

# DEBATES

IN THE

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF CEYLON,

On Thursday, March 26, 1925.

Pursuant to notice the Honourable the Members of the Legislative Council met at the Council Chamber at 2.30 p.m. this day.

### PRESENT:

- HIS EXCELLENCY SIR WILLIAM HENRY MANNING, G.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., GOVERNOR.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. JAMES PEIRIS, VICE-PRESIDENT (COLOMBO TOWN, SOUTH).
- THE HONOURABLE COLONEL H. W. HIGGINSON, C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C., OFFICER COMMANDING THE TROOPS.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. CECIL CLEMENTI, C.M.G., COLONIAL SECRETARY.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. L. H. ELPHINSTONE, ATTORNEY-GENERAL.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. E. B. ALEXANDER, CONTROLLER OF REVENUE.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. W. W. WOODS, TREASURER.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. F. A. STOCKDALE, DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. N. H. M. ABDUL CADER (SECOND MUSLIM MEMBER).
- THE HONOURABLE SIR PONNAMBALAM RAMANATHAN, KT., K.C., C.M.G. (NORTHERN PROVINCE, NORTHERN DIVISION).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. L. MACRAE, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. T. Y. WRIGHT (EUROPEAN RURAL MEMBER).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. H. A. LOOS (NOMINATED UNOFFICIAL MEMBER).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. W. DURAISWAMY (NORTHERN PROVINCE, WESTERN DIVISION).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. D. H. KOTALAWALA (PROVINCE OF UVA).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. E. W. PERERA (KALUTARA REVENUE DISTRICT).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (BATTICALOA REVENUE DISTRICT).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. G. WIJEYEKOON (NOMINATED UNOFFICIAL MEMBER).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. E. J. HAYWARD, C.B.E., V.D. (COMMERCIAL MEMBER).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. W. L. KINDERSLEY (GOVERNMENT AGENT, CENTRAL PROVINCE).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. C. W. W. KANNANGARA (SOUTHERN PROVINCE, WESTERN DIVISION).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. N. J. MARTIN (SECOND BURGHES MEMBER).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. W. T. SOUTHORN, PRINCIPAL COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. M. T. AKBAR, SOLICITOR-GENERAL.



- THE HONOURABLE MR. K. BALASINGHAM (NOMINATED UNOFFICIAL MEMBER).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. A. CANAGARATNAM (NORTHERN PROVINCE, SOUTHERN DIVISION).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. C. E. VICTOR COREA (COLOMBO TOWN, NORTH).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. C. H. Z. FERNANDO (NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCE, WESTERN DIVISION).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. H. R. FREEMAN (NORTH-CENTRAL PROVINCE).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. T. B. JAYAH (THIRD MUSLIM MEMBER).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. D. B. JAYATILAKA (COLOMBO DISTRICT).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. H. M. MACAN MARKAR (FIRST MUSLIM MEMBER).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. G. E. MADAWALA (NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCE, EASTERN DIVISION).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. A. MAHADEVA (WESTERN PROVINCE, CEYLON TAMIL).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. MOLAMURE (KEGALLA REVENUE DISTRICT).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. E. MOLAMURE (RATNAPURA REVENUE DISTRICT).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. F. A. OBEYESEKERE (SOUTHERN PROVINCE, CENTRAL DIVISION).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. I. X. PEREIRA (FIRST INDIAN MEMBER).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. S. RAJARATNAM (NORTHERN PROVINCE, CENTRAL DIVISION).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. D. S. SENANAYAKE (NEGOMBO DISTRICT).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. M. M. SUBRAMANIAM (TRINCOMALEE REVENUE DISTRICT).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. S. R. MOHAMED SULTAN (SECOND INDIAN MEMBER).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. V. S. DE S. WIKREMANAYEKE (SOUTHERN PROVINCE, SOUTHERN DIVISION).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. H. WILLE (FIRST BURGHES MEMBER).
- THE HONOURABLE DR. G. THORNTON, ACTING PRINCIPAL CIVIL MEDICAL OFFICER.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. F. CLARKE, ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS.
- THE HONOURABLE SIR J. THOMSON BROOM, KT. (EUROPEAN URBAN MEMBER).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. W. A. DE SILVA (CENTRAL PROVINCE, URBAN).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. P. B. RAMBUKWELLE (CENTRAL PROVINCE, RURAL).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. T. M. SABARATNAM (NORTHERN PROVINCE, EASTERN DIVISION).

MR. J. A. MAYBIN, *Clerk to the Council.*

### Minutes.

The Minutes of the Meeting of February 6, 1925, were confirmed.

### Oaths.

The Hon. Mr. F. A. Stockdale, the Hon. Mr. W. A. de Silva, the Hon. Mr. P. B. Rambukwelle, and the Hon. Mr. T. M. Sabaratnam subscribed to the oath of allegiance on taking their seats as Members of Council.

Mr. J. A. Maybin subscribed to the oath of allegiance as Clerk to the Council.



**His Excellency the Governor's Address to the Council.**

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR addressed the Council as follows :—

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

I am taking to-day my formal farewell of the Legislative Council of Ceylon, and in doing so I wish to express to the new Council my appreciation of its achievements during the time it has been sitting.

The Council has dealt most carefully and effectively with an unprecedentedly large budget of expenditure as well as with other matters of great importance, and has demonstrated that it possesses all those qualities which are so desirable and necessary for the efficient dispatch of its manifold duties.

I recognize the manner in which all public business has been debated and the solicitude for the public welfare which this Council has shown. I feel satisfied that the spirit of co-operation and goodwill—concerning which I expressed a fervent hope—will be brought to bear upon all the great questions which must be discussed by you.

I have said before, and I venture to repeat it, let there be a generous regard for one another between all communities and a clear desire amongst all to co-operate for the welfare and advancement of your common interests, and then from this there will spring that feeling of goodwill which will make for the overcoming of difficulties and the efficient and smooth working of the machinery of this Assembly.

It is of necessity that I am deeply concerned in everything that appertains to this present Council since its constitution has been wrought under my own hands, and I cannot but feel a great responsibility for its future, and though I shall not be here to see its full development, I shall watch its performances with jealous regard and in trustful belief that it will fully achieve that high destiny which I and others desire for it.

The present constitution contains all those elements which, I believe, will demonstrate how all-important are the sobering influence of a great responsibility and the need for the exercise of wise moderation; and in dealing, as you must, with certain questions where a wide diversity of opinion is bound to arise, I would earnestly counsel you that you be guided in your deliberations by these considerations.

The political development of Ceylon in the future lies in the hands of this Council, and I trust that you will always bear this in mind in all your debates and decisions.

I am now completing a long term of office as Governor of this Colony. That term has been full of incident and full of interest. It has filled me with an abiding concern for the fortunes of this Island; greater, I can assure you, than any I have ever felt for any of the other parts of His Majesty's dominions in which I have served.

There are many problems still to be solved, and I feel that this Council has before it a very strenuous future, and I think all the Members of the Council, whether the veterans of bygone Assemblies or newly elected to this, realize that this is so.

I know that you must give much of your valuable time to the discussion of numerous pressing subjects, and that it will require much self-sacrifice on your part; I realize very fully how great the demands have been upon you in the past, and I foresee that they will be no less so in the future, and I trust it will be recognized in



Ceylon that the Unofficial Members of this Council deserve well of their country in undertaking their responsible and self-sacrificing duties.

There is one project with which you have already dealt most generously, but which I must commend to your solicitude, and that is the University of Ceylon. I have endeavoured, with your help, that there shall be no question, but that it shall be beyond the realm of doubt, that it shall be surely founded, that it shall be honourably and fittingly housed, and, before I leave Ceylon, it will be to me a great consolation that this project so dear to my heart—and I know so eagerly desired by the people of Ceylon—shall have full provision made for it. May I, therefore, ask you, when further provision is required for ensuring that this great scheme shall be consummated, you will, in these days of prosperity, once more generously support the request that sufficient funds shall be provided.

In taking leave of you, I wish once more to thank you for your courtesy to me in all our dealings, for the unfailing assistance you have given me, for the support you have so generously afforded me, and I wish you, the Legislative Council of Ceylon, every good wish for the future.

THE HON. SIR PONNAMBALAM RAMANATHAN, KT., K.C., C.M.G. (Northern Province, Northern Division):—I rise, Sir, at the request of all my unofficial colleagues, to express our great joy at meeting you here to-day and hearing from you your best wishes for the prosperity of Ceylon, combined with your thanks for the co-operation which this Council has been able to offer to you.

On August 28 last, immediately before the last Reform Council was dissolved, you were pleased to say that, during its life from June, 1921, to August, 1924, it was able to accomplish "a record which has no equal for a similar epoch in the history of Ceylon as a period of solid advance in every direction, both politically and economically."

Owing to the dissolution of the Council on the following day, August 29 last, it could not have responded to you, and the present Council takes this opportunity to acknowledge that except for your singularly disinterested, able, and cautious guidance it could never have achieved that distinction.

When I remember that Sir James Longden in 1879, the year I entered this Council, was trying to keep the affairs of our Island going with a revenue of about fourteen million rupees only, that Sir Arthur Havelock in 1890 had about sixteen millions to deal with, that Sir West Ridgeway in 1900 had about twenty-seven million rupees to expend, that Sir Henry McCallum in 1910 had a revenue of about forty-four millions, and that on your assumption of Government in 1918 you found a revenue of sixty-four million rupees and an expenditure of sixty-five million rupees, together with a crop of most complicated questions in economics and politics, as the result of the great war and its aftermath; and when I remember how in every walk of life, official and unofficial, there were prevailing extreme depression and anxiety, what shall I say of the glorious mercy of God which caused our revenue to rise in 1925 to one hundred and two millions of rupees, and the muddling of man, ever urging him to live beyond his income, which ran up the expenditure for the year ending September, 1925, to over



one hundred and eleven millions of rupees? One would say that our minds have been too hopeful and too eager to gratify our desires. But in your Message to this Council upon the Estimates you explained that more than ten millions of the excess expenditure were to be charged against the available surplus balances of past years, and that the "general causes for the increase are to be found in higher salaries and wages, the natural expansion of the work of departments, the creation of new departments, such as the Department of Indian Immigrant Labour and the Statistical Department, and the necessity for overtaking the arrears of maintenance which years of restricted expenditure has rendered inevitable."

We sincerely hoped that, with the natural increase of revenue under many heads, the new taxes imposed on tea, rubber, coconuts, and other food products, the proceeds of which amount to about eight millions of rupees, would be remitted by Your Excellency before you left these shores, in terms of your hope, if not promise, expressed to this Council; but now that your administration is coming to an end, may we not trust that your successor will do the agriculturists concerned the justice of granting them speedy relief.

The loans authorized by the Ordinance for undertaking public works have enabled the Government to provide the completion of the Colombo Lake Scheme, the Kolonnawa Oil Depôt, the Colombo Stations Extensions, the Harbour Rail Connection, the Duplication of the Main Line, the Badulla Railway Extension, the Puttalam Railway Extension, the Maho-Batticaloa and Trincomalee Light Railways, the Hydro-Electric Scheme, and other works of development, all which expenditure will carry interest on the loan and make the revenue liable to an annual charge of about twelve million rupees. Some of these works are undoubtedly necessary, especially the railways, which may produce enough to minimize the interest.

We are all most thankful for such works, and for the very sympathetic manner in which you have treated the cause of education generally, and the establishment of a University in Ceylon, and food production, and for the immense relief you gave to the people of the country by importing rice from India and letting them have it at much less than cost price, and so averting the effects of an impending famine. Over and above all these blessings, we have to thank you most sincerely for the efforts you have been making to harmonize the differences between the several communities in Ceylon by persuading the Secretary of State to advise His Majesty the King to grant to us the present constitution of the Council, wherein the officials number only twelve, and the unofficials thirty-seven, of whom thirty-four are elected by the people.

We feel sure that you, who have laboured for six and a half years for His Majesty the King and the people of this country, where you and Lady Manning were pleased to be joined in holy matrimony, and where your child was born, will never forget Ceylon. We wish you all good health, long life, and prosperity, and hope that, upon your return to England, you will be elected a member of the House of Commons, and do everything in your power to promote there the best interests of this country.

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR:**—Sir Ramanathan, if I may be so permitted to address you, because I am not aware for which district of the Northern Province you have been elected, let me thank you for your very kindly remarks on behalf of the Legislative



Council of Ceylon. I can assure you that the six and a half years I have spent in this Island have been years, as I said, of incident and great interest, though at times I might have done that which this Council might not have approved. I have done what I have done in the honest belief that it was for the good of this country.

Now, I cannot leave the Council without expressing to the members of the Government service my very high appreciation of the work they have done for me during the past six and a half years. I thank them for their loyal and generous support; I thank them for their services, not only to me, but for their services to the people of this Island. My opinion is that Ceylon is fortunate in possessing a body of public servants second to none in our Empire—a body to whose devotion to duty and self-sacrifice I desire to bear full testimony to-day. I think it is recognized, not only by this Council, but by the country at large, that their hearts and their souls are in their work, and that they do what they can uncomplainingly, and I must say most efficiently, for the good and welfare of the people of this country.\*

His Excellency the Governor vacated the Chair, and the Hon. the Vice-President occupied it.

#### Papers laid.

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:—I beg, Sir, to lay on the table the following papers:—

Administration Report, 1924:—

Part I., Civil: Report of the Rubber Controller.

Sessional Papers, 1925:—

V.—Inquiry into the Plumbago Industry.

VI.—Report of the Rinderpest Committee.

VII.—Report and Estimate of the Railway from Batticaloa to Nintavur.

VIII.—The Importation of Live Stock into Ceylon.

IX.—Colombo South Flood Protection Scheme.

X.—University Buildings.

XI.—The Slum Problem (Housing of the Working Classes in Colombo).

Messages of His Excellency the Governor dated March 14, 1925, and March 24, 1925.

By-laws made by the Governor in Executive Council under section 19 of "The Rural Schools Ordinance, No. 8 of 1907."

Rule made by the Governor in Executive Council under section 5 of "The Ceylon Railways Ordinance, 1902," as amended by Ordinances Nos. 6 of 1915 and 16 of 1922.

Rule made by the Governor in Executive Council under section 7 of "The Ceylon Telegraph Ordinance, 1908," as amended by Ordinance No. 10 of 1923.

By-laws made by the Chilaw Urban District Council under sections 164 and 168 (1) (a) of "The Local Government Ordinance, No. 11 of 1920."

By-laws made by the Kalutara Urban District Council under sections 164 and 168 (1) (a) of "The Local Government Ordinance, No. 11 of 1920."

By-laws made by the Matara Urban District Council under sections 164 and 168 (1) (a) of "The Local Government Ordinance, No. 11 of 1920."

By-laws made by the Jaffna Urban District Council under sections 164 and 168 (1) (a) of "The Local Government Ordinance, No. 11 of 1920."

\* Not revised.



- By-laws made by the Matara Urban District Council under sections 164 and 168 (10) of Ordinance No. 11 of 1920, approved by the Local Government Board.
- Regulations made by the Governor in Executive Council under "The Pearl Fisheries Ordinance, No. 2 of 1925."
- Rules made by the Governor in Executive Council under section 4 of "The Habitual Criminals and Licensed Convicts Ordinance, No. 32 of 1914," relating to the treatment of habitual criminals.
- By-laws made by the Municipal Council of Colombo under section 27 of "The Housing and Town Improvement Ordinance, No. 19 of 1915."
- Rule made by the Governor in Executive Council under section 5 of "The Ceylon Railways Ordinance, 1902," as amended by Ordinances Nos. 6 of 1915 and 16 of 1922.
- Statement of Irrigation Fines in the Hambantota District from 1920 to 1924.
- Letter from the Postmaster-General dated February 16, 1925, regarding Money Orders remitted to India from 1920 to 1924.

### Petitions.

THE HON. MR. C. W. W. KANNANGARA (Southern Province, Western Division):—I beg to present, Sir, a petition from the inhabitants of Wellaboda and Gangaboda pattus of the District of Galle, Southern Province. They complain that there is no bridge at the point called Halpatota, and they state that they suffer very great hardship and inconvenience owing to the want of this bridge. At Baddegama there is the Office of the Chief Headman, the Village Tribunal Court, the Government Dispensary, the Police Station, and the Post and Telegraph Offices, and in addition, it has risen to be an important planting centre, with extensive plantations of rubber, tea, coconut, cinnamon, and sugar cane. The petitioners also state that the Gin-ganga is subject to frequent high floods, and that during these periods it is very difficult to cross the river in the padda boat which is provided. They also state that for want of a bridge at Halpatota they have to take their produce all the way to Galle—a distance of twelve miles. Thirty-seven years ago Sir Arthur Gordon, the then Governor, visited the spot and promised the bridge. Later on an estimate was made. In 1916 Sir John Anderson visited Baddegama, and he ordered measurements to be taken and a survey made. Although these promises were made so long ago nothing has been done. The petitioners pray that the bridge may be constructed.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District):—I beg to present a petition, Sir, from Sinhalese, Tamil and Muhammadan tea traders. They humbly submit their observations on the published draft of the proposed Tea Ordinance, and ask that their views may be considered before the Ordinance passes into law.

THE HON. MR. C. H. Z. FERNANDO (North-Western Province, Western Division):—I rise to present a petition, Sir, from R. A. D. Joseph, who was a "B" class fireman on the Ceylon Government Railway, and who was dismissed from service in connection with the collision of engines on the Kadugannawa incline which took place on March 23, 1923. He states that the engine driver who was dismissed with him has been allowed to rejoin the service, and he prays that he may be allowed to do the same.



NOTICE OF QUESTION.

**Salaries of Teachers of Aided Schools.**

THE HON. MR. C. W. W. KANNANGARA (Southern Province, Western Division):—I beg to give notice, Sir, of the following question:—

When was the report of the Sub-committee of the Board of Education on the question of the salaries of teachers of aided schools submitted to Government? When will Government take action thereon?

NOTICE OF MOTION.

**Muhammadian Marriage Laws.**

THE HON. MR. N. H. M. ABDUL CADER (Second Muslim Member):—I beg to give notice, Sir, of the following motion:—

That a Committee of this House be appointed to consider and report on the Muhammadian marriage laws.

QUESTIONS.

**Thoil Ceremonies.**

THE HON. MR. F. A. OBEYESEKERE (Southern Province, Central Division):—I rise, Sir, to ask—(1) Is the Government aware that the inhabitants “within two miles radius of the wireless station at Hakmana” are being prosecuted for observing their customary Thoil ceremonies with beat of tom-tom in cases of serious illness, even though permission has been granted, merely because they continued after 11 P.M. a ceremony which necessarily continues till 6 or 7 A.M.? (2) When permission is granted in cases of *bona fide* illness, why is permission only granted till 11 P.M.? (3) The ceremony only becoming necessary in the event of the illness proving serious, why is long notice required from those desiring to observe the ceremony?

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:—Beating tom-toms without a license is an offence under section 90 of Ordinance No. 16 of 1865, and also under Village Committee Rule 71 of the Matara District. In certain parts of the Matara District tom-toming is allowed only up to 11 P.M., as a result of complaints made to the police by the local inhabitants that their rest is disturbed by tom-toming after that hour. In the opinion of Government, it would be unreasonable to allow that section of the community, which believes in the efficacy of tom-tom beating as a cure for sickness, to deprive the rest of the community, which is possibly less optimistic regarding this treatment, of the nightly sleep. In urgent cases of illness long notice is not required for the granting of a license to beat tom-tom. In such cases licenses are issued at once. I would add that under section 90A of the Police Ordinance, 1865, as amended by Ordinance No. 14 of 1924, provision is made for an appeal to a Police Magistrate and the Supreme Court if the parties are not satisfied with the decision of the police regarding the issue of a license.

**Medical Facilities at Tissa.**

THE HON. MR. V. S. DE S. WIKREMANAYEKE (Southern Province, Southern Division):—I rise, Sir, to ask—(1) Was one Mr. Holsinger saved from a watery grave at Kirinde at about 4 P.M. of the 29th ultimo, and did anyone go for medical aid to Tissa, a distance of seven miles? (2) Were the Medical Officer and the Second



Apothecary on leave on that day without relief, and did the First Apothecary arrive on the scene at about 5 P.M. ? (3) How long did the apothecary attend to the patient, and was the patient brought to the Tissa hospital at about 8 P.M., and did not the patient expire at about 8.30 P.M. ? (4) Did anyone go and bring the Medical Officer of Hambantota, a distance of twenty miles, and at what time did he arrive at Tissa ? (5) On what dates in December, 1924, and January, 1925, had the Medical Officer at Tissa been on leave without relief ? Also the Second Apothecary ? (6) Why was no doctor sent to relieve the Medical Officer at Tissa, especially considering that the Medical Officer at Hambantota cannot leave the station without putting the general public there into much inconvenience, he having to be away twice a week at Ambalantota, and considering that the hospital at Tissa is in an unhealthy district and is serving a large area ? (7) Has the Tissa hospital fifty beds, and what was the average attendance of outdoor patients for 1924 ?

THE HON. DR. G. THORNTON (Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer) :—(1) According to the inquest proceedings the late Mr. Holsinger was rescued from the sea about 3 P.M. on December 29 last. Medical aid was summoned from Tissamaharama, some seven miles away.

(2) The answer to both parts of the question is in the affirmative.

(3) The apothecary states that he arrived on the spot about 5 P.M. and gave medical attention there for some two hours, and as there was no response the patient was brought to Tissamaharama hospital, where he arrived at about 9.10 P.M., and a fatal issue was recognized at about 9.45 P.M.

(4) Yes, at 10 P.M.

(5) The Medical Officer was absent from December 16 to January 8 without relief. The Second Apothecary was absent ten days from December 23 without relief.

(6) The Medical Officer, Tissamaharama, was granted forty-two days' leave from December 5, and an Acting Medical Officer not on the fixed establishment relieved him on that day. This officer telegraphed on the 15th that he was ill and was leaving the station. No other Acting Medical Officer was at that time available to replace him (as all were engaged in relieving Medical Officers who had been granted leave), and the First Apothecary was instructed to carry on the duties, and call on the Medical Officer, Hambantota, in case of need. Arrangements were made whereby the only other Medical Officer available for relief duty then acting at Ramboda until December 22 should proceed to Tissamaharama after that date. Orders to that effect were sent to this officer's home on the 22nd, but he states that as he did not return straight home from Ramboda he did not receive those orders until the 29th, and he then replied that he was ill and unable to go. No other officer was available until January 3, and the one available then also said he could not go on account of illness ; still another was ordered to go on the 5th, but he did not arrive there until the 9th.

(7) The number of beds is thirty, the average outdoor attendance is sixty-six per day.

THE HON. MR. V. S. DE S. WIKREMANAYEKE (Southern Province, Southern Division) :—Arising out of that answer, may I ask as a supplementary question why no one from the waiting list was sent to relieve the Medical Officer at Tissa.



**THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** :—Government has no control over the officers on the waiting list, and cannot compel them to go if they decline to do so.

#### Experimental Garden near Trincomalee.

**THE HON. MR. M. M. SUBRAMANIAM** (Trincomalee Revenue District) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—Will the Government be pleased to state—(a) What amount was spent in the opening of the Experimental Garden near the fifth milepost, Trincomalee-Anuradhapura road? (b) What amount has been incurred in the upkeep and maintenance of the Garden till the end of December, 1924; and (c) What income it had yielded during the said period?

**THE HON. MR. F. A. STOCKDALE** (Director of Agriculture) :—(a) A sum of Rs. 1,501·02 was spent in the opening up of the Experimental Garden at Trincomalee.

(b) A sum of Rs. 5,726·56 has been spent in the upkeep and maintenance of the Garden till the end of December, 1924.

(c) The income realized from April, 1923, till the end of December, 1924, amounts to Rs. 455·15.

#### Road between Tissamaharama and Kadragam.

**THE HON. MR. M. M. SUBRAMANIAM** (Trincomalee Revenue District) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—In view of the representation made from time to time by the Hindus who go on a pilgrimage to Kadragam, will the Government be pleased to open a proper road between Tissamaharama and Kadragam?

**THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** :—Government understands that this road is quite sufficient for the little traffic which uses it, apart from the pilgrim traffic. As regards this latter, it is suggested that the temple authorities should devote a part of the large revenue which they derive from the pilgrims towards the improvement of this road.

#### Water Rate in Hambantota District.

**THE HON. MR. V. S. DE S. WIKREMANAYEKE** (Southern Province, Southern Division) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—(1) How many lands and what extent have been sold in the Hambantota District for default of payment of water rate from 1908 to 1918? (2) What was the water rate payable then?

**THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** :—Forty lands containing 184 acres 1 rood and  $1\frac{1}{3}$  perch in extent have been sold in the Hambantota District in default of water rate from 1908 to the end of 1918.

The water rate payable on these lands was one rupee per acre per annum in perpetuity.

#### Supreme Court Bench.

**THE HON. MR. D. S. SENANAYAKE** (Negombo District) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—(1) Is the circumstance that the majority of the occupants of the Bench of the Supreme Court has been Judges selected from abroad due to any rule restricting the number of



appointments that may be made locally? If so, when was such a rule formulated, and what were the reasons for it? (2) If there is no such rule, is the circumstance that a majority of the Bench has hitherto been appointed from abroad been due to the opinion of the Government that more appointments cannot be made in the Island with advantage to the public interest? (3) Has any communication been addressed to Government on the subject by the present or any past Chief Justice, and, if so, would the Government table it?

**THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** :—There is no “rule” applying to this matter if by “rule” the Honourable Member means an explicit regulation, but since the appointment of a Fifth Judge it has been usual for the Supreme Court Bench to consist of three European and two Ceylonese Judges, and Government considers that this arrangement is that which is most consonant with the public interest. Papers on the subject are confidential, and cannot therefore be laid on the table.

#### Leave to Muslims to attend Jumma.

**THE HON. MR. T. B. JAYAH** (Third Muslim Member) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—Will the Government be pleased to grant leave to Muslims in its service on Fridays between noon and 2 P.M. to enable them to attend Jumma?

**THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** :—In the opinion of Government it would be premature to come to a decision on this matter before it is established that there is a widespread demand among Muslims in the Public Service for the concession indicated by the Honourable Member. At present there is no evidence before Government that such a demand exists.

#### Education for Muslims.

**THE HON. MR. T. B. JAYAH** (Third Muslim Member) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—In view of the widespread desire among Muslims for English education, and owing to the difficulty of attracting Muslim boys to schools where no provision is made for the study of Koran or Arabic, will the Government be pleased to convert where possible vernacular schools, primarily intended for Muslim boys, into Anglo-vernacular schools providing facilities for the teaching of Koran or Arabic?

**THE HON. MR. L. MACRAE** (Director of Education) :—Government is prepared to convert existing Muslim vernacular schools into Anglo-vernacular schools if a real demand for conversion is shown, but is unable to undertake the teaching of the Koran. Koran teachers are allowed to teach in Government schools before or after school hours, and so far as Government is aware sufficient facilities are thereby provided.

It is not considered feasible at present to teach Arabic as a third language in Anglo-vernacular schools, except in so far as Arabic is taught by means of the Koran before and after school hours.



**Fines under the Irrigation Ordinance in the Hambantota District.**

THE HON. MR. V. S. DE S. WIKREMANAYEKE (Southern Province, Southern Division) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—What are the amounts recovered in the Hambantota District in the years 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, and 1924 as fines under the Irrigation Ordinance or under the rules framed under it ?

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY :—A statement of Irrigation fines recovered from 1920 to 1924 is laid on the table.

**Money remitted to India from the Planting Districts.**

THE HON. MR. T. Y. WRIGHT (European Rural Member) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of money remitted to India each year, for the last five years, through the post offices situated in the planting districts ?

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY :—(1) No records are kept showing the number of money orders issued from post offices in the planting districts and payable in India.

(2) A letter from the Postmaster-General on the subject is tabled.

**Brahmin Refreshment Room at Talaimannar.**

THE HON. MR. S. R. MOHAMED SULTAN (Second Indian Member) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—Will the Government be pleased to make the necessary arrangements to open a Brahmin refreshment room at Talaimannar, having regard to the fact that passengers from India are precluded by quarantine rules to carry any refreshments or meal while travelling through to Colombo or Jaffna by the Indian train ?

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY :—Brahmin passengers are very limited in number, and there would appear to be no justification for a refreshment room for them at Talaimannar. It would be a difficult matter to get a suitable contractor by local tender as the sales would be very small.

Refreshments prepared under Brahmin management are procurable on board the ferry steamer plying between Dhanushkodi and Talaimannar.

**Amendment of the Ceylon Order in Council of 1923.**

THE HON. MR. S. R. MOHAMED SULTAN (Second Indian Member) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—Will the Government be pleased to appoint the Committee, as per announcement of His Excellency the Governor before the elections, to consider the amendment of the Ceylon Order in Council of 1923, with special reference to the term "Indian," and also the linguistic qualification of the Indians eligible to be registered as voters in the Indian Electorate ?

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY :—The Government are considering the advisability of amending the Order in Council in various points of detail, including those raised by the Honourable Member.



The public bodies interested in Indian affairs have expressed their views to the Government so fully that the Government do not consider that a Committee will be necessary. If, however, difficulties are encountered which cannot be solved by consultation with the Indian Members, a Committee will be appointed as requested.

#### Government Money deposited with Banks.

THE HON. MR. S. R. MOHAMED SULTAN (Second Indian Member):—I rise, Sir, to ask—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state the period and the rate at which Government money is deposited with—

- (1) The Imperial Bank of India, (2) The Imperial Bank of India, Madras, (3) The National Bank of India, (4) The Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, (5) The Chartered Bank, (6) The Mercantile Bank, (7) P. & O. Banking Corporation, respectively?

And also the rate at which Government money is deposited on current accounts with the (Madras) Imperial Bank of India and the National Bank of India (Madras)? (b) Are there not Ceylonese banking concerns deserving of Government deposits? How many, if in the affirmative, have got this privilege?

THE HON. THE TREASURER:—(a) On the 14th instant Government had deposits in the following banks:—The Imperial Bank of India (Colombo and Madras), The Mercantile Bank (Colombo, Kandy, and Galle), The National Bank of India (Colombo, Nuwara Eliya, and Madras), The Chartered Bank (Colombo), and The Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank (Colombo). The total sum in deposit was Rs. 24,052,747, made up as follows:—

<i>In Ceylon.</i>	Rs.
On current account at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ..	5,618,872
On fixed deposit for 1 year at $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ..	1,500,000
On fixed deposit for 1 year at 5 per cent. ..	9,150,000
On fixed deposit for 6 months at $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ..	1,200,000
On fixed deposit for 6 months at 5 per cent. ..	1,000,000
<i>In India.</i>	
On current account at 2 and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ..	118,875
On fixed deposit for 1 year at 5 per cent. ..	5,065,000
On fixed deposit for 9 months at $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ..	200,000
On fixed deposit for 6 months at 5 per cent. ..	200,000
Total ..	24,052,747

It is not considered to be in the public interest to make public the rates of interest allowed from time to time by individual banks on Government fixed deposits.

(b) The Government does not consider it desirable in the public interest to express an opinion on the merits of Ceylonese or any other banking concerns.

#### Indians participating in Local Bodies.

THE HON. MR. S. R. MOHAMED SULTAN (Second Indian Member):—I rise, Sir, to ask—Will the Government be pleased to state how many Indians are participating in the Urban Council



administration as members of such Councils and in the Road Committees? And also how many Indians are employed in the clerical services of the Local Boards and Municipalities and in the executive side of the Urban Council administration, as Municipal Overseers, Sanitary Inspectors, and Health Officers?

**THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** :—Statistics on the subject are being collected and will be laid on the table when ready.

#### Disinfection of Imports from India.

**THE HON. MR. S. R. MOHAMED SULTAN** (Second Indian Member) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—Will the Government be pleased to state whether imports from India, as rice, paddy, textiles, and so on, are subjected to disinfection, and whether they are disinfected now at ports of landing?

**THE HON. MR. W. T. SOUTHORN** (Principal Collector of Customs) :—No cargo from India or any other place is at present disinfected, with the exception of certain seeds, plants, and fruits, and of jute and gunnies in transit for Buenos Aires.

**THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** :—The replies to questions 41 and 42 are not yet ready.

#### Distress Warrants in Chena Cases.

**THE HON. MR. H. R. FREEMAN** (North-Central Province) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—Will the Government be pleased to say how many distress warrants in chena cases in the Police Court, Anuradhapura, issued from January, 1923, and how much the property seized sold for? Or was there no property to seize?

**THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** :—Since January 1, 1923, fifty-four distress warrants in chena cases have been issued. Of these, ten have been returned by the Fiscal with a report that the persons fined have no property. To the remaining forty-four a return has not yet been received. No properties at all have been sold under distress warrants since the date mentioned.

#### Government Electrical Engineers.

**THE HON. MR. I. X. PEREIRA** (First Indian Member) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—(1) (a) What previous practical experience has the present Acting Electrical Engineer in Three Phase Systems? (b) Has he actually been in any supply company? (c) Has he had any previous experience on consumers' installations and distribution work? If not, is it safe accepting his schemes of installing electric light in small towns?

(2) Why was the Assistant Electrical Engineer not allowed to act pending the return of the Government Electrical Engineer?

(3) (a) How many members of the permanent population have applied for the posts of Electrical Engineers advertised in last December? (b) Have the said posts of Electrical Engineers been filled? If not, when will they be filled? (c) Does Government



intend to give the people of this country an equal chance with Europeans in filling technical posts for which they have as good qualification as their competitors ?

(4) (a) Is there any vacancy for an Electrical Engineer for the Lighting Scheme at Galle ? (b) Was this vacancy advertised, or has an appointment been made to this vacancy without advertising for applicants ?

THE HON. MR. A. H. F. CLARKE (Acting Director of Public Works) :—(1) (a) The Acting Electrical Engineer is a full member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, London, and holds the degree B.Sc. (Honours in Engineering), London University. He was engaged in the manufacture, testing, and installation of plant used in connection with Three Phase Systems for about nineteen years before being appointed as Principal of the Government Technical Schools.

(b) The Acting Electrical Engineer has not been in the employ of an electrical supply company, but has had charge of a private electrical installation with considerably larger output than the majority of the small town schemes in Ceylon.

(c) The answer is in the affirmative, and the Acting Electrical Engineer is competent to prepare and install electric lights and power schemes.

(2) The Director of Public Works does not consider that the Assistant Electrical Engineer has had sufficient experience to act as Electrical Engineer.

(3) (a) Advertisements were published in the local papers inviting applications for two vacancies for temporary Assistant Electrical Engineers (Grade I. and Grade II.). Eleven applications were received for the Grade I. appointment, six being from the permanent population; and six applications for the Grade II. appointment, five being from the permanent population.

(b) The vacancies have not yet been filled as the applications are being carefully considered. No definite date can be given as to when the vacancies will be filled owing to inquiries having to be made as to the training and experience of applicants.

(c) The reply is in the affirmative.

(4) (a) There is no vacancy for an Electrical Engineer in connection with the Lighting Scheme at Galle. An Assistant Engineer was temporarily required, and a suitable person was engaged on the recommendation of the Director of Public Works.

(b) The vacancy was not advertised in the local papers. Funds are supplied by the Galle Municipality to pay the salary of the Assistant Engineer, and the post is therefore not a Government one.

#### Lavatory Conveniences on the Talaimannar Train.

THE HON. MR. S. R. MOHAMED SULTAN (Second Indian Member) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—(1) Will the Government be pleased to state whether sufficient lavatory conveniences have been provided in the third class carriages of the Talaimannar train ? If the answer is in the affirmative, are all such compartments provided with lavatories ? (2) Is it a fact that compartments in the Indian Coolies Special are overcrowded on account of huddling too many coolies in each compartment ? (3) Is it a fact that such overcrowding has been a standing complaint ? (4) If so, does Government



propose to take any steps to alleviate such overcrowding? (5) Is it a fact that estate coolies in the Indian train do not have any meal or refreshment until they reach their destination in the estate zone? If so, what action does Government propose to take to remedy this complaint?

**THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** :—(1) There are forty-one special type third class carriages for Indian cooly traffic, each of which has an average seating capacity of one hundred and three. Every one of these has lavatories accessible from any part of the carriage.

(2) Cases of overcrowding are very rare by the Down Talaimannar Mail, as spare carriages are kept at Talaimannar, and on receipt of the advice from the South Indian Railway of the number of coolies by the connecting Boat Mail Train adequate accommodation is provided. Cases of overcrowding by Up Talaimannar Mail occur at times owing to the large number of coolies turning up to take train at various stations of which the Railway is not advised. In such cases additional accommodation is provided at the first station where a spare carriage is available.

(3) No.

(4) This is covered by answer to question No. (2).

(5) Third class passengers can obtain refreshments at Madawachchi, Anuradhapura, Galgamuwa, Kurunegala, Polgahawela, Rambukkana, and Nawalapitiya. Drinking water is supplied to coolies at Talaimannar, Madawachchi, Anuradhapura, Kurunegala, Polgahawela, Rambukkana, Kandy, Hatton, Nawalapitiya, and Nanu-oya.

A ration is given to every recruit on leaving Mandapam. Recruits travelling to stations beyond Bandarawela are also provided with batta to buy an evening meal at Bandarawela on arrival.

Recruits travelling on the Ratnapura line, if they are unable to catch the outgoing morning train at Maradana, receive a midday meal at Colombo, and in such a case those of them who travel beyond Ratnapura receive another ration in addition.

**THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** :—The reply to question No. 46 is not yet ready.

#### Minimum Wage of the Estate Labourer.

**THE HON. MR. S. R. MOHAMED SULTAN** (Second Indian Member) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—Adverting to the recent *communiqué* on the fixing up of the minimum wage of the estate labourer, will the Government be pleased to state on what data did it fix the minimum wage of a male labourer in the estates, *inter alia*, at fifty cents? Did the Government consult the Indian Representatives on the matter? If the answer is in the negative, is it not an *ex parte* decision arrived at by the planters themselves? Does the Government think that this fifty cents minimum wage adequately satisfies the demands of labour?

**THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** :—The *communiqué* in question does not contain any decision or opinion of Government, but is merely a summary of the report of a Committee which examined the question.



Government has as yet taken no final steps in the matter, and, before coming to any final decision, will of course consult all interests involved.

It is at present in communication with the Government of India on the subject. Any steps taken to fix a standard wage would require legislation, so that the Indian Representatives will have every opportunity of expressing their views.

#### The Labour Advisory Board.

THE HON. MR. S. R. MOHAMED SULTAN (Second Indian Member):—I rise, Sir, to ask—In regard to the constitution of the Labour Advisory Board, why no Indian has been nominated? Having regard to the fact that the majority of estate labourers are Indian, will the Government be pleased to consider this omission and to give adequate representation of the Indian view on the Board?

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:—The Labour Advisory Committee does not deal with the conditions effecting labour on estates. It is appointed to advise the Government on questions affecting conditions of labour generally, exclusive of labour on estates. It is considered that the members who have been appointed to the Committee will adequately represent all the interests concerned.

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:—The reply to question No. 49 is not yet ready.

#### Women Labour on Estates.

THE HON. MR. S. R. MOHAMED SULTAN (Second Indian Member):—I rise, Sir, to ask—Having regard to the fact that the creation of a strong hereditary class of estate labourer depends on the strengthening of his home by providing facilities for the woman for her full-time job of making her home happy, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of gradually eliminating women labour in the estates?

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:—Among the agricultural classes in India, from which labourers on Ceylon estates are recruited, women habitually seek employment as wage earners. Government is not aware of any desire on the part of the labourers themselves that female labour on estates should be eliminated. No woman on an estate is at present forced to work, but any steps to prevent women working would almost certainly prove highly unpopular among the labourers. It is not at all clear how practical steps could be taken to eliminate it gradually, or whether in the circumstances any such steps are at present desirable. Not only in the East, but in Western countries also, a large proportion of farm and agricultural labour is performed by women.

#### Liquor Licenses in the Estate Zone.

THE HON. MR. S. R. MOHAMED SULTAN (Second Indian Member):—I rise, Sir, to ask—Will the Government be pleased to state how many liquor taverns are located in the estate zone? Is



the location of the taverns conducive to the economic welfare of the labourer? Is it not an economic loss to the industry in the long run? Is not an all-round scheme of prohibition desirable to raise the tone, comfort, and intelligence of the labourers in the estates.

**THE HON. THE CONTROLLER OF REVENUE** :—(1) One hundred and thirty-five estate taverns exist, of which fifty-four sell arrack and eighty-one sell toddy.

Questions (2), (3), and (4) raise difficult and controversial questions of policy on which the Government do not consider it desirable to express an opinion in answer to a question.

**THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** :—The reply to question No. 52 is not yet ready.

#### Diving Apparatus.

**THE HON. MR. C. W. W. KANNANGARA** (Southern Province, Western Division) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—Why does Government continue the ancient method of employing at the pearl banks divers without modern diving apparatus? Will not the use of such apparatus considerably reduce the number of divers necessary, effect savings in many other directions, increase the income from the banks, and also enable the divers to take out only the mature oysters?

**THE HON. THE CONTROLLER OF REVENUE** :—(1) The reason why Government does not supply divers with modern diving apparatus is because of the prohibitive cost of such a method, and because it would not be likely to prove much more effective.

(2) The cost of diving outfit for two divers including a boat in the Colombo harbour is Rs. 6,500. Each boat employs six men to work the pumps, two life linesmen, two pipemen, and two boatmen, in addition to the divers. Their salaries are not included in the sum of Rs. 6,500.

(3) Some hundreds of dress divers would be required to do the work of the two thousand to three thousand skin divers usually employed.

(4) The range of action of a dress diver is greater than that of a skin diver, but it is limited. The dress divers would have to come up constantly to allow of the positions of their boats being shifted. The positions of boats with skin divers can be much more easily altered. Diving for pearl oysters is not a stationary process.

(5) It would be quite impossible to find the numbers of dress divers who would be required for a pearl fishery; and, apart from the cost of their outfit, their salaries and the salaries of the men who would have to be employed in their boats would considerably reduce the income derived by Government from a pearl fishery conducted under the present methods with the minimum of expenditure and risk of loss.

**THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** :—The reply to question No. 54 is not yet ready.



### The Import Duty on Paddy.

**THE HON. MR. S. R. MOHAMED SULTAN** (Second Indian Member) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—(a) Is the import duty on paddy raised recently to 66 cents per cwt. a protective tariff, or simply a levy for purposes of revenue? (b) If it is a protective tariff for the encouragement of local paddy cultivation, what concrete evidence in the increased productive capacity of the Island since the increase of duty by 33 cents per cwt. is perceptible now? (c) If it is simply a levy for the purposes of revenue, how does the Government justify its policy in regard to a tax on food? (d) Having regard to the higher price levels (than those of India, making allowances for freight, and so on) of the imported staple commodities for local consumption, in consequence, will the Government be pleased to consider the vital importance of reducing, to the possible minimum, the import duty on paddy, and to provide for at least some reduction in the next year's Budget?

**THE HON. MR. W. T. SOUTHORN** (Principal Collector of Customs) :—(a) For purposes of revenue.

(b) Does not arise as the Ceylon Customs Tariff is not a protective tariff.

(c) Many foodstuffs are taxed for revenue purposes, and there is no reason why paddy should be exempted while rice and other foodstuffs are not exempted.

(d) Government sees no reason to make a special reduction in the case of paddy.

### Exclusion of Indians from the Ceylon Civil Service.

**THE HON. MR. I. X. PEREIRA** (First Indian Member) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the order excluding Indians from the Ceylon Civil Service is the result of instructions from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, or has been issued on the responsibility of the local Government? (b) If the local Government has acted upon the instructions of the Colonial Office, will it, with the view of preserving the friendly relations between India and Ceylon, be pleased to recommend to the Secretary of State the rescindment of the order in question? (c) If the local authorities are responsible for the formulation of the rule, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for the exclusion of Indians from the Ceylon Civil Service, when there is no similar bar to the admission of Ceylonese to the Indian Civil Service? (d) Is there any similar bar to the admission to the Ceylon Civil Service of members of the population of any other part of the British Empire?

**THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** :—The regulation that Cadets entering the Civil Service must be natural-born British subjects of European or Ceylonese descent or of mixed European and Ceylonese descent is to be found in clause 16 (i.) of the Civil Service Minute. The following extract from clause 16 (iii.) is also relevant :—

For the present, it has been decided that until the proportion of two Europeans to one Ceylonese in the Civil Service has been attained, half the Cadets recruited shall be European and half Ceylonese.



The Civil Service Minute was issued, as stated in the heading, by His Excellency the Governor with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Government does not consider that it would be in the interest of the Colony to vary the existing regulation by reducing the proportion of recruitment either of European or of Ceylonese candidates.

As regards the last part of the question, the Honourable Member will have noted from the first part of this answer that only British subjects of European or Ceylonese or mixed European and Ceylonese descent are eligible.

#### Indians and the Ceylon Government Services.

THE HON. MR. S. R. MOHAMED SULTAN (Second Indian Member):—I rise, Sir, to ask—Will the Government be pleased to consider, having regard to the fact that many Ceylonese are employed in the Indian Civil Service and other Government services in India, the desirability of removing the ban on Indians entering the Government services in the Island as a matter of reciprocity?

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:—The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question No. 56.

#### Fluid Rubber Latex.

THE HON. MR. H. R. FREEMAN (North-Central Province):—I rise, Sir, to ask—Were the uses to which the increase in exports of fluid rubber latex in November and December, 1924, was put ascertained before it was decided to restrict export? If so, what were those uses?

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:—(1) Yes.

(2) Rubber latex is now used extensively commercially.

- (i.) The Fibrok Company have already opened a factory at Northampton, where large quantities of rubber latex are being used in the manufacture of fibrok.
- (ii.) Further, there have been considerable developments recently in the use of rubber latex for treating fibrous materials with the object of introducing a certain amount of rubber. Such methods have been employed in the production of rubberized fabric and cord used in tyre manufacture, and of paper and cardboard. The introduction of rubber into such fibrous materials is generally much more conveniently effected by means of rubber latex than by the use of solution of ordinary rubber.
- (iii.) In addition, rubber latex has been extensively shipped from the East to the United States and to Europe, for the production of special forms of crude rubber which take the place of the plantation product.

#### Standing Committee on Finance.

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:—I beg, Sir, to move that the report of the Standing Committee on Finance dated February 6, 1925, be adopted.

THE HON. THE TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.



**Supplementary Expenditure.**

**THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** :—I beg, Sir, to move that items No. 61 to 117 of supplementary expenditure annexed to the Messages of His Excellency the Governor dated March 14 and 24, 1925, be referred to the Finance Committee.

**THE HON. THE TREASURER** seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

**The Ceylon Telegraph Ordinance.**

**THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** :—I beg, Sir, to move that the rule made by His Excellency the Governor in Executive Council, in exercise of the powers vested in him by section 7 of "The Ceylon Telegraph Ordinance, 1908," as amended by Ordinance No. 10 of 1923, and published in *Government Gazette* No. 7,446 of February 13, 1925, be confirmed.

A telephone call office will be opened shortly at Welimada Post Office. The rule to be confirmed by this Council prescribes the scale of charges for the use of the trunk line between Welimada Post Office and the other stations named in the rule. The charges are framed approximately on the usual basis of 1 cent per route mile and are rounded off when above 25 cents to multiples of 25 cents.

**THE HON. THE TREASURER** seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

**Payments to Widow and Child.**

**THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** :—I beg, Sir, to move that in terms of section 31 (i.) of the Pension Minute the following payments be made to the widow and child of P. B. Herath, Police Constable, who died of injuries received while on duty :—

To the widow a pension of Rs. 150 per annum, with effect from December 1, 1924 ;

To the child aged four years a gratuity of Rs. 110.

The late P. B. Herath was on village patrol duty at 3 A.M. in August, 1917. He gave chase to a man who could not give a satisfactory account of himself and who bolted whilst being questioned. In the course of the pursuit Herath fell and injured his foot and broke two teeth. The foot never healed, and in November, 1922, chronic ulceration set in, and the constable was continually in hospital. Eventually he was sent before a medical board in February, 1924, and invalidated out of service. In April, 1924, his foot was amputated, but he died on November 17.

**THE HON. THE TREASURER** seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

**Allowance to Public Works Department Labourer.**

**THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** :—I beg, Sir, to move that an allowance of Rs. 75 per annum be granted, with effect from October 15, 1923, as an act of grace, to Muthia Kangany, who was employed as a piecework labourer in the Public Works Department, and fractured his right thigh bone as a result of an accident he met with in the discharge of his duty.



This is a case outside the provisions of the Pension Minute. The kangany was employed as a regular Public Works Department labourer paid on check roll for various periods aggregating twenty-four years, but at the date of the accident he was employed on piece work. The resolution is brought before the Council on compassionate grounds. The kangany sustained the injury on July 14, 1923, while engaged in rolling stones from the bank of a metal quarry at the five and a half milepost on the Badulla-Batticaloa road.

THE HON. THE TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

#### The Public Works Loan Ordinance.

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY :—I beg, Sir, to move the following resolution standing in my name :—

That in terms of section 2 of "The Public Works Loan Ordinance, No. 6 of 1921," this Council approves of the further expenditure from item 10 of a sum of Rs. 117,000 on the Gampola bridge.

The members of the Finance Committee will remember that at a meeting of the Committee held on February 6 last it was agreed that a further apportionment of Rs. 117,000 should be made from Loan Funds for the construction of Gampola bridge. The estimated cost of the bridge will thus be increased from Rs. 819,000 to Rs. 936,000. The increase is due mainly to items of Rs. 42,000, being the cost of approaches to the bridge from Gampola and Pussellawa, and of Rs. 40,000 being cost of an approach from the Gampola-Kandy road. Neither of these items were originally included in the estimate. The remaining portion of the excess is due to the increased cost of steelwork and to the fact that flood conditions in the Mahaweli-ganga make it necessary to erect the scaffolding for both girders at once instead of completing one girder at a time, as had previously been intended. Therefore two sets of scaffolding are needed, whereas one only had been provided in the original estimate. I move that this resolution be adopted.

THE HON. THE TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

#### Parameshvara College, Jaffna.

THE HON. SIR PONNAMBALAM RAMANATHAN, Kt., K.C., C.M.G. (Northern Province, Northern Division) :—I beg to move, Sir, that the permission of this Council be granted to me to introduce "An Ordinance to declare the Constitution of Parameshvara College, Jaffna, and to incorporate the Board of Directors of the said College." I need not to-day explain the necessity for this Bill at any length, because if permission is granted I shall have to go at some length into the subject. I now beg that the necessary permission be granted to me.

THE HON. MR. W. A. DE SILVA (Central Province, Urban) seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

#### Adjournment.

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY :—I suggest, Sir, that Council should now adjourn until Thursday next, at 2.30 P.M. I understand that this will meet the wishes of Honourable Members.

Council adjourned till 2.30 P.M. on April 2, 1925.