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# India in 1926-27

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By J. COATMAN,  
*Director of Public Information*  
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# CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
PRELIMINARY NOTE . . . . .	iii
EXPLANATION . . . . .	vii
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS . . . . .	ix
LIST OF MAPS, DIAGRAMS AND STATISTICS . . . . .	xi
CHAPTER CONTENTS . . . . .	xiii
CHAPTER I.	
THE YEAR 1926-27 . . . . .	1
CHAPTER II.	
POLITICS AND THE INDIAN LEGISLATURE DURING THE YEAR . . . . .	40
CHAPTER III.	
THE STATE AND THE PEOPLE . . . . .	108
CHAPTER IV.	
COMMUNICATIONS, TRADE AND COMMERCE . . . . .	160
CHAPTER V.	
FINANCE . . . . .	210
CHAPTER VI.	
EXTERNAL RELATIONS, MILITARY, AERIAL AND NAVAL AFFAIRS . . . . .	238
CHAPTER VII.	
DIARIES AND THE RESERVED DEPARTMENTS . . . . .	273
CHAPTER VIII.	
DIARIES AND NATION BUILDING . . . . .	291

## CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
<b>APPENDIX I.</b>	
<b>THE CONGRESS RESOLUTION (1926)</b> . . . . .	347
<b>APPENDIX II.</b>	
<b>ANNEXURE CONTAINING SUMMARY OF THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE ON THE INDIAN QUESTION IN SOUTH AFRICA</b> . . . . .	348
<b>APPENDIX III.</b>	
<b>PRESS COMMUNIQUE, DATED THE 29TH SEPTEMBER 1926, REGARDING CEYLON SETTLEMENT</b> . . . . .	351
<b>APPENDIX IV.</b>	
<b>EXTRACT FROM THE JUDGMENT OF THE CHIEF COURT OF OUDH IN THE CRIMINAL APPEALS "RAM PRASAD AND OTHERS vs. KING EMPEROR," DELIVERED ON 22ND AUGUST 1927</b> . . . . .	356

### **EXPLANATION.**

The rupee is worth 1 shilling and six pence gold, its fluctuations being confined between the upper and lower gold points corresponding to that ratio. One lakh (100,000) of rupees is worth £7,500 and one crore (ten millions) is worth £750,000 at the present rate of exchange.

## Photographs.

	<i>Opposite page.</i>
His Excellency the Viceroy at the ceremony of naming the "City of Delhi"	29
Diwan Bahadur Sir T. Vijayaraghavacharya . . . . .	33
The Presidents Conference, Simla, 1928 . . . . .	34
Dr. Muthulakshmi Ammal, Deputy President of the Madras Legislative Council . . . . .	37
His Excellency Lord Irwin opens the Council House . . . . .	38
A View of the New Delhi Council Chamber from the Air . . . . .	38
New Delhi from the Air . . . . .	38
Lord Irwin and His Executive Council . . . . .	38
Village blacksmiths at work . . . . .	115
Sukkur Barrage works . . . . .	123
Sutlej valley project: showing the Left pocket and weir, 17th October 1927 . . . . .	124
Mahenjo-Daro: Drain in a corbelled tunnel leading from the Great Bath . . . . .	184
Mahenjo-Daro: Some impressions of typical seals . . . . .	186
Mahenjo-Daro: Specimens of gold and silver jewellery and beads . . . . .	187
Khyber Pass looking towards Peshawar . . . . .	240
His Excellency Lord Irwin receiving a Mahsud Jirga at Ramnak . . . . .	248
Members of the South African Deputation with Their Excellencies and the Staff, taken at Viceregal Lodge, Simla . . . . .	259
A party of Special Dacoity Police crossing the Parbati river, Dholpur State, with prisoners and loot captured in a successful raid on the Kanjar Gang . . . . .	276
A corner of the Tata works at Jamshedpur showing coke ovens . . . . .	332

## Maps, Diagrams, and Statistics.

	<i>Opposite page.</i>
<b>MAP OF INDIA</b> . . . . .	<i>Frontispiece.</i>
Diagram showing the percentage of Moslems and Hindus (including Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists) in the various Provinces in India . . . . .	3
Diagram showing the Moslem and Hindu (including Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists), population in the various Provinces in India . . . . .	5
The Voters of British India . . . . .	40
Yield of certain principal Crops from 1916-17 to 1925-26 . . . . .	129
Rainfall Chart of India for the year 1926 . . . . .	161
Chart showing areas affected by famine, scarcity and distress due to drought or floods, 1926 . . . . .	162
Indian Railways in 1872 . . . . .	163
Indian Railways in 1927 . . . . .	163
Distribution of the number of Railway employees on 31st March 1925 and 1926 among the various communities . . . . .	173
Growth of Postal Traffic since 1882-83—All articles . . . . .	176
Telephone Map of India . . . . .	178
The Foreign Sea-Borne Trade of British India (a) During the last eight years as compared with averages of the pre-war and war periods . . . . .	192
The Foreign Sea-Borne Trade of British India (b) During the late 60 years (1862-69 to 1919-24) . . . . .	193
Variations in the Trade of British India with principal Countries during the last three years, as compared with average of the pre-war and war periods . . . . .	195
Variations in the values of principal articles in the import trade of British India during the last eight years as compared with averages of the pre-war and war periods . . . . .	196
Imports of motor cars during the past 13 years . . . . .	198
Variations in the values of principal articles in the Export trade of British India during the last eight years as compared with averages of the pre-war and war periods . . . . .	200
Variations in the shares of the principal articles in the Import and Export trade of British India during the last eight years as compared with averages of the pre-war and war periods—Imports and Exports . . . . .	206
Variations in the shares of the principal countries in the Import and Export trade of British India during the last eight years, as compared with averages of the pre-war and war periods—Imports and Exports . . . . .	207
How each Rupee of Revenue was made up in India 1925-26 . . . . .	211
How each Rupee of Expenditure was made up in India 1925-26 . . . . .	212
Railway Receipts and Expenditure on State Owned lines in India in 1925-26 . . . . .	221



	<i>Opposite page.</i>
Statement comparing the actual Revenue and Expenditure of the Central Government (Imperial Revenue and Expenditure before the Reforms) with the Revised Estimates for each year from 1916-17 to 1925-26 . . . . .	223
Totals of Literates and Illiterates: British India . . . . .	315
Total numbers of pupils under instruction in India . . . . .	316
Public expenditure on Education . . . . .	319
Progress of Co-operative Movement in India, 1906-07 to 1925-26 . . . . .	328

## CHAPTER I.

### The year 1926-27

	PAGE.		PAGE.
Communal Riots in Calcutta . . . . .	2	Hindu opinion on Mohammadan proposals . . . . .	18
Music near Mosques in Calcutta . . . . .	3	All-India Hindu Mahasabha . . . . .	19
Riot in Rawalpindi . . . . .	4	Causes of Inter-Communal Enmity . . . . .	20
Lord Irwin on Inter-Communal Troubles . . . . .	5	Duties of Communal Leaders . . . . .	21
Communal Representation in Legislatures . . . . .	6	Industrial Disputes . . . . .	22
Possibilities of Round Table Conference . . . . .	7	Strike on Bengal Nagpur Railway . . . . .	23
True religion and communal animosity . . . . .	8	Floods . . . . .	24
Lord Irwin opens Simla Session . . . . .	9	The Monsoon and Irrigation . . . . .	25
Proposed Regulation of Religious Festivals . . . . .	10	Scarcity in Certain Places . . . . .	26
Sir A. Muddiman on Communal Situation . . . . .	11	Royal Commission on Indian Currency . . . . .	27
Amendment of Criminal Procedure . . . . .	12	Broadcasting in India . . . . .	28
Murder of Swami Shradhanand . . . . .	13	Sir Samuel Hoare . . . . .	29
Muslim League meets in Delhi . . . . .	14	Karl Winterton's Visit . . . . .	30
Riot at Kulkathi . . . . .	15	India and the Empire . . . . .	31
Supervision of Communal Electorates . . . . .	16	South African Deputation to India . . . . .	32
Conditions proposed for Joint Electorates . . . . .	17	Sir T. Vijayaraghavachariar . . . . .	33
		The General Elections . . . . .	34
		Indian National Congress . . . . .	35
		Resolutions passed by Congress . . . . .	36
		Dr. Muthalakshmi Ammal . . . . .	37
		Opening of Council House in Delhi . . . . .	38
		Architectural symbolism in Council House . . . . .	39

## CHAPTER II.

### Politics and the Indian Legislature during the year.

Nation-Building Forces in India . . . . .	41	Lord Irwin on Constitutional Advance . . . . .	64
Hindu-Muslim Rivalry . . . . .	42	Lord Irwin's Speech . . . . .	65
Provincial and National Politics . . . . .	43	Press Discussion of Lord Irwin's Speech . . . . .	66
Provincial Autonomy . . . . .	44	Motions for Adjournment . . . . .	67
Indian Legislature as Nation Builder . . . . .	45	Steel Protection Bill . . . . .	68
Parties at the Elections . . . . .	46	Steel Protection in India . . . . .	69
Provincial Legislative Councils . . . . .	47	Sir Charles Innes on Steel Bill . . . . .	70
Reflections on Present Politics . . . . .	48	Discussion on Steel Bill . . . . .	71
Swarajists and the Legislative Bodies . . . . .	49	Railway and General Budgets . . . . .	72
Prestige of Indian Legislature . . . . .	50	Introduction of Railway Budget . . . . .	73
Simla Session of Indian Legislature . . . . .	51	Criticism of Railway Board . . . . .	74
All-India Congress 1926 . . . . .	52	Intrusions of Railway Board Answered . . . . .	76
Presidential speech at the 1926 Congress . . . . .	53	Discussion of Railway Budget . . . . .	76
1926 Congress a disappointment . . . . .	54	Introduction of General Budget . . . . .	77
Parties in the Legislative Assembly . . . . .	55-58	General Features of Years Finances . . . . .	78
Opening of Delhi Session . . . . .	57	Remission of Provincial Contributions . . . . .	79-80
Discussion on Motion to Adjourn . . . . .	58	Press Reception of Budget . . . . .	81
Motion to Adjourn—contd. . . . .	59	Debate on Demands for Grants . . . . .	82
Sir A. Muddiman on motion to Adjourn . . . . .	60-61	Sir A. Muddiman on Constitutional Problems . . . . .	83
Conclusion of Discussion . . . . .	62	Finance Bill . . . . .	84
Formal inauguration of Delhi Session . . . . .	63		

Politics and the Indian Legislature during the year—*contd.*

	PAGE.		PAGE.
Reduction of Salt Tax . . . . .	85	Non-Official Resolutions . . . . .	98
Opposition to Finance Bill . . . . .	86	The Council of State . . . . .	99
Currency Bill . . . . .	87	The Cinematograph Problem in India . . . . .	100
Sir Basil Blackett on Currency Bill . . . . .	88	Proposal for Central Road Board . . . . .	101
Sir Basil Blackett's Eleven Points . . . . .	89-90	Resolution on Communal Electorates . . . . .	102
Fallacies of the Bombay Currency League . . . . .	91	Sir A. Muddiman on Electorates Resolution . . . . .	103
Prices and Exchange . . . . .	92	Amendment to Electorates Resolution . . . . .	104
Sir Victor Sassoon on the Currency Bill . . . . .	93	Europeans on Indian Politics . . . . .	105
Sir P. Thakurdas on the Currency Bill . . . . .	94	Some Conditions of Political Progress . . . . .	106
Record Division on Currency Bill . . . . .	95	Indian constitutional development . . . . .	107
Civil Aviation in India . . . . .	96		
Resolution regarding Judicial Committee . . . . .	97		

## CHAPTER III.

## The State and the People.

The Economic Enquiry Committee . . . . .	109	The Indian Veterinary Service . . . . .	135
The Standard of Living in India . . . . .	110	The Imperial Institute of Veterinary Research . . . . .	136
Housing of Industrial Labour . . . . .	111	Improvement in the Agriculturist's Welfare . . . . .	137
The Population of India . . . . .	112	Famine and Scarcity . . . . .	138
Conditions of Life in India . . . . .	113	Improvement in Industrial Labour . . . . .	139
The Indian Agriculturist . . . . .	114	Factories Bill . . . . .	140
Village Life in India . . . . .	115	Working of the Factories Act . . . . .	141
Conference of the Registrars of Co-operative Societies . . . . .	116	Accidents in Factories . . . . .	142
The State and the Agriculturist . . . . .	117	Working of the Indian Mines Act . . . . .	143
Forest Conservation . . . . .	118	Strikes . . . . .	144
Work of the Forest Department . . . . .	119	Unemployment . . . . .	145-46
Silvicultural Research . . . . .	120	The Anglo-Indian Community . . . . .	147
Timber . . . . .	121	Sanitation and Public Health . . . . .	148
Government Irrigation Works . . . . .	122	Medical Research . . . . .	149
The Sukkur Barrage . . . . .	123	Safety of pilgrims to the Hedjaz . . . . .	150
The Sutlej Valley Project . . . . .	124	Medical relief for Women . . . . .	151
The Cauvery Reservoir Project . . . . .	125	Women's Medical Service . . . . .	152
Wells in India . . . . .	126	Baby Weak . . . . .	153
The Royal Commission on Agriculture . . . . .	127	Opium and Alcoholic Liquors . . . . .	154
Agricultural Colleges . . . . .	128	Export of Opium . . . . .	155
Rice . . . . .	129	Production of Opium . . . . .	156
Wheat and Sugar . . . . .	130	Decline in the use of Opium . . . . .	157
Cotton . . . . .	131	Alcoholic Liquors . . . . .	158
Jute . . . . .	132	Reduction in the consumption of Drugs . . . . .	159
Podder . . . . .	133		
Cattle . . . . .	134		

## CHAPTER IV.

## Communications, Trade and Commerce.

The Railway Board . . . . .	161	Construction Programme . . . . .	164-65
Divisional Organization of Railways . . . . .	162	Improvements in Open Line Facilities . . . . .	166
Development of Indian Railways . . . . .	163	Reduction in Passenger Fares . . . . .	167

**Communications, Trade and Commerce—contd.**

	PAGE.		PAGE.
Rates Advisory Committee . . . . .	168	India's Protective Policy . . . . .	188
Electrification of Railways . . . . .	169	The Cotton Industry (Statistics) Act, 1926 . . . . .	189
State Railway Workshops Com- mittee . . . . .	170	Ship-building Industries . . . . .	190
Indian Railway Bridge Committee . . . . .	171	Measures to help the Coal Industry . . . . .	191
Railway Publicity . . . . .	172	Import and Export Trade . . . . .	192-93
Indianisation of Railway Services . . . . .	173	Manufactured Cotton Imports . . . . .	194
Railway Staff College . . . . .	174	Imports of Metal and Metal Manu- factures . . . . .	195
Civil Aviation . . . . .	175	Imports of machinery . . . . .	196
The Postal and Telegraph Depart- ment . . . . .	176	Importation of Railway Plant . . . . .	197
Telephone Working . . . . .	177	Imports of Motor Vehicles . . . . .	198
Telephone Trunk Lines . . . . .	178	Export of Cotton . . . . .	199
Wireless . . . . .	179	Export of Cotton Yarn . . . . .	200
Broadcasting . . . . .	180	Export of Jute . . . . .	201
Meteorological Researches . . . . .	181	Export of Oil Seeds . . . . .	202
Harbour Schemes . . . . .	182	Export of Tea . . . . .	203
Archæology in India . . . . .	183	India's Best Customers . . . . .	204-06
Mohenjo-daro . . . . .	184	India's Overland Trade . . . . .	207
Harappa . . . . .	185	The High Commissioner's Office . . . . .	208
Taxila . . . . .	186	The Trade Publicity Officer . . . . .	209
Old Promé . . . . .	187		

**CHAPTER V.****Finance.**

Railway and National Finance . . . . .	211	Currency Commission's Report . . . . .	225
Railway and General Finance . . . . .	212	Commission's Proposals . . . . .	226
Administrative Improvements . . . . .	213	Commission's Criticism . . . . .	227
Lord Mayor's Financial Reforms . . . . .	214	Finance Department and Gold Cur- rency . . . . .	228
Financial System before 1919 . . . . .	215	Gold-Bullion Standard . . . . .	229
Financial Developments before 1919 . . . . .	216	Central Bank for India . . . . .	230
Changes introduced in 1919 Act . . . . .	217	Proposal for Reserve Bank . . . . .	231
Effects of changes on the Provinces . . . . .	218	Reserve Bank Bill . . . . .	232
Provincial Contributions . . . . .	219	The Reserve Bank . . . . .	233
Benefits of Indian Finances . . . . .	220	Benefits of Reserve Bank . . . . .	234
Financial Results of 1925-26 . . . . .	221	Rupee Loan . . . . .	235
Railway Estimates for 1927-28 . . . . .	222	Taxation Enquiry Committee's Report . . . . .	236
General Budget for 1927-28 . . . . .	223	Separation of Accounts from Audit . . . . .	237
Remission of Provincial Contribu- tions . . . . .	224		

**CHAPTER VI.****External Relations, Military, Aerial and Naval Affairs.**

India's Foreign Affairs . . . . .	239	The Year on the North-West Frontier . . . . .	248
The North-West Frontier . . . . .	240	Abolition of Slavery in Kalat . . . . .	249
India and Soviet Russia . . . . .	241	Afghanistan . . . . .	250
The North-West Frontier Problem . . . . .	242	Settlement of Urta-Tagai Dispute . . . . .	251
North-West Frontier Tribes . . . . .	243	Persia, Tibet and Nepal . . . . .	252
Characteristics of Frontier Tribes . . . . .	244	Slaves on the Burmese Frontier . . . . .	253
Development of Frontier Policy . . . . .	245	Indian Emigration . . . . .	254
Civil Defence on the North-West Frontier . . . . .	246	Indians in the British Dominions . . . . .	255
Scouts and Khassadars . . . . .	247	Disabilities of Indian Emigrants . . . . .	256

**External Relations, Military, Aerial and Naval Affairs—contd.**

	PAGE.		PAGE.
Indians in Kenya . . . . .	257	Cantonments and Ordnance Depart- ments . . . . .	268
Indians in South Africa . . . . .	258	Indian Territorial Force . . . . .	267
South African Deputations] . . . . .	259	Committee's Recommendations . . . . .	268
Settlement with South Africa . . . . .	260-61	Cost of India's Defence . . . . .	269
Indians in Australia . . . . .	262	Certain items of Military Expendi- ture . . . . .	270
East African, Ceylon and Malaya . . . . .	263	The Air Force . . . . .	271
Politicians and the Army . . . . .	264	The Indian Navy . . . . .	272
Indianisation of the Army . . . . .	265		

**CHAPTER VII.**

**Dyarchy and the Reserved Departments.**

Reserved and Transferred Subjects . . . . .	274	Murders in the Punjab . . . . .	284
Police in India . . . . .	275	Crime in the North-West Frontier Province . . . . .	[285
Crime in India . . . . .	276-77	The Kakori Conspiracy Case . . . . .	286-87
Dacoit Gangs in United Provinces . . . . .	278	Communism in India . . . . .	288
Crime in Burma . . . . .	279	Indigenous Communism . . . . .	289
Police Work in Bengal . . . . .	280	Revolutionary Organization in India . . . . .	290
Police in the Punjab . . . . .	281		
Cattle Theft in the Punjab . . . . .	282		
Special Cattle Police . . . . .	283		

**CHAPTER VIII.**

**Dyarchy and Nation Building.**

Local Self-Government in India . . . . .	292	University Education . . . . .	319
History of Local Self-Government . . . . .	293	Female Education . . . . .	319
Municipalities in India . . . . .	294	Education in Madras . . . . .	320
District Boards . . . . .	295	Education in Bombay . . . . .	321
Local Self-Government Legislation . . . . .	296	Education in Bengal . . . . .	322-23
Local Boards in Madras . . . . .	297	Education in the United Provinces . . . . .	324
Municipalities in Assam . . . . .	298	Education in Bihar and Orissa . . . . .	325-27
Local Self-Government in Bihar and Orissa . . . . .	299	Education in Assam . . . . .	328
Municipalities in Bengal . . . . .	300	Education in the Punjab . . . . .	329
Local Self-Government in United Provinces . . . . .	301	Technical Education . . . . .	330, 332-33
Municipalities in United Provinces . . . . .	302	Cottage Industries . . . . .	331
Village Panchayats . . . . .	303	Industries in Bengal . . . . .	334
Local Self-Government in the Punjab . . . . .	304	Industrial Schools in United Provinces . . . . .	335
Municipalities and Public Health . . . . .	305	Cottage Industries in Bombay . . . . .	336
Public Health in Bombay . . . . .	306	Industrial Schools in Central Provinces . . . . .	337
Deaths in Bengal . . . . .	307	Co-operative Movement in India . . . . .	338
Medical Education in Bombay . . . . .	308	Co-operative Societies in Madras . . . . .	339
Public Health in Bengal . . . . .	309	Co-operative Societies in United Provinces . . . . .	340
Public Health in United Provinces . . . . .	310-11	Co-operative Societies in the Punjab . . . . .	341
Public Health in the Punjab . . . . .	312	Co-operative Societies in Bengal . . . . .	342
Sanitation in Bihar and Orissa . . . . .	313	Co-operative Banking . . . . .	343
Births and Deaths in Central Provinces . . . . .	314	Calcutta Milk Union . . . . .	344
Education in India . . . . .	315-16	Co-operative movement in Bihar and Orissa . . . . .	345
Secondary Education in India . . . . .	317	Co-operative Societies in Assam . . . . .	346

## APPENDIX I.

### THE CONGRESS RESOLUTION (1926).

This Congress reiterates its resolve that the general policy of Congressmen in the Assembly and the various Councils shall be one of self-reliance in all activities which make for the healthy growth of the nation and of determined resistance to every activity, governmental or other, that may impede the nation's progress towards Swaraj. In particular, Congressmen in the legislatures shall

- (a) refuse to accept ministership or other office in the gift of the Government and oppose the formation of a ministry by other parties until in the opinion of the Congress or the All-India Congress Committee a satisfactory response is made by the Government to the National Demand;
- (b) subject to clause (d) refuse supplies and throw out budgets until such response is made by the Government or unless otherwise directed by the All-India Congress Committee;
- (c) throw out all proposals for legislative enactments by which the bureaucracy proposes to consolidate its powers;
- (d) move resolutions and introduce and support measures and bills which are necessary for the healthy growth of national life and the advancement of the economic, agricultural, industrial and commercial interests of the country, and for the protection of the freedom of person, speech, association and of the press, and the consequent displacement of the bureaucracy;
- (e) take steps to improve the condition of agricultural tenants by introducing and supporting measures to secure fixity of tenure and other advantages with a view to ensure a speedy amelioration of the condition of the tenants; and
- (f) generally protect the rights of labour, agricultural and industrial, and adjust on an equitable basis the relations between landlords and tenants, capitalists and workmen.

## APPENDIX II.

### ANNEXURE CONTAINING SUMMARY OF THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE ON THE INDIAN QUESTION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

**I. Scheme of assisted emigration.**—(1) Any Indian of 16 years or over may avail himself of the scheme. In case of a family, the decision of the father will bind the wife and minor children under 16 years.

(2) Each person of 16 years of age or over will receive a bonus of £20 and each child under that age a sum of £10. No maximum shall be fixed for a family. A decrepit adult who is unable to earn his living by reason of a physical disability may, at the discretion of the Union authorities, receive a pension in lieu of or in addition to the bonus. The pension will be paid through some convenient official agency in India out of a fund provided by the Union Government to such amount as they may determine. It is expected that the amount required will not exceed £500 per annum in all.

In every case the bonus will be payable in India on arrival at destination or afterwards, through some banking institution of repute.

(3) Free passage, including railway fares to port of embarkation in South Africa and from port of landing in India to destination inland, will also be provided.

(4) Emigrants will travel to India *via* Bombay as well as *via* Madras. Emigrants landing at Bombay will be sent direct from the ship to their destination at the expense of the Union Government.

Survey and certification of ships shall be strictly supervised and conditions on the voyage, especially in respect of sanitary arrangements, feeding and medical attendance, improved.

(5) Before a batch of emigrants leaves the Union, information will be sent to some designated authority in India at least one month in advance giving (a) a list of intending emigrants and their families, (b) their occupation in South Africa and the occupation or employment which they would require in India, and (c) the amount of cash and other resources which each possesses. On arrival in India emigrants will be (i) advised, and so far as possible, protected against squandering their cash or losing it to adventures, and (ii) helped, as far as possible, to settle in occupations for which they are best suited by their aptitude or their resources. Any emigrant wishing to participate in emigration schemes authorised by the Government of India will be given the same facilities in India as Indian nationals.

(6) An assisted emigrant wishing to return to the Union will be allowed to do so within three years from the date of departure from South Africa. As condition precedent to re-entry, an emigrant shall refund in full to some recognized authority in India the bonus and cost of passage including railway fares received on his own behalf and if he has a family, on behalf of his family. A *pro rata* reduction will, however, be made (i) in respect of a member of the family who dies in the *interim* or a daughter who marries in India and does not return, and (ii) in other cases of unforeseen hardship, at the discretion of the Minister.

(7) After expiry of three years Union domicile will be lost in agreement with the proposed revision of the law relating to domicile which will be of general application. The period of three years will run from the date of departure from a port in the Union and expire on the last day of the third year. But to prevent the abuse of the bonus and free passage by persons who wish to pay temporary visits to India or elsewhere no person availing himself of the benefits of the scheme will be allowed to come back to the Union within less than *one* year from the date of his departure. For purposes of re-entry within the time limit of three years, the unity of the family group shall be recognised though in cases of unforeseen hardship the Minister of the Interior may allow one or more members of the family to stay behind. A son who goes with the family as a minor, attains majority outside the Union, marries there and has issue will be allowed to return to South Africa, but only if he comes with the rest of his father's family. In such cases he will be allowed to bring his wife and child or children with him. But a daughter who marries outside the Union will acquire the domicile of her husband and will not be admitted into the Union unless her husband is himself domiciled in the Union.

II. *Entry of wives and minor children.*—To give effect to paragraph 3 of the Reciprocity Resolution of the Imperial Conference of 1918, which intended that an Indian should be enabled to live a happy family life in the country in which he is domiciled, the entry of wives and children shall be governed by the following principles:—

- (a) The Government of India should certify that each individual for whom a right of entry is claimed, is the lawful wife or child, as the case may be, of the person who makes the claim.
- (b) Minor children should not be permitted to enter the Union unless accompanied by the mother, if alive, provided that
  - (i) the mother is not already resident in the Union, and
  - (ii) the Minister may, in special cases, permit the entry of such children unaccompanied by their mother.
- (c) In the event of divorce no other wife should be permitted to enter the Union unless proof of such divorce to the satisfaction of the Minister has been submitted.
- (d) The definition of wife and child as given in the Indians Relief Act (No. 22 of 1914) shall remain in force.

III. *Upliftment of Indian community.*—(1) The Union Government firmly believe in and adhere to the principle that it is the duty of every civilised Government to devise ways and means and to take all possible steps for the uplifting of every section of their permanent population to the full extent of their capacity and opportunities, and accept the view that in the provision of educational and other facilities the considerable number of Indians who remain part of the permanent population should not be allowed to lag behind other sections of the people.

(2) It is difficult for the Union Government to take action, which is considerably in advance of public opinion, or to ignore difficulties arising out of the constitutional system of the Union under which the functions of Govern-



ment are distributed between the Central Executive and the Provincial and minor local authorities. But the Union Government are willing:—

- (a) in view of the admittedly grave situation in respect of Indian education in Natal, to advise the provincial administration to appoint a provincial commission of inquiry and to obtain the assistance of an educational expert from the Government of India for the purpose of such inquiry;
  - (b) to consider sympathetically the question of improving facilities for higher education by providing suitable hostel accommodation at the South African Native College at Fort Hare and otherwise improving the attractiveness of the institution for Indians;
  - (c) to take special steps under the Public Health Act for an investigation into sanitary and housing conditions in and around Durban which will include the question of
    - (i) the appointment of advisory committees of representative Indians; and
    - (ii) the limitation of the sale of municipal land subject to restrictive conditions.
- (3) The principle underlying the Industrial Conciliation Act (No. 11 of 1924) and the Wages Act (No. 27 of 1925) which enables all employees including Indians to take their places on the basis of equal pay for equal work will be adhered to.
- (4) When the time for the revision of the existing trade licensing laws arrives, the Union Government will give all due consideration to the suggestions made by the Government of India Delegation that the discretionary powers of local authorities might reasonably be limited in the following ways:—
- (1) The grounds on which a licence may be refused should be laid down by statute.
  - (2) The reasons for which a licence is refused should be recorded.
  - (3) There should be a right of appeal in cases of first applications and transfers, as well as in cases of renewals, to the courts or to some other impartial tribunal.

**IV. Appointment of Agent.**—If the Government of the Union of South Africa make representations to the Government of India to appoint an agent in the Union in order to secure continuous and effective co-operation between the two Governments the Government of India will be willing to consider such a request.

## APPENDIX III.

### PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ.

*Simla, the 29th September, 1926.*

The following statement regarding the negotiations carried on by the Government of India with the Ceylon Government on the subject of fixing standard wages for Indian estate labourers in Ceylon and of certain other matters affecting them, is published for information.

2. When considering the question of allowing the emigration of Indian labour to Ceylon under the Indian Emigration Act, VII of 1922, the Standing Emigration Committee of the two houses of the Indian Legislature suggested that a basic wage should be fixed for Indian labourers which should be sufficient—

- (a) to maintain a labourer in tolerable comfort according to his standard of living, regard being had to the fact that a male may have to provide for a family; and
- (b) to allow a margin for savings, sickness and old age.

The Government of Ceylon were accordingly asked in October 1922 to institute an enquiry into the cost of living and the question of fixing such a basic wage. They entrusted the task to their Assistant Director of Statistics—Mr. Jones-Bateman. Through the courtesy of the Ceylon Government the Government of India were enabled to examine his report, which reached them in December 1923. They discussed it with the Standing Emigration Committee and their Agent in Ceylon, and informed the Colonial Government on the 9th July 1924 that they could not accept Mr. Bateman's conclusions, and suggested further investigation by a Committee of Inquiry on which the representatives of both Governments should be represented.

3. In response to this suggestion the Government of Ceylon appointed a Committee, consisting of the Controller of Indian Immigrant Labour in Ceylon, the Director of Statistics, Ceylon, the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon, and four representatives of the planting community, to make inquiries and submit recommendations. The Minutes of the Meetings of this Committee were forwarded to the Government of India in April 1925. The Committee recommended—

- (1) that the principle of a standard wage be accepted; and
- (2) that assuming that an adult male or female labourer works for 24 days in a month and working child for 20 days, the following rates should be fixed as the standard:—

	Men Rupee cents.	Women Rupee cents.	Working children Rupee cents.
Low country . . . . .	0	40	30
Middle country . . . . .	52	41	31
Up country . . . . .	54	43	32

The Colonial Government referred these proposals to the Associations of the Planting Industries concerned for their observations and also asked the Government of India for their views.

4. The proposals were carefully considered by the Government of India in consultation with the Standing Emigration Committee, the Government of Madras and their Agent in Ceylon. Although the rates recommended represented an advance upon existing rates of wages ordinarily paid to Indian estate labourers Ceylon, they did not appear to provide the required margin for savings, sickness and old age. They only seemed adequate to meet the current expenses of a labourer in accordance with the scales set forth in the family budgets prepared by the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon and accepted by the Committee. The Government of India accordingly decided to suggest to the Ceylon Government that 10 per cent. should be added to the Committee's scale to provide the margin. This proposal was made to the Ceylon Government on the 21st January 1926. Meanwhile, the Planters' Association of Ceylon had brought forward proposals for setting up District Wages Boards, and the Colonial Government had suggested that their Controller of Indian immigrant Labour, Mr. T. Reid, C.C.S., should be deputed to Delhi to confer on the subject with the Government of India, accompanied by the Indian Emigration Agent. The latter proposal was accepted.

5. Mr. Reid arrived at Delhi on the 2nd March 1926, and discussed the proposals made by the Government of India regarding the standard wage question. Certain other outstanding matters relating to the welfare of the Indian labour force in Ceylon were also discussed with him. On the wage question Mr. Reid put forward an alternative scheme on behalf of the Colonial Government. He claimed that the margin of 10 per cent. stipulated by the Government of India was approximately provided for in the difference between the standard wages which an adult labourer would earn under the scale of wages proposed by the Ceylon Committee of Inquiry and his actual cost of living, exclusive of that of dependents, calculated according to the budgets, adopted by them. The combined earnings and expenditure of an adult man and wife for the various typical tracts compared as follows:—

	Earnings per mensem.	Expenditure per mensem.
	Rs.	Rs.
Low country . . . . .	21.6	19.57
Middle country . . . . .	22.32	20.55
Up country . . . . .	21.28	21.40

He therefore urged that it remained only to make provision for non-working dependents and suggested that the requirements of the Government of India would be substantially met by the following concession in addition to wages:—

- (a) An issue at the rate of one-eighth of a bushel of rice free every month to each working man; and

- (b) An issue of the same monthly to each widow with a non-working child.

It was made clear that these free issues would be made to all qualified persons on the estate rolls whether they worked for a minimum number of days per month or not. The cost to the planters of this concession was estimated at Rs. 80 lacs per annum.

6. Mr. Reid further stated that, in order to ensure that the initial rates of wages which would be fixed under statutory sanction on the above scale, should not be lowered in future without good cause, he was in a position to give an undertaking on behalf of his Government:—

- (i) That the standard rates proposed by the Ceylon Government and including the additions referred to in (a) and (b) of paragraph 5 above, should not be varied in future except in harmony with variations in the labourers' cost of living as compared with such cost at the date of fixing standard wages.
- (ii) That, should a serious emergency occur resulting in a demand for reduction of the above rates, and should the Ceylon Government desire to accede to such demand, the Ceylon Government would communicate their intention to the Indian Government and would undertake to effect no reduction in standard wages until the expiration of six months from the date of such communication of intention, save by the mutual consent of the two Governments.
- (iii) That should the two Governments fail to come to some agreement regarding the proposed reduction of wages within the six months referred to, thereafter each Government would be free to take such action as it deemed necessary, without further consulting the wishes of the other Government.

7. The Government of India informed the Government of Ceylon on the 1st May 1926 that they were prepared to accept these proposals subject to certain conditions. For the words "as compared with such cost at the date of fixing standard wages proposed by Mr. Reid [see paragraph 6 (i) supra], they wished to substitute "as compared with the cost with reference to which standard wages were fixed." The idea was that the scale of standard wages actually fixed should, if necessary, take account of any upward movement in the cost of living which may have taken place since the Committee made their recommendations. The other conditions, which, it was understood, Mr. Reid was also prepared to recommend to the Government of Ceylon for acceptance, were:—

- (a) The Government of India should have a reciprocal freedom of terminating the arrangement described above, in the event of circumstances arising which, in their opinion, justified an increase in wages over the existing standard rates and the Ceylon Government were not prepared to give the increase.
- (b) Every Indian labourer should have a definite statutory option of working on standard time wages in lieu of piece work rates, if he so desired; and
- (c) The new arrangement was brought into effect from the 1st January 1927 at the latest.

8. At the same time, the Government of India intimated to the Ceylon Government that the following subsidiary matters affecting the Indian labour force in Ceylon would require to be adjusted, if possible, simultaneously with the wage question:—

- (a) Provision in the law for the full and regular payment to a labourer of all his earnings within a reasonable time;
- (b) Improvement of existing arrangements for the health, accommodation and medical care of estate labourers;
- (c) Increase of facilities for the proper education of their children;
- (d) Prohibition of employment of children under 10 years of age; and
- (e) Provision in law for the issue of rice of a prescribed quality and at a prescribed rate.

9. Intimation has now been received from the Government of Ceylon confirming in full the terms of the settlement arrived at with Mr. Reid. The Ordinance to give effect to the new arrangement has been prepared and will shortly be introduced. The Government of India have ascertained from their Agent that there has been no rise in the cost of living since the standard rates specified in paragraph 3 of this statement were proposed by the Ceylon Inquiry Committee nor is any such increase likely in the near future. They have, therefore, decided not to press for the acceptance of the verbal modification in the formula for varying rates of wage referred to in paragraph 7.

10. As regards the subsidiary points set forth in paragraph 8, the views of the Colonial Government are summarised below:—

- (a) *Payment of wages to Indian estate labourers.*—It has been agreed to provide in law for the full and regular payment within a reasonable time and in any case not later than 10 days after the close of the month, of all earnings accruing to an Indian labourer under the conditions of his employment.
- (b) *Maternity benefits.*—The Ceylon Committee of Enquiry recommended the continuance of the existing maternity benefits to female labourers. In a new "Medical Wants Ordinance," which the Ceylon Government propose to introduce soon provision has been made to improve existing benefits by prescribing that six measures of rice per week should be supplied free and a cash payment of Rs. 2 per week should be made to each female labourer giving birth to a child on an estate.
- (c) *Improvement of medical and housing arrangements.*—The Government of India suggested that provision should be made in the Medical Wants Ordinance, requiring every estate with more than 750 Indians—men, women and children—to maintain a dispensary in charge of a trained apothecary and to employ a trained midwife. To avoid overcrowding in the lines on estates it was further proposed that provision should be made in the draft ordinance or elsewhere to improve the scale of accommodation for all labourers. The Government of Ceylon have expressed their agreement in general with these proposals and hope to give effect to them as expeditiously as circumstances permit.

## APPENDIX.

355

(d) *Educational facilities.*—The Government of Ceylon have agreed to introduce legislation to prohibit the employment in estates of children under 10 years of age. In the meantime steps are being taken to increase the facilities for education on estates.

(e) *Issue of rice to Indian estate labourers.*—The Government of Ceylon have undertaken to provide in the regulations to be issued under the Standard Wage Ordinance for the issue of rice of a prescribed quality and at a prescribed rate to Indian estate labourers to be made obligatory in law.

11. Settlement of minor details arising out of the various questions dealt with may possibly involve a slight delay in the introduction of the changes in regard to rates of wages and to other matters dealt with in the foregoing paragraphs. The Government of India have every hope, however, that the new arrangements will come into force soon after the beginning of 1927.

## APPENDIX IV.

EXTRACT FROM THE JUDGMENT OF THE CHIEF COURT OF OUDH IN THE ORIGINAL APPEALS "RAM PRASAD AND OTHERS vs. KING EMPEROR," DELIVERED ON 22ND AUGUST 1927.

Before we consider the question of sentences, we propose to state in detail the findings, at which we have arrived upon the evidence. We find, that in the year 1924, certain persons in Bengal, amongst whom were Sachindra Nath Sanyal and Jogesh Chandra Chatterji, entered into a conspiracy of a revolutionary nature. In furtherance of the aims of this conspiracy, Jogesh Chandra Chatterji came to the United Provinces to recruit and to organize the movement. One of the meetings at which the organization was discussed and developed was held at Shahjahanpur about July 1924. There may have been other meetings at other places in the United Provinces. This much is certain. After July 1924 the movement in the United Provinces took a concrete shape. The central organization remained in Bengal, whence the policy was directed and controlled. Considerable powers were delegated to a provincial organization, two important headquarters of which were in Shahjahanpur and Benares. A meeting of this provincial organisation was held in some place in the United Provinces in October, 1924. Jogesh Chandra Chatterji was arrested in Calcutta, with the proceedings of this meeting in his possession. There may have been several other meetings of the provincial organization. The only other meeting which is proved to have taken place is the meeting at the residential quarters of Vishnu Saran Dublia in the Vaishya Orphanage in Meerut on the 13th and 14th September, 1925. It is not proved that there were activities in the United Provinces after the arrests of the 26th September, 1925.

The aims and methods of the conspirators are disclosed in a guarded manner in the "Revolutionary," and are disclosed specifically in the Rules of the Hindustan Republican Association. There is other evidence as to what these aims and methods were.

The ultimate aim is stated in the Rules as follows:—

"The object of the Association shall be to establish a Federated Republic of the United States of India by an organized and armed revolution."

# INDEX.

A	PAGE.		PAGE.
Abdul Quadir, Sheikh . . . . .	13	Administration of the Duran Line . . . . .	241
Abolition of export duty on hides . . . . .	224	Administrative improvements . . . . .	213
Abolition of export duty on tea . . . . .	224	Aerial Survey . . . . .	271
Abolition of slavery in Burma . . . . .	252	Afghan German treaty . . . . .	251
Abolition of slavery in Nepal . . . . .	252	Afghan War, first . . . . .	241
Accident on railways . . . . .	25	Afghan War, the Third . . . . .	244, 245
Accidents, causes of — in factories . . . . .	142	Afghanistan . . . . .	250
Accidents in factories . . . . .	142	Africa, East, <i>see</i> East Africa . . . . .	
Accidents in Mines . . . . .	144	Africa, South, <i>see</i> South African . . . . .	
Accounts, separation of — from Audit . . . . .	237	Afridia . . . . .	243
Act, Assam Rural Self-Government . . . . .	296	Afridia, Zekka Khel . . . . .	247
Act, Bihar and Orissa Municipal . . . . .	296	Agency tracts . . . . .	246
Act, Cotton Duties, repeal of the . . . . .	189	Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India . . . . .	127
Act, Cotton Industry (Statistics) . . . . .	189	Agricultural Colleges . . . . .	126
Act, Criminal Tribes . . . . .	279	Agricultural non-Credit societies . . . . .	334
Act, Emigration . . . . .	254	Agricultural products, improvement of . . . . .	133
Act, Factories, convictions under . . . . .	143	Agricultural service . . . . .	127
Act, Factories, working of the . . . . .	139, 141	Agriculture, International Institute of —, Rome . . . . .	127
Act, Government of India . . . . .	41	Agriculture, Royal Commission on . . . . .	27, 127
Act, Indian Coinage . . . . .	86	Agriculturist's welfare . . . . .	137
Act, Indian Trade Unions . . . . .	139	Agriculturist, and Irrigation and Forests . . . . .	117
Act, Indian Workmen's Compensation . . . . .	144	Agriculturist and the State . . . . .	117
Act, Madras District Municipalities . . . . .	296	Agriculturist, holding of the Indian . . . . .	115
Act, Madras Local Boards . . . . .	296	Agriculturist, improvements in the conditions of life of the . . . . .	114
Act, Madras Nurses and Midwives . . . . .	306	Agriculturist, income of the . . . . .	137
Act, Madras Village Courts (Amendment) . . . . .	296	Agriculturist, the Indian . . . . .	114
Act, Mines, working of the . . . . .	139, 143	Agriculturists, Government loans to . . . . .	26
Act, United Provinces Municipalities . . . . .	296	Air base at Arawali near Parachinar . . . . .	246
Act, Workmen's Compensation . . . . .	139	Air display in Delhi by the Royal Air Force . . . . .	271
Acworth, Sir William, Committee under . . . . .	211	Air Force in India . . . . .	271
Adjournment motion to discuss the non-attendance of Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra . . . . .	57	Air Force, Royal, display in Delhi . . . . .	271
Administration, criminal . . . . .	275	Air Journeys to India . . . . .	29
		Air Mail Service, Karachi, Cairo-Basrah . . . . .	177
		Air Ministry . . . . .	181
		Air, Secretary of State for . . . . .	28, 29, 273
		Air Service, Cairo-Basrah . . . . .	175
		Air Ship schemes . . . . .	181



	PAGE.		PAGE.
Airmen, Capt. Regnaut and Lieut. Costes	30	Assam, Public Health in	314
Airmen, Spanish and Danish	30	Assam Rural Self-Government Act	297
Aiyanger, Mr. Srinivasa, at the All-India Congress, 1926	52	Assam, Technical education in	337
Aiyanger, Mr. Srinivasa, at the Indian National Congress	35	Association, Hindustan Republican	286
Aiyanger, Mr. Srinivasa, on the Currency Bill	95	Association, Indian Research Fund	149
Aiyer, Sir Sivaswami	37	Audit, separation of accounts from	237
Akali Sikh Agitation	22	Australia, Empire Parliamentary, Delegation to	32
Alcoholic liquors, consumption of	153	Australia, Indian in	262
All-India Congress, 1926	52	Autonomy, provincial	44
All-India Congress Committee and the Legislature	50	Aviation, Civil	175
All-India Hindu Mahasabha, see Hindu Mahasabha.		Aviation, Civil, in India	96
All-India Muslim League	14		
All-India Trade Union Congress	145	<b>B</b>	
Allahabad, Communal tension in	3	Baby Week	153
Allison, George	289	Baby Week in Bengal	310
Amalgamation of Oriya-speaking tracts	98	Baker, Sir Herbert	39
Amendment of Criminal Procedure	12	Balance of Trade	204
Andrews, Rev. C. F.	105	Baluch Tribes	244
Anglo-Indian Community	147-148	Baluchistan, abolition of slavery in Kalat in	248, 249
Anglo-Russian Agreement	241	Baluchistan, British	248
Appeal, Lord Irwin's — for unity	7	Baluchistan, Persian	248
Aralia, Western	252	Bangalore Institute	128
Arawali	246	Bank, Central, for India	230
Archæological research, grant for	187	Bank, Imperial — of India	232
Archæology in India	183-188	Bank Reserve, see also Reserve Bank.	
Area of Forests	119	Banks, classes of — in India	231
Area under irrigation	122	Banks, Land Mortgage	116
Armament of the Trans-border tribes	242	Banks of India	231
Armed, Forces, Civil	247	Barisal district, riot in	12
Army and the politicians	264	Barrage, Sukkur	123
Army Indian, officers of the	264	Baudot system	177
Army, Indianisation of the	265	Begum of Bhopal	253
Arrest of Jogesh Chatterji	287	Bengal Act or Regulation III	57
Arrests in the Kakori dacoity case	287	Bengal, Baby Week in	310
Arts Colleges	328	Bengal, burglaries in	280
Asiatic Federation	54	Bengal, Co-operative Societies in	342, 343
Assam, Co-operative Societies in	346	Bengal, deaths in	307
Assam, Education in	328	Bengal-Dooars Railway	25
Assam, Industries in	317	Bengal, Dyarchy in	47
Assam, Kala Azar in	314	Bengal, Education in	321, 322
Assam, Municipalities in	298	Bengal, Female Education in	323
Assam, Police in	285	Bengal, floods in northern	24
		Bengal Government, Statement by — for playing music before mosques	3
		Bengal, Industries in	335
		Bengal, Local Self-Government in	301

	PAGE.
Bengal, Municipalities in	300
Bengal Nagpur Railway strike	23
Bengal Nagpur Railway workshops	289
Bengal, Police work in	280
Bengal, Primary Education in	322
Bengal, Public Health in	309
Bengal, Technical Education in	334
Bengal, Union Boards in	301
Bhadrak station	25
Bhandardara dam in Deccan	125
Bhopal, Begum of	253
Bihar and Orissa, Co-operative Societies in	345
Bihar and Orissa, death rate in	312
Bihar and Orissa, Education in	325, 326
Bihar and Orissa, Local Self-Government in	298
Bihar and Orissa, Medical Schools and Colleges in	313
Bihar and Orissa Municipal Act	296
Bihar and Orissa, Municipalities in	299
Bihar and Orissa, Public Health in	312
Bihar and Orissa, Sanitation in	313
Bill, Currency, <i>see also</i> Currency Bill.	
Bill, Currency, debate on the	93
Bill, Factories	140
Bill, Finance	84
Bill, Gold Standard and Reserve Bank	231-235
Bill, Indian Currency	56, 86-95
Bill, Indian Currency, motion regarding	68
Bill, Indian Lighthouse	183
Bill, Reserve Bank	230
Bill, Steel Protection	56, 68-72
Bill, the Class Areas	258
Bill, The Currency	49
Bill, to amend the Mines and Works Act	258
Birla, Mr. Ghanshyamdas on the Currency Bill	95
Births and Deaths in the Central Provinces	312
Blackett, Sir Basil, eleven points in favour of the Currency Bill	89, 90
Blackett, Sir Basil on Currency Bill	88-93

	PAGE.
Blackett, Sir Basil on the Finance Bill	84
Blackett, Sir Basil on the General Budget	77, 223
Blackett, Sir Basil on Indian Finance	211
Blackett, Sir Basil on the powers of the Assembly	82
Blackett, Sir Basil on the remission of Provincial contributions	219
Blackett, Sir Basil on the Reserve Bank Bill	233
Board, Central Road	101
Board, District, <i>see</i> District Board.	
Board, Railway, constitution of the	161
Boards, Local, <i>see</i> Local Boards.	
Boards, Union, <i>see</i> Union Boards.	
Bombay, Co-operative Societies in	345
Bombay, cottage industries in	336
Bombay, crime in	285
Bombay Currency League	91
Bombay, Education in	321, 322
Bombay, electrification of railways in	168, 169
Bombay, Haffkine Institute	149
Bombay, housing accommodation in —	130
Bombay, Medical Education in	308
Bombay, Municipalities in	298
Bombay Police work	2-4
Bombay, public health in	306
Bombay, strikes in	23
Bombay, Technical Education in	336, 337
Bombs, discovery of — in Calcutta	69
Borrowings	220
Brahmins and non-Brahmins in Madras	43
Bridge Committee, Indian Railway	171
British Baluchistan	248
British Legation at Kabul	250
British problem in India	64
British Rule in India	238
Broadcasting	23, 140
Budget, Debate on Demands for — Grants	82
Budget, General	223
Budget, General, discussion of the	77-86
Budget, General, <i>see also</i> General Budget.	

	PAGE.
Budget, press reception of . . . . .	81
Budget, Railway 72-77, 221, 222	222
Budget, Railway, conclusion of the . . . . .	77
Budget, Railway, General discussion on the . . . . .	73
Budget, Railway, Sir Charles Innes on . . . . .	72
Budget, Railway, see also Railway Budget.	
Budget statements, comparison of . . . . .	211
Burglaries in Bengal . . . . .	280
Burglaries in Bombay . . . . .	285
Burglary statistics for the Punjab . . . . .	282
Burma, abolition of slavery in . . . . .	252
Burma, construction of railways in . . . . .	164
Burma, Crime in . . . . .	279
Burma, Veterinary Officers in . . . . .	136
Burmese frontier . . . . .	252

## C

Cairo-Basra Air Service . . . . .	175
Calcutta, Communal tension in . . . . .	8
Calcutta, electrification of Railway schemes in . . . . .	169
Calcutta, Hindu-Muhammadan disturbance in — . . . . .	12
Calcutta Milk Union . . . . .	343
Calcutta, riots in . . . . .	1, 2
Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine . . . . .	149
Campbell, Donald . . . . .	239
Canada, visit of Sir T. Vijayaraghavachariar to . . . . .	32
Canals . . . . .	122
Cantonments Departments . . . . .	266
Cape Town, Conference at . . . . .	32
Capital at charge on all railways . . . . .	163
Cattle diseases . . . . .	135
Cattle, grazing of . . . . .	118
Cattle Police, special . . . . .	283
Cattle population and varieties . . . . .	134
Cattle tattooing . . . . .	283
Cattle theft . . . . .	276
Cattle theft in the Punjab . . . . .	282
Cauvery Reservoir Project . . . . .	125
Central and Provincial Finances . . . . .	214
Central Bank for India . . . . .	230

	PAGE.
Central Co-operative Institute . . . . .	345
Central Provinces, Births and deaths in the . . . . .	314
Central Provinces, Co-operative Societies in the . . . . .	340, 341
Central Provinces, Dyarchy in . . . . .	47
Central Provinces, Education in the . . . . .	327, 328
Central Provinces, floods in the . . . . .	25
Central Provinces, Municipalities in . . . . .	303, 304
Central Provinces, Public Health in the . . . . .	314
Central Provinces, suspension of dyarchy in . . . . .	34
Central Road Board . . . . .	101
Ceylon, Indians in . . . . .	263
Chadwick, Sir David . . . . .	83
Chamal Kanjars . . . . .	279
Chandausi, Railway Transportation School at . . . . .	174
Chandpur sale and supply Society . . . . .	343
Chaterji, Jogesh . . . . .	286
Chawls in Bombay . . . . .	139
Chelmsford Club, Speech at the . . . . .	5-8
Chetti, Mr. Shanmukham . . . . .	32
Chighas . . . . .	245
China and India . . . . .	288
China, despatch of troops to . . . . .	66
China, Indian troops in — . . . . .	63
Chitral . . . . .	248
Chitral, Mehtar of . . . . .	243
Cinema film on Malaria . . . . .	308
Cinematograph problem in India . . . . .	100
Cities and towns in India . . . . .	113
City of Delhi . . . . .	29
Civil Armed Forces . . . . .	247
Civil Aviation . . . . .	175
Civil Aviation in India . . . . .	96
Class Areas Bill, the . . . . .	258
Classification of the subjects of Governments . . . . .	273
Clouston, Dr., C.I.E. . . . .	127
Coal Industry, measures to help . . . . .	191
Cobham, Mr. . . . .	30
Cocaine . . . . .	157
Cochin Harbour development . . . . .	183
Coimbatore, Imperial Sugar-cane station at . . . . .	130
College, Lady Hardinge Medical . . . . .	152
College, Railway, at Dehra Dun . . . . .	174

INDEX.

361

	PAGE.		PAGE.
College, Royal Military	265	Communal parties in Legis-	22
Colleges, Agricultural	128	lature	
Colleges, Arts	328	Communal representation in	6
Colleges, Medical, in Bihar		Legislatures	
and Orissa	318	Communal riots, causes of	19-20
Colleges, Veterinary	136	Communal riots, <i>see</i> under	
Colonies Committee	256	riots also.	
Commercial relations between		Communal situation, Sir	
India and Greece	209	Alexander Muddiman on	11
Commission, by the Union		Communal tension, duties of	
Government of South		the leaders on	7
Africa	257	Communal tension in Allaha-	
Commission, Currency, <i>see</i>		bad	3
also Currency Commission.		Communal tension in Cal-	
Commission, Decentralisa-		cutta	3
tion of 1907	216	Communal tension in Delhi	3
Commission, East African	263	Communal tension, reaction	
Commission, Royal and Com-		of — on the minority com-	10
munal Electorates	6	Communities	
Commission, Royal — on		Communal tension, Round	
Agriculture	127	Table Conference to devise	
Commission, Royal, on In-		means to settle	6
dian Currency	225	Conditions of Life in India	118
Commission, Royal, <i>see</i>		Conference at Cape Town	32
Royal Commission.		Conference, Imperial	257
Committee, Colonies	256	Conference, Imperial, <i>see</i>	
Committee, Economic En-		also Imperial Conference.	
quiry	109	Conference of Ministers and	
Committee, External Cap-		Directors of Agriculture	27
ital	27, 234	Conference of the Co-opera-	
Committee, Financial Rela-		tive Societies	116
tions	217, 218	Conference, possibilities of	
Committee, Indian Central		Round Tables	7
Cotton	131	Conference, Presidents, in	
Committee, Kenya	257	Simla	34
Committee, Meston	81	Congress, 1926, a disappoint-	
Committee, Public Accounts.	213	ment	54
Committee, Rates Advisory	167	Congress, All-India Trade	
Committee, Taxation En-		Union	145
quiry	236	Congress, All-India, 1926	52
Committee, Territorial Force	267, 268	Congress, Indian National	34, 35
	239	Congress, Indian National,	
Commonwealth, British	317	<i>see</i> Indian National Con-	
Compulsory education		gress.	
Communications, Trade and		Congress Party	47
Commeroe, progress in	160	Congress, Presidential speech	
Communism in India	288	at the 1926 —	53
Communism, indigeneous	289	Congress, Proceedings of the	
Community, Anglo-Indian	147-148	National	35
Communal electorates	15	Congress, the main resolu-	
Communal electorates and		tion of the Indian Na-	
Royal Commission	6	tional	36
Communal electorates, Fran-		Consolidation of holdings	341
chises Committee on	6	Conspiracy case, Kakori	286, 297
Communal Electorates, Reso-		Constabulary, Frontier	246
lution on	102-104	Construction programme	164, 165
Communal, Inter-, Lord		Contributions, provincial	217-220
Irwin on	5-8	Contributions, provincial,	
Communal Leaders, duties of	21	permanent remission of	219-220

	PAGE.
Contributions, Provincial, re- mission of	79, 80
Conviction and trial of da- coits	278
Co-operative Dairy	135
Co-operative Institute	345
Co-operative movement in India	338
Co-operative Societies in Assam	346
Co-operative Societies in Bengal	342, 343
Co-operative Societies in Bihar and Orissa	345
Co-operative Societies in Bombay	345
Co-operative Societies in the Central Provinces	340, 341
Co-operative Societies Con- ference	116
Co-operative Societies in India	338, 339
Co-operative Societies in Madras	339
Co-operative Societies in the Punjab	341
Co-operative Societies in the United Provinces	340
Co-operative society move- ment	338
Cottage industries	331, 332
Cotton Committee, India Central	131
Cotton cultivation	131
Cotton Duties Act, repeal of the	189
Cotton Ginning and Press- ing Factories Act	131
Cotton, imports of manufac- tured	194, 195
Cotton Industry, Bombay, depression in the	188
Cotton Industry (Statistics) Act, 1928	189
Cotton Textile Industry in India, investigation into	188
Cotton Transport Act	131
Cotton varieties	131
Cotton yarn, export of	200
Council House circle as sym- bol of unity	39
Countess of Dufferin Fund	152
Crawford, Col. J. D., on Regulation III of 1919	62
Crime, decrease in	277
Crime in Assam	285
Crime in Burma	279
Crime in India	275
Crime in the North-West Frontier Province	285

	PAGE.
Crime in the Punjab	280
Criminal administration	275
Criminal Procedure Code, Sec. 9 (a)	12
Criminal Tribes Act	279
Crops, failure of	138
Cultivation of Cotton	131
Cultivation of Fodder	133
Cultivation of Jute	132
Cultivation of Rice	129
Cultivation of tobacco	132
Cultivation of wheat	130
Currency Bill	49
Currency Bill	87-96
Currency Bill, debate on the	93-95
Currency Bill, Division on	95
Currency Bill, President on the	94
Currency Commission's Criti- cism	227
Currency Commission's pro- posals	226
Currency Commission's Re- commendations	226, 228
Currency Commission's Re- port	225, 228
Currency Commission's terms of reference	226
Currency, demand for in- ternal	226
Currency League, Bombay	91
Currency, Royal Commission on Indian	27
Curzon, Lady	152
Customers, India's best	204-205

## D

Dacoit gangs in United Pro- vinces	278
Dacoities in United Pro- vinces	278
Dacoits; conviction and trial of	278
Dacoits in the Punjab	281
Dacoits in the United Pro- vinces	276
Dacoity Police	278
Dais	152
Daily Hours, reduction in the limit of	140
Dairy, co-operative	135
Dairy, Indian — Diploma in	128
Daly, Major	251
Dam, Bhandardara	125
Dam, Lloyd	125
Death rate in Bihar and Orissa	312
Deaths from Small-pox	306

	PAGE.
Deaths in Bengal	307
Dewan, Bhandardara Dam in	125
Decentralization Commission of 1907	216
Defence, Expenses of Military	269, 270
Defence forces, civil	245
Defence problems of India	239
Dehra Dun, Forest Research Institute	119
Dehra Dun, Railway College at	174
Dehra Dun, Royal Military College at	205
Dehra Dun, working of— Forest Institute	121
Delegation, Textile	31
Delegation, Empire Parli- amentary—to Australia	32
Delegates to the Imperial Conference	33
Delegation of the Interna- tional Federation of Tex- tile Workers' Association	30
Delegation, Social Hygiene	30
Delegation to South Africa	105
Delhi, City of	29
Delhi, communal tension in	3
Delhi, disturbance in	13
Delhi, meeting of the Muslim League at	37
Delhi, New, Council house in	38
Delhi, riots in	4
Delhi, Session of the Muslim League at	13
Delhi Session, opening of the	57
Demands for Grants, debate on	82
Demarcation of the Indo- Afghan borders	248
Department, the Forest	119
Depressed classes in India	43
Deputation, Paddison, <i>see</i> Paddison deputation.	
Deputation, South African	32
Development of the Railway system	163
Dir	248
Dir, Nawab of	243
Direction of trade	205
Disabilities of Indians in British dominions	255
Discussion on motion to ad- journ	58
Disease, <i>see also under Public Health.</i>	
Diseases of cattle	135
Disputes, industrial, <i>see also</i> Industrial disputes.	

	PAGE.
Distress	26
District Boards in India	295
District Boards in the Pun- jab	304
District Boards in the United Provinces	301, 302
Disturbance in Delhi	13
Division on the adjournment motion	59
Divisional organization of Railways	162
Dominions, British, Indians in	255
Drugs, reduction in the con- sumption of	159
Dufferin training ship	183
Durand Line, the	240
Durand Line, administration of the	241
Duty on hides, abolition of	86
Dyarchy	42
Dyarchy and Nation Build- ing	291
Dyarchy and Reserved De- partments	273
Dyarchy in Bengal	47
Dyarchy in the Central Pro- vinces	47
Dyarchy, suspension of—in the Central Provinces	34

## E

East Africa, Indians in	263
East African Commission	263
Economic Enquiry Com- mittee	109
Education in Assam	328
Education in Bengal	321, 322
Education in Bihar and Orissa	325, 326
Education in Bombay	321, 322
Education in the Central Provinces	327, 328
Education, compulsory	315
Education, female	319, 320
Education, Female, in Ben- gal	323
Education in India	315, 316
Education in Madras	320, 321
Education, Moslem	321
Education, Muhammadan	323
Education, progress of	320
Education in the Punjab	329, 330
Education, secondary	317, 318
Education, secondary in Bihar and Orissa	326
Education, technical	331, 332

	PAGE.
Education, technical, <i>see also</i> technical education.	
Education in the United Pro- vinces	324, 325
Education, University	318
Effect of the Meston award	218
Elections to the Legislative Assembly and the Provin- cial Councils	14
Elections, parties at the	46
Elections for the third Le- gislative Assembly	38
Electorates to the All-India Legislature	16
Electorates, Communal	102-104
Electorates, communal and separate	15
Electorates, Communal, Franchise Committee on	6
Electorates, joint, statement on	16
Electorates, Joint, <i>see also</i> Joint Electorates.	
Ellington, Vice Marshal Sir Edward	272
Elphinstone	241
Emigration Act	254
Emigration, Indian	254
Emperor Paul of Russia	241
Empire Parliamentary Dele- gation to Australia	92
Estimated expenditure	223
Estimates of revenue	223
Europeans on Indian Politics	105
Events, general, of the year in India	22
Excavations on the banks of the Zhob river	185
Exchange and Prices	92
Exchange, Gold — Standard:	227
Executive Council, Governor- General's Executive Coun- cil demands for grants for the	82
Exhibitions of Maternity and child welfare	163
Expenditure, estimated	223
Expenditure on Railway con- struction	163
Expenses of Military De- fence	269, 270
Explanation of conditions governing joint electorates	17
Export and import trade of India	192, 198
Export duty on hides, aboli- tion of	224
Export duty on tea, abolition of	224
Export of cotton yarn	200

	PAGE.
Export of food grains and flour	202
Export of rice	202
Export of oil seeds	202
Export of opium	155
Export of tea	203
Export of wheat	202
Exports of hides and skins	203
Exports of jute and jute manufactures	200, 201
Exports of lac	204
Exports of raw wool	204
Exports of rice from Burma to India	208
External Capital Committee	27, 234
External land frontier trade	208
External relations	238

## F

Factories, accidents in	142
Factories Act, convictions under	143
Factories Act, working of the	139, 141
Factories Bill	140
Factories, causes of accidents in	142
Factories, number of — in India	112
Famine and scarcity	139
Famine, remote chances of —	114
Fares, reduction in passenger	167
Faujdari	275
Federation, Asiatic	54
Federation, Indian Liberal	37
Federation, Indian Liberal	56
Female Education	321
Female labour	141
Fiji, appointment of an officer to look after Indians in	256
Fiji, Indian Delegation to — Report of	67
Fiji, Indians in	256
Fiji, Municipal franchise of Indians in	256
Fiji, Representation of Indians in Legislative Council in	256
Finance	310
Finance Bill, consideration of the	84
Finance Department and Gold currency	228
Finance, general features of the year's	78
Finance, Railway	212
Finances, benefits of Indian	220

	PAGE.
Finances, Central and Provincial.	213, 214
Financial changes introduced in 1919 Act	217
Financial development under Lord Hardinge	218
Financial developments before 1919	218
Financial Relations Committee	217, 218
Financial results of 1925-26	221
Financial system before 1919	215
Financial system under Lord Mayo	214
Fires in Rawalpindi	4
Floods in the Central Provinces	25
Floods in Northern Bengal	24
Fodder, production of	133
Fodder, varieties of	133
Food grain and flour, export of	202
Force, Air, in India	271
Force, Indian Territorial Force	267
Forces, Civil armed	247
Forces, Civil defence	245
Foreign affairs, India's	239
Forest Conservation	118
Forest Department, work of the	118
Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun	119
Forest Zoologist	119
Forests and the Agriculturist	118
Forests, area of	119
Forests in India	117
Frontier border police	246
Frontier Constabulary	246
Frontier, Military problems of the	241
Frontier, physical features of the Indian	242
Frontier Policy, Change in the	244
Frontier Policy, Lord Curzon's	244
Frontier, Sandeman policy on the	244
Frontier, slaves of the Burmese	253
Frontier Tribes, Characteristics of	244
Frontiers, land — of India	239
Frontiers, land, of India	239
Froom, Sir Arthur, on Central Road Board	101
Fund, Provincial Loans	234

	PAGE.
<b>G</b>	
Gauhati, Indian National Congress at	36.
Gaven Jones, Mr., on the Currency Bill	95.
General Budget	223.
General Budget, discussion of the	77-86.
German Afghan treaty	251
Germany and India's foreign Trade	207
German engineers in Afghanistan	250.
Ghulam	249
Gidney, Colonel	147.
Gold-Bullion standard	229.
Gold currency and finance Department	228.
Gold Exchange standard	227
Gold Standard and Reserve Bank Bill	231-235
Golden Temple, Amritsar	29
Goswamy, Mr. T. C., on Regulation III	62
Government, Central and Provincial	44
Government of India Act of 1919	41
Government of India's position regarding detention of persons under Regulation III	63.
Government, self, <i>see</i> Self-Government.	
Government's efforts to prevent Communal conflict	5.
Governor and his Executive Councillors	274.
Governor General of India, dual character of the	64
Grants, change in the system of Budget	213
Grazing of cattle	118
Greece, commercial relations between India and	209
Grey goods, imports of	195
Gurkha soldiers	252.
Gwalior State Police	279.
<b>H</b>	
Habibullah, Sir Mohammad	32, 105.
Haffkine Institute, Bombay	149
Haig, Mr. H. G., on Cinematographs	100.
Haig, Mr., on the separation of Telugu speaking districts	99.



	PAGE.
Haj pilgrimage . . . . .	252
Harappa finds . . . . .	185
Harbour schemes . . . . .	182
Hardinge's, Lord, financial development . . . . .	216
Hardware . . . . .	205
Harrison, Dr. W. H. . . . .	127
Health, Public . . . . .	305
Health, Public, <i>see</i> Public Health.	
Health visitors . . . . .	153
Hedjaz, pilgrims to the . . . . .	150
Hercules, air liner . . . . .	29
Hertzog, General . . . . .	105, 260
Hides, abolition of export duty on . . . . .	224
Hides and skins, exports of High Commissioner's Office . . . . .	203
Hindley, Sir Clewnt, on the Railway Budget . . . . .	77
Hindu Mahasabha, All-India, meeting of the . . . . .	18, 19
Hindu Mahasabhaites . . . . .	46
Hindu-Muhammudan antagonism . . . . .	1
Hindu Muslim rivalry . . . . .	42
Hindustan Republican Association . . . . .	286
His Excellency on the release of Detenus . . . . .	60
History of the Reforms . . . . .	274
Hours, Sir Samuel, Secretary of State for Air . . . . .	28
Holding of the Indian agriculturist . . . . .	115
Home Rule for India . . . . .	20
Hospital expansion scheme in Bombay . . . . .	307
Housing of Industrial Labour . . . . .	111
Humphreys, Sir Francis . . . . .	250
Hyderabad, Nizam . . . . .	253
Hygienic Delegation . . . . .	30
I	
Ibn Saud . . . . .	252
Imperial Bank of India . . . . .	232
Imperial Conference . . . . .	257
Imperial Conference, delegates to the . . . . .	33
Imperial Conference in London . . . . .	33
Imperial Conference, subjects discussed at the . . . . .	33
Imperial Institute of Veterinary Research . . . . .	136
Imperial politics and India . . . . .	239
Imperial War Conference . . . . .	255
Import and Export trade of India . . . . .	192, 193

	PAGE.
Imports from other British possessions . . . . .	208
Imports from the United Kingdom into India . . . . .	208
Imports of coal into Burma, coast-wise . . . . .	208
Imports of grey goods . . . . .	195
Imports of machinery . . . . .	198
Imports of manufactured cotton . . . . .	194, 195
Imports of metal and metal manufactures . . . . .	195, 196
Imports of mineral oils . . . . .	197
Imports of motor cycles . . . . .	199
Imports of motor omnibuses . . . . .	199
Imports of motor vehicles . . . . .	198
Imports of Railway plant . . . . .	197
Imports of sugar . . . . .	197
Improvements in the conditions of life of the Agriculturist . . . . .	114
Income of the average agriculturist . . . . .	137
Independents . . . . .	56
India and Aerial affairs . . . . .	238
India and external relations . . . . .	238
India and Imperial politics . . . . .	239
India and Military affairs . . . . .	238
India and Naval affairs . . . . .	238
India and Persian relations . . . . .	251
India and Soviet Russia . . . . .	241
India and Tibetan relations . . . . .	251
India, Education in . . . . .	315, 316
India, Local Self-Government in . . . . .	292
India, Municipalities in . . . . .	294
India's North Eastern Frontier . . . . .	240
India's North West Frontier . . . . .	240
India, population of . . . . .	112
India, Revolutionary organization in . . . . .	290
India's best customers . . . . .	204, 215
India's defence problems . . . . .	239
India's external interests . . . . .	239
India's Foreign affairs . . . . .	239
Indian Army, Officers of the . . . . .	264
Indian Banks . . . . .	231
Indian Central Cotton Committee . . . . .	131
Indian Coinage Act of 1906 . . . . .	86
Indian, communism in . . . . .	288
Indian Constitutional development . . . . .	107
Indian Currency Bill . . . . .	56, 86-92
Indian Currency Bill, motion regarding . . . . .	67
Indian Delegation to South Africa . . . . .	259

	PAGE.
Indian Delegation to Fiji, report of	67
Indian Emigration	254
Indian finances	210
Indians, King's Commissions to	264
Indian Legislature and Politics	40
Indian Legislature as Nation builder	45
Indian Liberal Federation	37, 56
Indian Nation State	44
Indian National Congress	14, 34, 35
Indian National Congress, 31st Session of	15
Indian National Congress, main resolution of the	36
Indian Radio Telegraph Company	180
Indian Railway Bridge Committee	171
Indian Research Fund Association	149
Indian Sandhurst Committee	265, 266
Indian States and the Government of India	253
Indian Territorial Force	267
Indian, the — Navy	272
Indian Workmen's Compensation Act	144
Indianization of the Army	265
Indianization of the Cantonments Departments	266
Indianization of Railway Services	173
Indians in Australia	262
Indians in British Dominions	255
Indians in Ceylon	263
Indians in East Africa	263
Indians in Kenya	257
Indians in Malaya	263
Indians in South Africa	254, 258, 104, 106
Indians Overseas	253
Indo-Afghan border	248
Industrial disputes	23
Industrial labour, conditions of	138
Industries, cottage	330, 331
Industries, cottage, in Bombay	336
Industries Department	333
Industries in Assam	337
Industries in Bengal	335
Industries in Madras	336, 337
Industries in the United Provinces	335, 336
Industries, Ship-building	190

	PAGE.
Industry, coal, measures to help the	191
Innes, Sir Charles, on Central Road Board	101
Innes, Sir Charles, on the Railway Budget	72
Innes, Sir Charles, on Railway Estimates	222
Innes, Sir Charles, on the Steel Protection Bill	70, 71
Inter-communal troubles, Lord Irwin on	5-8
International Institute of Agriculture, Rome, Eighth General Assembly of the	127
Interest, reduction of	220
Iron and Steel Protection	191
Irrigation, area under	122, 123
Irrigation, Sutlej valley project	124
Irrigation systems	122, 123
Irrigation, Wells in India	126
Irrigation works, Government	122
Irwin, Lord — appeal for Unity	7
Irwin, Lord — appeal in the name of religion	8
Irwin, Lord, beginning of Viceroyalty of	1
Irwin, Lord, in the North-West Frontier Province	243
Irwin, Lord, on inter-communal troubles	5-8
Irwin, Lord, <i>see also</i> Lord Irwin.	
Iyengar, Mr. Srinivasa on the Railway Budget	76

J

Jallalabad to Asmar Road	250
Japan and India's Foreign Trade	206
Jayakar, Mr., on Demands for Grants	82
Jinnah, Mr., on the Currency Bill	95
Jinnah, Mr., on the statement of joint electorate	17
Jinnah, Mr., Statement by — on joint electorates	18
Joint electorates, explanation of conditions governing	17
Joint electorates, Mr. Jinnah on	17, 18
Joint electorates, statement on	16
Judicial Committee, Resolution regarding	97

	PAGE.
Justice Party . . . . .	46
Jute cultivation . . . . .	182
Jute, export of . . . . .	200, 201

## K

Kabul, British Legation at . . . . .	250
Kakori Conspiracy case . . . . .	286, 287
Kala Azar . . . . .	307
Kala Azar in Assam . . . . .	314
Kalat . . . . .	249, 249
Kammun . . . . .	281
Kaniz . . . . .	249
Karachi Cairo-Basrah Air Mail Service . . . . .	177
Kenya . . . . .	258
Kenya Colony, Indians in . . . . .	254
Kenya Committee . . . . .	257
Kenya, Indians in . . . . .	257
Kharagpur, Railway work- shops at . . . . .	289
Kharagpur Strike, Motion regarding . . . . .	68
Khasadars . . . . .	246
Khyber . . . . .	247
Khyber Agency . . . . .	244, 246
Khyber Railway . . . . .	247
King's Commissions to Indians . . . . .	264
King-Emperor, message from His Majesty . . . . .	38
Kulkathi, riot in . . . . .	12, 15
Kulkathi tragedy . . . . .	15
Kurram Militia . . . . .	246
Kurram Valley . . . . .	248

## L

Labour, female . . . . .	141
Labour, Housing of Indus- trial . . . . .	111
Labour, Industrial, condi- tions of . . . . .	138
Labour Union, <i>see</i> Union . . . . .	
Lac, exports of . . . . .	204
Lady Chelmsford League . . . . .	152
Lady Doctor, Muthalakshmi Ammal . . . . .	37
Lady Hardinge Medical Col- lege . . . . .	152
Lajpat Rai, Lala, on Hindu Mohammadan amity . . . . .	82
Lajpat Rai, Lala, on Regu- lation III . . . . .	62
Land Mortgage Banks . . . . .	116
Leaders, duties of communal . . . . .	21
Leaders, duties of — on com- munal tension . . . . .	7
League, Muslim, <i>see</i> Muslim League . . . . .	

	PAGE.
Leete and Stack . . . . .	29
Legislative Assembly, Delhi Session . . . . .	57
Legislative Assembly, Delhi Session inauguration of the . . . . .	63
Legislative Assembly elec- tions . . . . .	14
Legislative Assembly, elec- tions for the third . . . . .	33
Legislative Assembly, parties in the . . . . .	56
Legislative bodies and the Swarajists . . . . .	49
Legislative Councils, Provin- cial . . . . .	47
Legislation, Local Self-Gov- ernment . . . . .	296, 297
Legislation to stop publica- tion of leaflets, etc., fomenting communal ten- sion . . . . .	12
Legislature, Dr. Mutha- lakshmi Ammal to sit in an Legislature, Indian, and poli- tics . . . . .	37
Legislature and the All- India Congress Committee . . . . .	40
Legislature, Indian, as Na- tion builder . . . . .	50
Legislature, prestige of Indian . . . . .	45
Legislature, Simla Session of Indian . . . . .	50
Legislatures, communal par- ties in . . . . .	51
Legislatures, Indian record of . . . . .	22
Leprosy . . . . .	106
Liberal, Indian, Federation, <i>see</i> Indian Liberal Fede- ration . . . . .	311
Liberals . . . . .	56
Licenses, Wireless . . . . .	180
Life, conditions — in India . . . . .	113
Life of an Indian Agricul- tural . . . . .	114
Life, village — in India . . . . .	115
Lighthouse, Indian — Bill . . . . .	183
Lindsay, Sir Darcy . . . . .	32
Liquors, alcoholic, consump- tion of . . . . .	153
Liquors and opium . . . . .	154
Living, standard of living in India . . . . .	110
Lloyd Dam . . . . .	125
Loan, Rupee . . . . .	235
Loans, Government, to agri- culturists . . . . .	26
Loans, Provincial — Fund . . . . .	220, 234

	PAGE.
Local Boards in Madras	297
Local Self-Government, ad- vance in	293
Local Self-Government in Bengal	301
Local Self-Government in Bihar and Orissa	298
Local Self-Government, his- tory of	293
Local Self-Government in India	292
Local Self-Government legis- lation	296
Local Self-Government, Pro- vincial, activity towards	292
Local Self-Government in the Punjab	304
Lord Curzon's Frontier Policy	244
Lord Irwin and Jirgas	248
Lord Irwin on constitu- tional advance	64
Lord Irwin opens the Coun- cil House in New Delhi	38
Lord Irwin on the release of Bengal detainees	64
Lord Irwin, tour of — in the North-West Frontier	248
Lord Irwin's inaugural ad- dress	9
Lord Irwin's inaugural speech	63
Lord Irwin's speech, press discussion of	66
Lord Mayo's Financial Re- forms	214
Lord Ripon, local institutions under	293
Lucknow Pact	15
Lucknow Pact, objects of	16
Lytton, Lord, on release of detenus	62

M

Machinery, imports of	196
Madras, Cauvery Reservoir Project in	125
Madras, Co-operative Socie- ties in	339, 340
Madras, crime in	280
Madras, District Municipa- lities Act	296
Madras, Education in	328
Madras, electrification of Railway schemes in	169
Madras, Industries in	336, 337
Madras Legislative Council, Deputy President of the	37
Madras, Local Boards Act	296

	PAGE.
Madras, Municipalities in	297
Madras, Non-Brahmin or- ganization in	56
Madras, Nurses and Midwives Act	308
Madras, Public Health De- partment in	308
Madras, Separation of the Telugu speaking districts in	98
Madras, Technical education in	336
Madras, Village Courts (Amendment) Act	296
Maharajadhiraj	33
Mahasabha, Hindu, <i>see</i> Hin- du Mahasabha.	
Mahendra Pratap's Mission to Tibet	290
Mahenjo Daro finds	184
Mahsuda	243
Malan, Dr.	105
Malaria	307
Malaria, Cinema film on	307
Malaria station in Karnal	149
Malaviya, Pandit Madan Mohan, on the Currency Bill	98
Malaviya, Pandit Madan Mohan, at the Indian Na- tional Congress	35
Malaya, Indians in	269
Malcolm	241
Manure	194
Marine, Royal Indian	269
Marine, Royal Indian	272
Maternity and Child Welfare Maung Gyi	153
Mayo, Lord, Financial Re- forms	280
Mayo, Lord, system of finan- ces under	214
Medical Council	150
Medical degrees of Indian Universities	150
Medical education in Bombay	308
Medical Relief for women	151
Medical Research	149
Medical Schools and Colleges	152
Medical Services	151
Mehta, Mr. Jamnadas, on the Currency Bill	95
Mehtar of Chitral	243
Merwara, Scarcity in	26
Message from His Majesty King-Emperor	28
Meston Award	218
Meston Committee	81
Meston Settlement	216, 236
Metal and metal manufactu- res, imports of	196

	PAGE.		PAGE.
Meteorologists, appointment of	181	Muddiman, Sir Alexander, on Communal situation	11
Meteorological Department, removal of — to Poona	181	Muddiman, Sir Alexander, on Constitutional problems	88
Meteorological Department, work of the	180	Muddiman, Sir Alexander, on the proposed regulation of religious festivals	10
Mileage of Indian railways	163	Muddiman, Sir Alexander, on Regulation III	62
Military College at Dehra Dun	265	Muddiman, Sir Alexander, on the Resolution regarding Judicial Committee	97
Military defence	264	Muddiman, Sir Alexander, on the Resolution regarding Repeal of Regulation III	60-62
Military defence, expenses of	269, 270	Muddiman, Sir Alexander, on Self-Government of India	82
Military problems of the frontier	241	Muddiman, Sir Alexander, on Troops to China	66
Milk	135	Muhammadans, Education of	323
Milk Union, Calcutta	343, 344	Municipal progress in India	294
Mines, accidents in	144	Municipalities in Assam	298
Mines, employment of persons in	143	Municipalities in Bengal	300
Mineral oils, imports of	197	Municipalities in Bihar and Orissa	298, 299
Mines Act, working of the	139, 143	Municipalities in Bombay	298
Minimum wage for Indian labourers in Ceylon	263	Municipalities in the Central Provinces	303, 304
Minority communities, reaction of Communal tension on	10	Municipalities in India	294
Mitra, Mr. Estyandra Chandra, non-attendance of	57	Municipalities in Madras	297, 298
Mitra, Sir Bhupendra Nath	38	Municipalities in the Punjab	304
Moderates	56	Municipalities in the United Provinces	301, 302
Mohmands	243	Muktesar, Imperial Institute of Veterinary Research	136
Montagu-Chelmsford Report on financial relations	215	Murder of Swami Shradhanand	13
Monsoon	25	Murders in the North-West Frontier Province	285
Monsoon, failure of	138	Murders in the Punjab	284
Moplah education	321	Music before mosques, statements by Bengal Government	3
Moscow's agents in India	289	Music near mosques in Calcutta	2, 3
Mosque, Nakhoda	8	Muslim League, All-India, see All-India Muslim League.	
Mosques, disputes over the playing of music near	2	Muslim League, approval by — of the name known as Lucknow Pact	15
Motion, regarding Indian Currency Bill	67	Muslim League, meeting of the — at Delhi	37
Motion regarding Kharagpur strike	68	Muslim League, session in Delhi	13
Motion regarding Report of the Indian Delegation to Fiji	67	Muthalakshmi Ammal, Doctor	37
Motion to discuss troops in China	66		
Motion to refuse the demand for the Railway Board	76		
Motions for adjournment	67		
Motor cycles, imports of	199		
Motor omnibuses, imports of	199		
Motor service	171		
Motor vehicles, imports of	198		
Muddiman, Sir Alexander, on the adjournment motion	58, 59		
Muddiman, Sir Alexander, on Communal Electorates	102-103		

	PAGE.
N	
Nair, Sir Sankaran, on Communal Electorates	101-102
Nakhoda Mosque, music before	3
Naming the "City of Delhi"	29
Natal Boroughs Ordinance	258
Nation Building Departments	291
Nation Building forces in India	41
Nation-State, Indian	44
National Baby Week	153
National Party, the	51
Nationalist Party	47
Navy, Royal Indian	272
Navy, the Indian	272
Nawab of Dir	243
Needham, Colonel R. A.	150
Negotiations between leaders of certain parties at the legislature for union	51
Nehru, Pandit Motilal, on the adjournment motion	57
Nehru, Pandit Motilal, on the Railway Budget	78
Nehru, Pandit Motilal, on the Resolution regarding Repeal of Regulation III	59, 60
Nepal, abolition of slavery in	252
Nepal, administration of	252
Nira Valley Project	125
Nizam of Hyderabad	253
No-Changers	45
Non-Brahmins and politics	45
Non-Brahmin organization in Madras	58
Non-Co-operators	48
North-Eastern problems	240
North-West Frontier	242
North-West Frontier, history of — during the year	247
North-West Frontier of India	240
North-West Frontier, see also Frontier	
North-West Frontier Province, Civil Defence forces	245
North-West Frontier Province, Crime in the	285
North-West Frontier Province, tour of Lord Irwin in the	248
Number of factories in India	112
Nurses, trained	309
O	
Office, The High Commissioner's	209
Oil seeds, export of	202

	PAGE.
Oil seeds, production of	132
Oils, imports of mineral	197
Old Proms finds	187
Oriya-speaking tracts, amalgamation of	98
Opening of the Council House in New Delhi	33
Operation of the Government of India Act, 1919	55
Opium and alcoholic liquors	154
Opium, consumption of	157
Opium, decline in the use of	157
Opium, export of	155
Opium policy of Government	155
Opium, production of	156
Opium smoking in Assam	155
Opposition, parties consisting the	56
Orakhsais	243
Ordinance Factories	266
Ordinance, Natal Boroughs	258
Ormsby-Gore, Hon. W.	263
Overseas, Indian	253
Oxus river	251
P	
Pabna, rioting in	3
Pact, Lucknow	15
Paddison Deputation	31, 258
Panchayat	292
Panchayat, village	293
Pantulu, Mr. V. Ramadas, on censorship of cinematographs in India	100
Pantulu, Mr. V. Ramadas, on Communal Electorates	104
Parachina	246
Parties at the elections	46
Parties consisting the opposition	56
Parties, negotiations of various — in the Legislature for union	51
Parties, workers and peasants	289
Passanger fares, reduction in	267
Patna City Improvement Trust	299
Peace, new gospel of	7
Peujdah	241
People and the State	108
Persia and Indian relations	251
Physical features of India	112
Pilgrims to the Hedjas	150
Plague	307
Plant, Railway, imports of	197
Po Khin	280
Police in Assam	285
Police, and the Kakor dacoity	287

	PAGE.		PAGE.
Police, Dacoity . . . . .	278	Proposed regulation of religious festivals . . . . .	10
Police, on the Frontier border . . . . .	246	Provincial autonomy . . . . .	44
Police, Gwalior State . . . . .	279	Provincial Contributions . . . . .	217-220
Police in India . . . . .	275	Provincial Contributions, permanent remission of . . . . .	219, 220
Police in the North West Frontier Province . . . . .	285	Provincial Contributions, remission of . . . . .	79, 80
Police Officers, injuries to — in the course of their duty . . . . .	282	Provincial Contributions, remission of . . . . .	224
Police work in Bengal . . . . .	280	Provincial Councils elections . . . . .	14
Police work in Bombay . . . . .	284	Provincial Legislative Councils . . . . .	47
Police work in the Punjab . . . . .	280	Provincial Loans Fund . . . . .	220
Police in Siamese border . . . . .	279	Provincial Loans Fund . . . . .	234
Police, Special — to investigate cattle thefts . . . . .	282	Provincial Politics . . . . .	43
Policemen, death and injury of — during their duty . . . . .	285	Provincial subjects . . . . .	273
Political parties, other . . . . .	55	Provincialisation of the Indian Agricultural Service . . . . .	127
Political Progress, some conditions of . . . . .	106	Public Accounts Committee . . . . .	213
Politicians and the Army . . . . .	264	Public Debt . . . . .	223
Politics and the Indian Legislature . . . . .	40	Public Health . . . . .	305
Politics, Europeans on Indian . . . . .	105	Public Health and Sanitation . . . . .	148
Politics, Provincial and National . . . . .	43	Public Health in Assam . . . . .	314
Politics, reflections on present . . . . .	48	Public Health in Bengal . . . . .	309
Poona, removal of the Meteorological Department to . . . . .	181	Public Health in Bihar and Orissa . . . . .	312
Population and varieties of Cattle . . . . .	134	Public Health in Madras . . . . .	303
Population of India . . . . .	112	Public Health in the Punjab . . . . .	312, 313
Post and Telegraphs Department, profit of the . . . . .	179	Public Health in the United Provinces . . . . .	310, 311
Post offices, rural . . . . .	176	Publishing of leaflets to foment inter-communal tension, legislation to stop . . . . .	12
Postal and Telegraph Department, gross receipts of the . . . . .	178	Publicity Office, Trade . . . . .	209
Postal business . . . . .	176	Publicity, Railway . . . . .	172
Postal delivery . . . . .	176	Punjab, Co-operative Societies in the . . . . .	341
Postal mail lines . . . . .	176	Punjab, Crime in the . . . . .	280
Posts and Telegraphic Department . . . . .	175	Punjab, dacoit gangs in the . . . . .	281
Presidential speech at the 1926 Congress . . . . .	53	Punjab, District Boards in the . . . . .	304
Presidents Conference in Simla . . . . .	34	Punjab, Education in the . . . . .	329, 330
Press discussion of Lord Irwin's speech . . . . .	66	Punjab, Local Self-Government in the . . . . .	304
Press reception of Budget . . . . .	81	Punjab, Municipalities in the . . . . .	304
Prices and Exchange . . . . .	92	Punjab, murders in the . . . . .	284
Primary Education in Bengal . . . . .	322	Punjab, Police in the . . . . .	281
Primary Education in Bihar and Orissa . . . . .	327	Punjab, Public Health in the . . . . .	312, 313
Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College at Dehra Dun . . . . .	265	Pusa, Agricultural Research Institute at . . . . .	128
Product of Sugar . . . . .	130		
Production of oil seeds . . . . .	182	R	
Production of opium . . . . .	156	Radio, Indian — Telegraph Company . . . . .	180
		Railway, Bengal-Dooars . . . . .	25

	PAGE.
Railway, Bengal Nagpur, Strike	23
Railway Board, constitution of the	161
Railway Board, intrusions of — answered	75
Railway Board, motion to refuse demand for the	76
Railway Budget 72-77,	221
Railway Budget, Conclusion of the	77
Railway Budget, General discussion on the	73
Railway, Central India Coal-fields	165
Railway College at Dehra Dun	174
Railway contribution to general revenues	221
Railway earnings	222
Railways, electrification of	169
Railway Estimates for 1927-28	222
Railway finance	212
Railway, Indian, Bridge Committee	171
Railway, Kasipet Bellarshah	165
Railway, Khyber	247
Railway Member on the Railway Budget	221
Railway plant, imports of	197
Railway Publicity	172
Railway reserve, withdrawals from	222
Railway schools	174
Railway, separation of — finance from the General finance	211
Railway Services, Indianization of	173
Railway Staff, recruitment of	173
Railway system, development of the	163
Railway system in India	160
Railway Transportation School at Chandani	174
Railway, working expenses	222
Railway workshops at Kharagpur	289
Railways, accidents	25
Railways, capital at charge on all	163
Railways, construction programme	164-165
Railways, Divisional organization of	162
Railways, electrification of	169
Railways, expenditure on the construction of	163

	PAGE.
Railways, improvements in open line facilities	166
Railways, mileage of Indian	163
Railways, reduction in passenger fares	167
Railways, State, Workshops Committee	170
Rains and Monsoon	25
Rates Advisory Committee	167
Rates Advisory Committee, Constitution of the	168
Rates Advisory Committee, terms of reference of the	168
Rawalpindi, fires in	4
Rawalpindi, riots in	4
Reciprocity Resolution	255
Recommendations of the Territorial Force Committee	267, 268
Recruitment of Railway Staff	173
Red Cross Society	153
Reformatory Settlement at Paukaung	279
Reformed constitution, invitation to work the	65
Reforms, history of the	274
Registers, Conference of — Co-operative Societies	116
Registration of trade	207
Regulation III	57
Regulation III of 1818, Resolution to repeal	59
Relations between India and Persia	251
Relations between the Central and Provincial Finances	213-214
Relations between the Taxation Enquiry Committee Report and Meston Settlement	236
Religious festivals, regulation of	10
Remission of Provincial contributions	79
Remission of Provincial contributions	224
Report of the Select Committee on the Steel Protection Bill	71
Research, silvicultural	120
Reserve Bank Bill	230
Reserve Bank, benefits of the	234
Reserve Bank, functions of the proposed	233
Reserve Bank, object of the	233
Reserve Bank, proposal for	231
Reserved subjects	274
Reserved subjects, description of	274



	PAGE.
Resolution on Communal Electorates	102-104
Resolution at the Imperial Conference regarding Indians abroad	255
Resolution regarding Judicial Committee	97
Resolution, the main — at the Indian National Congress	36
Resolution to repeal Regulation III of 1818	59
Responsive co-operators	45
Revenue, estimates of	223
Revenue from timber	120
Reverse Councils	226
Revolutionary, the	237
Revolutionary crime in India	62
Revolutionary organization	290
Rice, Cultivation of	129
Rice, export of	202
Rights, enjoyment of private	9
Rinderpest	135
Riot in Barisal District	12
Riot at Kulkathi	15
Riot in Kulkathi	12
Rioting in Pabna	3
Rioting in the Punjab	281
Riots in Calcutta	1, 2
Riots, Communal, causes of	19, 20
Riots in Delhi	4
Riots, origins of	1
Riots in Rawalpindi	4
Ripon, Lord	293
Riza Shah Pahlvi, His Imperial Majesty	251
Road between Kabul and Kandahar	250
Road Board, Proposal for Central	101
Road from Jallalabad to Asmar	250
Rodger, Mr. A.	119
Rolfe, Mr. C. Neville	30
Ross, Sir Ronald	149
Round Table Conference to devise means to settle communal tension	6
Roy	286
Roy, M. N.	290
Royal Air Force	181
Royal Air Force display in Delhi	271
Royal Commission on Agriculture	26, 127
Royal Commission and Communal Electorates	6
Royal Commission on Indian Currency	27, 225
Royal Indian Marine	272
Royal Indian Marine, expenditure on	269

	PAGE.
Royal Military College, Sandhurst	265
Rupee exchange	226
Rupee loan	235
Rupee ratio	56, 88, 89
Russian, Anglo — Agreement	241
Russia, Soviet and India	241
S	
Saklatvala, Mr.	289, 290
Salmond, Air Vice Marshal, Sir Geoffrey	272
Salt Tax, reduction of	85
Sandhurst Committee, Indian	265, 266
Sandhurst, Royal Military College	265
Sandeman, Major	244
Sandeman policy on the Frontier	244
Sanitary Conference, International, Paris	150
Sanitation and Public Health	148
Sanitation in Bihar and Orissa	313
Sanyal, Sachindra Nath	286
Sapru, Sir Tej Bahadur	257
Sassoon, Sir Victor, on the Currency Bill	93
Sassoon, Sir Victor, on the Railway Budget	74
Sastri, Right Hon. V. S. Srinivasa	255
Scarcity	26
Scarcity and famine	138
Scarcity in Merwara	26
School, Harbia Cadet	250
School, Railway Transportation	174
School of Tropical Medicine	149
Schools, medical in Bihar and Orissa	313
Schools, primary in the United Provinces	325
Schools, Bombay	174
Schools, technical	331, 332
Secondary education	317, 318
Secondary Education in Bihar and Orissa	325, 326
Secretary of State for Air	23, 29
Secretary of State for Air, visit of	272
Self-Government, responsible	42
Self-Government, local, see local self-Government.	
Separation of Accounts from Audit	237
Separation of Railway finance from the general Finance	211

	PAGE.
Separation of Telugu-speaking districts	98
Service, Agricultural, <i>see</i> also Agricultural service.	
Service, Provincial, <i>see</i> also Provincial Service.	
Service, veterinary, <i>see</i> also veterinary service.	
Service, Woman's Medical	152
Services, Medical	151
Services, Railway, Indianization of	173
Session, Autumn, of the Legislature	9
Settlement, South Africa	260, 261
Seva Sadan	153
Shaw, Right Hon. Thomas	31
Shea, Sir John	267, 268
Sheikh Abdul Quadir	13
Ship-building industries	190
Shradhanand, Swami, <i>see</i> Swami Shradhanand.	
Shuddhi Movement	13
Siamese border police	279
Sikh, Akali agitation	22
Sikhs in America	290
Silvicultural research	120
Simsa Session of Indian Legislature	51
Sind, Sukkur Barrage in	123
Slavery, abolition of — in Burma	252
Slavery, abolition of — in Kalat in Baluchistan	248, 249
Slavery, abolition of — in Nepal	252
Sleepers	121
Small-pox, deaths from	306
Societies, Co-operative, <i>see</i> Co-operative Societies.	
Social Hygiene Delegation	30, 104, 105
South Africa, Indians in	254, 257
South Africa, Indian Delegation to	259
South Africa Settlement	260, 261
South Africa, Union of — and India	63
South African Deputation to India	32
South African Deputation, tour of the	32
South African Deputation, members of the	32
South African Deputations	259
South Wasiristan Scouts	246
Soviet Russia and India	241
Speech by Lord Irwin at the Chelmsford Club	5-8

	PAGE.
Stabilisation of the rupee	56, 88, 89, 226
Stack and Leete	29
Standard of Living in India	110
State and the Agriculturist	117
State and the people	108
State Railway Workshops Committee	170
States, Indian	253
Steel Protection	191
Steel Protection Bill	56, 68, 72
Steel Protection Bill, Report of the Select Committee on the	71
Steel Protection Bill, Sir Charles Innes on the	70, 71
Storage works	122
Stores purchased locally	177
Storm warnings	182
Strikes Bengal Nagpur Railway	23
Strike, Kharagpur, Motion re	68
Strikes	144
Strikes in Bombay	23
Strikes reported during the year	22, 23
Subjects, provincial	273
Subjects, reserved, <i>see</i> also reserved subjects.	
Subjects, transferred, <i>see</i> also transferred subjects.	
Sugar, imports of	197
Sugar, product of	130
Sugarcane, Imperial-station	130
Suhrawardy, Mr., on Central Road Board	101
Suhrawardy, Mr. Mahmood, on Communal Electorates	104
Sukkur Barrage in Sind	123
Supersession of Communal Electorates	16
Surplus	224
Survey, aerial	271
Suspension of dyarchy in the Central Provinces	34
Sutlej valley project, the	124
Swami Shradhanand, murder of	13
Swaraj Congress Party and Responsive co-operators relations	48
Swaraj Congress Party's constructive programme	53
Swaraj Party	45, 47
Swaraj Party attitude of the — towards the Finance Bill	84
Swaraj Party, Executive Committee of the	55

	PAGE.
Swaraj Party, return of the—to the Legislature	49
Swaraj Party walk out	49
Swarajist programme	48
Swarajists and the Legislative bodies	49
Swarajists resolution in Assembly regarding full responsible Government	99
Swat	248
Swat, Mian Gul of	243
Swat River	243

## T

Tacavi	26
Tanganyika	256, 263
Tariff. Board, enquiries by the	188
Tattooing of cattle	283
Taxation Enquiry Committee	238
Taxila finds	188
Tea	205
Tea, abolition of export duty on	224
Tea, export of	203
Technical Education in Assam	337
Technical Education in Bengal	334
Technical Education in Bihar and Orissa	334
Technical Education in Bombay	333
Technical Education in Madras	336, 337
Technical Education in the United Provinces	335, 336
Technical Schools	331, 332
Technology, Wood	120
Teesta River	25
Telegraph line between Kandahar and the capital of Afghanistan	250
Telephone, Automatic-exchanges	177
Telephone Trunk lines	178
Telephone Working	177
Telugu-speaking districts, separation of	98
Terms of Reference of the Royal Commission on Agriculture	127
Territorial Force Committee	267, 268
Territorial Force in India	267
Testing of timber	121
Textile Delegation	31
Textile Workers Association	30

	PAGE.
Thakurdas Sir Purahotam Das, on the Currency Bill	94
Thakurdas, Sir Purahotam Das, on Currency Commission	227, 230
Thakurdas Sir Purahotam Das on Railway Budget	74
Thangdars	283
Theft, Cattle	276
Theft, Cattle, in the Punjab	262
Thomas, Mr. J. H.	257
Thugs	276
Tibet, Mahendra Pratap's Mission to	290
Tibet and India, relations between	251
Tiber testing	121
Tiber, yield of	120
Tobacco cultivation	132
Tochi Scouts	246
Trade balance	204
Trade, direction of	205
Trade, India's foreign	206, 207
Trade on the external land frontier	208
Trade, overland	207
Trade Publicity Officer	209
Trade, registration of	207
Trade Unions Act	139
Trades Unions in India	145
Transborder tribes	242
Transferred departments	291
Transferred subjects	274
Trans-Frontier Corps	246
Trial of the Kakori Dacoity convicts	287, 288
Triangle, the	252
Tribes, transborder	242
Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Calcutta, school of	149
Troops in China	63, 66
True religion and communal animosity	8
Tuberculosis	311

## U

Unemployment	145-146
Union, Bengal Nagpur Railway, Labour	23
Union Boards in Bengal	301
Union, Calcutta Milk	348, 344
Union of various parties in the legislature, negotiations for	51
United Provinces, Co-operative Societies in the	340
United Provinces, dacoit bands in the	276, 278

	Page.
United Provinces, District Boards in	301, 302
United Provinces, Education in	324
United Provinces, Industries in the	335
United Provinces Municipalities Act	296
United Provinces, Municipalities in the	301, 302
United Provinces, Public Health in the	310, 311
United Provinces, technical education in the	335, 336
United Provinces, Village Panchayats in the	303
United States and India's foreign Trade	207
Unity, Lord Irwin's appeal for	7
Unity, Sheikh Abdul Quadir on	13
University education	318
Universities, Medical degrees of Indian	150
Urta-Tagai, settlement of—dispute	251

V

Veterinary Colleges	136
Veterinary Officers in Burma	136
Veterinary research, Imperial Institute of—at Muktesar	136
Veterinary Service, the Indian	135
Victoria Memorial Scholarships Fund	152
Vijayaraghavachariar, Sir T.	32
Village Life in India	115
Village Panchayats in the United Provinces	303
Village Union	292
Villages in India	113
Visit of Earl Winterton to India	30
Visitors, distinguished to India	30
Visagapatam harbour development	182

W

	Page.
Wacha, Sir Dinshaw, on delegation to South Africa	104
Wages of the Indian workman	110
Walker, Sir Norman	150
War, First Afghan	241
War, Third Afghan	244, 245
Ways and Means figures	78
Ways and means, position of	223
Waziristan	243
Waziristan, history of—during the year	247
Wells in India	126
Wheat, cultivation of	129, 130
Wheat, export of	202
Wheat, types of	130
Willson, Sir Walter, on the Currency Bill	95
Winterton, Earl and Countess, tour of—in India	30
Wireless	179
Wireless broad-casting	28
Wireless communications	28
Wireless licenses	180
Wireless station at Rugby	180
Women, medical relief for	151
Wood Technology	120
Wool, export of raw	204
Workers and Peasants Parties	289
Workman, wages of the Indian	110
Workmen's compensation Act	139
Workshops Committee, State Railway	170

Y

Yaqub, Maulvi Mohamad, on the General Budget	82
Year, general events of the	32
Young, Mr. F.	278

Z

Zekka Khel Afridis	247
Zoologist, Forest	119

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