

DEBATES

IN THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF CEYLON,

On Friday, June 19, 1925.

Pursuant to adjournment the Honourable the Members of the Legislative Council met at the Council Chamber at 2.30 P.M. this day.

PRESENT :

- THE HONOURABLE COLONEL H. W. HIGGINSON, C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C., OFFICER COMMANDING THE TROOPS, *Presiding Member*.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. E. B. ALEXANDER, C.M.G., ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. L. H. ELPHINSTONE, K.C., ATTORNEY-GENERAL.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. CODRINGTON, ACTING CONTROLLER OF REVENUE.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. W. W. WOODS, TREASURER.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. F. A. STOCKDALE, C.B.E., DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE.
- 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. 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 BURGHIER MEMBER).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. J. STRACHAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. W. T. SOUTHORN, PRINCIPAL COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. M. T. AKBAR, K.C., SOLICITOR-GENERAL.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. K. BALASINGHAM (NOMINATED UNOFFICIAL MEMBER).

- THE HONOURABLE DR. J. F. E. BRIDGER, PRINCIPAL CIVIL MEDICAL OFFICER.
- 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. H. M. MACAN MARKAR (FIRST MUSLIM MEMBER).
- 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. V. S. DE S. WIKREMANAYAKE (SOUTHERN PROVINCE, SOUTHERN DIVISION).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. H. WILLE (FIRST BURGERH MEMBER).
- 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.*

Papers laid.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—I have, Sir, to lay on the table the Report and Recommendations of the Board of Education on the Question of Salaries and Pensions of Teachers in Assisted Schools.

Petition from J. W. Dalpethado.

THE HON. MR. C. H. Z. FERNANDO (North-Western Province, Western Division) :—I beg, Sir, to present a petition from J. W. Dalpethado of Negombo. The petitioner states that he was employed as an Inspector of Telegraphs and Telephones and that he was in service for twelve years. He was then taken ill of malaria, contracted while on service, and went before a Medical Board, which condemned him. The doctor stated that he had fallen ill not through any fault of his own, and recommended that he should be given indoor work. The petitioner had been compulsorily retired. He prays that he be given some indoor work.

Questions.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—The answers to the questions are not yet ready.

Allowance to a Public Works Department Piecework Labourer.

The following motion stood in the name of the Honourable the Acting Colonial Secretary :—

That an allowance of Rs. 45 per annum be granted, with effect from June 19, 1924, as an act of grace, to Valoo, who was employed as a piecework labourer in the Public Works Department, and who had his eyes and body seriously injured as a result of an accident while on duty.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—I have the honour to move the motion standing in my name. I have consulted His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government about the use of the words “ as an act of grace,” and His Excellency has instructed me that these technical words “ as an act of grace ” may be omitted. That will be done in future.

With regard to the other point raised, that is, the amount of the allowance, we have gone into that question, and I find that this cooly, Valoo, who was not regularly employed by the Public Works Department, would have got only Rs. 46·95 if he had been regularly employed, and if he had come within the terms of the Pension Minute. It will therefore be seen that in giving him an allowance of Rs. 45 we have gone as far as we possibly could.

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

Licences for Distilling Arrack.

The following motion stood in the name of the Hon. Mr. D. B. Jayatilaka (Colombo District) :—

That in the opinion of this Council no licences be issued for distilling arrack in areas in which no distilleries existed when the contract supply system was introduced.

THE HON. MR. E. W. PERERA (Kalutara Revenue District) :—I move, Sir, that this motion be postponed as the honourable the proposer of it is unable to attend owing to ill-health.

THE HON. MR. M. M. SUBRAMANIAM (Trincomalee Revenue District) seconded.

Council agreed to the postponement of the motion.

Unemployment.

The following motion stood in the name of the Hon. Mr. A. Canagaratnam (Northern Province, Southern Division) :—

That, in view of unemployment and consequent poverty being steadily on the increase among some classes of the people of Ceylon, the Government be pleased to appoint a Committee of this Council, or an independent Commission of Inquiry to investigate into the subject and recommend remedial measures.

THE HON. MR. A. CANAGARATNAM (Northern Province, Southern Division) :—Sir, originally my motion stood in this form. On the recommendation of some of my colleagues, who thought that the motion was too comprehensive and vague,

I was persuaded to modify it by restricting it to the class of young men who had received an English education. In the subsequent notice which I sent in the motion read like this:—

That in view of unemployment and consequent poverty being steadily on the increase among young men who have received an English education, the Government be pleased to appoint a Committee of this Council to investigate into the subject and recommend remedial measures.

But I soon found when I had made that alteration that it gave rise to considerable misunderstanding. Several people began to draw the inference that unemployment was due to English education. I am afraid it was a natural inference, and I restored the motion to its original form. There is no doubt, Sir, that it is unemployment among the English educated classes that is most prominent; but we should not suppose from that fact that English education has contributed to the result. Some people who had to tackle this question suggested that the remedy lay in restricting English education, because they thought that the increase of unemployment was due to an increase in English education. But, Sir, they do not realize that the imparting of an English education is a duty incumbent on the Government so long as the Government of the country is carried on through English as the State language, and every resident of the Island is entitled to receive an English education. So it becomes a State duty to instruct every inhabitant of this Island in that language, through the means of which alone he can get to know anything about the administration that is going on. Moreover, every youth has a right to be given an opportunity to rise to the highest post in the Island. Therefore, the imparting of an English education is a duty cast on the Government, which Government can never shirk. Even if it is supposed that an English education leads to unemployment, I do not think it is justifiable to restrict it on that ground. It was afterwards suggested to me that I might restrict the motion by specifying the educated classes alone, instead of including others, so that not only those educated in English, but even those educated in the vernacular, might be included within the scope of the motion. But some misunderstanding might even then have arisen, because it might be said that even if a vernacular education is given it would lead to unemployment. Therefore, I think it is safe to allow the motion to stand as it is. If this House would accept my suggestion to appoint a Committee or an independent Commission of Inquiry to report, it would be for that Committee or Commission to go into the question as to among what classes in Ceylon unemployment exists and to suggest remedial measures. That unemployment exists to an enormous degree is I think admitted on all hands, and that the evil is growing from day to day is also I think admitted. Recently when the Government Clerical Examination was advertised by the Ceylon Government there were more than 1,000 applicants, and only 20 vacancies had to be competed for. Then in regard to minor posts in the Clerical Service, I mean the Third Class of the Clerical Service, and in the mercantile service, whenever there is a vacancy there are hundreds of applicants, and you find all round you miserable young men with a dark future before them. Therefore it is a duty on our part, and on the part of Government, to devise some measures to remedy this growing evil.

I do not know whether Government has regarded the provision of employment for the youths of the country as a duty incumbent on them. This may be regarded as a new question so far as the

Government is concerned. I do not know whether it has been as yet recognized that it is the duty of Government to see that the sons of the soil are provided with employment. In England and other places we see that the question of unemployment is every day receiving considerable attention. In all Budget proposals we find that measures are adopted to meet this evil. There is what is called the Unemployment Benefit Fund, which is administered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and there are also other measures intended for the relief of the unemployed. There is a scheme according to which the Imperial Government, I believe, has voted a certain sum for subsidizing home industries, and that sum is intended to be lent to Colonies for financing Colonial industries on condition that these Colonial industries should purchase their requirements from industrial establishments in England.

That is a system to encourage industries in England itself, and the question is approached in a very far-reaching manner, by encouraging the introduction of English-made goods into the Colonies and Dominions. When they are taking such far-reaching measures in order to decrease unemployment in England itself, I am sure this House will agree with me that it is the legitimate duty of the Government to tackle this question of unemployment, which is now acute enough in this Island, and which in course of time, unless we take remedial measures, would develop into uncontrollable proportions.

There was an Industries Commission which made a report, I believe, about three years ago. So far as I recollect, I think that Commission recommended the establishment of a central bureau of industries and commerce. The Government has not gone into the question, just as it has neglected to consider the report of other Commissions. But the Government, I must say, has moved in the right direction by trying to shape education in such a way as to give it a practical character. In fact, the Honourable the Colonial Secretary was kind enough to refer my motion to the Board of Education, thinking the Board of Education might give us a sufficient prescription to arrest this evil. I am afraid the Board of Education will not be able to do that. The Director of Education is interesting himself considerably in the matter of encouraging industrial education. We may provide for any number of industrial schools, but that is only a partial remedy. Unless industries are started there would be no use in imparting industrial education. We have to carry our measures much further than we have already done. What we have to do is to promote agriculture and industries, taking lines of action adopted outside our own country, and devise every possible means that might help to relieve distress. The youth of the country are often directed to agriculture whenever this complaint of unemployment happens to be made. But it is forgotten by those who give this advice that there is no scope for profitable work in agriculture. It is in fact because agriculture is not paying that the question of unemployment has come so much to the forefront. Otherwise we would not feel the unemployment question so keenly. It is often said that the youth of the country feel a sense of loss of dignity when they take to manual labour. That difficulty does not exist I think at the present day. Distress has gone beyond all reasonable degrees. Those who advise our youth to go back to the land ought to devise measures to make agriculture paying. It is because agriculture is not paying that

very many parents give an English education to their children at considerable cost and sacrifice in order to enable them to find a livelihood. Therefore, I think that apart from the language which our children are studying, whether it be the vernacular or English, we have to see that agriculture is made a paying occupation. That is one of the most important things we have to do. A great many steps will have to be taken to make agriculture pay, and it is not for me just now to give a programme as to how agriculture should be developed in order to make it attractive to the youth of the country so that they may be able to earn a decent livelihood. I am sure even young men who have received an English education would turn to agriculture provided they got at least Re. 1.50 or Rs. 2 a day as remuneration; but under present circumstances the average cultivator does not get more than Rs. 15 a month. We know that vernacular teachers get employed on such small pittances as Rs. 7.50 and Rs. 10 a month. That shows unemployment is not confined to the English educated classes alone, but that it is spread far and wide among other classes also.

When there are further industries started which will require skilled labour, probably many of our educated men will be taking to those industries. But nothing has been done on these lines as yet. I am sure, Sir, that although I have said so little on this subject, the arguments I have adduced will be sufficient to convince this House that a Committee or a Commission should be appointed. So far as I am concerned, I would prefer the appointment of a representative Committee of this House to investigate into this subject and report.

THE HON. MR. T. B. JAYAH (Third Muslim Member) :—I rise, Sir, to second the motion. I am sure this House would agree with me when I say that this question of unemployment has been raised not a day too soon. All of us who have been following the trend of affairs in this country have begun to feel the effects of unemployment, and are naturally anxious to devise ways and means of mitigating the evil. In fact, the time is soon coming when the problem of unemployment will be one difficult to solve. It is, therefore, really gratifying to find my honourable friend bringing up this question in this Council. In fact, the heads of commercial establishments, the heads of educational institutions, and the heads of Government Departments will be in a position to testify to the fact that no sooner they advertise for even an ordinary job than they are besieged with numerous applications. That is a matter of ordinary experience. In these circumstances it is natural for those who are interested in the youth of this country, and for those who are interested in the welfare of the country, to find out the causes for this state of things. Naturally various explanations are given on this subject. Some may say that it is only in Ceylon that such a state of things exists, forgetting that in other parts of the world similar problems exist. We find that the problem of unemployment is taxing the brains of some of the great Statesmen of England, but so far as we are concerned we are certainly in a different position.

Some say our present situation is due to our faulty system of education; that we attach too great an importance to the literary side of education; that we do not sufficiently realize the actualities of the situation and establish a system of education that would

enable the youth of this country to acquire, not only a general education, but an education that would fit them for definite work in the future. In fact, some time back there was a great deal of stir in this country over this question, and one of the Professors of our University College went to the extent of reading a paper on the subject of unemployment, and suggested ways and means of meeting the situation. I believe that much of the evil can be traced to the fact that the people of this country have an idea that English education is more or less a panacea for all evils, and that parents without realizing what they actually do make it a point to send their children to English schools, spending enormous sums of money, only to find that at the time they leave school they have to join the band of the unemployed. Again, it is a matter of common experience that this desire for English education has penetrated to even the remotest corners of Ceylon, and those who have been contented with the lives they were leading in the villages, those who were satisfied with the avocations of their forefathers, even they have been carried away by this desire for English education, and have migrated in large numbers to the different cities of this Island for the purpose of education. The result has been, that even in the villages those who might profitably follow pursuits which are more to their taste and which are more suited to their genius are compelled to eke out a miserable existence in the cities, in some cases drawing petty pittances as clerks or wandering about in search of employment. So then, Sir, it is up to us to find out whether this state of things is really due to our present system of education, and a Committee of this House or a Commission will be in a position to investigate into this question in a thorough manner and make us realize our present situation, and suggest to us remedial measures. Then again, some may say that unemployment is not so much due to our educational system or to the desire among parents for English education as to the fact that no serious attempt has been made to explore the economic resources of the country and to place at the disposal of our youth facilities for developing their talents on lines that will enable them to improve the economic position of this country. For some years India has had to face a similar situation. Leaders of different shades of opinion were trying to find out the real causes for this state of things. Some suggested that if the young men of the country went in for scientific education they might find a place in the industrial economy of the country, and as a result many Indians went in for a scientific education, and found to their great disappointment that in spite of all their technical skill, in spite of the fact that they were highly and efficiently trained, their services were not utilized either by the Government or by those who financed the great industries of the country. The result was that a good deal of discontent prevailed in the country, and Mahatma Gandhi had to appeal to the people to go back to the old method of living and to find a solution for the problem in charka. Although our position is to a great extent similar, the remedies that we suggest for the economic improvement of this country may not necessarily be similar, because for the last so many years we have been more or less carried away by the glamour of the industrial systems that prevail in the West. Anyway, we could profit by the experience of India. It would not do for us simply to suggest that we should establish here technical institutes and technical colleges, and advise our youth to go in for

a scientific education, because you may find after all that in spite of the fact that they are highly qualified men in these branches of study they may not find work to suit their high attainments.

The Government of the country could do a great deal. When we examine the different kinds of work and employment at the disposal of Government, and also examine the chances the young men of the country have of attaining to some of the highest offices in the public service, what do we really find? True enough different Commissions have considered this aspect of the question and have made various recommendations. In spite of that, we find that the chances our young men have of attaining to the higher posts in the public service are rather limited. That is not all. In the majority of cases our young men after leaving school find that the professions are overcrowded, or in most cases the doors of the Government service are closed. I think only those disappointed in this manner look to mercantile establishments in Colombo, or similar establishments in other parts of the country, and they find that even here the position is not different owing to the fact that Ceylonese capital does not generally flow into local industry, and it is not possible for our young men to become managers or directors of large establishments, or to become the heads of great industrial concerns. The result is that these young men who aspire to be captains of industry are in an unfortunate position, in spite of the fact that they are willing to serve the country in those high positions. These are questions that are worthy of consideration. If a Committee or a Commission is appointed to go into this subject fully, we might know exactly why this question of unemployment has become so serious, and what remedial measures there are which will enable this country to tide over this difficulty.

I for one feel certain that the Government will accept this motion, because it is one which is fraught with very far-reaching consequences. In fact, this Council will earn the gratitude of this country if it passes this motion, because the problem of unemployment is becoming so acute. There are so many parents who have become altogether restless, and feel that unless there is a real solution to this problem the time may come when as in other countries we will have to face, not only a rather acute industrial situation, but even a political situation. In fact, much of the political discontent in some parts of the world is due to unemployment. It is those who are discontented with their lives, and who after having had a good education find themselves in a miserable plight, that sometimes become dangerous to society and dangerous to the Government of the country. I think it is very incumbent upon us to devise ways and means of solving this problem. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

THE HON. MR. W. A. DE SILVA (Central Province, Urban) :— I rise, Sir, to make a few remarks on the motion before the House. It strikes me that in many countries Governments appoint Commissions when they come across inconvenient questions whose consideration they wish to postpone. I suppose the mover and seconder of this motion do not want this question of unemployment shelved or relegated to a Committee, which will sit for months, perhaps years, and produce a report which will be of no use. We have had many reports which have never been accepted or carried out. In connection with the present motion, I might say that we

have our limitations, and I do not think that a Committee appointed here will be able to deal with the question to the satisfaction of the public. We require expert knowledge in dealing with questions like this. What the Committee will have to do will be to find out the root cause of unemployment.

One point that struck me in this connection is that we always display a sort of dependent mentality. In all our schemes for the amelioration of the people of this country, the first idea that comes to our mind is that anybody who wants employment should seek it from somebody else. This is the result of the atmosphere in which we have been brought up; and we have succumbed to it. The whole question of unemployment hinges on one very important point, and that is, whether the people who are unemployed are employable. That is a question which deserves the serious consideration of the people of this country. There are a very large number of people who are seeking employment, but who are unemployable. They are not willing to work. There are many who want to live in cotton wool; many who are incompetent; and many who are unreliable. If there were more honesty, more reliability, and more responsibility, there will be a larger number who will find employment.

It has been remarked that capitalists do not embark on new industries. I know of many who have embarked on new industries, but had to give them up because they could not find the men to do the work. These are facts, and these facts we must bear in mind if we are to solve the problem before us. Now, these are our failings. They are not inherent in the people, but are due to the system of education that has been in operation in this country.

It struck me in connection with the proposed Art Gallery, that we will probably be having a cheap imitation of something which exists somewhere else. Human beings are not made of brick and stone. Each country should preserve its own mentality and expression; and if we try a system of education here which is followed in other countries, we must expect to reap the result which the other countries have reaped. I do not believe that there is any such thing as an English education and a vernacular education. I only believe that there is such a thing as education. The mistake we made was to start schools to prepare boys to take up employment under other people. The whole system of education was based on that. No initiative was given to the students.

If the Committee asked for is appointed, it should seek the advice of those competent, not only in this country, but also outside. Our ideas have become so stereotyped that we sometimes find it very difficult to get over our prejudices. A system of education that would suit the country should be inaugurated and carried out. I am sure the Director of Education will not contradict me if I say that he himself must be feeling that the system of education which he has to carry out cannot do anything for the uplift of this country. He has inherited this system, and he has to carry it on. He is, besides, so tied down to routine work that he has had no time to put his views into execution. I would like the Director of Education and the Director of Agriculture to give us their views.

It is a bold policy we require. The system of education should be changed, and it is for the Director of Education to advise Government on this matter, although it might result in criticism. Now, in regard to this Committee, we have very hazy ideas as to the manner

in which employment could be found for the people of the country. We think that every boy should try and get employment under Government. If this happens it will be a repetition of the case of old Russia, where they had more people in the Government service than it was good for the country. We need not make our boys think that they must enter Government or the mercantile service. Any boy who has grit and training should be able to find employment.

There is one great factor in our education which the Honourable Knight from Jaffna mentioned yesterday, and which I am sorry to say was received in a somewhat flippant spirit by some Honourable Members. The most important part of education, as the Honourable Knight mentioned yesterday, is to get men of character and dependability. You cannot make boys men of character unless they start from their infancy on a system of education which takes into account the most important part of their development, namely, religion. In this country that has been neglected up to now. It is unfortunate that in Government schools no religion is taught, while in some others religion is perverted—I do not say this with any disrespect for other religions. But we should teach religion in our schools; we should bring up our children in the religion which their parents profess. Government has granted the “right of entry” into vernacular schools, for the purpose of teaching religion, and I hope that the religious bodies will take the opportunity which has been given to them. I suppose the time will come when Government will extend that opportunity to all classes of schools, so that pupils can be taught the religion of their parents without antagonism to the religion of others. Until we get that we cannot expect to model the character of our young men.

The second question concerns industrial appointments. We are not an industrial country, and we have to import from other countries while other countries themselves are feeling the pinch of competition. In Ceylon we are so situated that we can absorb every man in industries connected with agriculture. When agricultural education is mentioned, we find people talking of improved agriculture. Those words “improved agriculture” should be wiped out of our dictionary. There is nothing called improved agriculture. In village schools, with the introduction of compulsory education the ordinary agricultural education has been taken away; I mean the education a boy received in his father’s field, where he worked for seven or eight years. A literary education has now taken the place of this agricultural education, and children from the age of five years are being ground down as in machines and made to work at school till fourteen years of age, and the only thought they have in their heads is that they should become teachers or notaries, because all the initiative in them has been sucked away by the teachers and inspectors of schools.

In regard to agricultural education, a comprehensive system will have to be introduced. There is no use of establishing a new research station and employing a large number of chemists and others. The scheme to be introduced should be a comprehensive one, and everyone in schools should be able to get a knowledge of the practice of agriculture. I join issue with the honourable the mover of the motion that agriculture does not provide sufficient scope for the youth of this country. If a man is energetic enough and intelligent enough, he can in this country earn a

competent living by agriculture. We see hundreds and thousands of people coming to this country and living on agriculture. I do not see why we should not be able to do it.

I hope that the Committee to be appointed will remember that we have our limitations, and that on this question we require greater experience than we have at hand here, and that instead of trying to find openings where more abundant employment can be obtained, we should find a method to train our youth so that they may be able to find employment and become employable and useful to the country.

THE HON. MR. L. MACRAE (Director of Education):—Sir, I should like to make a few remarks on this subject, and I can assure the Honourable Member who spoke last, that I shall say exactly what I think on the subject, though the time at the disposal of the Council will not allow me to say all I could. English education in this country has for many years been regarded as the chief avenue of employment. That belief has been deeprooted both in the minds of pupils and of parents. The boys in schools firmly believe that the chief obstacle in securing employment has been removed if they get an English education, and parents will certainly spare no pains or money to give them that education. That belief which is so deeprooted is not entirely an erroneous one. In fact it is a very natural belief, and it would have died a natural death years ago if there was not something in it. We have to remember the amount of public work, official business, and commercial business carried on in English in this country. There is another strong belief in this country, and that is, the belief in the clerical and literary professions. The belief in these professions has very often been taken to be due to the system of education which is in force. But I should like to say that in regard to the appeal of the clerical and literary professions, Ceylon is not unique. It is an appeal in every country which has an educational tradition, and it would be so in Ceylon whether English or any other language were the medium of instruction.

But there is a much more sweeping and general criticism which has been referred to by one or more speakers, and that is this, that education is one of the means of disturbing the ideals of the youth of this Island—that it disturbs labour. This disturbance is regarded in some quarters—I do not say by everybody—as a very suspicious influence of education. The son of the carpenter, for example, wishes to be something better than a carpenter; the son of a paddy cultivator does not see very much prospect in the small piece of land in the possession of his father, and he wishes to better his position. I am afraid that any country which enjoys a system of education will have to be prepared for that inevitable consequence. If you do give the people education, you will disturb their ideals, and give them a desire to better their prospects and position. This is an inevitable consequence, and Ceylon is not unique in that respect.

There might be some cause for this criticism if all the employment that we have in Ceylon were of the unskilled type which demanded a very low general education. But if this country is going to develop, then I say that we shall want more and more intelligent labour. I think Ceylon, like other countries, will develop and will absorb the educated labour of the country. But there is a difficulty.

It is not to my mind the demand for English, it is not the belief in the clerical and literary professions, and it is not the desire for betterment that constitutes the problem we are discussing just now. It is something else. As I see it, at least part of the problem rests in the fact that the youth of the country have far too narrow and warped an idea of what constitutes respectable employment. I had a report a short time ago from a visitor to a certain technical school in this Island, and I should like to read to you an extract from that report. It reads as follows :—

I suggested that the technical school boys should put their hands to something real. They should take up a contract for roofing certain buildings. The instructors were very pleased with the idea, but said that the students would refuse to put up the roof. Some days back the superintendent had great difficulty in finding a boy who would willingly fix up the blackboard. The answer received from many was that they were willing to work in school, but that they would not do carpentry work in public outside the school premises.

I do not blame the boys for that. I think the teachers have first to be taught. But an important aspect of this problem is the fact that the ideas with regard to what constitutes respectable employment are too narrow. The avenue to respectability is much narrower than the avenue to education. When we associate education with unemployment, we raise the whole question of the purpose of education. Is education primarily designed to lead to employment? And ought the present system to be scrapped? One answer to that question is that some forms of education, for example technical and industrial, lead to employment, but other kinds do not. I shall not refer to the question of technical education for the moment, but to the general belief held, not only in this country, but in others, that education is not designed to lead to definite employment, but rather that it is designed to give a general development to intelligence so as to fit a boy for any career in which he may wish to be employed. Someone may remind me that the secondary schools have a much narrower conception, and that they train boys for the higher professions and the University. That is true. It is also true that a great many boys who attend secondary schools never succeed in either entering the professions or the University. But I do not wish to speak of them particularly. We can speak of them generally as the educated unemployed. The criticism that has been made and is made still of that view of education is that it is entirely unpractical and that it is far too literary. It is said that the system of education which aims at the Cambridge examinations as the goal of its work will give plenty of evidence of literary industry, but very little scope for personal initiative in the boys. I do not deny that it very often has that effect. It must have that effect if the education which is given in the schools is not designed at the same time to give boys a much broader outlook in life than they are getting at present; a desire to develop their own country, a desire to develop the genius of their own people, and a desire also to give their lives to that development.

But the criticism of education as a purely literary matter leads many people to say that this should not be the aim of education, that we should not restrict it to the general development of intelligence and leave it to luck to find employment; that we should definitely design our system of education so that it would lead to some definite employment in all its branches, from the elementary

stage right up to the University. That view is commonly called the vocational view or the bread and butter view of education. It consists in the idea that every boy who goes to school should receive some special training, rather than a general training or a general development. That view is very attractive and has succeeded in getting many followers, but it has got two very serious defects. The first defect I would mention is this. I think the best way of explaining it is by asking you to imagine the position of a teacher in charge of the highest class of an elementary school, who says to himself: "My purpose as a teacher is to teach each one of these boys to enter some profession or some definite work. I have to train them, and when they leave school they must be ready to enter upon an employment." Imagine what would happen if that teacher asked the class what the different employments were and what they intended to become. One boy would say "Yes, I want to be a headman," another would say "I want to be a postmaster," another "I want to be a station master," and so on, and quite a large group would say "I want to join the Government service," and a still larger group will have no idea what to say, because they have not thought of the matter at all. And what is that teacher to do? I submit that the situation is far too complex for the teacher of the elementary school to deal with. He must be content with giving the boys a general training so as to fit them for any career they may wish to enter in the future. That is one defect so far as ordinary general elementary education is concerned.

Another defect lies in the fact that employment depends, in my opinion, not so much upon education, as upon the demand for labour. In other words, there is no use training boys for employment which does not exist. I can illustrate it in this way. Some people advocate a system which is composed almost entirely of industrial education to meet the difficulty. For example, if we train four hundred boys a year to become, say, printers, I should think that at least half of them would join the ranks of the unemployed. If you have four hundred boys trained as goldsmiths, I think we shall add more than half their number to the ranks of the unemployed. If we train four hundred boys to be agriculturists, we shall find that perhaps those boys neither have the land nor the capital to become agriculturists. These are genuine difficulties. There is no use training boys for imaginary employment, and there is no use of imagining that by training boys we create employment. This would be putting the cart before the horse. We cannot create vacancies for all the boys. The question then really comes to this, Where is the demand for labour? Where are the employers who are looking for educated boys? The technical schools are wrongly supposed to be filled with unemployed boys, but technical schools are not meant for the unemployed. The technical schools in England, for example, are not filled with the unemployed, but with the employed. The majority of the boys attending the technical schools in Colombo are employed. What they do there is to better their qualifications in the employment they have secured. There are some of the difficulties which all those who attempt to alter the system of education on such lines have to meet. What it comes to is this. Is there a market for the educated boy in Ceylon? Are there any resources in the Island which can be developed so as to give them employment? If there are not, then I say it is time we closed the majority of the schools and half the University. But if

there are vacancies, and if there are resources to be developed, then I say that any remedial measures must point to the demand for labour and point to the resources to be developed. I do not think there is any use whatever in training boys for imaginary employment. I think that the solution of the problem which is worth our while must point to a demand for labour first of all, and the resources which have to be developed in the second place.

THE HON. MR. G. A. H. WILLE (First Burgher Member) :—I think we are all exceedingly delighted that the Director of Education has spoken, and that he has succeeded so well in dissipating the mists that issued from the brain of the Honourable Member for the Urban Electorate of the Central Province. To me it was exceedingly surprising to hear from him a vague, general indictment of the system of education that has prevailed hitherto and that has helped Ceylonese so far to attain to high posts and to earn the respect of Government and of the community at large. My honourable friend has not ventured to state in what respect the system of education, which he condemned, could be improved upon. The only hint he seemed to give was that there had been an attempt at proselytizing some of the pupils who attended the schools he referred to—

THE HON. MR. W. A. DE SILVA (Central Province, Urban) :—I rise to a point of order, Sir. I did not say that.

THE HON. MR. G. A. H. WILLE (First Burgher Member) :—Of course, the Honourable Member did not expressly say so, but I appeal to this House to recall a single ground that he stated why the system of education which has been pursued in this Colony hitherto has been bad. He distinctly stated this, that an attempt had been made in many schools to force a certain religion down the throats of pupils whose parents did not believe in that religion. I feel certain that he said something to that effect, and he—

THE HON. MR. W. A. DE SILVA (Central Province, Urban) :—I rise to a point of order, Sir. I never made that remark.

THE HON. MR. G. A. H. WILLE (First Burgher Member) :—I do not know whether I am particularly dense, but I tried exceedingly hard as I listened to the Honourable Member to find out wherein the system of education which we have pursued hitherto has been faulty. We, Ceylonese, have all been brought up on this system of education. My honourable friend himself has profited by it, and I do not think, to say the least of it, that it shows gratitude on his part that he should speak in disparaging terms of the education imparted in this Colony.

I pass on to the next point the Honourable Member made. I have a great respect for my honourable friend, and always thought him to be of a progressive mind, but to-day he seems to me to be a man of a most retrograde character. He has improved his mind wonderfully, perhaps going on the maxim of the great Hamilton, that there is nothing greater in this world than man, and nothing greater in man than his mind. There is to be no such thing as progress according to him. Those sons of agriculturalists, some of whom are in the University College under the Denham Scheme, should not be there. They should be following the agricultural pursuits of their fathers.

It shows very little sympathy with the progressive tendencies of his countrymen that he should try to repress the educational system on which we have embarked. The Honourable Member also said something about the scorn for labour. This is not a failing which is peculiar to this country. I remember reading as a little boy English schoolbooks in which English boys were taught to realize the dignity of labour. Why should this charge be brought only against the Ceylonese, as if they were very peculiar—

THE HON. MR. W. A. DE SILVA (Central Province, Urban):—The Honourable Member is attributing to me views which I never expressed in this House.

THE HON. MR. G. A. H. WILLE (First Burgher Member):—I am sorry I cannot recollect the Honourable Member's words, but I think he made us understand that technical and agricultural labour was not considered a worthy thing for a boy to pursue.

THE HON. MR. W. A. DE SILVA (Central Province, Urban):—I did not say that. What I did say was that it was a worthy thing to pursue. I did not say anything of what the Honourable Member is attributing to me. I said quite the opposite.

THE HON. MR. G. A. H. WILLE (First Burgher Member):—I am glad to hear the Honourable Member repudiating the charge I brought against him that he stated that his countrymen were more addicted to literary pursuits than to manual labour. Of course, the question of vocational education has been discussed very often. We know that there was a Governor in this Island who tried to introduce it into the Royal College. There was a great clamour as a result of this, and it was rightly urged that the Ceylonese were going to be deprived of a literary education. As the Director of Education has pointed out, education is intended to improve man in every respect, and to help him to bring his best talents to bear on every work which he undertakes.

I was led to make these remarks because I thought that the discussion had diverged from the motion before the House. I do not think that anybody who has had the benefit of an education in Ceylon will say that he is not grateful for what he has received. Any number of Committees might be appointed to go into this question of education, but the unemployment problem will not be solved thereby. With regard to educational systems, it was only recently that we heard it said that in England the whole system of teaching English was wrong and that they had adopted a new system. In Ceylon we have had no end of controversies with regard to the system of education. The Director of Education hit the nail on the head when he said that it was no use educating people for avocations either in the literary direction or in the industrial direction if there was no demand for labour. That is the point to be noted. We have to see that avenues for employment will be found. My honourable friend said that there need be no unemployment; that every boy who was worth his salt could obtain suitable employment; and that those who are unemployed are unemployable. I hope my honourable friend is not going to contradict that. If there is a vacancy for a librarianship, there are scores of young men who will come forward, bringing with them certificates of character and

reliability. I feel that my honourable friend is living in a sort of Arcadian paradise. He does not know what is happening in the towns. There are scores of young men whose lot is pitiable and whose future is blank. I might divide them into two classes. There are some who are somewhat deficient in intellect or in worldly means. Industrial schools can make a provision for them. There is a demand for industrial labour; and as we are now prosperous, and as that prosperity affects the community in general, there is no doubt that industrial labour will largely increase. I think it behoves us, in the case of industrial schools long established, to see that these are helped immediately in order to train boys in larger numbers to become handicraftsmen.

There is the other class, scores of boys who have received a secondary education in our schools but who cannot find employment. It is only a limited number who can serve as clerks. Government clerkships are limited; mercantile clerkships are also limited. A few young men take to law, a few to medicine, and the others join the class of the unemployed. If we do our duty there will be a larger number joining the ranks of doctors. Last year when we were considering the Budget we were shown a long list of those who were waiting for appointments. We succeeded in taking on twenty into the permanent establishment; and, even if the Ayurvedic system of medicine receives the support it deserves, because Western medicine is too expensive for the poor, I say that there will be further opportunities for our young men. As regards lawyers, the law is an open profession, and men who are prepared to take their chances there enter it. In connection with this I might relate an interesting incident. I have read somewhere that about fifty years ago when a Ceylonese was returning to Ceylon from England having passed out as a Barrister—the number of Advocates in Ceylon at that time could have been counted on the fingers of the two hands—a local newspaper heralded his arrival with a paragraph headed “Still they come.” That gentleman is still living and held a high judicial appointment. I was told that a severe reprimand was administered to the editor of the paper for the welcome he had given. I remember reading as a boy warnings against entering overcrowded professions like the bar, and the suggestion that young men should not become quill drivers. Progress brings in its train certain disadvantages, and to-day we are in a worse position than we were before. We have to find employment for those who cannot be doctors, lawyers, or clerks; and my honourable friend to the contrary notwithstanding, I say that there are hundreds of educated young men turned out of our schools deserving our deepest sympathy, for they have no employment to turn to.

As the Director of Education has said, let us see whether we cannot create a demand for labour. I have so much sympathy with the motion, that I wish to accelerate the process which the honourable the mover wants to set in motion, and I would therefore propose an amendment which I am sure he would be in hearty sympathy with, because he himself referred to the fact that it was only through the establishment of new industries in this Colony that we could create avenues of employment and solve the unemployment problem. The amendment I would propose is as follows: “That with a view to relieve unemployment among certain classes of the population a Commission be appointed (1) to consider and recommend what immediate steps should be taken to give effect to the suggestions

made by the Industries Commission and by the Conference which considered the development of the economic resources of the Colony ; and (2) to make any other suggestions which the Commission thinks fit."

There was one remark of my honourable friend the Member for the Central Province Urban Electorate with which I agree, and that is, that there should be no delay in the Commission making its report. We do not want a report and recommendations which will be shelved in the form of a Sessional Paper. Honourable Members must have heard that Lord Milner, when he was Secretary for the Colonies, soon after the war, sent out a despatch to this Colony, and to the other Colonies, requesting the Governor to take steps at once to inquire into the development of the natural resources of this Island. Lord Milner stressed the importance of scientific research and economic exploration so much, and he was so earnest about it, that he asked our Governor to report to him the steps that should be taken in this direction at once. But nothing seems to have been done. Government is perhaps excused by the fact that our finances were in a very depressed state. In the report which the Conference issued as a result of that despatch it was pointed out that agriculture, including paddy cultivation, could be made far more productive and paying than it is, and that it only required that some research should be brought to bear upon the subject, so that those who shrank from agriculture as an unprofitable pursuit might take to it. That Conference, which was composed of Government officials and of many of our best public men, went further, and recommended that there should be manufacturing industries, such as for rubber goods, initiated by the Government, and there was a still more seemingly startling suggestion, namely, that Government should, at the cost of the Colony, establish mills near our paddy tracts so that a market might be created for the paddy harvested and paddy cultivation thereby greatly encouraged. I am mentioning only some of the practical recommendations which were made and backed by the best brains in this Colony.

Almost simultaneously came the Industries Commission Report, in which also are very hopeful recommendations ; and yet nothing has been done to give effect to them. The honourable the mover of the motion referred, I think, to the recommendation that a Central Bureau of Industries and Commerce should be started, preceded by a mining department, to which should be attached a school of arts and handicrafts. The only result of the report seems to be the establishment of the statistical office. In India they have started a department of industries and commerce. The report made by the Industries Commission also contains some very practical suggestions. It pointed out that things like paper, glass, soap, and acetic acid gave promise of being profitably manufactured in Ceylon. The report also stated that in our forests were buried remarkable wealth in mineral products ; that manures, for which we are paying by the lakh, could be manufactured in Ceylon, especially when the hydro-electric scheme comes into operation ; that in our seas and fresh water we had great possibilities of profitable fisheries and industries. Here is enough scope for any Government or body of public men to act upon. Why should we want another Commission to go into questions that will lead to controversy, and especially into our educational system ? Our educational system, as pointed out by the Director of Education, has nothing to do with this question of

unemployment. Our revenue is abounding, we have a good deal of surplus balance, and does anyone who cares for his country think that the surplus balance could be put to more profitable use than in trying the schemes I have referred to? We have experts amongst us, men like the Hon. Mr. Stockdale and Dr. Pearson, men whom we are very fortunate in having, and I do not see that we can get a better return for the money we pay them than by asking them to recommend the steps to be taken at once to give effect to the practical recommendations I have referred to on the subject of industries.

I do not think that this question has been brought up a day too soon. We are educating our boys up to the highest possible standard. I am a great believer in education, and no one—and I say it frankly—who tries to throw the clock back in that matter deserves the approbation of his countrymen. While we are taking our boys up to the highest standard of education, let us see that we give them what is recognized in other parts of the world as the right to live and at a higher standard than was known before.

I should now like to read an extract from the report of the Industries Commission to which I referred. It reads:—

It is obviously the duty of Government to carry out pioneer work regarding new industries, particularly when the aid of the scientific expert has to be invoked.

I think my honourable friend whom I criticised so much said that this is a matter which should be left to the experts.

Many of the industries dealt with in the present report are quite new to the Island, and it will be difficult to induce business men to sink capital in what, in the first instance, will be purely experimental work. Such work should undoubtedly be undertaken by Government, and would naturally fall within the function of a Bureau of Industry and Commerce. This category of industries would include such pioneer undertakings as the manufacture of glass, paper, soap, cement, cyanamide, charcoal, acetic acid, alcohol and other chemical products, fish oil, fish manure, tinned fish, &c.

I am exceedingly sorry that I have taken up so much of the time of Council, but I feel so strongly on the subject that I could hardly help it. I trust that Honourable Members will take the subject seriously to heart, and that prompt measures for the relief of unemployment will follow.

THE HON. MR. N. J. MARTIN (Second Burgher Member):—I cordially support the amendment, Sir. I listened to my honourable friend with great interest, and I feel certain that I can add nothing to what he has said. There is not the slightest doubt that if this recommendation is carried through blessings untold will follow in its wake. I heartily support the amendment.

THE HON. THE OFFICER COMMANDING THE TROOPS:—Does the honourable mover accept the amendment?

THE HON. MR. A. CANAGARATNAM (Northern Province, Southern Division):—I must say, Sir, that it would be to the public interest if I accept that amendment with the leave of the seconder. I think I may accept the amendment fully, but I think I would prefer a Committee of this House instead of an independent Commission. This is a minor matter which might be left to the wish of other Members.

THE HON. MR. G. A. H. WILLE (First Burgher Member):—
If we can obtain the advice of outsiders I do not mind a Committee of this House.

THE HON. THE OFFICER COMMANDING THE TROOPS:—
I should like to remind Honourable Members that we have ten more motions on the Agenda, and I think that if Government gives us an indication as to what its policy in this matter will be, it will shorten the discussion to a great extent, and the subject can be fully discussed by the Commission or Committee that is proposed to be appointed.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY:—The Government will not oppose the motion, although it is not clear how the Committee asked for will be able to provide employment. The Committee may, however, be able to think out means whereby employment may be found. A good deal has been said about unemployment among various classes of people. The only unemployment the Government has heard about is among the educated classes, and the motion as it now stands might give the world outside, and even people in Ceylon, an unnecessarily bad impression of the state of the Island. The Government's information is that so far as industrial labour is concerned there is very little unemployment now, and, in fact, that there is a shortage of skilled labour. As regards agricultural labour, I have been to the country from which the honourable the mover of the motion comes, as the Chairman of a Committee to inquire into cattle pasture lands, and we were distinctly told that there was no unemployment among agricultural manual labourers. I was told that these labourers are paid as much as one rupee a day, and that it was difficult to get them to work. We had a certain amount of trouble ourselves at Iranamadu and at Elephant Pass salterns in getting labour from the peninsula, and we had consequently to bring labour from India, because the work would not permit of any delay.

With regard to the remark that the Government has done nothing, I might say that the Government has done a good deal to pave the way for industries. I do not think that the Government could be expected to take up industries. Commercial undertakings are far better undertaken by private enterprise. If Honourable Members will read the conclusion of the report of the Industries Commission, they will see that of the three main industries mentioned, the first is dependent on hydro-electric power. I do not think that anyone can say that Government is not encouraging the development of hydro-electric power. The Government has voted large sums for the hydro-electric station at Laxapana. As regards forestry, we are doing as much as we can to improve our forests. We are spending more and more money on our forests, and we have a much more expert staff than before, and a very great future lies before this country in the produce of its forests. The last main industry is fisheries. A department of Marine Biology has been established, and it has carried out investigations on behalf of Government. It has further recently issued a very valuable report. Anyone interested in the industry can get a copy of the report and start work straightaway. They will know to which banks to go with their trawlers, and what the commercial chances are likely to be.

THE HON. MR. G. A. H. WILLE (First Burgher Member) :—I should like to suggest to the Honourable the Attorney-General the substitution of the word "educated" for "certain" in my amendment.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—That is an amendment which I should have liked to propose; but I thought that if I suggested it it might be taken as a reflection on education. Unemployment is mostly in connection with the educated classes. If I was Chairman of the proposed Committee, I should be very glad to have the motion amended in this way, because it would to some extent lessen the scope, which is otherwise extremely large, and help the Committee to achieve some practical results.

THE HON. MR. G. A. H. WILLE (First Burgher Member) :—I will leave the matter to the House.

THE HON. MR. A. CANAGARATNAM (Northern Province, Southern Division) :—I accept, Sir, the amendment as originally put forward by the Honourable the First Burgher Member. In my original speech I explained the difficulty of defining the subject in that way. I think I sufficiently explained that if the motion was restricted in that form it would have given rise to considerable misunderstanding. The greater includes the less. I do not think, however, that there can be any possible objection to have the motion in the form in which I put it.

THE HON. MR. G. A. H. WILLE (First Burgher Member) :—I wanted to know the feeling of the House. I adhere to my original amendment.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL :—If I might make a suggestion to the House, I think it would be better to leave out altogether the words "That with a view to relieve unemployment among certain classes of the population" and say "That a Committee be appointed," and so on. Government is anxious to get unanimity in this matter. What we want is to get a Committee appointed. I rather feel that the amendment in the form proposed with the words "With a view to relieve unemployment among certain classes of the population" might have the effect of creating among people who have not heard the speeches to-day a false view of what the state of the Island is. I would formally move that the words "That with a view to relieve unemployment among certain classes of the population" be deleted. It does not make the slightest difference to the substance of the motion, but would make it much clearer to persons outside. Now I shall read the amendment :—
"That a Select Committee of this Council be appointed (1) to consider and recommend the immediate steps that should be taken so as to give immediate effect to the suggestions made by the Industries Commission and by the Conference appointed to consider the development of the economic resources of the Colony, and (2) to make any other suggestions to relieve unemployment that to the Committee may seem fit."

THE HON. MR. V. S. DE S. WIKREMANAYAKE (Southern Province, Southern Division) :—I rise, Sir, to support the amendment proposed by the Honourable the First Burgher Member. If

there is unemployment why should we say there is not and hide the object of this motion. The object of this motion is to relieve unemployment, and let us say so.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—The amendment does say so. It says “to relieve unemployment.”

THE HON. MR. V. S. DE S. WIKREMANAYAKE (Southern Province, Southern Division):—I am sorry I did not hear the last words of the amendment.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District):—I wish to make a few remarks, Sir, on this subject. We must be thankful to the Director of Education for the useful contribution he has made to this debate. I am keenly interested in this subject. The Police Commission, whose Chairman is the Honourable the Attorney-General, is just now sitting, and I am a member of it. I called for a report of the sort of men who are recruited to the Force, and on analysing that report I found that a large percentage of the men were the children of cultivators, who ought to be looking after their farms, of masons, and of artisans. I propose to submit to the Committee that we could draft the policemen required from the English educated classes. You will be surprised to hear, Sir, that among the guardians of the peace there are a few who cannot read or write English, Tamil, or Sinhalese, and a large number of them have merely a smattering of the vernaculars. If the status of the policeman is made an honourable and respectable one here, as in other countries, certainly a large number of our educated youth, who are men of good physique, would be glad to join the Force. Moreover, a large number of our English educated men are interested in the Scout movement, and men of this class will be an acquisition to the Police Force.

University education is bringing to the fore a large number of young men possessed of keen intellects. Now, there are a large number of places in Government technical departments which require to be filled by men trained in England, and I should like to suggest that some of these young men should be sent to England and trained for those posts. In the Forest Department, for instance, men of experience are brought here who later go to other countries on better salaries. These men are brought from outside on a lavish pay, and in many cases, after having got all the experience, they leave us. This would not happen if local men can be trained for those posts. There are a good many University men who may be employed. The Director of Education said that if four hundred boys could be trained to be agriculturists there would even then be unemployment, because most of them would not have the land and the necessary capital. The solution of this difficulty is to have improved methods of agriculture. The Honourable Member representing the Central Province Urban area said that improved agriculture is not wanted. I differ with him. We want improved agriculture. Improved agriculture would help the boys who have no land. In other countries they give land and money to men not born in those countries for the purpose of agriculture. And why should we not help our educated young men to start agriculture by giving them land and money. I refuse to subscribe to the pessimistic view held by the Honourable Member for the Central

Province Urban Area with regard to our young men who he said are not dependable, not employable, and not honest. I do not believe it is so. The majority of them are honest. If they are unemployable, it is the system obtaining here that has made them so.

A man who loafs about the streets without employment must depreciate as regards his conceptions of right and wrong. If these young men after being given openings and being told that manual labour is honourable do not take up such work, then I say that Ceylonese are men with a sense of false pride. We must put down false pride. Even in our midst there are men who think that they should not accept their motor mileage! That too arises from a sense of false pride. We must realize what real dignity is. In getting out-of-pocket expenses one loses no dignity, pride, or self-respect. If the majority of our young men are given a chance they will accept employment. In our country, thank God, there is no such unemployment as in other countries. In other countries unemployment means being homeless, and going without food and shelter. In other words, it is real destitution. But here unemployment exists chiefly in the case of educated men living with their parents.

I wish also to say that a man who can put his hands to manual labour need not starve. I have no sympathy with men with a false sense of pride, who will not work in the fields or put their hands to the plough. If our young men are given a chance to put their hands to the plough, and if they still remain unemployed, it is their own fault. I heartily support the motion.

THE HON. MR. W. DURAI SWAMY (Northern Province, Western Division) :—Sir, I heard the speech of the Honourable Member for the Central Province Urban Electorate, and it was appreciated, not only by me, but by the Director of Education, and it really pained me when I heard strong criticism directed against it by my honourable friend the First Burgher Member. No doubt, Sir, in connection with the discussion of a motion of this kind we have to consider to some extent the system of education prevailing in this country. One fact is however clear, and that is, that young men turned out of our schools are not provided with employment. There has been a very large number of applications by our young men for twenty vacancies in the Government Clerical Service and for vacancies in the Railway and Postal Departments. The number of the educated unemployed is increasing year by year.

The Industries Commission sat and reported in 1922, and if I remember right, no steps have been taken to give effect to any of the recommendations. If I understood aright my honourable friend the Colonial Secretary, he said that it would be difficult for us to provide employment in the Government and mercantile services for all the young men turned out of our schools and are going to be turned out. A large number of these students are educated at great expense. I am aware that parents in the different parts of the Island do spend their hard-earned money on the education of their children. It is very hard if after giving the best education to their children, parents find that they are not to be provided with employment. And my honourable friend the Member for the Central Province Urban Electorate, who has the welfare of the country at heart, and has considered carefully this aspect of the question, said that he considers that the system of education

prevailing in this country is one of the causes of this state of affairs. This is a matter which deserves the most devoted and earnest consideration of everyone interested in the welfare of the country.

We are aware that there are in the country a large number of those who have received education from the Cambridge Junior up to the B.A. or B.Sc. who are on the waiting list to receive some sort of employment. What is this state of affairs due to? I would say that it is due to the system of education prevailing in this country. Men who are concerned with skilled labour and otherwise are aware that education has given most of our young men a false sense of pride, a false sense of dignity, which to a great extent has been responsible for the unemployment that now exists. I say, Sir, that it may not be due to the fault of young men who perhaps are victimized by the present system of education. If this state of affairs is due to the system of education, we must pause and carefully consider the whole question. It was to this system that my honourable friend the Member for the Central Province Urban Electorate pointed his finger. But there is an opponent to this view in my honourable friend the First Burgher Member. The Honourable Mr. de Silva spoke with a ring of sincerity and asked why should our young men be unemployed? He also pointed out that the unemployable spirit is coming over the young men and he added that this was also due to the system of education.

The system of education has been built up from ancient times, and false ideas have crept in. In the old days the man with a knowledge of English was preferred in the various employments, and gradually the idea arose that the avenue to employment lay through English education. I am not opposed to English education. I agree with the Director of Education that there must be education all round, and that it must be cultural education. Nobody denied that. We want education of the body and education of the mind. But we must not neglect the interests of the whole community. When the time comes I am sure this House will carefully consider whether the system of education has been for our benefit or not. We have in our midst employers of labour—planting labour and industrial labour—and they will tell you that the whole trouble with regard to manual labour has been due to the fact that a separate classification of the people has been made. As pointed out by one of our Governors some years ago, a separate class known as the educated class has sprung into being, and it is chiefly owing to this “educated class” that the necessity for such a motion has arisen. I deprecate, Sir, such a classification of the community. If you have such a classification, then the so-called uneducated classes will go without any care or attention. When we frame any scheme we have to take into consideration the community as a whole.

I looked up the statistics as regards the number of unemployed in the community, but it was difficult to gather anything definite. According to statistics we have more earners than the total male population. That is an absurdity. Those who have had for a few days or months acted as masons, blacksmiths, or something of the kind have been put down as earners. So that we cannot gather anything definite from the statistics. If we collect facts with regard to the occupation followed by the large masses of the people of the country, then we will know what a large number of the people are unemployed. The responsible Government officials must know

how many people are unemployed and unemployable. That was a very fine word "unemployable" used by my honourable friend, and I say that if men have become unemployable it is because of the system we live under. We must instil into our young men the fact that it is not below their dignity to work for their livelihood, and that there should not be any false pride.

As regards this motion, I am entirely in sympathy with the general views that have been expressed to-day. I think the Honourable the Attorney-General has limited to some extent the scope of the inquiry by his amendment. But I support the amendment of my honourable friend the First Burgher Member.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—Might I suggest to the honourable the mover of the motion that he should ask the leave of Council to accept the amendment as the substantive motion. I think that is the correct form.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District):—No leave of the House is necessary as the seconder has agreed to the amendment.

THE HON. MR. A. CANAGARATNAM (Northern Province, Southern Division):—As there have been so many remarks made on the subject, I think I will have to offer a few remarks by way of reply. I did not want to go into the question of education but only of unemployment; but a great deal has been said on the subject of education. It appeared to me during the debate that several members were feeling that education had gone much out of the right lines and had contributed much to the unemployment question. The Honourable Member for the Central Province Urban Electorate spoke of "unemployables," and the Hon. Mr. Duraiswamy has given a certain meaning to the motion. The subject of education is one which should be brought up in another motion.

THE HON. THE OFFICER COMMANDING THE TROOPS:—Is Council agreeable to the new wording of the motion? As Council is agreeable, it is put that the motion standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Canagaratnam, as amended, be adopted.

The motion as amended was agreed to.

Council adjourned for tea.

Council resumed.

Ceylonese on the Supreme Court Bench.

The following motion stood in the name of the Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake (Negombo District):—

This Council is of opinion that the restriction of the number of Ceylonese that may be appointed to seats on the Supreme Court Bench to two is contrary to the public interest. It resents the racial discrimination involved in the practice, and declares that at least three of the Judgeships should always be filled by members of the Ceylon Bar with knowledge of local conditions and experience in the application of local laws, but regardless of race.

THE HON. MR. D. S. SENANAYAKE (Negombo District):—I understand, Sir, that Government is making a statement in regard to this motion.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL :—With the permission of Council I should like to make a statement on this subject. It might be treated as a supplementary answer given by the Honourable the Colonial Secretary to the question on the subject, and as it will be laid on the table, perhaps I may be permitted to read it. The statement is as follows :—

It is clear from the terms of the motion that the Colonial Secretary's answer to the question recently asked by the Honourable Member on the subject of appointments to the Supreme Court Bench has been misunderstood. The first part of his motion is as follows : That "This Council is of opinion that the restriction of the number of Ceylonese that may be appointed to seats on the Supreme Court Bench to two is contrary to the public interest. It resents the racial discrimination involved in the practice." This is an entire mistake. No such restriction exists.

The Colonial Secretary's answer referred to an "arrangement" on the subject. This expression is perhaps hardly accurate. In present circumstances it is considered by the Government to be for the public benefit that a certain number of the Supreme Court Judges should be gentlemen with experience of other countries and laws. There is, I think, no doubt that the ideal to be aimed at is the co-operation of such Judges with Judges having an intimate knowledge of local laws and customs. It is for this reason, and for this reason only, that Judges are appointed from outside Ceylon. Such outside appointments are not due to racial discrimination. The number of Judges, who should be gentlemen with outside experience, must depend on circumstances, and must vary from time to time. No hard and fast rule can be laid down.

The second part of the Honourable Member's motion is as follows : "and declares that at least three of the Judgeships should always be filled by members of the Ceylon bar with knowledge of local conditions and experience in the application of local laws, but regardless of race."

The Government fully recognize the necessity of having as many Judges as possible with a knowledge of local conditions and laws. But they consider it highly inadvisable to lay down a rule that three or any other named number of the Judges should always be members of the Ceylon bar. The number of such appointments which may be made must depend on circumstances, and it is obviously impossible to fetter the discretion of the Secretary of State in such a matter. But I think it may be said that, other things being equal, preference would naturally be given to members of the local bar. I include the law officers as members of the local bar.

THE HON. MR. D. S. SENANAYAKE (Negombo District) :—My object in proposing to bring this motion before the House was to secure an assurance from Government that due consideration will be given in the appointments of Judges to local experience and knowledge of local laws. Further, that no racial discrimination will be shown in such appointments. I trust future appointments will bring conviction to the public that no rule, understanding, or practice will prevent the appointment of suitable men when locally available. I therefore wish, with the consent of the House, to withdraw my motion.

The motion was withdrawn.

Proposed Sale of Bandarawela Hotel.

The following motion stood in the name of the Hon. Mr. E. R. Tambimuttu (Batticaloa Revenue District) :—

That the papers in connection with the proposed sale of the Bandarawela Hotel be placed on the table, and further action be stayed until the matter is considered by this Council.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District) :—I understand, Sir, that the papers referred to have been laid before the House, and I hope that it will therefore not be

necessary to refer to the subject at length. I have studied the General Rules and Orders under which a sale of this kind has to be made. Although I do not know in whom the Bandarawela Hotel is vested, I think it is highly desirable that this property should not be parted with. Bandarawela is a growing town, and I do not think there is any further public land available. Besides, I find that there are four years more of the lease to run, and it will be impossible to get an adequate price if it is proposed to sell the hotel and grounds now. The price offered is, I understand, Rs. 85,000. That is very inadequate. I am told that there are people willing to pay a lakh.

Under section 59 of our Rules and Orders "Any application for purchase or lease of land on exceptional terms shall be dealt with by the Governor, and the land applied for may be sold or leased in such manner as the Governor may determine, provided that no separate single area of land beyond 1,000 acres in extent, or over the value of Rs. 30,000, shall be so sold or leased without the sanction of the Secretary of State," and so on. I should like to know whether the sanction of the Secretary of State has been obtained for the sale of this land. Sales of Crown land are not controlled by this House, but there is a standing rule that Heads of Departments cannot enter into a contract exceeding Rs. 500 without calling for tenders. Why should this property be sold without competition? If there is no better offer than that made by Messrs. Millers, then they might have the property at the price offered. In this instance I am persuaded that the sale of the property is highly undesirable. Apart from the question of value, the property will be needed for improving the town in the future.

The reason given by Government for the sale is that the lessees complain that there is not sufficient accommodation and that they want more accommodation. That is hardly an excuse for the sale of the property. The lessees knew what the accommodation was when they leased the property; and if they want more accommodation, either they can put it up or Government can be asked to give them increased accommodation on increased rent. I should like to have the opinion of the House on this point, and I hope that Government will be guided in their action in this matter by the opinion of this House.

THE HON. MR. N. J. MARTIN (Second Burgher Member):—I beg to second the motion. I am greatly interested in the town of Bandarawela, having lived there for the last twenty years. Land is very scarce there. It was only about two weeks ago that a piece of land, at some little distance away from this hotel, changed hands at Rs. 5,000 an acre, a Government doctor being the purchaser. As the Hon. Mr. Tambimuttu has stated, this is about the only available piece of ground for use hereafter if public buildings are to be put up. Every piece of ground near about has been sold, and you will have to go a mile or more for land for public purposes.

A Local Board is in existence now, but very soon an Urban District Council will be established, and this property will become a valuable asset of the Council. The property is now in the possession of the Provincial Road Committee, but very soon it will be handed over to the Urban District Council; and we know that one of the most important assets of an Urban Council is the resthouses, because they are the source of a large income. Knowing that the

resources of these Councils are very restricted, I think that the sale of this hotel will greatly affect the Urban District Council which we may expect to see shortly established. As the Hon. Mr. Tambimuttu stated, there is an offer for the property of Rs. 100,000. Notwithstanding that, we urge that the property should not be sold; but if the property is sold, it should be by public auction or tender, by means of which, I am sure, the Government will get more than they are now offered. I trust that Government will reconsider its decision and not sell the property.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—The Hon. Mr. Tambimuttu saw me yesterday, and I understood from him that all he wanted was that the papers connected with this subject should be tabled. I did not understand that he intended to oppose the sale. As a matter of fact he told me that the price offered was a very good one. I therefore did not come here prepared to argue the case for the Crown; but I can let the Council have the facts about the matter.

The property consists of a building which was originally used as a resthouse and for several years past as a hotel. It is situated on a block of land nearly four acres in extent. Since 1895 it was leased out to various companies and private individuals. More recently Bandarawela has grown, and it became necessary that this hotel should be enlarged. The cost of enlarging it would be, I think, Rs. 35,000; but Government was not prepared to find the money. The question of its sale then arose. The hotel has been leased for a number of years to Messrs. Miller & Co., and the lease period continues till April 30, 1929. Any sale, therefore, will have to be subject to that lease. After considerable negotiations we agreed that the offer of Messrs. Miller & Co. of Rs. 85,000 should be accepted.

The valuation of these premises was made by Mr. Eastman, the Government Assessor, in consultation with the Director of Public Works. It was made carefully, and the Government has no reason to suppose that the land and buildings are worth more than the experts advise they are worth. The next step which the Government took in the matter was to advertise the application for purchase in the *Government Gazette* in accordance with Land Sale Regulation No. 59. Under that regulation Government has to give six weeks' notice. There was, therefore, ample time for those interested in these premises to make objection; but although the application was advertised for six weeks not a single objection was received.

The Hon. Mr. Tambimuttu raised a question, and we wrote informing him that this notice had been published, and asking him to let us have his objections in writing. No objections from the Honourable Member having been received, and no other objections having been received, Government took the perfectly regular course of concluding the sale with Messrs. Miller & Co., and the sale has proceeded. I may add that I have been told by the Honourable the Controller of Revenue that the property does not belong to the Provincial Road Committee, and would not, therefore, pass to the Urban District Council if that body succeeded the Provincial Road Committee. The property belongs to Government.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District) :—Am I to understand that the sale has been concluded?

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—Yes.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District) :—Did the Government get the sanction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the sale ?

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—The sale was recommended to the Secretary of State on September 4, 1924.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District) :—The sale would be invalid if the sanction of the Secretary of State had not been received.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—Here is a minute on the subject—"The Secretary of State approves of the sale of Bandarawela hotel to Miller & Co. for Rs. 85,000." The Secretary of State's despatch is No. 841 of December 24, 1924.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District) :—May I know whether the deed has been drawn ?

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—I do not suppose that the deed has actually been issued to them, but Messrs. Miller & Co. were informed that their offer was accepted.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District) :—With the leave of the House, I should like to move as an amendment to my motion "That no deed be issued to Messrs. Miller & Co. until the matter is considered by this House."

THE HON. MR. V. S. DE S. WIKREMANAYAKE (Southern Province, Southern Division) :—I rise, Sir, to support the motion that further action be stayed. No deed has been given to Messrs. Miller & Co., and therefore no sale has taken place as yet. The motion is, therefore, in order. I cannot understand why recourse has been had to Regulation No. 59 in regard to this matter. When other lands are sold in the regular way, why was recourse had to this method of selling the Bandarawela hotel. The property is a very valuable one, and the offer for it is only Rs. 85,000. It is stated that it is worth very much more. Everyone does not read the *Government Gazette*. I for one never saw this notice. There must be hundreds and hundreds of people in this Island who did not notice the advertisement. Six weeks' publication is quite insufficient. It appears to me as if a different line of action has been taken in regard to this sale.

Yesterday, in this House, I asked certain questions with regard to lot No. 58, which was worth Rs. 100 as jungle land. Under some minute the land was given to a man on the condition that if he asweddumized it within three years he might be entitled to the sale of it or the lease of it for a long period. The man uprooted the growth on the land and put up ridges, and asweddumized it, when, lo and behold! the Government steps in and says that the land should be put up for sale; and it was put up for public competition. Why was not the Bandarawela hotel put up for public competition? I submit that the procedure adopted in regard to the sale is rather irregular. Why these differences are made I cannot understand.

In view of the fact that the deed has not been drawn up as yet, and as there is a suggestion from the Honourable the Second Burgher Member that the property should be retained by Government, I think that the hotel should not be sold. The reason given for the sale is that the lessees complain that there is not sufficient accommodation. Surely, Messrs. Miller & Co., should have known, when they took the lease, that it was not big enough, and they should not complain of want of accommodation at this stage. I support the motion of the Honourable Member.

THE HON. MR. H. R. FREEMAN (North-Central Province):—What does Regulation No. 59 require?

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY:—If any land is to be sold under special terms or disposed of in any special way, six weeks' notice must be given in the *Government Gazette*. The sale was carried out under that regulation.

THE HON. MR. F. A. OBEYESEKERE (Southern Province, Central Division):—Might we be told what exceptional circumstances attached to this sale?

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY:—The exceptional circumstances were that Messrs. Miller & Co. were the lessees of the premises and that it was proposed to sell to them without competition.

THE HON. MR. F. A. OBEYESEKERE (Southern Province, Central Division):—Is Government in the habit of giving lessees of Government lands the opportunity of purchase without competition?

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY:—Messrs. Miller & Co. asked to be allowed to buy this land without competition. That is the exceptional circumstance. Generally, when Government sells land nobody is in possession of it, and the land is sold by auction.

THE HON. MR. S. RAJARATNAM (Northern Province, Central Division):—Who put up the building?

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY:—Government put up the building, and Messrs. Miller & Co. have it on a lease for seven years.

THE HON. MR. D. S. SENANAYAKE (Negombo District):—I move that the House do go into Committee to discuss this matter.

THE HON. MR. E. W. PERERA (Kalutara Revenue District) seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Council in Committee.

THE HON. MR. C. W. W. KANNANGARA (Southern Province, Western Division):—I would wish to point out that section 59 of the regulations applies only to land, and not to buildings. The wording is quite clear, and is as follows: "Any application for purchase or lease of land on exceptional terms shall be dealt with by the Governor, and the land applied for may be sold," and so on. This matter does not come under Regulation No. 59.

THE HON. MR. H. R. FREEMAN (North-Central Province) :—Would you not have expected to get much more if you put it up to competition ?

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—We did not expect to get more. Who is likely to buy a hotel with a lease of four years still to run ?

THE HON. MR. T. Y. WRIGHT (European Rural Member) :—Is it right to sell the property while it is subject to a lease ?

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—We could sell it subject to the lease.

THE HON. MR. N. J. MARTIN (Second Burgher Member) :—But you will not get your price. Selling it during the pendency of the lease is bad in principle and detrimental to the best interests of the country.

THE HON. MR. E. J. HAYWARD, C.B.E., V.D. (Commercial Member) :—The Honourable Member for the Southern Province, Southern Division, has told us that because the papers had not been signed, the transaction had not been completed.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—I have not got any report on the matter from the Government Agent. In the normal course the Government Agent will write to Messrs. Miller & Co. and conclude the sale. We wrote to Messrs. Millers and told them that the Secretary of State had approved of the sale to them.

THE HON. MR. E. J. HAYWARD, C.B.E., V.D. (Commercial Member) :—I may mention that I had heard nothing about this matter till to-day, and I am not speaking under any influence at all. But there is this point. The Honourable Member for the Southern Province, Southern Division, says that the sale has not gone through, while the Honourable the Colonial Secretary says that the sale has been concluded.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—Exactly so.

THE HON. MR. E. J. HAYWARD, C.B.E., V.D. (Commercial Member) :—If negotiations have been concluded with Millers, I think the honour of the Government is involved, and that the deeds should be signed and handed over. It cannot be argued that because the deeds have not been signed the transaction is not completed. If anybody sold me a bungalow and definitely concluded the transaction and afterwards cancelled it, I think it would be a dishonourable act.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—I propose that further discussion on this matter be postponed. As I informed Honourable Members at the beginning of this debate, I have really been rushed over this matter. Yesterday I was told that all that was required was that papers should be laid on the table and that the sale would not be opposed. I therefore did not look through the papers, and I am not in possession of the actual facts whether the Government Agent of Uva has concluded the sale or not. He

was ordered to conclude the sale a month ago. I request, with the leave of the House, that the matter be adjourned to give Government the opportunity of going into the legal aspect of the question.

THE HON. MR. C. E. VICTOR COREA (Colombo Town, North):—In the meantime I suggest that the Government Agent be wired to stay the sale.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY:—I have no objection to sending a wire to the Government Agent. I will advise the Government Agent not to take any further steps. He may have taken certain steps already; but my wire to him will be to take no further steps for the disposal of Bandarawela hotel without further instructions.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District):—I think I owe an explanation to the Honourable the Acting Colonial Secretary. I had no idea yesterday that the land was worth more than what was offered for it. When I came into Council I was informed by the Hon. Mr. Martin that there was an offer of Rs. 100,000 for it. This means that the revenue is going to suffer. At the time I saw the Honourable the Colonial Secretary I had no idea of raising the question of the sale of the hotel. I wanted to see that the papers were all right. It now seems to me that the sale will be detrimental to public interest. As regards the sale of public property, I might say that the Government Agent of Uva comes in as a sort of habitual. Not long ago he wanted to hand over a public building to a club. I think a little more care should be exercised in regard to these matters.

THE HON. MR. E. W. PERERA (Kalutara Revenue District):—I take it that this House will have an opportunity of expressing its opinion when the Honourable the Colonial Secretary is ready with the information.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY:—Yes.

THE HON. MR. H. R. FREEMAN (North-Central Province):—If the Government has made an agreement with Messrs. Miller & Co., can we intervene at all? The Government has told Messrs. Miller & Co. that the Secretary of State has sanctioned the sale. I am therefore not clear how anyone can intervene at this stage.

THE HON. MR. E. W. PERERA (Kalutara Revenue District):—The position is clear. If the Government has acted detrimentally to the public interest, it is competent for this Council to rescind the act. The Government Agent of Uva, Mr. Festing, not long ago leased out the resthouse at Haldummulla to a private club. The Hon. Mr. Kotalawala, who represents the Province of Uva, saw His Excellency the Governor on the matter, and the lease was not signed. His Excellency the Governor intervened, and, as a matter of fact, the lease was cancelled. This is a far more serious offence committed by the same habitual offender, and an explanation is due to the Council from this officer who has put Government into a quandary so many times.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District):—I accept the suggestion of Government that the matter be postponed until further information is obtained, and the promise that no further action will be taken till then.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—The Government Agent of Uva was not responsible for the sale. The proposal was made to the Government Agent of Uva by Government. The Government Agent's idea was that Government should find the money to enlarge the hotel and that it should continue to be leased.

Council resumed.

Railway Extension to Tangalla.

The following motion stood in the name of the Hon. Mr. V. S. de S. Wikremanayake (Southern Province, Southern Division) :—

That in the opinion of this Council the Government should proceed with the railway extension to Tangalla without further delay.

THE HON. MR. V. S. DE S. WIKREMANAYAKE (Southern Province, Southern Division) :—I was just considering, Sir, as to whether we can go on with this motion at this late hour of the day. The motion of the Honourable Member for the Western Division of the Southern Province might be moved now. I would ask the permission of Council to allow my motion to stand over for the next meeting.

This was agreed to, and the motion was postponed.

Handcuffing of Prisoners : Prison Diet.

The following motion stood in the name of the Hon. Mr. C. E. Victor Corea (Colombo Town, North) :—

(1) That the present system of handcuffing unconvicted prisoners without reasonable cause be abolished.

(2) That the present invidious distinction observed in our jails between "European" prisoners and "native" prisoners be abolished; or in the alternative, that Ceylonese prisoners be given the option of demanding the special diet prescribed for European convicts.

(3) That all convicted prisoners who are suffering from diseases reported incurable by the medical officers concerned, and who are actually bedridden, be released.

THE HON. MR. C. E. VICTOR COREA (Colombo Town, North) :—I would ask the permission of the House to defer my motion for a month as I have certain alterations to make in the wording.

This was agreed to, and the motion was postponed for a month.

Buddhists and Public Holidays.

THE HON. MR. C. W. W. KANNANGARA (Southern Province, Western Division) :—I rise, Sir, to move—That a Select Committee of this Council be appointed with view to report on the desirability of amending the provisions of the Holidays Ordinance, its schedule and notifications, so as to meet the requirements of the Buddhists and of those of other religious faiths.

I might mention, Sir, at the very commencement, that I added to my motion the words "and of those of other religious faiths," because I found that not only had the Buddhists a grievance, but also the Muslims and the Hindus. The provisions regarding public and bank holidays are given in Ordinance No. 4 of 1886. In that Ordinance, section 4 states that all the Sundays shall be *dies non*, and in schedule A a list is also given of the days that shall be holidays

in this Colony. There are fifty-two Sundays, and each of them happens to be the Sabbath day of the Christians. So that the requirements of the Christians are very amply provided for, and if you look over the schedule A you will find that ample provision is made for the commemoration of the birth of Christ. In this schedule four days, December 24 to 27, are given to the Christians to commemorate the birth of Christ. Then again January 1 has a religious significance, and January 1 and 2 are holidays.

Then, Sir, the intervening days, from December 28 to 31, were also made holidays on a motion moved by the then First Tamil Member—he is a Member of this Council too—in the year 1917 to satisfy the craving of some members of the Government service that they should have a continuous stretch of at least ten days as holidays. It is interesting to know that on that occasion there was opposition by the Honourable the Colonial Secretary and the Treasurer of the time. It was pointed out by them that it was better to have the holidays scattered over the year rather than have them all in one lump. That was one of the objections. The other objection was that if you grant so many as ten holidays at a time the work would be practically brought to a standstill. Somehow or other there was a division taken and that motion was passed.

Then as regards the passion and the resurrection of Christ four days are given as holidays. Thus it would be seen that the requirements of Christians have been amply provided for. We have no complaint against this. I wish it to be distinctly understood that there will be no complaint against this so long as the members of other religious faiths are also given facilities for the due observance of their religion. They also have holy days, days that they have kept apart as holy for hundreds and hundreds of years. So far as the Muslims are concerned they are given only one day as a Government holiday; so far as the Hindus are concerned they are given only one day; and so far as the Buddhists are concerned they too are given only one day, the Wesak day. Every gentleman interested in his religion, I suppose, will point out the inconvenience his co-religionists feel over the scanty provision made as regards their religious observances.

I shall try to point out the scanty provision made for the Buddhists. The Buddhists are given a holiday only on Wesak day. The Wesak day is commemorated by the Buddhists for a variety of events of religious import, and I shall give in brief what the Buddhists celebrate on this day. About 2,550 years ago Lord Buddha was born on this day, and this is one of the important events the Buddhists celebrate. Then about 2,515 years ago Lord Buddha attained Buddhahood and received supreme enlightenment at the foot of the sacred bo-tree on this day; and forty-five years later, after a glorious mission, he entered Pari-Nibbana, which event is also celebrated on this same day. It was also on this same day, it is related, that the Buddha paid his third visit to this Island. This event is also celebrated by the followers of the great teacher. On the occasion of that visit to Lanka the Buddha preached to the King of the Nagas at the ancient shrine of Kelaniya. That accounts for the hundreds and thousands of people who flock to Kelaniya on this day, and the Buddhist should have ample provision to keep this day holy.

In the case of the Buddhists, I might mention that on this important day they are expected to take *Astanga Sila* or *Ata Sil*. The taking of this *Sil* means, not only devotion, but also visiting and

worshipping the holy places; and Buddhists have also to make pilgrimages to some of the most distant shrines. And for all these observances they are given only one day as a holiday—the Wesak day. That is not sufficient. A man who takes *Sil* on that day will be unable to go to work the next day. I submit that at least three days are necessary for the due observance of rites and practices connected with this day.

From ancient times the Buddhists have observed four holy days every month—the Poya days. These days are observed by the taking of *Sil*. But the Buddhists do not ask a holiday on every full moon day or poya day, but they only ask that three holidays be given to them on Wesak day to commemorate all the important events connected with that day. I might also mention that it was on this very day that assurance was given of the coming of the Bodhisattva by the then Buddha, the Dipamkara Buddha. It was also on this day that Wijayo landed in Ceylon with seven hundred followers, who were to become the ancestors of the Sinhalese race. That has a national significance. Also on this day took place the consecration of King Devanampiyatissa at the instance of Dharmasoka, King of India.

I shall now come to another day sacred to the Buddhists. The *Poson* festival falls on the full moon day in the month of June. That day to the Buddhists is second in religious significance only to the Wesak day. That was the day on which the *Thera* Mahinda, a prince of the royal blood of India, and son of King Dharmasoka, arrived in this Island with a message from his father to convert to Buddhism King Devanampiyatissa and his people; and that day is held in religious devotion and commemoration by the Buddhists. Now I would refer to the *Esala* day. The full moon day of *Esala* falls in the month of July. On this day there are several events that are commemorated. First of all I might mention the dream of Queen Maya that the Lord Buddha would be born. Then comes an event of greater significance, which also took place on the *Esala* day—the great renunciation by the Lord Buddha. It was also on the *Esala* day that Lord Buddha preached his first sermon after attaining supreme enlightenment. Then certain ceremonies in connection with Vas—retreat of Buddhist priests—were inaugurated on this day. Also the enthroning of the relics in the Ruanweliseya dagoba took place on the full moon day of *Esala*. Then I come to the full moon day of the month of *Durutu* which falls in February. That was the day on which Lord Buddha for the first time visited Lanka. This day is also held in great religious respect by the Buddhists.

I might say, Sir, that as regards the provision for holidays in this Ordinance, they were drawn up at a time when there was hardly any Buddhist, I suppose, in the Government service. There was a time when every man in Government service had to be a Christian, but thanks to the British Government things are not so now. There is greater religious freedom and liberty afforded to the subjects of the King. Therefore, Sir, we would ask that some proper and adequate provision be made for the Buddhists as well as for those of other religious faiths to commemorate their holy days and to go through their religious practices just as much as the Christians do—and rightly too—on their holy days. I had the privilege of speaking to the Honourable the Attorney-General as regards this motion, and I am grateful to him as he told me that he would accept this motion. In fact he told me that he was

already having a draft Ordinance prepared. I only hope, Sir, that when this draft Ordinance is brought in he would make proper provision with regard to the holy days of members of other religions so as to give them satisfaction.

THE HON. MR. D. S. SENANAYAKE (Negombo District) seconded.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL :—I think the Honourable Member has slightly misunderstood me. The position is this. Honourable Members may remember that very nearly a year ago a new Public Holidays Ordinance was gazetted, but on further examination of the matter it was found that there were very difficult technical questions connected with it in Bills of Exchange. In consequence the Ordinance was never introduced. It has been redrafted, and the redrafted Ordinance is at the present moment being printed. I may say that the draft in the present form merely reproduces the present schedule as it was altered by the Order in Council some time ago, and I suggest that the most convenient course would be for the Honourable Member to be so good as to withdraw his motion now, and when the Ordinance is introduced it can be referred to a Select Committee, who can consider the whole question. I mention this because I feel that this question, as the Honourable Member said, cannot be considered from the point of view of Buddhists only. All religious communities are in rather a similar position, and I think it is highly desirable that the whole question should be settled at the same time. It will be more convenient if this is done when the Bill is considered in Select Committee, if only for the reason that it will save the appointment of one Committee. It has to be remembered that holidays react to a very great extent on the commercial life of the community, and therefore I think it is desirable that the question should be considered on the Bill rather than on a separate motion.

THE HON. MR. C. W. W. KANNANGARA (Southern Province, Western Division):—Can the Honourable the Attorney-General tell me when this Ordinance is likely to be introduced into Council?

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL :—I am afraid I am unable to tell the Honourable Member when exactly it will be introduced. The difficulty is this. The Bill affects Bills of Exchange, and it was therefore thought desirable to, at the same time, draft a complete code of Bills of Exchange, and so on. The English law is in force in the Island, but it is in force by reference only. This is felt to be undesirable. When the Bill has been drafted—I hope to get the assistance of the Chamber of Commerce and bankers—I will go through it first, and as soon as that is done it will be introduced into Council. I cannot say quite how long it will take.

THE HON. MR. C. W. W. KANNANGARA (Southern Province, Western Division):—I hope it will be soon. There are numerous representations, and there is a great deal of discontent among Buddhists.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL :—I will see that it is expedited.

THE HON. MR. T. B. JAYAH (Third Muslim Member) :—I would wish to say that Muslims are equally keen in regard to this matter.

THE HON. MR. C. W. W. KANNANGARA (Southern Province, Western Division) :—I am then willing to withdraw my motion.

Muslims in Government Service.

THE HON. MR. T. B. JAYAH (Third Muslim Member) :—I do not think, Sir, I need take much of the time of this Council in moving the resolution standing in my name, namely, "That in the opinion of this Council Muslims in the Public Service be granted leave on Fridays, between noon and 2 P.M., to enable them to attend Jumma." Some time back, Sir, there was a strong desire on the part of Muslims in the Government service, even amongst others, that they should be afforded facilities to attend Jumma service on Fridays. I am sure Honourable Members of Council would have noticed the enthusiasm, devotion, and earnestness with which Muslims in different parts of the Island flock to Jumma mosques scattered over various parts of this country. In these circumstances it is very unfortunate that Muslims in the Government service should be prevented from fulfilling their religious obligations while their co-religionists who are not in the Government service are in a position to do so. I thought the moment I asked Government to grant leave to Muslims in the Public Service, Government would have been only too pleased to avail themselves of the opportunity to allow them to fulfil their religious obligations. But I was more or less surprised with the reply of Government. Although the Government did not directly say that they were opposed to the granting of this concession to Muslims, yet the reply was as much as saying that Government was not prepared to grant this concession. The Government said it was rather premature to come with such a request, and that there was no evidence before it to grant this concession.

Am I to understand, Sir, that Government servants are expected to assemble in public meetings and make due representations to Government, or are they expected to join in a body and send a memorial to Government expressing their wishes on the subject? I believe Government servants generally are not very anxious to do anything of the kind, simply because they feel that if they attempt to do this they might be looked upon with a certain degree of suspicion, and they might not be looked upon with favour by the Heads of Departments. I am sure this House will agree with me when I say that the Muslim representatives in Council are in a position to speak on behalf of the members of their community who are in the Government service. They have had opportunities of speaking to Muslims in the Government service, and they can say with a degree of authority that there is a strong desire among the Muslims in the Government service that Government should grant them leave to attend Jumma. According to Moslem ideas one is not a true Muslim if one does not fulfil one's religious obligations. A Muslim the moment he hears the call to prayer on Fridays at noon, whatever the work he may have to do, however difficult it may be for him to leave off his work, whatever obstacles he may have in the way, should make it a point to leave off all work and at once respond to the call and go to the mosque. This is not a mere statement of mine. Those who observe Moslem ways, not only in Ceylon, but in others part of the world, will testify to this fact.

It is a real hardship, Sir, on Muslims who want to fulfil their religious obligations that they should be more or less debarred from doing what they consider their duty simply because they are in Government service. In fact, Sir, the Government of this country need not hesitate to grant the request contained in this motion, because Governments in other parts of the British Empire have already considered the desirability of acceding to the wishes of the Moslem public. In the Straits Settlements, in the Madras Presidency, and even in Bengal this concession has been granted. Although such a concession has not been granted to the Muslims in Ceylon, it does not follow, Sir, that the Muslims in the Public Service should continue to go without that privilege. I remember some two years back, when I myself was summoned to the jury, it happened to be a Friday. I consulted some of my friends who had come there as to whether Muslims would be excused from serving on the jury on Fridays, particularly between 12 noon and 2 P.M., to enable them to attend Jumma. Some of my lawyer friends said that such a thing had never been thought of, and that such a request would be refused. But I thought that it was a very important question, and that even if it came to a matter of argument between myself and the learned Judge presiding on the occasion, I should fight it out, and I appealed to the learned Judge who was presiding on the occasion. Fortunately for me the learned Judge felt the force of what I said and excused me from serving on the jury on that day. Further, His Lordship went to the extent of excusing other Muslims who had to serve on the jury on that day.

Well, Sir, after all it is a matter of only two hours, and I believe that generally Government servants are granted leave between 12 noon and 1 P.M. for their lunch, and if the Muslims in the Government service are granted this privilege, they would be perhaps in a better position to serve the Government with devotion, because they would have the consciousness that the Government does not stand in the way of their fulfilling their religious obligations. I am sure, Sir, that my honourable friends here who are non-Muslims will sympathize with the Muslims in their demand for this privilege. After all, Sir, it would be really generous on the part of Government to grant this concession, because there is such strong feeling in the country on this matter. The Government cannot very well say that no request of this kind has been made hitherto. I remember some two years ago such a request was made to the Government by, I believe, the All-Ceylon Malay Association, but unfortunately, at the time, Government was not prepared to concede it. I believe now that the request has been formally made, the Government will see that it is granted. I have, Sir, much pleasure in moving the motion standing in my name.

THE HON. MR. H. M. MACAN MARKAR (First Muslim Member):—I have great pleasure, Sir, in seconding this motion. The honourable mover of the motion has, I think, put before this House everything that need be said on the subject. Still I should like to make a few remarks. I may say at the outset that religion is a part of the daily life of the Muslim. I am sure that most Honourable Members are not aware of the fact that a Muslim has got to pray five times a day, from dawn till after sunset. In addition to what my honourable friend has just said, I may say that in Moslem countries, such as Egypt and other places where there are Moslem

rulers, and where Friday is observed as the Sabbath day, the Government allows a two hours' concession to non-Muslims on Sundays. Besides, Sir, I have not the least doubt that it would be for the good of Government to allow people to observe their religious ceremonies. A religious community will always be a community amenable to reason. The concession asked for is a very small one. It is a matter of two hours. Usually Government servants are given about half an hour for their midday meal. So it comes to a question of one-and-a-half hours. I think, Sir, it would be both in the interest of the community and of the Government that Muslims should be allowed this concession. I am sure that the Government and this Council will give this matter their sympathetic consideration. I appeal to the Council to support this motion.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—Sir, I am not prepared to reply definitely to this motion. I thought that the natural sequence of events would be that this motion would be referred to the Committee which was proposed by the Hon. Mr. Kannangara and which His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government was willing to assent to. We have not had time to make up our minds on this question. It is not quite so simple as appears at first glance. Take a case like the Kachcheri at Galle, where the whole of the Shroff's branch is composed of Muslim officers. If the department is closed for a certain time during the day, a good deal of inconvenience would be caused to the public who come to deposit money and to be paid money. Take also the case of some of our courts where we have a Muslim Interpreter. It would be difficult to let them go away and thereby stop the work of the courts. Take the case of factory workmen, police constables on duty, prison warders, Customs watchers, and the staff of the Post-master-General. It is extremely difficult to say that we will give all Muslims the two hours asked for on the Friday. All I can say is that the Government views the motion with sympathy, and that where practicable it will consent to allow Muslims to attend to the worship, Jumma. Might I ask the Honourable Member whether he would postpone his motion until I can make some definite statement? Government cannot accept the motion because it might mean the breakdown of business. If the honourable the mover will withdraw his motion, Government will have more time to consider it and inform him how they can give practical shape to it.

THE HON. THE OFFICER COMMANDING THE TROOPS :—Is the Honourable Member willing to withdraw his motion on the undertaking of Government to go into all the aspects of the matter?

THE HON. MR. T. B. JAYAH (Third Muslim Member) :—I do not think that the motion should be shelved because of the fact that there has been another motion before the House concerning Government holidays. The question involved in this motion is of a different nature. So far as Government holidays are concerned, Muslims themselves will make certain representations; but as far as the matter of leave on Fridays is concerned I thought that Government would realize the position of the Muslims. I quite understand the difficulties of Government in the matter. Perhaps, as the Honourable the Acting Colonial Secretary says, in the Police, Prisons,

Customs, and perhaps in various other departments there will be certain difficulties, but what I think is that if Government is really sympathetic those difficulties can be overcome. If the Government of Bengal, where there are a large number of Muslims, and the Government of Madras, where there are a large number of non-Muslims, could have seen their way to allow this concession, I do not see why the Government of Ceylon should refuse it. This is a matter which appeals strongly to Muslims, and unless the Government accepts my motion, I should like to divide the House so as to know how my honourable friends look at the matter. If this question is to be considered with the general question of holidays, it will be unduly delayed; besides, I do not see the necessity of coupling this question with the other. It is an entirely different matter, and, following the example of some of the Governments across the seas, I believe the Government of this country will realize the position of the Muslim community and grant the concession I have asked for.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—I am afraid my honourable friend the Third Muslim Member has misunderstood what the Honourable the Acting Colonial Secretary said. The Honourable the Acting Colonial Secretary did not suggest that the question should be postponed to be considered by a Select Committee. The suggestion is that the motion be adjourned to enable Government to consider the matter in detail. At present the Government have not considered the matter in detail, because they did not understand that the matter was going to be threshed out to-day. The motion can be brought up again, a scheme can be laid before Council, and Council can accept or reject it. I suggest that the further consideration of this question be adjourned.

THE HON. MR. T. B. JAYAH (Third Muslim Member) accepted the suggestion that the further consideration of the matter be adjourned.

The Tamblegam Window-pane Oyster Fishery.

The following motion stood in the name of the Hon. Mr. E. R. Tambimuttu (Batticaloa Revenue District):—

That the Government be pleased to table all papers in connection with the lease of the Tamblegam window-pane oyster fishery for the years 1925-26 and 27.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District):—The papers I ask for are already laid on the table. Therefore I move that the motion standing in my name be withdrawn.

This was agreed to, and the motion was withdrawn.

The Public Servants' Liability Ordinance.

The following motion stood in the name of the Hon. Mr. E. R. Tambimuttu (Batticaloa Revenue District):—

That a Committee of the Council be appointed to inquire into and report on the past working of the Public Servants' Liability Ordinance of 1915, and as to the advisability of amending the Ordinance so that dishonest debtors may not take advantage of the Ordinance to repudiate their just debts!

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District):—On this matter, Sir, I presented a petition to-day, and I also had the opportunity of discussing the matter with the Honourable the Acting Colonial Secretary. Further, I have asked certain questions which remain unanswered. Under the circumstances, I ask the leave of Council to postpone this motion for a later date.

This was agreed to, and the motion was postponed.

Unauthorized Publication of Proceedings of Committees.

The following motion stood in the name of the Hon. Mr. E. R. Tambimuttu (Batticaloa Revenue District):—

That this Council instructs the Committee appointed to revise the Rules and Orders of the Legislative Council of Ceylon to make provision to prevent unauthorized publication of proceedings and reports of Committees, &c.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District):—With regard to this motion, Sir, I understand that a Committee is sitting to revise the Rules and Orders of the Legislative Council, and that it is open to me to bring up this matter before the Committee. When that Committee makes its report, if it does not choose to embody this provision, it will be open to me to move an amendment introducing a rule to prevent the unauthorized publication of proceedings and reports of Committees. In these circumstances, I move to withdraw the motion.

The motion was withdrawn.

Roads maintained by District Road Committees.

The following motion stood in the name of the Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake (Negombo District):—

That Government do consider the advisability of taking over all roads which have been maintained by the District Road Committees for a period of twenty-five years.

THE HON. MR. D. S. SENANAYAKE (Negombo District):—Sir, I do not think it is necessary to make any lengthy remarks on the resolution I am placing before the House. A resolution almost identical to this was made by the Honourable the Acting European Rural Member in 1920 and accepted by this Council, and Government has adopted it. The difference between the two motions is that the first referred to aided roads and my motion refers to District roads. In the case of the former, which referred to estate roads, Government paid half the cost and the estates concerned the other half. In the case of the roads I am referring to, the people of the locality have to maintain the road at their own expense, although the majority of them are people who do not own any vehicle. Seeing that the first motion was accepted, and that the reasons that induced Government to accept that motion do apply as strongly or even more strongly to this motion, I do not think I need make any further remarks. The roads I am referring to have become very important thoroughfares, and they are used to a large extent by the general public, and in many cases they are important feeders of the railway. I feel that after a road has been maintained by the residents of the locality for over a quarter of a century it is not too much to ask Government to take it over.

THE HON. MR. C. W. W. KANNANGARA (Southern Province, Western Division) seconded.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—Sir, the consideration whether Government should take over a road as a main road does not depend so much upon its age as on its utility—I mean how far it is used as a main public thoroughfare. We have already, either to-day or yesterday, given replies to questions dealing with a number of roads. The question of what main roads should be taken over and how money should be spent on the roads maintained by the District Road Committees is now being inquired into by Mr. Pritchard, and a comprehensive report is expected to be received in the Secretariat in August. Before Council supports a motion of this kind I think it is better to have that report before us.

THE HON. MR. G. A. H. WILLE (First Burgher Member) :—There is nothing definitive and final in this motion.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—I have no objection to considering the advisability of taking over all the roads mentioned by the honourable the mover of the motion.

THE HON. MR. D. S. SENANAYAKE (Negombo District) :—If no other Honourable Member intends to speak on the motion, I should like to make some remarks in reply to the Honourable the Acting Colonial Secretary. The principal reason why I brought up this motion was, as I stated, because Government took over certain roads because they happened to be maintained for twenty-five years by a certain body of people who were paying half cost of maintenance. In the case of the roads I am referring to the people are paying the full cost of maintenance.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—The Honourable Member is wrong. The Provincial Road Committee roads are maintained, not by the people themselves, but by Provincial Road Committee funds. In the case of grant-in-aid roads, half the cost is paid by the Provincial Road Committee and half by the people who use the roads.

THE HON. MR. D. S. SENANAYAKE (Negombo District) :—I am happy to be contradicted. I am ready to prove that the people of the locality contribute three times the cost. The funds used for the purpose of maintenance of District Road Committee roads were obtained by the operation of Ordinance No. 31 of 1884. That Ordinance was introduced for the purpose of maintaining roads, canals, and so on, and I believe that when that Ordinance was introduced, it was the intention of Government to make use of available local labour for local needs and for Government to supply the supervision, material, tools, and so on. But when the people commuted by payment of poll tax, Government apportioned a larger portion of the money for purposes other than those intended by Government. They charged about 25 per cent. as expenses incurred in collecting and administering the fund; of the balance, half was handed over to the Public Works Department, one-sixth for the maintenance of resthouses, and the balance one-third for its legitimate purposes of maintaining roads and canals. I can therefore reasonably claim that the people of the locality pay more than three times the cost of maintenance.

We are aware that the Consultative Committee advises Government as to what roads should be taken over by Government. This Committee has been in existence for many years, but the results have not been satisfactory. It is not possible for any Committee to know all the roads in the Island. It can only deal with roads that are brought to its notice. The total mileage this Committee recommended to be taken over by the Public Works Department was 266. Of this, 110 miles had been estate aided roads, 22 miles were taken over at the request of Government Agents and the estates concerned, 33½ miles of District Road Committee roads in which the villagers are interested, and 40 miles in connection with the Maho-Trincomalee extension. This will show Honourable Members that an unjustifiable proportion of estate roads have been taken over in the past. There are a large number of more important roads that should be taken over. I do not blame the Consultative Committee for this. They recommend the roads about which most noise is made. Besides, they are guided by the resolution that was accepted by this Council. In the list submitted to me I find a number of roads taken over by Government in consequence of this motion. They were taken over because they were used as estate roads for twenty-five years, and not because of their relative importance.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—Might I interrupt the Honourable Member? As a matter of fact, the Honourable the Rural Member did ask that grant-in-aid roads should be taken over. His motion was accepted, the matter was referred to the Consultative Committee, and eleven roads were taken over.

THE HON. MR. D. S. SENANAYAKE (Negombo District) :—I was giving the information I had received from the Colonial Office. I wish to mention as an illustration the Talgodapitiya-Yatawatte road. This road connects the Kurunegala and Matale Districts. A portion of this road has been taken over by Government. But that portion is the section used by estates; the other section which has been in existence for a longer period and serves more than one industry and is without a doubt more important has not been taken over. If this road is an important road, why was only that section which served the estates taken over. Again, there is a road from Colombo to Kesbewa—the Piliyandara road—and also one from Cotta to Padukka. These and many others have not been taken over, although they are all more important roads. If we have to wait for the Consultative Committee's recommendation, I seriously doubt whether these and other roads of similar importance will ever be taken over by the Public Works Department.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—Government accepts the motion.

Adjournment.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—I move that Council do now adjourn till 9 A.M. on July 3, 1925.

Council adjourned accordingly.