#### MURDER OF INSPECTOR NUNDO LAL BANERJEE.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL said :—

With reference to the murder of Inspector Nundo Lal Banerjee, may I inquire if the inquiry is still proceeding, and if any clue has been obtained which might lead to the detection of the culprits involved in this abominable murder ?

The Hon'ble MR. DUKE replied :—

“The inquiry into the murder of Sub-Inspector Nundo Lal Banerjee is still proceeding. Government is not at present in a position to make any statement as to the information so far obtained.”

#### ENTERTAINMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL POLICE FORCE ON THE EASTERN BENGAL STATE RAILWAY BETWEEN DUM-DUM JUNCTION AND BARRACKPORE STATION.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked :—

(a) With reference to the Government Notification in the Calcutta Gazette of February 24th, declaring the area extending for two miles on each side of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, from a point one mile south of Dum-Dum junction to Barrackpore Station, to be in a dangerous state, and the entertainment of an additional Police force, will the Government be pleased to state what is the estimated monthly cost of the force, and whether the cost is to be defrayed out of the general revenues of the State or from special taxation on the people ?

(b) If the latter, how is it to be apportioned ?

(c) What are the villages included in the area ?

(d) Is it a fact, as stated in some newspapers, that it is intended to exclude the Mill area and Cantonment portion from the limit of taxation, if any; and if so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for such exclusion ?

[Mr. Duke; Babu Radha Charan Pal; Mr. Slacke.]

The Hon'ble MR. DUKE replied:—

(a) "The estimate of cost of the force to be employed has not yet been worked out. It is expected that it will amount to about Rs. 7,000 per month. The cost will be recovered from the inhabitants of the declared area, with the exception of such individuals or classes as the Lieutenant-Governor may choose to exempt on the recommendation of the local officers."

(b) "The details of apportionment of the cost cannot be stated at present."

(c) "A complete list of the villages included in the area is not yet before Government."

(d) "No decision has yet been arrived at as to any particular area to be exempted."

#### SEPARATION OF JUDICIAL AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to state what steps it proposes to take with a view to trying the experiment of separation of Judicial from Executive functions in selected districts, as promised last year?

The Hon'ble MR. DUKE replied:—

"This Government is still in correspondence with the Government of India on the subject of the separation of Judicial and Executive duties in Bengal."

#### THE CHOTA NAGPUR ENCUMBERED ESTATES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble MR. SLACKE presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act, 1876.

He said:—"In doing so I may mention that since the Bill was referred to a Select Committee for consideration, the question as to whether the Act applies to districts outside Chota Nagpur has been very ably argued before the Board, who, agreeing with the Hon'ble the Advocate-General, have decided the matter in the affirmative.

"It is very probable that the decision thus arrived at will be tested in the Civil Court, and thereby a point, which has long been in doubt, will be finally settled."

The Hon'ble MR. SLACKE moved that the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. SLACKE also moved that the clauses of the Bill be considered in the form recommended by the Select Committee.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. SLACKE also moved that after sub-clause (a), in clause 7 of the Bill, the following be inserted, namely:—

"(b) debts or liabilities which the Deputy Commissioner is satisfied had necessarily to be incurred for the maintenance of such holder or his family."

[*Mr. Slacke ; Babu Kali Pada Ghosh ; Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur.*]

He said :—“It is considered necessary to insert this clause for, in the section as it stands, the person who makes the application to the Commissioner may find himself very much hampered, if he is unable to raise means for the support of himself and his family during the period his appeal is being considered.”

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH said :—“This seems to be a very necessary addition, and I beg to support the amendment to clause 7.”

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. SLACKE also moved that sub-clauses (b) and (c) in clause 7 of the Bill be lettered “(c)” and “(d),” respectively.

He said :—“This is merely a consequential amendment on the Council having accepted the previous amendment to clause 7.”

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. SLACKE also moved that to sub-section (2) of section 14A in clause 13 of the Bill, and to sub-section (2) of section 19A in clause 15 of the Bill, the following be added, namely :

“Provided that the Deputy Commissioner shall, before passing such order, hear any explanation or objection that may be made by such person.”

He said :—“In making this motion, Sir, I would point out that under section 21A, clause 16 of the Bill, all the orders of the Commissioner, or Deputy Commissioner, are subject to the control of the Board of Revenue, who would of course see that the party fined had been given reasonable opportunity to explain his inability to produce the requisite deeds. But this amendment may possibly result in preventing undue expense on the part of the person called upon to deposit the deeds and who in default has been fined, since it will compel a Deputy Commissioner to remember that such a hearing is essential before a fine can be imposed.”

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH said :—“Sir, this addition seems to be a distinct need, and I strongly support this amendment.”

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. SLACKE also moved that the Bill, as settled in Council, be passed.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, said :—“Your Honour, I heartily sympathise with the underlying policy of the Bill, which is now going to be passed into law. Experience, both official and non-official, as regards the practical working of the existing law for the protection of the ancient and historic families of Chota Nagpur, has been utilised to the fullest extent to give the final shape in which the Bill has been presented before us. The amplest safeguards have also been provided for the aboriginal imbecile landlords of Chota Nagpur, who, lacking both education and character, are prone to enter into a career of wasteful extravagance, and fall an easy prey to the astute and unscrupulous mahajans. There are several provisions in this Bill, Sir, which, if I may be permitted to say so, trench upon the rights of ownership to properties under the law of the land, which, though unsuited to, and would be intolerable in, other parts of the



[*Rai Kishori Lal Goswami Bahadur ; Mr. Slacke.*]

province entrusted to Your Honour's care, are proper for the class of landholders who will come under the operation of this special legislation. This law will clothe the local officials of Chota Nagpur with extensive and, I may say, unbounded powers which, I feel no doubt, will be exercised in the same fatherly spirit in which the law has been conceived. Autocracy, Sir, is exposed to the risk of using its giant strength like a giant. The Bill has therefore provided for careful and strict scrutiny, both of the Board of Revenue and Your Honour, for all important proceedings so far as the local officials are concerned, and it has also afforded facilities to the aggrieved parties to invoke such scrutiny.

"There is one matter in connection with this Bill on which I wish to submit a few observations. It is not unoften that I have seen people affect a puritanic view against money-lenders as a class, though no human society can do without them. Shylocks are undoubtedly undesirable members of society, and to none more so than to the borrower when the time comes for them to demand their pounds of flesh. It is, however, very imprudent to legislate on a principle which ignores all the legitimate protection which is eminently due to honest money-lenders.

"There are two provisions of the Bill, in regard to which I now wish to submit a few observations before Your Honour. According to section 5 of the Act, there is, on the one hand, the very narrow limit of time, which is three months from the date of the order vesting the property of the incumbent proprietor in the Manager, within which the claimants are allowed to put forward their claims and, on their failing to do so, they forfeit their right to enforce their claim until their property is restored to the proprietor; on the other hand, Sir, the mode of publication of the notices is limited to merely posting it in cutcherries of the district or districts in which the property is situated. Now, Sir, those who are acquainted with the habits of the people in this country, and of Chota Nagpur in particular, will not deny that the various notices and *istahars* posted on the notice-boards attached to cutcherries are seldom read, as also various notices that are posted up in the notice-boards attached to Courts of Law or Revenue Courts. Under section 19 of the Bill, it is competent to Your Honour to frame rules for giving greater publicity to such notices. If I may venture a suggestion at this stage, I should say that such notices should be published in the Calcutta Gazette and in the local papers, if any, and also in two English papers published in Calcutta and two vernacular papers, one of Calcutta and one of Bihar. The next point is that the plenary powers reserved by clause 11 of the Bill will enable the Manager and the Commissioner to effect settlements of debts in any manner they please, entirely ignoring the terms of the contract under which the debts were incurred, and even the decrees of the Civil Court obtained in respect of such debts. This is undoubtedly an extraordinary power intended only to meet exceptional cases, but I hope, Sir, and earnestly hope, that proper rules will be framed for the exercise of the power vested in Your Honour under clause 19 to regulate the exercise of such power. In the absence of such rules, I apprehend that honest capital will run shy of these ancient families in time, when for a legitimate and useful purpose they will stand in need of borrowing money.

"These are my humble suggestions in respect of the whole Bill itself. I hope, Sir, I shall not be accused of undue partiality towards the money-lending community for making these precautionary suggestions, and I hope, Sir, I shall not be misunderstood."

The Hon'ble MR. SLACKE said:—"With reference to the remarks that have just fallen from the lips of the Hon'ble Member, I will say that the suggestions with regard to section 5 of the Act will be duly considered when the time comes to frame the requisite rules. With regard to clause 11 the power to which the Hon'ble Member has alluded is an existing power and, so

[Mr. Macpherson ; Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.]

far as my experience goes, I cannot remember any case of hardship having arisen. With these few remarks, Sir, I would ask that the Bill be passed."

The motion was then put and agreed to.

### THE BENGAL EXCISE BILL, 1909.

The Hon'ble Mr. Macpherson moved that the Bill to consolidate and amend the Excise Law in Bengal be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham, the Hon'ble Sir Charles Allen, the Hon'ble Mr. Chapman, the Hon'ble Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur, the Hon'ble Babu Gajadhar Prasad, the Hon'ble Babu Radha Charan Pal, the Hon'ble Mr. Das and the Mover, with instructions to report next July.

He said :—"The Bill has been published in the Calcutta Gazette, and will be published in the vernacular Gazettes. It has been sent to local officers and authorities and Associations, with the request that opinions may be forwarded by the middle of this month. Copies of the Bill have also been sent to the newspapers. When opinions are received, they will be circulated to all the Members of the Council, and they will be referred to the Select Committee. Some time will be required for printing and abstracting the replies, and for preparing them for the consideration of the Select Committee ; but I think that it should be possible for the Select Committee to begin its sittings in June ; and I would express a hope that it may be able to report in July, and that the Bill, as settled by the Committee, may commend itself to the Council and be passed into law in July or August. Unless, Sir, there should be such a discussion to-day with regard to the general provisions and principles of the Bill, as to require an explanation from me, I do not propose to-day to add to the remarks which I made on the day that the Bill was introduced. I now ask you, Sir, to put the motion which stands in my name."

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI said :—"Our first and most agreeable duty to-day is to thank Your Honour and Your Honour's Government for the considerate orders for regulation of the location of drink-shops in specified municipal areas through the instrumentality of Advisory Boards. This is an important concession to what has been unreasonably termed 'extreme temperance views' which is doubly welcome because it is spontaneous and voluntary, and we quite recognise that it is a sort of first experiment, tentatively made, the scope of which will be capable of expansion. It is a distinct advance on the Bill as introduced in Council the other day, and the Select Committee about to be appointed will, I have no doubt, take due note of this advance and work out proposals for effective yet safe local control. I am no less sorry than surprised to find that my pioneer remarks on the Bill were characterised as 'severe,' and I am glad and thankful to have been to a certain extent justified by the later action of the Government to which I have just referred. The discovery as to 'severity' was fortunately made not in the Province most affected by the measure, but hundreds of miles away from this Council Chamber, where 'vigour of criticism' will be the last thing to be resented, so long as it is *bonâ fide* and not absurdly impractical. The need of something like local option, long recognised by the Government and the various Committees that have considered the matter for years, has been conceded by the Bill, and the expansion of the principle in its working details will now be the work of the Select Committee. That there is necessity of not only vigour of criticism but also of vigour of action will be admitted by those who have with any degree of care studied the requirements of particular tracts and the manner in which drinking facilities are provided for them. I shall refer to the tract which I know best as a resident, bounded on the north by the street running from this Council Chamber on to the Sealdah Station and on the south by the parallel street leading from the South-East gate of the Government House. I shall not refer to the many superior and inferior

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

hotels, or the eating-houses, bars and drinking saloons frequented by non-Indian population, whose habits and customs require larger conveniences in this direction. These institutions abound in this tract and round about it, possibly because it is the business part of the town and the centre of European trade and commerce. Nor shall I for the same reason take into consideration the many retail shops within and near about this area in which liquor is not sold in glasses but in bottles, though it would be interesting to have an idea of the number of these retail shops and hotels, which I exclude for my present purposes. But the weary traveller who is not particular as to his house of entertainment and trudging the distance of about a mile from this Council Chamber or the Government House through any route he may choose, to the Sealdah Station, will have his choice of not half-way houses but one-sixth way houses, if such a phrase be permissible, for more than a dozen liquor-shops are to be found in this circumscribed area. If we had a Committee with real determining voice and effective control, more than half of these shops would disappear to-morrow and with it the proportionate drinking facilities. White in his admirable *Natural History of Selbourn* tells us that 'crickets may be destroyed like wasps by phials half filled with beer or any liquid and set in their haunts, for being eager to drink they will crowd in till the bottles are full.' The human crickets and wasps in my neighbourhood, in which some of these beer-traps are only a few hundred yards apart, are neither by inclination nor nature so eager to drink, and many of these death-dealing phials may with advantage be removed from their haunts. If people cannot be left to manage and control local affairs like these, no generous measure of reform that may be passed will fit them for larger shares of self-government. As has, therefore, been claimed by a well-known Anglo business paper, it would be infinitely better to bring into being a representative Licensing Board by statute than to trust the matter to an Advisory Council.

"I would not at this stage like to labour this point and some others that I ventured to indicate on the day that the Bill was introduced in Council. But as the Council will not be in touch with the Select Committee for some months, I would like, with Your Honour's permission, to say a few more words on the most important of these points that strike me.

"The power of granting Excise licenses by the Corporation of Calcutta or any other Municipality under section 84 of the present Act ['] should not be withdrawn, and the control now granted by law—but up to the present not exercised for reasons that are by no means clear—should be allowed to stand and be put into practice.

"It is further desirable on principle that the Revenue Authorities in districts outside Calcutta should not be allowed full and undivided control in future years. Although it is impossible to hope that Government will hand over from Revenue-officers the decision on licensing affairs to a non-official body, friends of temperance would desire to see an expansion of the principles actuating the appointment of the recent Committee, and would press that these Committees, which may be constituted at the discretion of Local Government, shall share with the Revenue Authority the final control of such important subjects as the number and location of sites, and shall have a real determining voice.

"There is much indeed to criticise in clauses 34 to 41 of the Bill, and around these the greatest discussion in the Select Committee and later on here must centre. The temperance opinion of recent years has been gathering about the much-debated question of local option, and while it is admitted that local option as found in Europe and America is at present not fully applicable to the condition of affairs in Bengal, the hour has come when as much representation as possible of local opinion should be obtained. The question of the granting of licenses, etc., affects three different areas: first of all, Calcutta and Howrah; secondly, municipal areas in the Mufassil; and, thirdly, areas in the Mufassil where no Municipalities are at present formed, and where the District Board is the one non-official representative

['] The Bengal Excise and Licensing Act, 1878 (Ben. Act VII of 1878.)

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

body. Different arrangements must of course be suggested for these three different areas. As the Government has already been good enough to accept and agree to the principle of Licensing Committees, I venture to point out that they have at their disposal representative men in each of the said three spheres to whom could be given the responsibility of dealing with the liquor traffic in their respective areas. For example, there may be in Calcutta, for which no separate Committee has been appointed this year, a Licensing Committee of nine members, consisting of—first, the Commissioner of Excise; second, Chairman of the Corporation; third, the Commissioner of Police; fourth, one Presidency Magistrate, one Municipal Commissioner, one representative of Educational interests, to be named by the University or the Director of Public Instruction, and the remaining to be nominated by the public bodies like the British Indian Association and the Muhammadan Literary Society. This would give quite a representative Committee to which public opinion would be perfectly willing to appeal. The decision of the majority of the Committee on any point should be regarded as final; but if the Government did not consider their interests sufficiently safeguarded, an appeal might still be allowed to the Board from the decisions of this Committee. In licensing matters that affect the suburbs, it will of course, be necessary to add the local Magistrate to the Committee.

“Then in regard to Mufassal municipal areas, the constitution of the Committee such as would be acceptable to the Government has already been foreshadowed by the appointment to which I have referred and it would be desirable to add the District Judge or the highest Judicial Officer of the locality and a representative of Educational interests and a representative of local non-official interests. Here, again, it would be wise to allow final decision to a majority of this Committee, or, if necessary, grant appeal from it to the Divisional Commissioner. Then, in regard to non-municipal areas, a Committee consisting of the Collector, the Vice-Chairman of the District Board, as in most cases the Chairman himself is the Collector, and thirdly, the District Superintendent of Police and representatives of Educational and non-official interests, as in the last case, may be decided on. In this way it is quite possible to suggest a system applicable to the present development in the three areas referred to, in and through which such representation as the public may at present be allowed to claim could be fairly granted. That the demand is not unreasonable has already been conceded by Your Honour's action, and a slight modification is all that we venture to ask for. If, however, suggestions like these are ruled impracticable, it is desirable that under clause 37 the class of objectors to the proposals made by the Collector should be more general. Under the present wording no non-resident may appeal against the placing of a grog shop in a certain locality. It is quite possible the Principal of a college or the Head Master of a school might be living away from the position chosen which he might regard as dangerous to his scholars, but because he is not a resident municipal rate-payer he would have no legal standing to raise objections. Further, although in the note explaining the various sections of the Bill it is stated that this clause (37) aims at allowing public bodies to make objections, there is nothing in the clause itself giving this authority; and it is undesirable that so general a term as ‘in the vicinity of the shop’ should be allowed to remain and a definite distance should be mentioned.

“The Local Government should not be allowed, as is suggested in clause 21 of the Bill, to obtain such power as will in all future years make it practically independent of public opinion. To take clause 21 together with clause 79, there are a large number of most important considerations in which public opinion should be obtained before final action is taken, and the Local Government should be subject, at any rate, to the criticism available through a discussion in the Legislative Council upon many of the items referred to. It is necessary therefore to guard the future probable course of events by refusing to legislate in a manner that will make reform hereafter much more difficult to obtain.

[Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.]

“With regard to clause 28, it is not quite clear as to what the Local Government means by allowing itself the opportunity of dealing with any aspect of the sale of foreign liquor which does not come under the Liquor Duties. Clauses 21 and 28 may give the Local Government in future years the fullest authority to do much regarding which legislative interference from time to time would be wholesome and welcome, specially pending changes in our Legislative Councils.

“Paragraph 25 of the Statement of Objects and Reasons reads: ‘Chapter IV.—*Manufacture, Possession and Sale.*—In dealing with these provisions have been entered which, while imposing the necessary restrictions on the public, will enable the Lieutenant-Governor to adopt any system of administration that appears most suitable to particular areas.’ This is far too large a power and should be considerably restrained.

“There is a serious omission from these clauses of the Bill which stands in the draft of the Bill of 1904. It referred to restrictions on grants of licenses, and empowered the licensing authority to forbid any increase in the number of licensed shops in any area which it regarded as sufficiently supplied, and then added this important clause (2), namely:—

Subject to any rules made by the Board on this behalf, such authority shall not authorise the grant of any licenses for the retail sale of country spirit or *tari* at any place situated:—

- (a) in the case of municipal areas in or at the entrance of any market established or licensed under the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1899, or the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884, or any enactment repealed thereby, or in the case of non-municipal areas in or at the entrance to any bazar, or
- (b) near any bathing ghat, place or water-supply used by the public, school, hospital, place of public worship, factory, workshop or tea-garden, or
- (c) in the interior of any village (clause 40 of the draft Bill of 1904).

“The present Bill gives the Board general powers by saying every license, permit or pass granted under this Act shall be granted subject to such restrictions and on such conditions as the Board may direct either generally by rule under section 80 or specially in any particular instance [clause 42 (a) (iii)]. The particulars in the draft Bill of 1904 are matters that should have legislative force and not be left to the rule-making power of the Board. Although such rules are supposed to be in force at the present day, they are not observed. The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, referring to clause 40 of the draft Bill of 1904, said: ‘The Lieutenant-Governor quite admits that the object of this section might be achieved by rules framed under the Act, which would, of course, have the force of law just as fully as the provisions contained in the Act itself. But he considers that it is not only due to the opinions expressed by those who are deeply interested in temperance reform but also due to Government itself that the principles which underlie the Excise Administration of the Government in this respect should be clearly expressed in the law. This clause involves very few alterations in the existing procedure’— (See Financial Department, Separate Revenue, No. 181T.—F., Darjeeling, 22nd April, 1904 paragraph 8). It is therefore desirable that this clause be reintroduced into the Bill.

“As regards the maximum of retail sale and possession, the Bill leaves the settlement under clause 5 and clause 18 to the Board. This changes the law (section 15 of Bengal Act VII of 1878), and is opposed to the views of the Excise Commission, which, so far as country liquor is concerned, considered that the statutory limit of one quart bottle prescribed by Act XII of 1896 was wise. Some statutory limit should be provided, and temperance workers think that for country liquor the limit of one quart bottle is proper, and it has been suggested that each bottle so sold should be sealed with the seal of the licenseholder.



*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.*

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THE Council met in the Council Chamber on Friday, the 26th March, 1909, at 11 A.M.

Present:

- The Hon'ble SIR EDWARD BAKER, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding*.
- The Hon'ble MR. F. A. SLACKE, C.S.I.
- The Hon'ble MR. W. C. MACPHERSON, C.S.I.
- The Hon'ble MR. E. W. COLLIN.
- The Hon'ble MR. F. W. DUKE.
- The Hon'ble MR. J. G. CUMMING.
- The Hon'ble MR. C. E. A. W. OLDHAM.
- The Hon'ble MR. A. S. THOMSON.
- The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES ALLEN, K.T.
- The Hon'ble MR. E. P. CHAPMAN.
- The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, M.A., B.L.
- The Hon'ble MAHARAJADHIRAJA SIR BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB BAHADUR, K.C.I.E., OF BURDWAN.
- The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD.
- The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, M.A., B.L.
- The Hon'ble MR. F. A. LARMOUR.
- The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL.
- The Hon'ble MR. M. S. DAS, C.I.E.
- The Hon'ble IHTISHAM-UL-MULK RAESUDDOWLA AMIR-UL-OMEA NAWAB ASEF KADR SYUD WASIF ALI MEERZA KHAN BAHADUR MAHABAT JANG, NAWAB BAHADUR of Murshidabad.
- The Hon'ble MR. C. W. N. GRAHAM.

[*Babu Gajadar Prasad; Mr. Cumming; Babu Radha Charan Pal; Mr. Oldham; Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur.*]

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

#### DISAFFILIATION OF THE PATNA COLLEGE IN HISTORY.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADAR PRASAD said :—

The Patna College is the only Government College in Bihar, and it is expected to be a model college. This college has been disaffiliated in History.

There are 75 students in the first-year class of the Patna College; 34 of these students have taken History. In the second-year class there are 55 students, and 20 of them have taken History. In the third year class there are 23 students, and 17 of them have taken History. Twenty-four out of the 30 students in the fourth-year class have taken History.

In view of these facts and of the hardship on the students caused by the disaffiliation, will it please the Government to consider the advisability of taking measures for the affiliation of the Patna College in History?

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied :—

“Government has created a temporary appointment of Lecturer in History for the Patna College; and an application for affiliation in that subject has already been made to the Syndicate.”

#### SCARCITY OF WATER IN THE DISTRICTS OF BURDWAN, BIRBHUM AND MURSHIDABAD.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL said :—

Is the Government aware of the threatened scarcity of water in the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum and Murshidabad, and what steps does the Government propose to take with a view to averting a crisis which proved so grave last year in these very districts?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied :—

“Government has received no information of a threatened scarcity of water in the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum and Murshidabad. The rainfall statistics for the year 1908 show that in the Burdwan district the fall was normal, and that in the Birbhum and Murshidabad districts the fall was about 6 and 9½ inches, respectively, in defect. No serious deficiency in rainfall, therefore, appears to have occurred. During the last three months, the weekly reports, submitted by the local officers to the Director of Agriculture, have shown the water-supply to be sufficient in all three districts. In the circumstances, no special steps are called for.”

#### MINING ENGINEERS.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, asked :—

Will the Government be pleased to state the number and names of the holders of the Degree of Bachelor in Engineering of the Calcutta University with special training in mining, who passed from the Civil Engineering College at Sibpur under the old rules and regulations, and those of diploma-holders in mining who passed under the present rules; how they are employed, how many of the degree-holders are still employed in the mining district, with their present positions, how many of them joined the Public Works Department, and under what circumstances; also the antecedents, general education, number, names and positions of the working men and the practical men who hold first and second class certificates of competency under the Indian Mines Act, 1901, and the English Mines Act (*i.e.*, holders of certificates as Colliery Managers under the English Mines Act, engaged in Indian mines), and whether these certificated (both English and Indian) Managers are well up in analysing coal and minerals and in the matter of the investigation of mine air and gases met with in mines?



[Mr. Cumming ; Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur ; Mr. Duke ; the President ;  
[Mr. M. S. Das.]

The Hon'ble MR. CUMMING replied:—

“The information asked for by the Hon'ble Member is very minute and in some respects indeterminate. The Government does not consider that any public purpose would be served by collecting it at all commensurate with the labour and possible expense that would be involved ; and does not propose therefore to undertake the task.”

RATES OF RENT IN GOVERNMENT KHAS MAHALS AND IN PRIVATE ESTATES.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to lay before the Council a tabular statement showing the rates of rent prevalent in Government Khas Mahals for different classes of lands and those prevalent in private estates for similar kinds of lands, as evidenced by the papers prepared under Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885, in districts where the operations under that Chapter have been concluded ?

The Hon'ble MR. DUKE replied:—

“The districts in which operations under Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act have been concluded are—

- (i) the districts of North Bihar, and
- (ii) the temporarily-settled areas of Cuttack, Balasore and Puri.

2. In the first group of districts the practice of classifying lands, and imposing rates of rent thereon, is unusual in private estates. The rents are generally consolidated rents for the holdings as a whole. Hence the settlement records do not show classes of land, or rates of such classes, and it is impossible to prepare from the settlement records the tabular statements desired.

3. In the temporarily-settled areas of Cuttack, Balasore and Puri, the rate recognised by the Settlement Officer was the average rate obtained by dividing the total rent paid by a particular class of raiyats, by the area cultivated by that class. No attempt was made to classify the lands or to fix different rates for different classes. Therefore in the case of these districts also no such tabular statement can be prepared.”

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said:—

“As the next question is rather a lengthy one, it will save the time of the Council if the Hon'ble Member will merely ask that the question that stands in his name be asked without reading the whole of it.

DEPUTY PORT OFFICER, CALCUTTA.

The Hon'ble MR. M. S. DAS said:—

I beg to draw the attention of the Government to the following letter published in the *Statesman* of the 2nd March, 1909:—

“DEPUTY PORT OFFICER, CALCUTTA.

“TO THE EDITOR OF THE ‘STATESMAN.’

“SIR,—I see in a recent issue of the *Statesman* that the new post of Deputy Port Officer of Calcutta has been created in order, among other things, to allow the Port Officer more time for the supervision of the Orissa ports. Those ports are already groaning under the heavy burden of unnecessary expenditure. It is for the member of Orissa to ask the following questions in Council:—

“1. What is the annual travelling allowance of the Port Officer of the Orissa Ports ?

[Mr. Thomson; Mr. Oldham.]

"2. Of the sum allotted, how much is paid towards travelling to Puri, Balasore and Cuttack?"

"3. Whether it is necessary for that officer to make frequent visits to those three places?"

"It will be interesting to know if the Port Officer of Calcutta or the Accountant-General, or both, are responsible for the neglect to effect a saving when there is plenty of room for it.

X. Y."

"March 1."

With reference to the above letter, I wish to ask the following questions, namely:—

(a) Is it a fact that the new post was created to allow the Port Officer of Calcutta more time for the supervision of the Orissa ports?

(b) Was it to provide for more frequent or more efficient supervision that this was done?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to name the amount of travelling allowance given to the Port Officer of the Orissa Ports?

(d) How often has the Port Officer of Orissa visited Cuttack, Puri and Balasore during the current year, and what is the amount of travelling allowance he drew in visiting each of these ports?

The Hon'ble MR. THOMSON replied:—

"(a) No. The necessity of allowing the Port Officer more time for the supervision of the Orissa ports was not one of the reasons for creating the post of Deputy Port Officer of Calcutta.

(b) No.

(c) The Port Officer draws travelling allowance according to the rules of the Civil Service Regulations.

(d) The information will be called for and communicated to the Hon'ble Member at the next meeting of Council."

#### THE BENGAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1909-10.

1. The Hon'ble Mr. Oldham laid on the table the Bengal Financial Statement for 1909-10, with explanatory notes. He said:—

"I beg, Sir, to lay on the table the Financial Statement for 1909-10, together with Appendices and Accounts. It will be expected that, in doing so, I should make a few remarks of a general nature to explain the main features of our position.

"With the exceptions which I proceed to note, the Statement has been prepared on the same lines as previous statements. In order to place more fully before Hon'ble Members the growth of Revenue and Expenditure under the various sub-heads, in Appendices A and B, the details by minor heads of actual receipts and charges have been given for four years, viz., 1904-05, 1905-06, 1906-07 and 1907-08, instead of for only one year, as was the previous practice. The form in which the figures of the Education budget have been shown has been considerably modified in order to show the charges for colleges and schools for boys and girls separately, and also to show separately the charges under Primary, Secondary and Technical education, as suggested by one of the Hon'ble Members in this Council Chamber last year. The charges incurred on important civil works in 1907-08, the probable expenditure on these works during the year now ending, and the estimated expenditure in 1909-10 have also been shown in the body of the Statement in explanation of the provision that has had to be made for works already in progress. The charges under Famine Relief in 1908-09, and the estimated charges in 1909-10 have been shown in paragraph 56, as far as figures are available, district by district. A brief explanation has been given of any marked increase or decrease where called for.

“ Excluding the special grant of Rs. 50,00,000 towards the Calcutta Improvement Scheme, which is held in trust by this Government and cannot be diverted to any other object of expenditure, the closing balances during the past five years have been :—

				Rs.
1903-04	...	...	...	92,52,919
1904-05	...	...	...	80,00,101
1905-06	...	...	...	62,61,898
1906-07	...	...	...	43,84,443
1907-08	...	...	...	21,27,449

“ The gradual absorption of these balances has been very largely due to increased expenditure on Public Works. Taking the revised estimate for the current year, during the five years 1904-05 to 1908-09, the expenditure under this head has aggregated Rs. 3,22,39,906. The assignment made by the Government of India at the last settlement under Civil Works by the Public Works Department was about Rs. 43,00,000. During these five years, therefore, about 107½ lakhs have been spent under this head in excess of the Settlement assignment, or, in other words, the average annual expenditure during these five years has exceeded, by 21½ lakhs, the figure that was taken at the time of the last Provincial Settlement as the standard of expenditure of the Department.

“ Other causes for the depletion are the rapid growth of expenditure under the heads Police and Education, and the very heavy charges incurred in the payment of grain-compensation allowances during the past two years and the current year.

“ Taking the revised figures of the current year, the charges under Police have risen from Rs. 51,57,000, in 1904-05 to Rs. 78,75,000 in 1908-09, or by about 53 per cent. in the short period of four years. A large portion of this extra expenditure has been met, no doubt, from the special assignments made by the Imperial Government from time to time to give effect to the reforms recommended by the Police Commission. These assignments, however, have provided only for the bare increases of staff and of pay and allowances, while the Provincial Revenues have had to bear the cost of the consequential increase in subordinate and menial establishments, supplies and services, contingencies and, perhaps most important of all, the heavy expenditure involved by the necessity of providing the additional buildings and quarters which are as indispensable as the staff itself.

“ Under Education the charges in the same period of four years have risen by 84 per cent. from Rs. 30,68,000 to Rs. 56,50,600. This latter figure includes a sum of about 5½ lakhs, being the aggregate of the equilibrium grants made to District Boards, which were formerly adjusted under a separate head. Excluding this sum, the percentage of increase during the five years has been 66 per cent. If we take the figures from the year 1902-03, when the charges were Rs. 26,09,000, the increase is even more noticeable, amounting to over 95 per cent. in six years.

“ The additional charges involved by the payment of grain-compensation allowances to whole-time servants of Government on pay not exceeding Rs. 30 have aggregated 23¾ lakhs during the three years ending with the present month. We estimate that next year the charges on this account will amount to about 9½ lakhs, or a total in four years of 33¼ lakhs. These charges were entirely unforeseen when the current settlement was made, and no assignment was, therefore, made on this account.

“ Moreover, during the past three years, this Province has suffered from a series of bad agricultural seasons. During 1906-07 the distribution of the rainfall was most unfavourable, and the total outturn of the crops was estimated at only about three-fourths of the normal. High floods in the North Bihar districts destroyed the rice crops, resulting in severe famine in Darbhanga. In 1907-08 the agricultural seasons were again very unfavourable; and the outturn of all crops was much below the average. During the current year the rainfall during the monsoon in North Bihar was only about half the normal. The rains ceased prematurely, and practically no rain fell during the cold weather. Famine has already been declared in several thanas in the Darbhanga district,

and relief operations have already been started on a large scale in this district, and to a less extent in the districts of Muzaffarpur and Bhagalpur. The high prices resulting from this series of bad years have adversely affected the people over the greater part of the Province, and have both directly, as in the case of suspensions and remissions of revenue, and indirectly, as in the case of receipts from Excise and Stamps, checked the normal growth of the Provincial Revenues. Leaving aside the charges on account of relief measures met from Imperial and from local funds, the Provincial Revenues have had to meet an expenditure of Rs. 7,11,133 in 1906-07 and Rs. 2,62,000 in 1908-09; and we already reckon that Rs. 9,14,000 will have to be paid on this account next year. That is to say that during the four years ending on the 31st March next additional unforeseen charges, aggregating nearly 19 lakhs, will have had to be met. The total extraordinary charges on account of grain-compensation allowance and the relief of famine and distress thus amount to upwards of 52 lakhs. Had the Provincial Revenues not had to meet this very heavy additional drain, our balance would not have been wiped out as it has been.

"In March last we estimated that the closing balance of the current year would be Rs. 13,90,000. The conditions of the current year have, however, been quite abnormal, and the total expenditure, according to the revised estimate, has exceeded the original estimate by about 21 lakhs. The causes of this increase have been fully explained in paragraph 5, Part I, of the Statement and in Part II, under the several appropriate heads. Under the sub-heads Law-Officers, Civil and Sessions Courts and Criminal Courts, under the head Courts of Law, there has been an increase of nearly 7 lakhs, almost entirely due to law charges in connexion with the outbreak of anarchism and sedition. There has also been a large increase in Police charges and a small increase under Jails, due to the same causes. Under Marine there has had to be debited in the current year's accounts an additional charge of 4 lakhs, which had been provided in the budget of 1907-08, but was not adjusted in that year. Under Education there has been an enormous increase over the estimates, owing largely to unavoidable charges.

"In normal years there is often a considerable increase in revenue over the estimated receipts to compensate more or less for heavier expenditure; but during the current year the continued prevalence of high prices and the widespread distress have reduced our revenue receipts as well, with the result that, instead of an improvement, there has been a falling off in receipts under the three principal heads of revenue, viz., Land Revenue, Stamps and Excise.

"It will be evident from what I have already said that our present financial position is due, on the one hand, to a succession of very unfavourable agricultural seasons and the consequent prevalence of high prices and distress, and, on the other hand, to the extraordinary expenditure during the current year involved by the criminal prosecutions and other measures undertaken to suppress seditious and anarchical movements. The depression in trade which has so seriously affected the finances of the Supreme Government mainly concerns heads of revenue that are wholly Imperial.

"The revised estimates for the current year, as now finally passed by the Government of India, show receipts aggregating Rs. 5,58,55,000 and a total expenditure of Rs. 5,71,06,000. The receipts include a special grant-in-aid of Rs. 16,95,000 which is being made by the Government of India. We are very grateful to the Government of India for this timely assistance. According to these figures, the closing balance for the year will be Rs. 8,77,000. For next year we have budgeted for receipts aggregating Rs. 5,60,35,000 and for an expenditure of Rs. 5,69,12,000. The deficit of Rs. 8,77,000, which is more than covered by the Provincial share (one-half) of the provision of Rs. 18,27,000 which has had to be made for Famine Relief, will be met from the closing balance of the current year. In our estimates for next year we have assumed that we are not destined to be confronted with a continuance of the bad seasons that have marked the last few years. We may reasonably look forward to better times, to a normal rainfall seasonably distributed and to happier and

more settled political conditions. If we are so fortunate as to realise these hopes, the financial outlook will also be a brighter one.

"It will be clear to Hon'ble Members that our position is one that calls for the exercise of caution and economy. It has not been possible to make provision for any large new schemes and works, many of which are of a very pressing nature; but we have nevertheless been able to allow for the normal expansion of the administration in most departments, as will be seen from the details given under the head of expenditure in Part I (3) of the Financial Statement.

"Under the heads Land Revenue, General Administration and Courts of Law, we have provided in the aggregate a little more than Rs. 4 lakhs to give effect to the proposals of the Ministerial Officers' Salaries Committee for increasing the pay of Ministerial Officers, in respect of which we are awaiting the sanction of the Secretary of State. We have made provision for additional Deputy Collectors and Sub-Deputy Collectors for Survey and Settlement duty, and for increased establishment urgently required in the Excise, Registration, Police, Jails and other Departments. Under Land Revenue we have also made a large provision of Rs. 2,59,000 for bringing up to date the Survey and Settlement records in Orissa. Government has been advised that this is a work of much urgency, and that it will be far more economical to push it through rapidly than to spread it over a considerable number of years. Under Medical we have made a provision of Rs. 50,000 to give effect to certain proposals for the improvement of the pay and prospects of that deserving class of public servants—the Civil Hospital Assistants, which were submitted to the Government of India early last year, and Rs. 30,000 for the improvement of the Sanitary Department in accordance with a scheme suggested by the Government of India in 1907. In connexion with the continued prevalence of malaria in this Province, Government has had under consideration during the past few months certain measures for widely extending the use of quinine as a febrifuge. The scheme will come into force next year. We are now having quantities of quinine made up in the form of small tablets which will be much more palatable than the nauseous powder now distributed. The powder will also of course be available for any one who may prefer it. Hon'ble Members may have noticed that the subject of anti-malarial measures was keenly discussed at the recent Medical Congress held at Bombay, and that of the measures suggested, the one on which all the medical men seemed to be practically unanimous was that of extending the use of quinine. Under Education we have provided for a number of new items, e.g., Rs. 2,00,000 for the construction of *Guru*-training school buildings; Rs. 53,000 for training schools for teachers; Rs. 22,000 for training schools for female teachers; Rs. 20,000 for new Law classes at Bankipore; Rs. 45,000 for additional staff in the Arts Colleges to meet the requirements of the new Regulations; and an aggregate of about Rs. 36,000 for various improvements in the Arts Colleges and in the Sanskrit College and the Calcutta Madrasah. We have provided Rs. 1,50,000 towards the construction of the new Agricultural College buildings and the buildings for the Principal and Professors at Sabaur, besides a sum of Rs. 75,000 towards the cost of fittings and appliances required for the college. We have provided Rs. 1,65,000 for the continuance of the Fisheries inquiry during 1909-10. A great deal of valuable information has already been obtained, as the Hon'ble Members will no doubt have recognised from the contents of the reports published in the Calcutta Gazette, regarding the fish-producing capacity of the Bay of Bengal. As, however, the actual work of the trawler did not properly commence till well on in the monsoon of 1908, the inquiry must continue at least till after the close of the ensuing monsoon, and probably during next cold weather. The time will no doubt come later on when this work should be left to private enterprise. It may be mentioned that the budget provision includes Rs. 6,000 for the cost of the deputation of two Indian students to Europe and America to study pisciculture. Under Irrigation and Minor Works, we have made large provision for the two works, now in progress, known as the Ultadanga-Bamanghatta Canal and the Madaripur Bhal route. These are two very important projects, the nature of which Hon'ble Members will care perhaps to have briefly described. The Ultadanga-Bamanghatta Canal is being constructed to facilitate the heavy boat traffic between

Chitpur and the east, by obviating the delays and difficulties of navigation between Dhapa and Bamanghatta. The channel between these two points is a tidal one, and only navigable for one or two hours before and after high water. By way of the new canal a still-water channel navigable at all times will be provided between the Chitpur and Bhangor Canals. On the existing steamer route from Calcutta to Eastern Bengal there is a narrow channel known as the Angeria creek, situated between Khulna and Barisal. Steamers are unable to pass along it at low tide; and there is always the danger of its closing up altogether through the accumulation of silt. If it were to silt up, the steamer traffic would have to find its way to Calcutta by the sea face. The Madaripur Bhil route, which is now being excavated, is an alternative channel direct from the Madhumati river near Gopalganj to Madaripur on the Kumar river, which connects with the Padma. By means of this route a distance of 135 miles will be saved between Calcutta and Goalundo, and 100 miles between Khulna and Chandpur.

“We have also made provision for continuing or completing certain important civil buildings, *e.g.*, the new Presidency Jail, the Surgical Block and the new 4th Block at the Medical College, and certain other Jail and Court buildings of urgent necessity; and we have provided a sum of 2 lakhs towards the construction of important feeder roads to the railways in the province. Provision has also been made for grants-in-aid towards the most pressing local drainage and water-supply schemes.

“I much regret that our financial position has compelled us to limit the grant for Provincial Civil Works to Rs. 45,10,000. It will be seen from the details that after providing for unavoidable expenditure, *viz.*, establishment, tools and plant and repairs, the balance of the allotment available for original works is only Rs. 17,13,000. With this limited sum it has been impossible to do more than provide for the continuation or completion of works already in progress. There are a large number of urgent projects outstanding for which it has not been possible to make any provision.

“In regard to the 50 lakhs which we hold in trust for the Calcutta Improvement Scheme, I may mention, for the information of certain Hon'ble Members, who raised the question last year, that a representation was made to the Government of India with a view to the money being placed out at interest; but that Government were unable to sanction the proposal.

“The budget will come up for discussion on the 5th of April, and I would ask Hon'ble Members to extend to me the same courtesy as last year, and to let me have very early notice of any points they propose to raise, as it often takes several days to collect, from the different departments and offices, the information required.”

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## THE BENGAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1909-10.

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### Part I.—General Review.

#### (1) ACCOUNTS FOR 1907-08.

When the revised estimate for 1907-08 was laid before the Council on the 21st March 1908, the closing balance for that year was estimated at Rs. 71,32,000. The accounts of last year have since been finally closed, and show that the actual closing balance was Rs. 71,27,449, or Rs. 71,28,000 in round numbers. The actual receipts exceeded the estimates by Rs. 11,724, and the charges had been under-estimated by Rs. 16,718 only.

## (2) REVISED ESTIMATE, 1908-09.

2. The revised estimate for 1908-09, as now passed on the basis of the actuals of the first ten, and in some cases eleven, months of the current year, is compared in the following table with the sanctioned estimate for the year:—

	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Increase (+) or decrease (-).
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Opening Balance...	71,32,000	71,28,000	-4,000
Revenue receipts ...	5,11,35,000	5,09,32,000	-2,03,000
Adjustments ...	31,21,000	49,23,000	+18,02,000
<b>Total Receipts ...</b>	<b>5,42,56,000</b>	<b>5,58,55,000</b>	<b>+15,99,000</b>
<b>Grand Total ...</b>	<b>6,13,88,000</b>	<b>6,29,83,000</b>	<b>+15,95,000</b>
<b>Total Expenditure ...</b>	<b>5,49,98,000</b>	<b>5,71,06,000</b>	<b>+21,08,000</b>
<b>Closing Balance ...</b>	<b>63,90,000</b>	<b>58,77,000</b>	<b>-5,13,000</b>

3. The increase under Adjustments is due to the additional assignments from Imperial to Provincial detailed below:—

	Rs.
Imperial grant towards making up the Provincial balance ...	16,95,000
Ditto for charges in connexion with Major Sutherland's deputation on special duty at the Medical College ...	12,000
Ditto for special bonus, equivalent to one week's pay, sanctioned by His Majesty the King-Emperor to all permanent officers of Government in receipt of Rs. 50 or under ...	1,52,000
Ditto for Archæological expenditure ...	6,000
Additional assignment for the occupation of the Provincial building No. 2, Bankshall Street, by the Commerce and Industry Department of the Government of India ...	2,000
Grant for the transfer of buildings occupied by the Superintendent, Post Office, Cuttack, to Imperial ...	5,000
Ditto for the charges in connexion with Captain McCay's deputation to conduct an inquiry regarding Jail dietaries ...	7,000
Ditto for the transfer of a portion of the cost of the Calcutta Collectorate, which was originally wholly debited to Excise, divided equally between Imperial and Provincial, but now transferred partly to Land Revenue, the charges of which Department are wholly Provincial ...	4,000
Additional assignment for net charges of Inland Labour Transport in Bengal, payable from the revenues of Eastern Bengal and Assam ...	3,000
Payment of fee to the Sanitary Board, Bengal, by the Eastern Bengal and Assam Government for preparation of a Water-works scheme for the Barisal Municipality ...	4,000
Grant for expenditure on cemeteries ...	4,000
	<u>18,94,000</u>
<i>Deduct</i> —For smaller grant for capital expenditure on the Madaripur Bhil Route (Rs. 1,69,000 provided in budget minus Rs. 77,000 now estimated) ...	92,000
<b>Total ...</b>	<b><u>18,02,000</u></b>

4. The falling off of revenue is the net result of increase under some heads and decrease under others. The improvements aggregate Rs. 6,07,000, and fall principally under the following heads:—

- Assessed Taxes (Rs. 1,52,000), due to increased realizations on account of coal profits.
- Courts of Law (Rs. 40,000), owing to special receipts from the sale proceeds of unclaimed and escheated properties.
- Education (Rs. 1,27,000), due to the refund by District Boards of unappropriated grants made for the construction of Primary school buildings.
- Medical (Rs. 28,000), chiefly due to larger receipts from paying patients in the Calcutta Hospitals.
- Irrigation—Major Works (Rs. 1,82,000), chiefly owing to larger receipts from water-rates, in consequence of extended irrigation from the Sone Canals during the *rabi* season on account of insufficient rainfall.
- Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department (Rs. 55,000). The increase in this case is distributed under various heads.

The decreases, on the other hand, aggregate Rs. 8,10,000. These fall chiefly under the following heads:—

- Land Revenue (Rs. 1,00,000). This is due to short collections, in consequence of famine and scarcity.
- Stamps (Rs. 2,75,000). The decrease is chiefly in receipts from Court-fee stamps.
- Excise (Rs. 1,50,000). Under this head the normal increase has not been maintained, and the current settlements are not expected to be favourable.
- Interest (Rs. 33,000). The decrease is due to non-recovery of interest from cultivators on account of high prices and famine.
- Jails (Rs. 1,13,000). There has been a marked falling off in the receipts from Jail manufactures, on account of smaller demands from Government departments, especially the Ordnance Department.
- Ports and Pilotage (Rs. 35,000). The decrease is due to the falling off in pilotage receipts.
- Irrigation—Minor Works and Navigation (Rs. 72,000). There has been a marked falling off under navigation receipts from the Orissa and Calcutta canals.

5. On the expenditure side the revised estimate shows a net increase of Rs. 21,08,000, the greater part of which falls under the following heads:—

- Registration (Rs. 62,000), due to the entertainment of a larger number of sub-registrars and their establishment.
- Interest (Rs. 1,12,000), due to the payment of larger loans to agriculturists, and also to the loan of 50 lakhs given to Maharaja Sir Prodyot Kumar Tagore towards the beginning of the year.
- Courts of Law (Rs. 5,25,000). The increase under this head is chiefly due to large unforeseen expenditure in connexion with anarchism and sedition cases.
- Jails (Rs. 92,000), due to increased charges for dieting prisoners owing to the high prices of food grains.
- Police (Rs. 1,12,000). The increase under this head is chiefly under Superintendence and District Executive Force, and is partly the result of giving further effect to the recommendations of the Police Commission, but it is largely due also to measures necessitated by the outbreak of anarchical crime.
- Ports and Pilotage (Rs. 4,83,000). This increase is chiefly due to the adjustment of a sum of Rs. 4,00,000, being a part of the cost of the new Pilot vessel *Lady Fraser*, in the accounts of 1908-09, instead of in those of 1907-08.
- Education (Rs. 6,49,000), due to larger expenditure on the construction of *Guru*-training school buildings, and increased allotments for grants-in-aid.
- Stationery and Printing (Rs. 66,000), chiefly due to larger expenditure on stationery supplied from the Central Stores, owing to an increased demand from the Press.
- Miscellaneous (Rs. 82,000). The rise under this head is principally due to a special grant of Rs. 30,000 being given to the Sailors' Home, and to increased expenditure on the Fisheries Inquiry.
- Famine Relief (Rs. 1,06,000), due to the continuance of relief measures in different parts of the Province and the recurrence of famine in Bihar.
- Irrigation—Major Works (Rs. 1,98,000), partly owing to transfers from Minor Works and partly to charges on account of flood damage repairs and establishment in the Orissa and Sone Canals.

On the other hand, there was a decrease of Rs. 4,95,000 under Medical, owing to the transfer of charges for works of sanitary improvement from this head to the head of Civil Works, besides minor decreases under other heads.

6. The closing balance of the current year, including the sum of 50 lakhs held in trust for the Calcutta Improvement Scheme, was estimated in March last at Rs. 63,90,000. In the revised estimate it is now placed at



Rs. 58,77,000. The figures in paragraph 2 above explain how this total has been arrived at.

## (3) BUDGET ESTIMATE, 1909-10.

7. The opening balance of 1909-10 corresponds with the closing balance of the current year, and is therefore placed at Rs. 58,77,000.

8. The estimates for the year, as ultimately passed by the Government of India, show receipts aggregating Rs. 5,60,35,000, an expenditure of Rs. 5,69,12,000, and a closing balance of Rs. 50,00,000. As explained last year, the special grant of Rs. 50 lakhs for the Calcutta Improvement scheme which is held in trust by Government, is included in the Provincial accounts. It is estimated, therefore, that leaving aside this amount, there will be no balance at the close of 1909-10.

9. The estimate of receipts includes the following special assignments from Imperial Revenues:—

	Rs.
For Police re-organization (comprising grants made in previous years aggregating Rs. 12,00,000 and an additional grant of Rs. 2,50,000 given with effect from 1-9-10) ... ..	14,50,000
On account of the Madaripur Bhil Route (maintenance) ..	50,000
Ditto Ditto (capital) ..	1,68,000
In connexion with the Famine Relief scheme ... ..	2,60,000
For Technical education ... ..	35,500
" European and Eurasian education ... ..	65,000
" abolition of the Patwari Cess in Sambalpur ... ..	26,000
" continuous maintenance of record-of-rights in Orissa ..	88,000
" temporary occupation of 2, Bankshall Street by Commerce and Industry Department ... ..	20,000
" contribution from Eastern Bengal and Assam Government to the Belgachia Veterinary College ... ..	28,000
" provincialization of the Dhaka Canal charges ... ..	12,000
" net charges of Inland Labour Transport in Bengal payable from the Provincial Revenues of Eastern Bengal and Assam ... ..	13,000
" increased remuneration to the Solicitor to Government ... ..	36,000
" stoppage of free supply of materials by the Central Press, Calcutta, to the Provincial Presses ... ..	2,000
" transfer of the control of Government House and Hastings House gardens to the Superintendent, Royal Botanic Garden ... ..	11,000
" remission of Banking fees levied from Local Funds ... ..	70,000
" Ditto Audit fees ditto ... ..	65,000
" expenditure on cemeteries ... ..	4,000
" charges in connexion with Major Sutherland's inquiry at the Medical College ... ..	23,000
" transfer of a portion of the cost of the Calcutta Collectorate from Excise to Land Revenue ... ..	4,000
" audit of the Calcutta Municipal accounts ... ..	11,000
" grant to the Bibliotheca Indica Fund of the Asiatic Society ... ..	3,000
" relieving Municipalities of Police charges ... ..	21,000
" Sanitary improvements .. ..	4,50,000
	29,15,000
Less contribution to Imperial for pensions of Calcutta Police Constables paid in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh ... ..	21,000
Reduction of interest on capital outlay on Irrigation—Major Works ... ..	3,45,000
Contribution to Imperial for net receipts from the office of the Agent, Government Consignments, Calcutta, to be provincialized from 1st April 1909 ... ..	15,000
	3,81,000
Net total (which does not include the fixed adjustment grant of Rs. 7,39,000 made at the last Provincial Settlement. Including this latter amount the total comes to 32,73,000, as shown in the budget under the Head "I—Land Revenue adjustment.") ... ..	25,34,000

10. On the expenditure side, the total estimated charges for 1909-10 are Rs. 5,69,12,000, exceeding the income by Rs. 8,77,000. This excess of expenditure over income will be met by reduction in the balance. It is more than covered by the provision made in the budget under Famine Relief. The budget includes the following non-recurring charges :—

	Rs.	Rs.
<i>Land Revenue—</i>		
Sundarbans reclamation ... ..	35,000	
Initial cost of bringing the Survey and Settlement records in Orissa up to date ... ..	2,99,000	
Reproduction of maps. Balasore and Puri ... ..	39,000	
	<hr/>	3,33,000
<i>Ports and Pilotage—</i>		
A new boiler for the steamer <i>Guide</i> ... ..	52,000	
Construction of a steam-cutter for ditto ... ..	8,000	
	<hr/>	60,000
<i>Education—</i>		
Construction of <i>Guru</i> -training School buildings ... ..	2,00,000	
Improvements in the Presidency College ... ..	10,000	
	<hr/>	2,10,000
<i>Scientific and other Minor Departments—</i>		
Fittings and appliances, Agricultural College ... ..	75,000	
Purchase of Cinchona bark ... ..	50,000	
Construction of a bungalow on the Mansong Cinchona Plantation ... ..	10,000	
	<hr/>	1,35,000
<i>Stationery and Printing—</i>		
Purchase of Type-casting machines ... ..	41,000	
<i>Miscellaneous—</i>		
Fisheries inquiry ... ..	1,65,000	
<i>Irrigation—Minor Works—</i>		
Ultadanga-Bamanghatta Canal ... ..	3,36,000	
Madaripur Bhil Route ... ..	3,45,000	
	<hr/>	6,81,000
<i>Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers—</i>		
Grant-in-aid to the Calcutta Municipality towards the cost of drainage of the Fringe Area ... ..	50,000	
Realignment of drains in the Presidency Jail ... ..	95,000	
Allotment for Feeder roads ... ..	2,00,000	
	<hr/>	3,45,000
<i>Civil Works in charge of Public Works Department—</i>		
<i>Works in Progress—</i>		
Court buildings, Angul ... ..	20,000	
Residence for Deputy Commissioner, Sambalpur ... ..	20,000	
Civil Courts, Jessore ... ..	50,000	
Civil Court buildings and record-room, Darbhanga ... ..	60,000	
Civil Courts, Arrah ... ..	90,000	
New Circuit-house, Arrah ... ..	27,000	
New Sub-Jail, Madhubani ... ..	22,000	
New Presidency Jail ... ..	1,25,000	
Extension of Jail, Khulna ... ..	47,000	
Improvements to the sleeping ward, Midnapore Central Jail ... ..	20,000	
New Zilla School building, Chaibassa ... ..	27,000	
Surgical block, Medical College ... ..	1,52,000	
Fourth block, ditto ... ..	1,25,000	
Agricultural College, Sabaur ... ..	1,50,000	
Sambalpur-Outtaok Road ... ..	33,000	
Daltonganj-Ranchi Road ... ..	20,000	
Sambalpur-Sonpur Road ... ..	27,000	
	<hr/>	10,15,000
Total ... ..		<hr/> <hr/> 29,85,000

11. The estimates also provide, in addition to charges due to the normal progress of administration, such as increase in salaries, superannuation charges and the like, for the following special items of a recurring nature:—

	Ra.	Rs.
<i>Land Revenue—</i>		
Maintenance of Land Records in Orissa ..	59,000	
Allotment for increase of salaries of Ministerial officers ... ..	1,40,000	
	<hr/>	1,99,000
<i>Excise—</i>		
Reorganisation of the Department ..	25,000	
Lump provision to give effect to the recommendations of the Ministerial Officers' Salaries Committee ..	12,000	
	<hr/>	37,000
<i>General Administration—</i>		
For charges involved by the proposed enlargement of the Provincial Council ... ..	4,000	
Revision of pay of ministerial and menial staff of the Civil Secretariat ... ..	15,000	
Audit of Calcutta Corporation accounts ...	11,000	
Allotment for increase of pay of ministerial officers in the offices of the Commissioners of Divisions ...	25,000	
	<hr/>	55,000
<i>Courts of Law—</i>		
Increase of pay of Advocate-General ... ..	6,000	
Ditto of Public Prosecutor ... ..	6,000	
Allotment for increase of salaries of ministerial officers ... ..	2,40,000	
	<hr/>	2,52,000
<i>Police—</i>		
Additional Police reforms ... ..	2,50,000	
<i>Education—</i>		
Grant to the Calcutta University for Law Classes ...	4,000	
Strengthening the staff of Professors of several Colleges ... ..	45,000	
Improvements in the Sanskrit College ... ..	5,000	
Ditto Calcutta Madrassa ... ..	9,000	
New Law Classes at Bankipore ... ..	20,000	
Joint Technical Examination Board, Sibpur Civil Engineering College ... ..	7,000	
Training Colleges for teachers at Bankipore and Calcutta ... ..	53,000	
Training Schools for female teachers at Bankipore and Calcutta .. ..	22,000	
Technical School, Bhagalpur ... ..	9,000	
Empire Day celebration in Schools and Colleges ...	5,000	
Training of Pleaders in Surveying ... ..	15,000	
	<hr/>	1,94,000
<i>Medical—</i>		
Lump provision for improvement of Sanitary Service	30,000	
Ditto ditto of pay and position of Civil Hospital Assistants ... ..	50,000	
Additional Probationary Chemical Examiner ...	10,000	
Increased scholarships in the Cuttack Medical School	5,000	
	<hr/>	95,000
<i>Scientific and other Minor Departments—</i>		
Additional grant to Asiatic Society for research work	4,000	
Certifying Surgeon and Additional Assistant Inspector of Factories and their establishment, &c.	14,000	
	<hr/>	18,000
Total ... ..	<hr/>	<hr/> 11,00,000

12. Appendix C shows the transactions of the District Boards and District Road Committees. The figures in the column of estimates represent those passed by the Commissioners of Divisions.

## PART II.—Detailed remarks on the Budget for 1909-10.

## RECEIPTS.

13. *Land Revenue*.—The estimate of gross receipts for 1909-10, as passed by the Government of India, is Rs. 2,99,14,000, against Rs. 2,93,03,000, the revised estimate for 1908-09. The estimate includes Rs. 8,65,000 for recoveries of survey and settlement charges, against Rs. 4,95,000 provided in the revised estimate for 1908-09. The details of the recoveries are given in Appendix A.

14. The estimated Provincial share of Land Revenue is calculated as follows:—

	Estimate, 1909-10, Rs.
Gross Land Revenue ... ..	2,99,14,000
<i>Deduct</i> estimated collections from Government Estates (wholly Provincial) ... ..	34,20,000
<i>Deduct</i> recoveries of Survey and Settlement charges (wholly Imperial) ... ..	8,65,000
Total Deduction ... ..	42,85,000
Net amount divisible between Imperial and Provincial funds ... ..	2,56,29,000
Provincial share of above (one-half) ... ..	1,28,14,000
<i>Add</i> collections from Government Estates (wholly Provincial) ... ..	34,20,000
Total Provincial ... ..	1,62,34,000
<i>Add</i> adjustments as in Appendix A ... ..	32,73,000
Total Provincial receipts ... ..	1,95,07,000

15. *Stamps*.—The budget estimate of the total revenue from Stamps for 1908-09 was passed by the Government of India at Rs. 1,62,50,000. The actuals in 1907-08 amounted to Rs. 1,55,88,275. The actuals of the first ten months of 1908-09, exclusive of receipts on account of unified stamps used as receipt stamps, exceeded the figures for the corresponding period of the preceding year by Rs. 1,09,000 only. In view of these figures, the revised estimate for 1908-09 has been passed for Rs. 1,57,00,000. Allowing for a progressive increase of 8 lakhs, the estimate for 1909-10 has been placed at Rs. 1,65,00,000. The Provincial share is one-half, and thus amounts to Rs. 78,50,000 for 1908-09 and Rs. 82,50,000 for 1909-10.

16. *Excise*.—The revenue from Excise for 1908-09 was estimated at Rs. 1,75,00,000. The actuals of 1907-08 amounted to Rs. 1,70,77,699, while the figures for the first ten months of 1908-09 show an increase of Rs. 1,10,000 only over the actuals of the corresponding period of the preceding year. The small increase in 1908-09 is due to the comparative failure of the *mahua* crop, and to the introduction of the Contract Distillery System in certain districts. It is apprehended that the result of the settlements now in progress will not be favourable. The revised estimate for the year has therefore been passed for Rs. 1,72,00,000; and allowing for a progressive increase of 7 lakhs, the estimate for 1909-10 has been placed at Rs. 1,79,00,000. The Provincial share (one-half) amounts to Rs. 86,00,000 and Rs. 89,50,000, respectively.

17. *Provincial Rates*.—The actual collections of the Public Works cess in 1907-08 amounted to Rs. 36,18,453. The revised estimate for 1908-09 has been placed at Rs. 35,93,000, as the receipts in the first ten months of the current year show a slight decrease. An increase is anticipated on the completion of the revaluation proceedings now in progress in the districts of Bankura, Khulna, Midnapore, Murshidabad, Bhagalpur and the Sonthal Parganas; and the estimate for 1909-10 has accordingly been passed for Rs. 36,53,000. Under "General Rates for the management of Private Estates" the estimate of receipts is Rs. 1,63,000, against Rs. 1,57,000, the revised estimate for 1908-09. The increase is due to the fact that certain new estates

have been brought under management. The total estimate for next year thus amounts to Rs. (36,53,000 + 1,63,000 =) 38,16,000.

18. *Assessed Taxes.*—The receipts from Income-tax for 1908-09 were estimated at Rs. 52,25,000. The actual collections in 1907-08 amounted to Rs. 51,97,028, while those of the twelve months ending on the 31st January 1909 were Rs. 54,34,000. In view of this rise, which is mainly due to increased assessments on account of profits made from coal, the revised estimate for 1908-09 has been placed at Rs. 55,30,000. To this amount Rs. 2,70,000 has been added as the average annual normal increase of revenue, and the estimate for 1909-10 has been passed for Rs. 58,00,000. The Provincial share (one-half) is Rs. 29,00,000.

19. *Forests.*—The total receipts under this head for 1909-10 are estimated at Rs. 13,00,000, against Rs. 12,40,000 the revised estimate for 1908-09, and Rs. 11,97,650 the actuals of 1907-08. An increase is expected from the recovery in the timber trade in the Singhbhum and the Sundarbans Divisions. The Provincial share (one-half) is Rs. 6,50,000.

20. *Registration.*—The budget estimate under this head for 1908-09 was Rs. 14,20,000. The collections during the first ten months of the current year show an increase of Rs. 77,000 over those of the corresponding period of last year; and as the actuals of 1907-08 were Rs. 13,46,556, the revised estimate has been placed at Rs. 14,20,000. Allowing for a normal increase of Rs. 1,30,000 over the revised estimate for 1908-09, the estimate for 1909-10 has been passed for Rs. 15,50,000. The rise in receipts during the current year is attributed to an increase in the number of registrations due to the pinch of high prices. The receipts of this Department are wholly Provincial.

21. *Interest.*—The estimate of loans, as passed by the Government of India, provides for a return in the way of interest during 1909-10 of Rs. 10,90,000, as shown below:—

	Rs.
Interest on advances to cultivators, etc. ... ..	5,61,000
„ „ drainage and embankment advances ... ..	28,000
„ „ loans to land-holders ... ..	2,64,000
„ „ „ to Municipalities and District Boards, etc. ... ..	1,92,000
Miscellaneous accounts ... ..	45,000
Total ..	10,90,000

The large increase under “Interest on loans to land-holders” is due to the amount payable on the loan of 50 lakhs granted to Maharaja Sir Prodyot Kumar Tagore last year.

22. *Law and Justice. — Courts of Law.*—The actuals in 1907-08 amounted to Rs. 5,79,615, and the receipts in the first ten months of 1908-09 show an increase of Rs. 52,000 over those of the corresponding period of last year. The revised estimate for 1908-09 has accordingly been placed at Rs. 6,37,000. The increase in the current year, which accrued chiefly under sale-proceeds of unclaimed and escheated property, was abnormal, and cannot be expected to recur. The estimate for 1909-10 has been passed for Rs. 6,00,000.

23. *Jails.*—The actuals for the ten months ending the 31st January 1909 show a decrease of Rs. 74,000 as compared with last year; and as the actuals of 1907-08 were Rs. 11,58,667, the estimate for 1908-09 has been reduced to Rs. 11,37,000, and the estimate for 1909-10 has been passed at Rs. 11,68,000.

24. *Police.*—The actuals of ten months ending the 31st January 1909 show a small increase of Rs. 2,000 over those of the corresponding period of last year; and as the actuals of 1907-08 were Rs. 1,41,084, the revised estimate for 1908-09 has been placed at Rs. 1,44,000. The estimate for 1909-10 is Rs. 1,45,000.

25. *Ports and Pilotage.*—The budget estimate for 1908-09 was Rs. 16,00,000. This has been reduced to Rs. 15,65,000 in the revised estimate, with reference to the actuals of the first ten months of the current year. The falling off has been due to depression in trade. The estimate for 1909-10 is Rs. 15,31,000.

26. *Education.*—The actuals in 1907-08 amounted to Rs. 5,65,590, and the estimate for 1908-09 was Rs. 5,73,000. The collections in the first ten months of the current year show an increase of Rs. 96,000, which is more than

accounted for by the sums refunded by the District Boards out of the grants made to them for Primary school buildings. As further refunds were expected before the close of the year, the revised estimate for 1908-09 has been placed at Rs. 7,00,000. As the District Boards are expected to make refunds of about two lakhs in 1909-10, the estimate of receipts for the year has been passed for Rs. 7,75,000.

27. *Medical*.—The budget estimate for 1908-09 was Rs. 2,54,000, against Rs. 2,38,934 the actuals of 1907-08. The actual collections during the twelve months ending January 1909 amounted to Rs. 2,85,000, and the revised estimate for 1908-09 has been placed at Rs. 2,82,000. The increase in the current year is chiefly under "Hospital receipts," which are expected to rise further on the opening of the paying-patients blocks for Indians at the Calcutta Medical College Hospital. The estimate for 1909-10 has accordingly been passed for Rs. 2,90,000.

28. *Scientific and other Minor Departments*.—The estimate under this head for 1909-10 is Rs. 3,31,000, against Rs. 3,11,000 the revised estimate for 1908-09, and Rs. 2,76,622 the actuals of 1907-08. The increase is partly under "Cinchona Plantation," as the Superintendent anticipates larger sales of sulphate of quinine, and partly under "Receipts on account of experimental cultivation," as the Director of Agriculture expects an increase in the receipts from experimental farms.

29. *Receipts in aid of Superannuation*.—The total receipts for 1909-10 are estimated at Rs. 55,000, against Rs. 54,000 the budget estimate for 1908-09, and Rs. 4,15,664 the actuals of 1907-08. The actuals of 1907-08 include Rs. 3,52,977, the sale-proceeds of the Calcutta Municipal debentures belonging to the Calcutta Police Superannuation Fund, in consequence of the abolition of the fund, the pensionary charges having been assumed by Government.

30. *Stationery and Printing*.—The estimate under this head for 1909-10 is Rs. 1,33,000, against Rs. 1,45,000 the revised estimate for 1908-09, and Rs. 1,32,763 the actuals of 1907-08.

31. *Miscellaneous*.—The receipts for 1909-10 are estimated at Rs. 5,83,000, against Rs. 5,35,000 the revised estimate for 1908-09. The figures for next year include Rs. 15,000 which it is estimated will be obtained by the sale of fish caught by the steam trawler *Golden Crown*. The receipts under other heads are of a fluctuating character, and call for no remarks. The details are given in Appendix A.

32. *Irrigation—Major Works (Direct Receipts)*.—The budget estimate for 1908-09 was Rs. 24,18,000. The revised estimate has been placed at Rs. 26,00,000, owing to larger rabi irrigation from the Sone canals consequent upon the scanty rainfall of the year, and to the development of irrigation from the Dhaka canal. The estimate for 1909-10 has been passed for Rs. 24,36,000.

33. *Irrigation—Minor Works and Navigation in Charge of the Public Works Department*.—The budget estimate for 1908-09 was Rs. 6,22,000; but in view of the decrease in collections in the first nine months of the current year, amounting to Rs. 3,86,000, against Rs. 4,58,000 in the corresponding period of last year, the revised estimate has been reduced to Rs. 5,50,000. The decrease is chiefly in navigation receipts from the Orissa and Calcutta canals and the Nadia rivers. The estimate for 1909-10 has been placed at Rs. 6,33,000.

34. *Civil Works in Charge of the Public Works Department*.—The budget estimate for 1908-09 was Rs. 3,00,000. This has been raised to Rs. 3,55,000 in the revised estimate, in view of the actuals of the first eight months of the year. The same amount has been taken as the estimate for 1909-10.

#### EXPENDITURE.

35. *Refunds and Drawbacks*.—The total Provincial expenditure in 1909-10 is estimated at Rs. 1,34,000, against Rs. 1,32,000 the revised estimate for 1908-09, and Rs. 1,51,195, the actuals of 1907-08. The estimates under this head are based, as usual, on the average actuals of the previous three years, excluding special payments.

36. *Assignments and Compensation*.—The budget estimate for the current year was Rs. 70,000. The revised estimate has, however, been placed at Rs. 67,000, against Rs. 63,019, the actuals of 1907-08, in view of the actual

payments during the first ten months of the year. The estimate for next year has been placed at Rs. 70,000.

37. *Land Revenue.*—The total Provincial expenditure for 1909-10 is estimated at Rs. 40,00,000, against Rs. 37,20,000, the revised and Rs. 37,85,000, the budget estimate for 1908-09, as shown below:—

	1908-09		1909-10, Budget.
	Budget.	Revised	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Charges of District Administration ...	29,67,000	27,62,000	30,00,000
(2) Charges on account of Land Revenue collections ...	1,500	1,000	4,000
(3) Management of Government estates ...	3,68,000	4,00,000	3,57,000
(4) Survey and Settlement ...	2,40,500	2,37,000	2,58,000
(5) Land Records and Agriculture ...	2,80,000	3,20,000	4,41,000
	38,57,000	...	40,60,000
Probable savings ...	72,000	...	60,000
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>37,85,000</b>	<b>37,20,000</b>	<b>40,00,000</b>

Under (1) further provision has been made for an increase in the number of Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, so as to meet the demands of the Settlement Department. An increased grant has been made for the improvement of Collectorate record-rooms. A larger allotment has been made for the management of private estates, owing to new estates coming under Government management. The budget also includes Rs. 1,40,000 for increase of pay of ministerial officers in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministerial Officers' Salaries Committee. Under (5) Rs. 2,59,000 have been provided for initial expenditure in bringing the survey and settlement records in Orissa up to date, Rs. 59,000 for the revision of the record-of-rights in Orissa, Rs. 39,000 for reproduction of maps, and Rs. 36,000 for the maintenance of records in Sambalpur.

38. *Stamps.*—The estimate for 1909-10 amounts to Rs. 5,05,000, against Rs. 4,80,000, the revised estimate for 1908-09, and Rs. 4,09,954, the actuals of 1907-08. The increase is partly under "Stamp paper supplied from the Central Store," and partly under "District establishment," due to a portion of the establishment of the Calcutta Collectorate previously debited to Excise being now shown under this head. The Provincial share (one-half) is Rs. 2,52,000.

39. *Excise.*—The estimate for 1909-10 is Rs. 8,30,000, against Rs. 8,00,000 the budget grant for the current year. One-half of these charges falls on the Provincial revenues. The increase is due to larger provision for (a) establishment for the extension of the Contract Distillery System; (b) charges on account of travelling allowance, as first class rates have been sanctioned for Special Excise Deputy Collectors; (c) construction of spirit warehouses; and (d) increasing the pay of ministerial officers in accordance with the recommendations of the Salaries Committee.

40. *Provincial Rates.*—The estimate for 1909-10 is Rs. 50,000, against Rs. 49,000, the revised estimate for 1908-09, and Rs. 45,282, the actuals of 1907-08. The increase is under "Collection charges," which include a lump provision of Rs. 9,000 for the increase of pay of ministerial officers.

41. *Assessed Taxes.*—The total expenditure for 1909-10 is estimated at Rs. 1,64,000, against Rs. 1,57,000, the sanctioned estimate for 1908-09, and Rs. 1,53,061, the actuals of 1907-08. The increase is due to (a) a lump provision of Rs. 3,000 for revision of establishment of the Calcutta Collectorate, (b) a lump provision of Rs. 1,000 for raising the pay of Assessors' clerks, and (c) a provision of Rs. 2,316 for a temporary Assessor and his establishment in the Burdwan district. A moiety of the charges falls on Provincial Revenues.

42. *Forests.*—The budget grant for 1909-10 is Rs. 5,87,000, against Rs. 6,20,000, the sanctioned estimate for 1908-09, and Rs. 7,13,394, the actuals of 1907-08. The decrease is chiefly due to a smaller provision being made for surveys, and to the absence of any provision for new launches. The Provincial share (one-half) is Rs. 2,93,000.

43. *Registration.*—The estimate for 1909-10 is Rs. 8,24,000, against Rs. 8,32,000, the revised estimate for 1908-09, which, as already explained in paragraph 5 above, is abnormally high. The budget includes provision for a larger number of Sub-Registrars and their establishment.

44. *General Administration.*—The estimate for 1909-10 is Rs. 19,10,000, against Rs. 18,76,000, the grant for 1908-09. The budget includes (a) larger provision for rents, rates and taxes, owing to increase in the Municipal assessment on the Lieutenant-Governor's residence at Belvedere, in consequence of the extension of the building; (b) provision of Rs. 7,000 to meet the additional charges involved by the expansion of the Legislative Council of which Rs. 3,000 (for furniture, etc.) is non-recurring, and Rs. 4,000 (Travelling allowance and establishment) recurring; (c) a lump provision of Rs. 15,000 for revision of the establishment of the Civil Secretariat; (d) larger provision for establishment and contingencies under Commissioners owing to the creation of the new Commissionership of Tirhut; and (e) provision of Rs. 10,700 to cover the cost of audit of the accounts of the Calcutta Corporation, which has, at the request of the Corporation, been retransferred to the Local Audit Department of the Accountant-General's office.

45. *Law and Justice—Courts of Law.*—The total expenditure during 1908-09 was originally estimated at Rs. 76,75,000, but in the revised estimate the figure has been raised to Rs. 82,00,000. The increase is very large, and is due to heavy unforeseen law charges, consequent upon the outbreak of anarchical crime. The estimate for 1909-10 is Rs. 79,20,000. It includes provision for (a) the revision of establishment on the Appellate Side of the High Court, already sanctioned; (b) increase in the salary of the Advocate-General; (c) increased charges for conducting law-suits and on account of fees to pleaders both in Calcutta and the mufassal; (d) a larger grant for allowances to jurors and assessors, and remuneration to copyists in view of past actuals; (e) a larger grant for establishment and diet money to witnesses in Criminal Courts. A lump provision of Rs. 2,40,000 has also been kept for the increase of pay of ministerial establishments recommended by the Salaries Committee.

46. *Jails.*—The actuals of 1907-08 were Rs. 26,96,952, and the budget estimate for 1909-10 has been placed at Rs. 27,00,000. It includes provision for the reorganization of the jailors' and warders' services, which has recently been sanctioned.

47. *Police.*—The following table compares the figures under this head:—

HEADS.	1907-08, Actuals.	1908-09.		1909-10, Estimate.
		Budget.	Revised.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Presidency Police ...	11,12,959	12,19,000	11,84,000	12,33,000
(2) Municipal „ ...	65,793	90,000	8,000	.....
(3) Superintendence ...	2,29,127	2,12,000	2,76,000	2,28,000
(4) Criminal Investigation Department ...	1,20,918	1,40,000	1,36,000	1,92,000
(5) District Executive Force ...	55,09,002	57,22,000	59,18,000	63,34,000
(6) Village Police ...	41,454	43,000	46,000	47,000
(7) Special „ ...	69,942	68,000	67,000	70,000
(8) Railway „ ...	2,43,066	2,65,000	2,37,000	2,72,000
(9) Cattle-pounds ...	—161	1,000	1,000	1,000
(10) Refunds ...	1,246	1,000	1,000	1,000
(11) Contribution to Local Funds ...	.....	1,000	1,000	.....
Total ...	73,93,346	77,63,000	78,75,000	83,78,000

The actuals of the first ten months of the current year indicate that there will be considerable excess over the budget allotments in the expenditure under "Superintendence" and "District Executive Force." The revised estimate has therefore been placed at Rs. 78,75,000. The estimate for 1909-10 has been passed for Rs. 83,78,000. This includes larger grants under the



following heads:—(1) Presidency Police, in order to provide a larger number of constables for the local Courts, Government House and the Police lock-up, and consequently larger grants for grain allowances, rents, rates and taxes, etc.; (4) Criminal Investigation Department, for the strengthening and development of the Department necessitated by the outbreak of anarchical crime; (5) District Executive Force, to give effect to certain reforms postponed in 1908-09, and further reforms for which an additional assignment of 2½ lakhs has been made by the Government of India; and (8) Railway Police, to meet the cost of an increase in the force.

48. *Ports and Pilotage.*—The budget estimate under this head for 1908-09 stood originally at Rs. 17,77,000. A provision of 4 lakhs had been entered in the budget for 1907-08 for part payment of the cost of the new pilot vessel *Lady Fraser*. This sum was not, however, adjusted in the accounts for 1907-08 as expected, and it had therefore to be debited in the accounts for 1908-09. Besides this, the revised estimate has been further raised in view of a considerable increase in the actual charges of the first ten months of the year, as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year. The revised estimate now stands at Rs. 22,60,000. The estimate for 1909-10 has been placed at Rs. 12,44,000, and includes a provision of Rs. 52,000 for a new boiler, and of Rs. 8,000 for the construction of a steam-cutter, for the steamer *Guide*. It also includes provision for a Deputy Shipping Master and Deputy Port Officer, a new appointment which has been created, while the post of Second Assistant Shipping Master has been abolished. The office of the Agent for Government Consignments, Calcutta, will be provincialized from April 1909 and the necessary provision has been made under this head.

49. *Education.*—The total Provincial expenditure for the current year was originally estimated at Rs. 50,01,000, but in view of the actual charges in the first ten months of the current year, which show an increase of Rs. 11,36,000 over those of the corresponding period of last year, the revised estimate has been raised to Rs. 56,50,000, against Rs. 45,52,592, the actuals of 1907-08. The increase is due chiefly to grants for the construction of *Guru-training* school buildings, and increased expenditure under the head Grants-in-aid. The estimate of expenditure for 1909-10 is Rs. 55,57,000. The following table shows the charges under the principal heads since the year 1902-03:—

[ The figures are in thousands ]

HEADS.	ACCOUNTS						1908-09		1909 10.
	1902-03	1903-04.	1904-05	1905-06	1906-07	1907-08.	Budget	Revised	Budget.
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs	Rs
Direction	68	90	90	98	1,21	1,23	1,00	1,12	1,12
University	..	..	2,00	87	81	93	80	93	4
Inspection	2,60	2,57	2,49	2,91	4,65	6,27	6,50	7,54	7,18
Government Colleges,									
General	4,82	4,75	5,32	5,27	5,89	6,55	6,17	6,32	6,45
Government Colleges,									
Professional	2,23	2,67	2,02	2,30	2,78	3,37	3,71	3,77	4,13
Government Schools,									
General	4,79	5,32	4,86	5,07	5,93	6,01	6,91	12,24*	12,89*
Government Schools,									
Special	2,17	2,72	3,11	3,45	3,97	5,47	7,15	8,32	10,01
Grants-in-aid	6,42	7,16	7,62	8,18	10,61	13,33	15,51*	13,44	11,00
Scholarships	1,86	1,65	1,59	1,49	1,55	1,71	1,70	1,78	1,86
Miscellaneous	66	1,09	75	95	1,07	83	70	1,01	1,04
Refunds	..	7	2	22	4	3	3	3	3
Technical Education	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	..	..
	..	..	..	..	..	..	50,57	..	55,74
Lump deduction for probable savings	..	..	..	..	..	..	56,	..	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,09</b>	<b>28,90</b>	<b>30,68</b>	<b>31,69</b>	<b>38,51</b>	<b>45,53</b>	<b>50,01</b>	<b>56,50</b>	<b>55,57</b>

\* Includes contributions to District Funds to establish equilibrium, previously shown under the head (since abolished) of "Contributions from Provincial to Local."

Provision has been made in the budget for the following new and special charges :—

	Rs.
Grant to Calcutta University for Law Classes ...	4,000
An Additional Assistant Director ...	8,600
For improvements in the Presidency College ...	10,000
Provision for house allowance of Professors in Calcutta ...	4,000
For strengthening the staff of Professors of several Colleges ...	45,000
For additional contract contingent grant of Arts Colleges ...	12,000
For improvement in the Sanskrit College ...	5,000
Ditto              Calcutta Madrassa ...	9,000
For Guru training school buildings ...	2,00,000
For new Law Classes at Bankipore ...	20,000
Additional grant for Boarding charges, Civil Engineering College, Sibpur.	7,000
For a Joint Technical Examination Board ...	7,400
Training Colleges for teachers at Bankipore and Calcutta ...	53,000
Weaving School at Sambalpur ...	4,700
Training Schools for female teachers at Bankipore and Calcutta	22,000
Technical school, Bhagalpur ...	8,800
Grant for Hostels on the recommendation of the University ...	50,000
Training of Pleaders in Surveying ...	15,700
Empire Day celebration in Schools and Colleges ...	5,000
Grants to District Boards for equilibrium*	5,45,000
Total	10,36,200

\* Until 1908-09, these grants were shown under "Contribution from Provincial to Local," a head that has been abolished with effect from that year.

50. *Medical.*—The budget estimate under this head for 1908-09 was Rs. 27,80,000. This has been reduced in the revised estimate to Rs. 22,85,000, owing to the transfer of the special provision of 4½ lakhs for works of sanitary improvement from this head to the head of Civil Works. The estimate for 1909-10 has been passed for Rs. 25,20,000. The estimate includes Rs. 10,000 for anti-malarial measures; Rs. 30,000 for improvement of the Sanitary Service; Rs. 50,000 for improvement of the pay and position of Civil Hospital Assistants; Rs. 23,000 for charges in connexion with the special inquiry being conducted, under the orders of the Government of India, by Major Sutherland, I.M.S., at the Medical College; Rs. 10,000 for an additional Probationary Chemical Examiner; Rs. 5,000 for increased scholarships for Uriyas at the Cuttack Medical School; Rs. 13,000 for additional Demonstrators, Professors, etc., in the Medical College; and larger grants for diet of patients, clothing, bedding, etc., in the several hospitals. The total grants under the latter subheads for 1909-10 are shown below :—

	Salaries.	Establishment.	Clothing.	Diet.	Other supplies.	Contingencies
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Medical College Hospital ...	41,670	38,434	7,000	70,000	65,376	48,530
General Hospital ...	63,413	27,238	3,000	65,000	42,000	41,012
Campbell Hospital ...	4,260	36,282	40,000		12,607	11,687
Albert Victor Leper Asylum ...	5,040	4,392	1,250 - 13,000		800	4,560

51. *Political.*—The estimate for 1909-10 is Rs. 56,000, against Rs. 55,000, the revised estimate for 1908-09, and Rs. 47,083, the actuals of 1907-08. The figures call for no special remarks.